

SLACC - Towards Transition August 2011 Newsletter
Reg Charity No 1139474 Kendal and South Lakes Transition Initiative
www.slacc.org.uk

News

1. 'I Don't Dig Peat' Campaign
2. Climate Activists Convictions Quashed
3. South Lakes Cycle Challenge
4. Cumbria Gets Green Light for £7m Transport Project
5. BTCV now offering Diploma in Environmental Conservation
6. Biked up update
7. New Supermarket threat to Ulverston
8. Organic Salad Club
9. Community Groups Newsletter

Diary Dates

1. Staveley **Big Onion Skill Share's**, Sunday afternoons 1.30-4 in August, Pavilion, Staveley
2. **Just Do It – film showing**, Brewery Arts Centre – Warehouse – Sun 7th Aug, 7:45pm
3. **Earth First!** Summer Gathering, August 10th – 15th, East Anglia
4. **Coastal Wild Food** Course, 10-4, Sat 27th August, Arnside
5. Transition Review and Planning. **Hub meeting** 7.30pm, 1st September, Castle Street Centre
6. Torchlight Unplugged **lantern making workshop**, 6 September, Castle Street Centre
7. **Torchlight Cycle Parade!** Fri 9th Sept, 7:30pm, Kirkby Kendal School
8. **Camp Frack** – 16 - 19th September, Near Blackpool

Actions

1. CETA – a big **threat to climate change legislation & COP17**
2. **Fundraising** Opportunity
3. **Mintfest – billets needed** for visiting artists, 2-4 September, Kendal
4. Cumbria **Green Build** Festival - Call for Events
5. Materials needed for **Bee Creative** project with Brewery Arts

News

1. 'I Don't Dig Peat' Campaign

www.idontdigpeat.org.uk

Garden Organic has recently commenced a nationwide 'I Don't Dig Peat' campaign. This initiative is intended to raise awareness of the environmental impact of peat use amongst amateur gardeners.

2. Climate Activists Convictions Quashed

<http://ratcliffeontrial.org/>

On 20 July convictions against 20 climate activists were quashed by the UK Court of Appeal after it was revealed that key evidence was deliberately withheld from their trial. The activists made this statement:

"We are 20 of the 114 people who were preemptively arrested near E.ON's Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal power station over two years ago. During our trial last year we argued that our plan to safely shut down the power station was necessary in order to protect the ever escalating numbers of people dying as a result of climate change. We later found out our trial was rigged by the police and CPS to get convictions. Through placing undercover officers in our movement, using mass preemptive

arrest and rigging our trial, the state has deliberately attempted to silence dissenting voices. This quelling of dissent, now repeated in the young people facing prison for protesting against the attacks on public services, is fundamentally undemocratic. It is yet another example of those in power protecting their own interests."

Polly Higgins asks, 'is it not a legal injustice that those who care for the Earth are the ones who are convicted; on the basis that they have refused to remain complicit and instead stand up and fight for the lives of the whole of humanity and the Earth?'

3. South Lakes Cycle Challenge

<http://www.southlakes-cyclechallenge.co.uk/>

The Cycle Challenge is now over. Over 200 cyclists from 27 organisations took part this year and cycled over 50,000 miles! For photos see <http://www.slacc.org.uk/articles/?p=771>. For details of the final results see the website.

If your employer is interested in any cycling related events at the workplace, please visit <http://www.southlakes-cyclechallenge.co.uk/>, take a look at what we are offering and get in touch with us. All events are run for free.

4. Cumbria Gets Green Light for £7m Transport Project

http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/gtga_np_news-article.htm?newsid=21736

A plan to turn the central and southern Lake District into a world-class hub of sustainable transport has won nearly £5m financial backing from the Government.

The project will transform how people get to and travel around the Lakes and is targeted at the Lake District National Park's 15.8m annual visitors and tourists as they are responsible for three quarters of all carbon emissions. Local people will also benefit from improved passenger transport services and better systems of traffic management to tackle congestion and reduce delays.

5. BTCV now offering Diploma in Environmental Conservation – starting in September

BTCV Central Lakes are now offering a Diploma in Environmental Conservation. The course takes 6-9 months to complete and will start in September 2011. The diploma is work based and students will be assessed by producing a portfolio of their conservation work, woodland management, practical health and safety and teamwork. They will be required to work two days a week.

For more information contact Senior Project Officer Rachel Miller on r.miller@btev.org.uk or 07740899596

6. Biked up update

Biked-Up Pedal-Powered has been postponed to next year's Mintfest, which gives all you lovely people more time to get involved. Biked Up Pedal Powered is a stunt-bike dance, with the show powered by the audience itself pedalling bike generators. mandy@creativetransition.org.uk

7. New Supermarket threat to Ulverston

Robinsons have applied to SLDC for planning permission to build a new Tesco supermarket in Ulverston centre. A campaign 'Keep Ulverston Special' has been mounted in opposition. Read more on the blog <http://www.slacc.org.uk/articles/?p=765>.

8. Organic Salad Club

www.skillsforsustainableliving.co.uk/saladclub.pdf

Support local food production! You can now sign up to receive freshly picked, local, organic, seasonal mixed salad leaves delivered to your door each Friday (just like a milk round!). For more information or to order call Mark Kidd on 01539 821 016 or email sunnyorchardfarm@yahoo.co.uk

9. Community Groups newsletter

Sign up to receive a bi monthly round up of events from community groups in Kendal and South

Lakes by emailing sl.transition@googlemail.com

Diary Dates

1. Staveley Big Onion Skill Share's, Sunday afternoons 1.30-4 in August, Pavilion, Staveley

The Big Onion is a weekly swap, trade and sale of local veg, and ideas. Every Sunday 1.30-4pm at the Pavilion in Staveley - opposite the children's playground.

Informal skills shares calendar:

31st July Bottling fruit with Ruth Jennings

7th Aug Wormeries with Anne Hayward

14th Aug Veg and cafe only

21st Aug Wild Foods talk and walk with Sonny Khan

28th Aug Veg and cafe only

4th Sept Blackberries local pick

2. Just Do It – A Tale of Modern Day Outlaws, Brewery Arts Centre – Warehouse – Sun 7th Aug, 7:45pm

Tickets: 01539 725133

Booking in advance strongly recommended. Only 30 tickets available.

Film preview: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zavTd31qxho&feature=player_embedded

Film website: <http://justdoitfilm.com/>

SLACC have teamed up with the Brewery to show Just Do It. Just Do It lifts the lid on climate activism and the daring troublemakers who have crossed the line to become modern-day outlaws. Documented over a year, Emily James' film follows these activists as they blockade factories, attack coal power stations and glue themselves to the trading floors of international banks despite the very real threat of arrest.

"A smart, funny, adrenalised portrait of 21st century activism" Danny Leigh - The Guardian.

3. Earth First! Summer Gathering, August 10th – 15th, East Anglia

<http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk/2010/front.html>

For a workshop schedule see the website. The Earth First! Summer Gathering is the place where people involved in radical ecological direct action - or those who want to be involved - get together for five days of time and space to talk, walk, share skills, learn, play, rant, find out what's going on, find out what's next, live outside, strategise, hang out, incite, laugh and conspire.

4. Coastal Wild Food Course, 10-4, Sat 27th August, Arnside

A unique introduction to the coastal wild food to be found on the shores of Morecambe Bay, with local forager Sonny Khan. The day will explore salt marsh plants, seaweeds, shore plants, forest edibles and edible small animals such shellfish. See www.skillsforsustainableliving.co.uk

5. Transition Review and Planning. Hub meeting 7.30pm, 1st September, Castle Street Centre

At the 1 September hub meeting we will be taking a step back from our current projects to see where we want to be in five, or even ten years time. We will review what we do now, and the resources Kendal has so we can make a co-ordinated plan to get there.

The objective is to make sure we are focused on what we want to achieve and that we are making the biggest difference we can with the resources we have.

The session will be planned so that everyone can contribute, breaking into groups where necessary. It would be great if groups or individuals can have thought beforehand about what they want to

achieve. It will be facilitated by Mandy Barnett and Chris Rowley. For info email mandy@creativetransition.org.uk

6. Torchlight Unplugged lantern making workshop, 6 September, Castle Street Centre

(this workshop was postponed from 21 July)

SLACC TT will be cycling in Torchlight this year and all cyclists are welcome.

To make more of an impression, we are running a creative workshop on 6 September at Castle Street Community Centre to make some lanterns in the shape of turbines and suns, lit with LEDs.

It'll be fun and family friendly, social and sticky and messy. We'd love to see you. You can drop in, or come for the whole time.

Please book a place so we have an idea of numbers and materials needed. If you'd like to know more contact Mandy on 01539 757938 or email mandy@creativetransition.org.uk

7. Torchlight Cycle Parade! Fri 9th Sept, 7:30pm, Kirkby Kendal School

Join us for our second torchlight cycle parade. Last year around 50 cyclists with all manner of bikes joined us during torchlight to celebrate cycling. This year we want more, and we'll be holding a bike decoration in September in the run up to torchlight so you can decorate your bikes in style.

More details will be given out in early Sept, but book the date into your diaries.

8. Camp Frack – 16 - 19th September, Near Blackpool

Camp Frack will take place near the village of Singleton outside Blackpool opposite the site of the UK's first fracking drilling rigs.

Fracking is a controversial process of drilling for shale gas. The technique has been perfected in the US where films such as Gasland have highlighted the multiple problems associated from fracking, from contaminated ground and surface water, to earthquakes and greenhouse gas pollution.

The industry is billing itself as a low carbon alternative. Independent research has shown it to be worse than coal. We don't need more fossil fuels – we need renewables and powerdown.

Join us for a weekend of talks, workshops and discussions. If you're interested get in touch and we can organise transport. slacc@slacc.org.uk.

Actions

1. CETA – a big threat to climate change legislation & COP17

The CETA is a toxic free trade agreement being negotiated between the EU and the Canada government.

Its worst clause gives oil companies legal power to over-ride any legislation that might limit their profits from free trade – such as environmental or climate change legislation e.g. to stop Tar Sands oil getting into the EU.

Please help stop the CETA threat by emailing Tim Farron MP to urge ministers to at least remove the worst clause(s): This is quick and easy by copying & pasting parts from the example e-mail (link below), which you can then edit & personalise e.g. add the threat to COP17 (which I accidentally omitted though intended) or urge scrapping all of CETA unless made climate-safe – as the Canadian government is one of the worst opponents to progress re climate change.

<http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/E-mail-to-Tim-Farron-MP-re-CETA.pdf>

or

<http://tinyurl.com/toMPreCETA>

Also do forward the link to any interested contacts elsewhere in the UK.

2. Fundraising Opportunity

Are you able to spare a few hours to run a fundraiser for SLACC TT? Fellside and Greenside

Forum are holding a table top sale on 3rd September from 1 pm on the green opp Riflemans (Greenside) and SLACC could have a table for £5 Contact Ruth on Jennings_ruth@Hotmail.com

3. Mintfest – billets needed for visiting artists, 2-4 September, Kendal

www.lakesalive.org

Mintfest is Kendal's international festival of street arts. Combining bungee-assisted dance, dramatic filmscape, original music and ingenious staging, this aerial show offers an original and compelling vision of a planet in crisis and takes place at Abbot Hall Park on Sunday 4 September at 8.30pm.

The Mintfest team is looking for people in the town who may willing to have an artist staying in their spare rooms over the weekend (expenses will be paid), to cut down the amount of hotel bed nights lost to the public. Feedback from those who hosted artists last year was very positive with both the hosts and guests reporting on the pleasure they got from experiencing the festival in a new way and the lasting friendships made! If you are interested in finding out more about this, please contact Jan Shorrocks on 01539 720252 or email jan@kendalartsinternational.com as soon as possible.

4. Cumbria Green Build Festival - Call for Events

This year's Cumbria Green Build Festival (organised by CAfS) will take place from 10th – 25th September. The Festival will primarily focus on inspiring and informing attendees through site based visits, especially targeting the general public and businesses who are not currently engaged in this subject. We are aiming to have about 60 events over the fortnight, with a good spread both geographically and in types of events.

So, if you would like to host or participate in an event, give Georgina a call by Thursday 28th July. She's based in the CAfS office Monday – Thursday and can be contacted on georgina@cafs.org.uk or 01768 210 276. www.cumbriagreenbuild.org.uk

5. Materials needed for Bee Creative project with Brewery Arts

With the increasing concern in the fall in numbers of both wild and domestic bees, this project intends to develop a greater awareness of their importance & the environmental issues affecting their decline. Through a variety of creative and science-based activities, young people have been discovering the importance of bees in pollination & it's crucial role in the food chain.

The Brewery Youth Arts entry into the Kendal Torchlight will be the climax of the project with an environmental entry on foot with dramatic back-pack structures, large scale puppets, colourful willow structures, urban street dancers and samba-drums. To get involved, visit the Brewery website.

We would be very grateful if you could collect/donate/re-cycle any of the following:

- Old bicycle inner tubes.
- Colourful plastic bags (Strong pink, red, green –all shades, sky blue, black or bright yellow)
- Any fabric in the colours above.
- Black piping approx. 2cm diameter
- Lge cardboard tubes 5cm diameter or larger- max 22cm
- Old sunglasses
- Black cotton fabric
- Reflective strips

Materials need to be delivered before Friday 26 Aug. to Brewery Box Office. Many thanks

SLACC Towards Transition is an umbrella organisation encompassing a diversity of views within

the community, allowing a forum for discussion on climate change and sustainability issues. Items in the newsletter are submitted from a range of different groups, sub groups, other organisations, etc. If you would like a copy of our press and publicity guidance, please email slacc@slacc.org.uk.

--

www.slacc.org.uk