



Fresh thinking towards sustainable living in Dorset

# CLS Dorset Newsletter Summer 2014

## Are you a flexitarian?



On Sat 14th June, the sun shone on Bridport Food Festival, and Linda, our foodie encouraged people to go flexitarian! What does that mean you ask?

The term "Flexitarian" is used to describe a diet or a person who eats a "mostly" vegetarian diet, occasionally including high quality, high welfare meat and dairy.

[You can find out more here](#)

## Biodiversity in School study day

17 children from 5 different schools came met last week at the wonderful Kingcombe Centre (owned by the Dorset Wildlife Trust) to learn

about the importance of biodiversity and how to encourage it in their school grounds. Pupils immersed themselves in the biodiversity of the Wildlife Trust reserve, explored a range of habitats around the centre, shared examples of their work in school and learned how they can measure diversity in their own school grounds.

The new primary Science curriculum lends itself to studying plants and animals in the local environment which is great news for teachers wanting to take learning outdoors.

## Huge take up of CLS Eco-Schools network

We had a huge response to last month's invitation to join an Eco-Schools network.

11 schools have now been selected for the network:

Symondsbury Primary School • St Mary's CE VC Primary School • Bridport Primary School • Beaminster Technology College • St Mary's Catholic First School • Southill Primary School • Broadmayne First School • The Prince of Wales First School • Frome Valley First School • Dorchester Middle School • Damers First School

From September these schools will be receiving dedicated support from the Eco-Schools Officer and School Energy Officer to strengthen and share their good environmental practices and bring sustainability into their curriculum learning.

Alison and max are very much looking forward to working with all the named schools in the Autumn.

## Down at Dorchester's Community Farm

At Transition Town Dorchester, we have been busy with lots of exciting activities. On Midsummer's Day we tackled the long grass in our orchards with scythes and spent a very enjoyable day slicing effortlessly through swathes of grass. We have planted out the whole polytunnel, and with this weather everything is growing faster than we can keep track of, and we have also planted out most of our raised beds now. Our bees are looking great – we continue to check them, although we don't think we will have any more swarms now. And we have now harvested our first honey – the whole process took much longer than we thought, and was far stickier than anyone could have imagined, but we have ended up with quite a bit of very nice honey.



The Transition Town Dorchester community farm/orchard is behind the Weymouth College Skills Centre, off Middle Farm Way in Poundbury. Workdays at the farm are held on the second Saturday and third and fourth Sundays of every month, with shared lunches and tea breaks, and everyone is welcome to come and join in. Email [info@transitiontowndorchester.org](mailto:info@transitiontowndorchester.org) or visit [www.transitiontowndorchester.org](http://www.transitiontowndorchester.org)

## The CLS Community Woodland project

The Dorset AONB will lead delivery of the Community Woodland strand of the CLS programme. We are aiming to support the 10 groups that expressed an interest by helping them to take the next step, whether that be to support lease negotiations, buy tools for use or anything else that they need. Ian Rees (Dorset AONB Countryside Officer) will be in touch shortly with all the groups.

In tandem with this, Dorset AONB is running a series of **FREE training events on establishment of community woodfuel groups**, supported by the Cabinet Office. The first event is on **1 August** at Prime Coppice, Marshwood Vale. More information can be found [here](#). Hurry! Places are running out fast!

## HOME in Bridport – Family Fun Day



A Family Fun day at St Mary's Primary School on 29<sup>th</sup> June was a great success, with cob oven building, scarecrows and lunch. This is the latest in a series of HOME in Bridport initiatives with Transition Town Bridport (plus a host of volunteers and support from various charitable trusts and foundations) which are gathering momentum. CLS is helping enhance the provision of food growing skills to children as part of HOME's Grow-Cook-Eat-Compost initiative, with Transition Town Bridport. Click [here](#) to find out more, or join HOME in Bridport on Facebook. [Photo by Robert Golden]

## Your Top Tips for July

We asked for your top green tips and these are some of our favourites:

- Using kitchen roll inners to grow parsnips
- Using egg boxes to aerate the compost
- Walking to the shops
- Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth
- Making your own electricity with solar PV

**More July tips here, and please send us your tips for August!**

**Zoe Smith and Max Bishop join the CLS in Dorset team .**

Zoe comes to us from Dorset Coast Forum, and will soon be the Programme Assistant, working particularly on communications. So this newsletter is likely to be shorter and more regular! Max is the Schools Energy officer, hosted by Dorset County Council, and is working closely with Alison on the CLS Eco Schools programme.



## More events with CLS and partners

**Is your Village Hall / Community Building warm in winter, cool in summer, affordable to run and busy?**

**Sat 19th July - Maiden Newton, Booking Essential**

CLS is hosting a **FREE** training course that will enable you to give your hall an environmental check up. Attending the course will put you in a good position to enter the Best Village Competition - Environment Award. **Find out more here**

**Who is the greenest of them all? - Save money and win money**

We are still searching for the "greenest" village in Dorset! So get your entry in for the Environment Award of Dorset's Best Village Competition 2014. There are two parts to the competition: one is based on the "greening" of a group of people in the village, and one on "greening" a building. **Find out more here**

**Do you want to cut your carbon footprint, save money on your fuel bills and get to know your neighbours?**

Then *Transition Together* maybe just what you are looking for - a fun practical action plan to help you do all of these. You could save up to £400 a year on your fuel bills. **Find out more here**

**Transition Town Bridport Green Drinks 17th July 8pm**

at The Tiger Inn, Barrack St, Bridport. Friendly and informal.

**Come along to the DA21 Eco Living Fair - 26th July, 10am to 4pm, The Great Field, Poundbury.**

'Dorset's first Eco Living Fair', an excellent opportunity to discover new or showcase your sustainable living options, local produce or services. **Find out more**

**Join us to explore how severe weather and future climate change could affect us locally.**

CLS in Dorset and Bridport Town Council are holding a workshop to explore how severe weather and future climate change could affect Bridport and West Bay and what we can do to become better prepared

for it. During the evening we'll be asking for your views on how the community is affected by floods, heat waves, droughts etc. and what can be done to adapt to deal with those conditions. The workshop will be held on the **30<sup>th</sup> July** in Bridport, to find out more and book a place email Rupert [CLICK HERE](#)

## FREE training events on establishing community woodfuel groups

Dorset AONB is running a series of groups, supported by the Cabinet Office. The first event is on **1 August** at Prime Coppice, Marshwood Vale. More information can be found [here](#). Hurry! Places are running out fast!

## Save the date - Open Eco Homes – 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September

CLS in Dorset with Transition Town Bridport are getting ready to open 18 homes demonstrating renewable living, energy efficiency, water harvesting, sustainable construction and all things green. Volunteers are being sought to help out. More details available via [www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk)  
**Take a look at these films of some of the homes that were open last year.**

## What do you want to do for 'One World Week' 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October?

CLS in Dorset is planning to create a programme of events around One World Week, the theme of which is 'Living Differently'. Our focus is likely to be on **Health and Wellbeing**. If you have suggestions, or know of other relevant initiatives that might want to link up, please let us know via [candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk) or our Facebook Page.

For a **report on the first year of CLS in Dorset activity**, please read more [here](#). Let us know what you think! Thanks.

## Some other things we think you'd like to know about

### Great Dorset Beach Clean 2014.

**Results.** 692 people took part in the 26th Great Dorset Beach Clean, filling 851 bags with rubbish from 25 beaches across the county.

### "Community Regeneration" meeting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm

**Electric Palace, South St, Bridport.** Peter McFayden (Flat-Pack Democracy) Dave Chapman (The Atmos Project, Totnes) and Bridport's own Tim Crabtree (Wessex Community Assets; founder of Bridport Food Links). More [information](#) here

### Tolpuddle Festival 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July and a Tolpuddle Martyrs walk

For more information visit [www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk](http://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk) or click [here](#)

### Regen SW and Encounters are holding free arts and energy workshops.

For creative practitioners in July in five fascinating venues across the south west of England, including **Exeter (30<sup>th</sup> July)**. If you would like to explore your relationship with energy from a personal, practice or operational perspective, this workshop may be of interest. This project forms part of Regen SW's new arts and energy programme which asks creative practitioners to engage in the energy debate. Please [click here](#) for further information and booking.

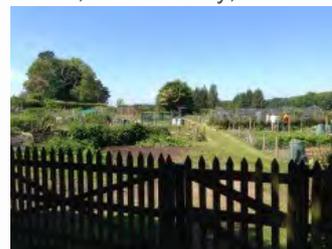
### Join the Bridport Community Allotment and the Bridport Community Orchard.

The Gardening Club meets weekly on a Thursday afternoon to tend to the allotment and to learn about growing food. An important part of these meetings is the tea and biccies break! There is no charge for joining, just a 50p a week donation for refreshments and seed purchase.  
The Bridport Community Allotment was created in 2009 alongside the Community Orchard with the aim

of providing a facility which is accessible to all ages and abilities. There are traditional flat beds and a polytunnel, and the produce is shared amongst the members as and when it is harvested. The orchard now comprises nearly 50 heritage varieties grown in different ways. There is a wildlife area which contains a pond and wild flowers, and 2 bee hives.

BCOG holds four events a year to celebrate apples, mainly! Their biggest and most popular event is Apple Day, in October, with local ciders, fresh-pressed apple juice, music, storytelling and lots of good food. They also celebrate our folk heritage, sustainability and local food production, bio-diversity, co-operation and community. Visit

[www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk)



## National Allotment Week - 4-10 August

[Click Here](#) for more information.

## Volunteer Centre Community Lunches

**8th July** in Beaminster and **9th July** in Bridport. Contact Karen Jones on 07918 639012 or email: [k.jones@volunteeringdorset.org.uk](mailto:k.jones@volunteeringdorset.org.uk)

## Real World Economics course in Bridport, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> October

This a two-day course that explores a new approach to creating local economic change based on real life needs, increasing wellbeing, and taking effective action led by community groups. Influenced by Manfred Max-Neef, permaculture, and Transition, it delivers practical tools to engage your community, thought provoking presentations, group discussions and fun interactive exercises that will equip you to be an effective change-maker in your community. Cost £75. Contact [stirtoaction@gmail.com](mailto:stirtoaction@gmail.com)

## £700,000 loan fund to help rural communities in Dorset

Volunteers in Dorset are being encouraged to apply to a £700,000 Department for environment, food and rural affairs (Defra) loan fund to improve rural community buildings. The Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund plays a crucial role in helping community groups renovate and refurbish buildings such as village halls, church halls and community centres. Find out more at

[www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/news](http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/news)

## The Bridport Town Council Grants Scheme is open.

Bridport Town Council awards grants each year to local organisations. Completed application forms and relevant documentation will need to be received by the Town Clerk at Mountfield by **5pm Monday 18 August 2014**. The grant form and criteria are available through the [Town Council website](#).

## Ask Dorset - Have Your Say

Dorset County Council wants to know what matters to you most and is travelling around the county throughout June and July giving you the chance to speak to the key decision makers at the county council. A list of places and dates for the roadshows can be found [here](#) or you can answer the questions [online](#).

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