



Transition Chichester Limited
Company number 8300739

Annual Report 2015

Contents	Page
Legal and administrative information	2
Trustees' Report	
• Projects	3
• Events	6
• Funding	6
• Facilitators	7
• Volunteers and supporters	7

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Matt Damper
Jan Sander
Julia Sander (Secretary)
John Wilton

Company number: 8300739

Principal address: 19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB

Website: www.transitionchichester.org

Bankers: The Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Structure and management

Transition Chichester is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association, and was incorporated on November 20, 2012. The liability of the members is limited. In the event of the company being wound up, every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1.00) to the Company's assets.

Board of Trustees

The key roles of the trustees are:

- To agree an annual budget and ensure that legal, financial, HR and other requirements are met, and in particular to maintain accounting records, and to produce annual accounts and an annual report.
- To monitor the match between the company's objectives and the organisation's activities.
- To consider the future sustainability of the organisation, actively considering options relating to diversification and income generation.
- To ensure that the funding / financing strategy is implemented effectively.

The trustees meet quarterly. Meetings are attended by Liz Campling, Transition Chichester Treasurer.

Objects

Transition Chichester's objects are limited to the following

For the benefit of the public to promote sustainable development for the benefit of Chichester and its environs by:

1. the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources:
2. the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged local communities:
3. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic and social resilience
4. to advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development, and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment: to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate the results of such study to the public at large:

For the avoidance of doubt in these objects "sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present citizens of Chichester without compromising the ability of future generations of Chichester and its environs to meet their own needs."

Projects

Biodiversity and Pollinator Group

The group has maintained a biodiverse area behind the New Park Centre. An agreement has been reached with the District Council not to mow the grass banks surrounding the Centre. These have been planted with wildflowers to encourage pollination and to provide a haven for wildlife. There is some interest in 'adopting' other areas around the city in order to create more biodiverse spaces.

Contact person: Mary Iden m.iden.home@lineone.net

Community Currency (The Tchi)

A new electronic platform for the Tchi has been created thanks to funding from West Sussex County Council. When the platform is fully functional, it will be possible for all transactions to be carried out electronically, and for new members to register on-line. Due to 'teething problems' however, the site is not yet fully operational. Members of the Economics group are looking into ways of remedying the situation. In the meantime, Tchi transactions are continuing by word of mouth.

Contact person: Simon Mouatt Simon.Mouatt@solent.ac.uk

Eco-cinema

The Eco-cinema came under new management in March. It has continued to put on a lively programme of films and talks with an environmental theme on the first Monday of the month. These have been attended by 30-40 people, several of whom have come via the Meet-up scheme. Particularly enjoyable was the December meeting where a guitarist and a singer entertained the audience after the showing of Satish Kumar's film, Earth Pilgrim. The Eco-cinema team is looking for new people to help with selecting films and managing the café.

Contact people:

Liz Dent, Susanna Curwen, elizabethdent093@gmail.com, susannacurwen@googlemail.com

Energy (*In 2014 the Energy group set up an independent company: Solesco Cooperative Ltd.*)

Solesco has had a year of peaks and troughs and peaks!

We established a good relationship with the University of Chichester and were progressing on developing a community owned solar system on two of their buildings on the Chichester campus - a ground array on their Bognor campus had to be shelved due to the development of their new engineering faculty. Then the new Government's announcements on the change to the incentives for solar systems came out of the blue, and our preferred installer went out of business! We had to complete these developments, fast, in order to ensure that the projects were financially viable - they always were and still are, environmentally viable. We had overcome several obstacles when a technical hitch brought the project to a halt - resolving the technical hitch would be costly and would increase the timescale. Other costs were mounting and it became clear that we did not have enough time to complete the installations before the Feed-In Tariffs would be more than halved. So, reluctantly we decided that we should shelve the project. It is probable that in a few years' time, technology and costs will mean that the project is again financially viable.

Fortunately, this wasn't the only iron that Solesco had in the fire, as, through our involvement with Community Energy South, we were invited to be part of the Meadow Blue solar farm to be built on a site between Chichester and Bognor, near Merston. Solesco has always had the remit to develop projects in the Chichester and Arun districts and this solar farm site is right on the border of these districts! Dave Barton from Solesco joined the board of Meadow Blue to help steer the project to

completion. The Government's antipathy to renewable energy also affected this project, as a tax incentive for organisations building these community owned energy systems was removed with only a few weeks' notice - so hastily Meadow Blue organised a share issue and in less than a month raised £1.2million - originally the target was £600k! The Meadow Blue solar farm is now well on the way to completion by June 2016.

Solesco is also looking at its future in the much bleaker landscape that this Government has created. There are still opportunities - domestic systems are still a good option for those who can invest themselves. A simple return on investment of over 8% is possible.

Also, we're looking at developing slightly larger non-domestic solar systems and have been talking with a local hydro-electric generator developer, as well as looking at local opportunities for energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

Renewable energy is our future. It is necessary and required. We can do this, we just need a policy and funding framework that is not so skewed to fossil fuels and nuclear.

Contact person: Tom Broughton tom@chicogs.org.uk

Fairtrade Café

The Fairtrade Café has supported various events including Eco Cinema, Swap Shops and the evening with Polly Higgins. Cakes, bread, soups and salads have been supplied free of charge by TC supporters, and surplus vegetables have been kindly donated by Veg Out and Wayside Organics. The café provides a small but valuable income stream.

Contact person: Liz Campling lizcamplinguk@hotmail.com

Food Outreach

Transition Chichester's Food Outreach Project continues to collect surplus vegetables, and occasionally fruit, from local organic growers, Veg Out, and to distribute it to Stonepillow in Hunston, the Chichester District Foodbank and, via The Clock Trust in Funtington, poverty relief organisations in Bognor. Stonepillow offers overnight accommodation to homeless people and a range of short and long term programmes with a view to supporting clients to identify and maintain long term housing solutions. Chichester Foodbank provides a minimum of three days' donated food to clients in crisis. In addition to a centre in Chichester, it runs a rural delivery service.

Contact persons:

Rhiannon and Geoffrey Thompson: rhiannonanne@btinternet.com, gbthompson@btinternet.com

Green Directory

The idea of a Green Directory for Chichester emerged at the beginning of 2015, and there have been several exploratory meetings. A list of categories for the TC directory was established. Subsequently TC was approached by Ordnance Survey (Southampton) to road test an on-line mapping project which would help locate locally sourced products and services. While waiting for the results of this project, TC supporters have been asked to send in details of local businesses and services they use and a preliminary list is being prepared.

Contact people:

Jenny Cole, jenny.music@lycos.com, Jennie Lindfield jennie.lindfield.email@gmail.com

Grow Chichester

TC's growing spaces have really come into their own this year. The community orchard in Oaklands Park (planted in 2011) produced its first significant crop. The apples were juiced at the Get Active event in September using our newly acquired apple press – very popular with children. Another apple juicing event was held at the orchard in October, where people were invited to bring their own

apples for juicing. The wildflower meadow in the orchard was a blaze of glory throughout the summer months and much admired by passers-by.

The hard work put into the semi-derelict Bishop's Palace veg plot in 2014 really paid off, and summer 2015 produced a bumper crop. After the gardeners had taken their share, surplus fruit and veg were made available to passers-by for a donation, and there was some left over to send to a refugee centre in Portsmouth. The Low Impact sessions led by Kate Brickell, founder of Petworth Community Garden, proved very successful, and attracted a regular attendance from keen gardeners who had been obliged to give up their own gardens for health reasons. Working with vulnerable groups has proved so successful that we plan to expand this aspect of our work in future.

The community beds in Oaklands Park were planted for the first time and proved to be quite productive. An Open Morning was held in May to attract new participants, but as yet we have not succeeded in attracting many new gardeners to our weekly sessions.

The Whyke Community Orchard continues to thrive, and pruning and dowsing sessions have been held there. An edible hedge has been planted along the east side of the orchard.

Contact people: Ed Bowring edbowring@hotmail.com Julia Sander julia@sander.plus.com

Heart and Soul Group

It seems the Heart and Soul group has many roots and branches.

The day of events last May was an exciting event to be involved with. We were so lucky to have Polly Higgins, Lawyer for the Earth, come to Chichester to speak, and her generosity at agreeing to four events in one day evidence of her indomitable energy and spirit. On a personal level it was an absolute joy to get to know Polly and to be part of the small team putting the events together on a shoe string. The contribution made by local activist Nicola Peel brought so much to the mix, and the conversation and connection between these two amazing women was inspirational. To see and feel the Assembly Room packed to capacity and buzzing - the entire audience along with the two speakers and the helpers all engaged in dynamic small group conversations about the possibilities for taking forward this essential Law of Ecocide, the means to hold to account those who damage our home planet environment - just brilliant. While not the object of the exercise, the events raised funds both for the work of Polly and for Transition Chichester.

The Heart and Soul group is still here and considering new ways to bring greater body/mind/spirit well-being into this crazy world. We have done some workshops around the use of herbs and essential oils. We are always open to suggestions for events, workshops and celebrations for the earth. The mailing list is quite long by now and it would be great if some of those people would step up to join in or initiate when they feel inclined.

The Phoenix Rising Workshops certainly come under the heading of 'bringing greater body/mind/spirit well-being into this crazy world'¹. I was motivated by a desire to do something more to support Polly Higgins, and also a wish to share some of what I have learned and practice through my yoga and yoga therapy trainings. Following a very successful first workshop last September I decided to offer 5 more between January and June 2016. Suitable for all - each one is different and it has been a delight to see how readily and enjoyably participants take to using journal-writing as a tool for self-awareness, as well as engaging willingly with the yoga and meditation practices. The mornings are like 'mini retreats'¹, a space to pause, reflect and catch up on all levels. I am using the name I have chosen to describe my way of working, "Yoga from Body to Soul". The workshops have been drawing people through flyers around and about, other contacts, which including the Heart and Soul group and other TC groups. I have been very grateful that the information has also been made available through the TC Mail Chimp.

Contact person : Jacquie Garstin: jacquelinegarstin@btinternet.com

Re-skilling

Sew Don't Throw

We have run monthly sewing evenings throughout the year, and a series of workshops at Bosham Sailing Club, and at the Time Machine. We have found a new venue for 2016 at Tuppenny Barn within Cass Morley's 'Upcycle Recycle and Create' workshops, and remain a virtual presence on Facebook through the Transition Chichester page with photographic sewing inspiration for those who can't come out to an event.

Jenny Cole is standing down as Sew don't Throw coordinator, so there is a space for a pair of volunteers to take this up, possibly on the north side of Chichester?

Other re-skilling activities

TC members lead busy lives and there have been fewer re-skilling sessions this year. Bread-making has remained popular, and other sessions have been arranged by different groups, e.g. pruning fruit trees by the Grow Chichester group and using herbs and oils by the Heart and Soul group.

Contact person: Jennie Lindfield jennie.lindfield.email@gmail.com

Swap Shop

Four Swap Shops were organised and were attended by up to 100 people each time. Two of these were the usual Saturday morning events, but in July we held an afternoon Swap Shop with tea on the lawn outside the Jubilee Hall. The December Swap Shop focused on a Green Christmas, with a children's area making recycled decorations.

Contact person: Sue Gilson suegilsonhome@aol.com

Transition Café

At the beginning of the year, John and Aida Stephens kindly gave us the run of 'Whipped and Baked' on Mondays to serve drinks and snacks and to provide a social space where people could gather for discussion. Sadly the café closed in April, so was no longer available to us. The Transition Café moved to the Time Machine in Funtington, where sessions were organised in July and August. The café was closed during the winter months, and no further sessions have been arranged as yet.

Contact person: mark@mbearmore.com

Young Transition

Our first group of children has moved on and swimming lessons, Brownies and other activities have taken precedence. We have however held a successful autumn craft morning and a Christmas Tree decorating session. The pre-Christmas Swap Shop included a children's area making recyclable decorations.

Contact person: Julia Sander julia@sander.plus.com

Events

Visit of Polly Higgins, Lawyer for the Earth

Undoubtedly the biggest event in the TC calendar this year: read a full report in the Heart and Soul section of this report.

Green Fair

After four consecutive autumn Green Fairs, it was time to ring the changes, so the Green Fair was postponed to April 2016.

Family Ceilidh

Thanks to Tony and Sarah Clark for organising this lively family event to brighten up a dreary February evening.

In addition, TC has been represented at the following local events:

Festival of Chichester (Eco cinema film showing)

Graylingwell Garden Party

Get Active (Oaklands Park)

Portsmouth Green Fair

Upcycling event at Tuppenny Barn

Funding

During the past year, TC has funded core costs such as accounting and public liabilities insurance through funds raised at events such as Swap Shop and Eco cinema. A small regular source of income has been provided through the Local Giving scheme, where a few members have pledged to make a monthly contribution. We would like to thank these members for their support.

TC would like to thank The Roddick Foundation for continuing to provide funding, enabling us to fund paid hours for our Communications and Grow Chichester facilitators. We also thank the Sussex Community Foundation for providing funding to cover the Low Impact gardening sessions facilitated by Kate Brickell.

At the time this report was written, TC had just received notification that it had been awarded a grant of £12,000 for the Grow Chichester project through the Groundwork scheme. These funds have been raised through the 5p levy on plastic bags in Tesco stores.

Facilitators

It's been a year of goodbyes and roles to fill. In April, Ellie Garwood through whose tireless efforts the Grow Chichester project was established, left after working for TC in different roles for 3 years. She has since married and has a brand-new son, Teddy. We wish her and her family well. Then in July Jo Lodge, whose sterling work as Communications Facilitator ensured that TC had excellent press coverage, left for Thailand, where her husband has taken up a teaching post. We also said goodbye to Kate Brickell, who successfully launched the Wednesday morning Low Impact gardening group.

In March, one of our most active and inspirational members, Anita van Rossum, decided to follow her heart and move to Stroud to work with Polly Higgins, seeking to promote the law of Ecocide. While Anita was never an 'official' TC facilitator, the contribution she made to TC was incalculable. Typically Anita's first thought on moving away was to arrange for Polly Higgins to spend the day in Chichester giving presentations to several different bodies, TC included of course.

We welcome some new faces: Jennie Lindfield took over as communications facilitator in July. She took on her new role with great enthusiasm, and quickly proved herself adept in keeping everyone up-to-date and in sourcing volunteers. We looked for a long time for someone with the right combination of qualities to replace Ellie, and by the end of the year were able to appoint Ed Bowring, an experienced therapeutic horticulturalist, to start in February 2016.

Volunteers and supporters

The number of those supporting TC by subscribing to our mailing list grew steadily throughout 2015. By the end of the year around 680 people subscribed to the weekly mail-out, while 140 opted for monthly mail-outs. The number of active volunteers is still very low compared to the number receiving mail-outs, however. The huge range of activities outlined in this report are facilitated by a

relatively small group of committed volunteers. Every organisation needs 'new blood' if it is to stay healthy. We would therefore like to encourage as many people as possible to get out there and join us in – to quote from Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition movement – “doing stuff”.