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Shipston Transition Tower

Transition Shipston has just won a £2000 grant to build a “transition tower” from the environmental charity Artists Planet Earth. This is what we propose:

The “Transition Tower” will display everyday items that are made entirely or partly from oil based materials and highlight the impact these will have in terms of climate change. It will also display sustainable alternatives that can substitute for these in the future. It will be 3.5 metres tall with fixing points to hang objects on and artwork to highlighting aspects of “peak oil” and climate change. The design of the tower will be carried out with the help of schoolchildren but the project will also need professional engineering and artwork. The tower will be the centre-piece at events in Shipston where the public will be invited to choose objects for display as well as pin their ideas for the future on to the tower.

Queen's Avenue Play Area / Orchard

About 10 of us met at the play area and agreed a rough plan, with the football pitch going parallel to Camden Rd, not as thought earlier. Trees, play equipment, fruit bushes, picnic area with wild flowers, benches, litter bins etc all as outlined before. Favoured play equipment, as well as 2 football goals, was a climbing frame in imaginative design + play house + lots more depending on quotes. High wire netting fencing needed specially round the football area, to be planted over with hedging and trees to look better.

We learned that the play equipment for Libbylous in Mayo Road cost about £130,000, but there could be funding from WREN through the Landfill Trust, as well as possibly Orbit and the Town Council, and that grant funding can be checked through the website J2B.

Contact Helen on 661244 for further information

Events:

Wool Fair – Monday 30th May

Following the success of the last year's stall at the Wool Fair Transition Shipston we are again having a stall. We will be selling plants as well as wool related items. If you can help or if you would like more information please **contact Pam Bennett, 01608 685606 pam@pambennett.com**

Harvest Fair – Sunday 25th September,

Transition Shipston with the support of the Town Council will be running a Harvest Fair on Sunday 25th September; the High Street will be closed from 5.30am until 7.30pm.

We will be marketing the fair in the local press and we hope it should bring a good number of potential customers to the town, should you decide to open your business.

If you have any ideas that might help with running the fair or would like to be involved with organising, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact Pam Bennett, 01608 685606 pam@pambennett.com

Monday 16th May

Transition Steering Group
6.00, White Bear Pub, Shipston
Designs for the “Shipston Tower”

Footpath Walks - Update

Here is an updated list of the walks:

Saturday May 14. Meet outside St Edmund's at 10 am to walk to Stretton and back. 7 miles

Saturday June 18. Meet outside St Edmund's at 10 am to walk to Todenham and back. 6 miles

[Saturday July 16. Meet outside St Edmund's at 10 am to walk to Honington and back. 3 miles](#)

We hope to arrange two more walks , catching the bus to Brailes with two different routes back

We're also arranging a public meeting for people interested in using and improving Shipston's footpaths, to be publicised in the Forum and through Transition Shipston. This will be in the White Bear at 7pm on May 16th

You are welcome to join us if you are up for mud, stiles, carrying a drink/ snack and being responsible for your own safety ! Ring Val on 666046 or Helen on 661244 for further information.

Natural History Walks

A series of walks led by Keeper of Natural History, Steven Falk, featuring wildflowers, trees and medicinal plants.

All walks start at 10.00am and finish approximately 12.30pm.

Tickets £6.00 each. Concessions £5.00

Booking is essential, please telephone Heritage Education on 01926 412069 to book a place.

These are walking tours and we cannot guarantee any seating will be available at any point during the walks. Please wear footwear suitable for walking and clothing suited to the weather.

Wednesday 15th June

Nebsworth Downs, near Ilmington (Grid Ref. SP17714303), meet in the car park of the National Trust Hidcote Gardens. The highest point in Warwickshire with stunning views, and also one of the best places to see unusual arable weeds and poppy blooms.

Wednesday 10th August

Edge Hill Woodlands, Edge Hill Village, OX15 6DJ (Grid Ref. SP37364739). Meet at the Castle Inn. Please park along road and not in the Castle Inn car park.

A walk through one of our most stunning woods, and hopefully also some of the adjacent meadows. Also a chance to learn a little of the great 18th century Gothic architect Sanderson Millar who lived at nearby Radway Grange and planted the trees around the Edge Hill obelisk.

Transition Network Conference 2011, 8th - 11th July, [Hope University](#), Liverpool, The conference is a perfect opportunity to meet with other Transitioners taking this challenging journey, to delve deeper into the areas that interest you most, and to gain new skills that will serve you and your initiative well over the coming years.

Eco-Insurance

Geri found the Naturesave insurance company for Transition Shipston and as you can see below they have won an ethical award. If any other groups need insurance we can recommend them
Naturesave has been awarded the Queens Award For Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category for 2011.

The citation provided by the Queens Award office reads as follows:

Naturesave Policies Ltd t/a Naturesave Insurance is an exemplar ethical insurance cover provider for individuals, companies and the voluntary sector throughout the UK, which has set a clear benchmark for others within the insurance industry. Sustainability and ethical business practices are at the core of the company's commercial activities, with preferential treatment given to charity or not-for-profit organisations. Naturesave Insurance has taken an innovative approach to promoting sustainability through its wider operations, including thorough commitments to make all business journeys via public transport, and incentivising staff to avoid air travel for holidays. The company effectively engages with the wider sustainability agenda, delivering benefits within the wider community through the Naturesave Trust, a charitable trust funded through the company's premiums, which gives grants to environmental, conservation and community renewable energy projects throughout the UK.