

NORLETS

COMMUNITY NEWS



Autumn 2008

www.norlets.org.uk

Hello NORLETS folks,

We hope this finds you well and that you've had a great summer. As our global economic foundations are being rocked by seismic forces many of us have already begun to feel the financial squeeze. No better time to explore what NORLETS can really offer... Take some time to log on to the website regularly and keep up to date with ever changing offers and wants lists and new members (quite a few recently - welcome all!) at www.norlets.org.uk. If you have any problems with the site or queries about how to get more out of NORLETS please get in touch, our contacts are listed below.

Many thanks to Ali Chapman (all-time 5 star NORLETter - we love you Ali!) for organising the last NORLETS outdoor social at Wensum Park which was a lovely idea and went down well, with lots of people meeting up there to chat and trade.

Apologies for not having sent out a reminder for submissions to this issue, we just thought we better get this one out a.s.a.p. as there's lots of interesting stuff coming up shortly that we thought you might be interested in. Hopefully we'll get another issue out before Christmas so if there are any notices, adverts or news you'd like to have published please get in touch any time.

As always, any time and energy you can spare to help with admin or promotion, organising social events etc. is always much appreciated (and you get paid in Lokes for your efforts!) so please let us know if you'd like to get more involved...

Best wishes and happy trading! Andy Croft

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Catherine's Wine Offer



Roger and Catherine Greengrass are regular participants in NORLETS, and many of us can testify to Roger's

tasty home-grown produce and Catherine's flavourful wines. However, the bottling can get rather tedious (I remember that from the days when I made wine) and she is offering to put wine into your own demijohn for you (or even an empty winebox, I believe, but check first). Me, I'm going to ask her to fill my ages-old but so far unused "Vincanter", a re-usable wine-box, the distributors of which I gather from Google have just gone out of business. Knew I should have used it sooner, word might have got round...! [Catherine is a joint member with Roger and listed under Roger's name]

Item by Molly Barrett

TRANSITION NORWICH

From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience

Transition Towns are becoming a global phenomenon thanks to the pioneering initiatives of the movement's founder Rob Hopkins, who will be speaking at the 'Great Unleashing', Transition Norwich's launch event this Wednesday at St. Andrew's Hall.

In a nutshell, the Transition mission is to help us all adapt to the dual dilemma of Peak Oil and Climate Change. Most of us are well aware of Climate Change and it's potential effects by now, and even it's fiercest opponents have finally had to concede it *is* happening and, yes, it's a man made problem.

Peak Oil is less popularly understood, even though the theory has been tried and tested since 1956. Peak Oil describes the predicted decline of world oil resources. It's effect on the global economy and on the structure of our societies are likely to be far reaching. Most experts believe we are now at, if not already beyond, that 'peak'. That probably all sounds fairly horrendous, and it is, but only because our current way of life has become dependent on a plentiful supply of cheap oil.

That's where Transition Norwich comes in, to help wean us off the black stuff and start caring a bit more about our impact on the planet; helping us create adaptive solutions and put them into practise. The emphasis is on community, bringing people together to design and implement actions that go beyond anything we can achieve individually.

Crucially, Transition Norwich wants to engage all of Norwich in this process because, ultimately, it's the resilience of our communities that is most likely to see us through the challenges we will all have to face.

Development of localised trading is likely to be a key part of the Transition too, which is where NORLETS could play an important role.

Column by Andy Croft

“Peak Oil and Climate Change present an opportunity for a better life, as well as a threat to our existing ways of doing things. The likelihood is that the solutions and responses we will design together will involve consuming less and travelling less. Communities can get stronger as people get to know their neighbours better and buy more from local shops. The pace of life may slow down, and Norwich may get quieter and cleaner as cars become less common. The treadmill of working harder to consume more might be replaced by something more meaningful.”

Extract from Transition Norwich website by Tully Wakeman

To discover more about Peak Oil, what Transition Norwich will be doing and how you can get involved please visit www.transitionnorwich.org

THE GREAT UNLEASHING

Transition Norwich will be celebrating its 'Great Unleashing' (launch event) at 7.30pm, Wednesday 1st October at St Andrew's Hall, Norwich. St Andrew's Hall holds 500 people, so please help us to fill it up!

Speakers at the Unleashing will include **Rob Hopkins** (who founded the Transition movement and **Dr Ian Gibson MP**.

Tickets cost £5 each (discounts for groups) and are available from the **Greenhouse** (Bethel Street), **Anna's Farm Store** (Magdalen Road) or by prior arrangement from **Inner Space** (St Benedicts Street). You can also buy your tickets online at www.transitionnorwich.org

P.S. Please buy your tickets in advance if possible as it saves much extra work on the night, although you will be able to pay on the door if you haven't managed to get your ticket beforehand.

Keir Hardie Ceilidhs



John Heaser isn't a NORLETS member, though I think he might be persuaded, as he's a key person in the local Freecycle setup. He's sent me some information which I know a lot of you out there will be interested in, about the Kier Hardy dances. These are ceilidh/barn dances, and great fun for all ages, as they say. Two left feet? No matter, they'll show you what to do. And if you really, really can't dance at all, the music is still great to listen to. So if you go along, tell them you heard about it here, and do some publicising for NORLETS!

The Kier Hardy programme for this year is as below - once again we have been fortunate to bring so many excellent bands to Keir Hardy.

Time: Third Wednesday of the month - doors open 19:45 - dancing from 20:00 to 22:45

15 Sept 08 - Rig-a-jig-jig
 19 Oct 08 - Beatroot
 17 Dec 08 - Alan Helsdon & Shufflewing
 21 Jan 09 - The News of the Victory
 18 Feb 09 - Katie's Quartet
 18 Mar 09 - Fendragon
 15 Apr 09 - Hodmedod
 20 May 09 - Keel Band

There are some pdf flyers that can be downloaded from the KH page at www.reeldance.org.uk

There is a Google map on the web site which shows the route round the one way system and the location of the nearest car parks (£1.60 fixed rate after 18:30)

Contact: Paul 01502 712160, John 01603 812472,
 Monica 01728 830085
 Email: info@reeldance.org.uk

Molly's Music

aka Second Sunday Sessions. These take place at the Gatehouse pub, Dereham Road, Norwich (just on the Dereham side of the outer ringroad roundabout Guardian Road/ Sweetbriar Lane junction) on the second Sunday of the month from 2pm till about 6ish. The next one is on 14th and will be the usual mix of folk, blues, jazz, songs, tunes, poems, jokes and general mardling (that's 'chat' if you're new to Norfolk lingo). Everyone's welcome, including children.

Happy Birthday!

It's the first anniversary of the NORLETS website which has been a huge success and saved reams of paper and lots of admin so huge thanks to Mary Fee and Progga of LETSlink UK for setting that up for us and to Barney and Katherine Ralston for getting that ball rolling.

Obviously we advocate NOT using as much paper as possible with unnecessary printing, but many folks still prefer browsing or referring to a printed directory to looking at listings on the website. For those of you with web access, you can print your own by logging into the Members' Area, clicking on either of the 'Offered' or 'Wanted' buttons in the left hand menu and following the prompts there to generate a print friendly directory.

And don't forget there's people on NORLETS who'll be able to help you with most of your computer gremlins so give them a shout!

COLOUR PRINTER WITH FAX

Brother MFC-3360C Sheetfed Colour Inkjet Multifunction Printer with Fax. Ideal desktop inkjet All-In-One for small business or home office, high specification colour scanning, copying and printing. With telephone handset and generous number storage. RRP: £199.99 For Sale at just £56 or for Lokes or part pounds, part Lokes.

See the listing (in 'computer' offers) in the directory or you can email Lauren on wisewomanoracle@googlemail.com for more details

Norfolk Waste Partnership Conference and AGM - Thursday 23 October 2008

The Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) is again running its annual conference and AGM. This event is now proven as a useful and informative event for many of Norfolk's waste stakeholders.

"The Future of Waste in Norfolk: food for thought" is the title of this year's conference with the aim of inspiring everyone to reduce their waste. Presentations from the Government's Waste and Resources Action Programme will highlight how much food is being thrown away by householders and ASDA will look at their efforts to reduce waste and packaging. Experts will be facilitating interactive Workshops which include making Norfolk plastic bag free and advice on waste and environmental law for businesses.

This is the sixth conference the NWP has arranged and is open to Norfolk's:

- Parish and town councils
- Community and voluntary groups
- Local authorities
- Norfolk businesses
- Organisations and individuals with an interest in Norfolk's waste
- Local waste management and recycling companies
- Students and researchers with an interest in waste and environmental management

The conference will provide up-to-date information on local and national waste initiatives and gives an opportunity for stakeholders to network and discover how they can be part of the future of waste reduction in Norfolk.

To book a place for the NWP conference
phone: 0844 844 8004
or email: nwp@norfolk.gov.uk

WASTE FREE WEEK 27 Oct – 2 Nov 2008

Join the challenge to reduce your impact on the environment and recycle and compost as much as you can during Waste Free Week!

Norfolk councils are teaming up to run the waste free week and challenging everyone to reduce the amount of rubbish they throw away to nothing. Anyone who would like to join will be encouraged to use only products that can be recycled, reused or composted, avoiding things going in the rubbish bin.

Sign up to the challenge and you'll be given lots of top tips and information on how to take part and if you complete the challenge you will be entered into our prize draw.

Register at www.recyclefornorfolk.org.uk



If there's any activities or events you think we should be publicising here then please let us know and we'll do our best to put them in the next NORLETS newsletter.

Just send us an email or drop your publicity into the NORLETS pigeonhole at the Greenhouse on Bethel Street indicating that it's for the NORLETS newsletter. Alternatively you can give us a ring. Contact numbers are on the front!