

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANSITION BRO GWAUN ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2021

Since 2007, Transition Bro Gwaun (TBG) has grown from being a small group of climate change activists to being an integral organisation within the Fishguard and Goodwick community, leading on local sustainable solutions to climate change and developing community resilience. TBG has hosted and been involved in many community activities and events and developed a wide range of projects. Some are listed below.

Awareness raising:

- Talks and film shows on a wide range of sustainability issues including a talk by Rob Hopkins, the founder of the Transition Movement in 2008
- Events such as 'Pembrokeshire in Transition' – an event focusing on electric cars and renewable energy infrastructure, 2011; and 'Cymuned Unol', a two-day event on community led town regeneration, 2016;
- Regular weekly stall at Fishguard Farmers Market
- Regular email updates to supporters
- Using our resources and knowledge to work with other local community organisations to develop sustainable projects e.g. Sea Trust and Ocean Guardians; Greening Fishguard and Goodwick; the Point Youth Club and local schools.
- Producing information videos e.g on Tidal, Solar and Wind power and Surplus Food Projects

Community surveys and project development:

- Survey of local shopkeepers to gain their opinions on issues such as reducing the use of plastic bags and selling more local food (2008), this led to:
- The production of TBGs sustainable shopping bag.
- 'Growing Your Own' survey, 2008/9, resulted in the establishment of two allotment sites and regular cookery demonstration in the local Farmers Market
- Local Use of Renewable Energy survey 2010 - identified local people installing renewable energy systems in their homes.
- 'Getting There' survey 2011/12 - assessed the potential to reduce local car usage.
- Abergwaun Community Turbine (ACT) 2014 – the first community wind turbine erected in Wales, part financed by loans from local people and groups.
- Tidal energy and micro-grid projects (2011, 2016, 2019) – assessed the feasibility of producing and selling local renewable energy – funded by Welsh Government and EU.
- Surplus Food Projects. In 2011 asked what local people thought we should do with all the food being thrown away from local shops and businesses. The findings led us to set up a surplus food café - in the 4 years Transition Cafe operated, we prevented 33 tonnes of food wastage making 138 tonnes of CO₂ savings. (See website.) Further Transition Cafe surveys in 2013 and 2016 provided ideas from our customers and community about what more we could do. This led to:
- The Make a Meal of It project (2017) - Funded by Sainsbury's, this provided support and activities to reduce food waste to organisations across Pembrokeshire.

- Fishguard & Goodwick Community Fridge/Pantry – set up in 2017 following the closure of Transition Cafe, it continues collecting and sharing surplus food, and is largely funded and resourced by the community.
- Waste Busting Activities (2019/20) – funded by Pembrokeshire County Council to promote the Circular economy, e.g. swapping and repurposing unwanted clothes; repairing household items and up-cycling furniture; making wax food wraps to replace single use plastic.
- Make New and Mend (2021) – reducing textile waste by repairing and repurposing clothing and other textiles.

Training events:

- Walk the Talk - engaging communities to effect behaviour change, 2011 - run by the Climate Outreach and Information Network.
- 'Growing Your Own courses' run in partnership with LA Community Education;
- Bicycle maintenance and proficiency sessions.
- Cookery and food waste reduction workshops and demonstrations.
- Food Hygiene training provided for cafe volunteers and open to the community - the volunteers contributed 23,000 hours between June 2013-November 2017 running Transition Cafe alongside TBG staff.

Community events:

- Stalls and activities promoting the work of TBG at a wide variety of events around Pembrokeshire.
- Fishguard carnival floats 2008 – 2012, e.g. TBG & Point Young Peoples Trust, Voyage to a Greener Future 2010
- Annual 'Seed and plant Swap'
- Events in Transition café such as storytelling sessions, Welsh language drop-in sessions, and 'Nosh without Dosh' – local people enjoyed a 'free' evening meal in exchange for providing a service or donating items that Transition Cafe required.
- Providing meals and a venue for events such as Aberjazz, the Fishguard Folk Festival and fundraising and social events for local groups e.g. the RNLI, FoE, WI
- Taking part and catering for 'What's in it for You' 2016 – an event in the Town Hall showcasing the work of voluntary organisations in the area.
- Creative Climate Communication (2019): a project using Arts based activities to engage the community in events and a conversation about the climate crisis and ways to address it.
- Garment Repair Cafe – held every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at Ocean Lab – for people to see how their favourite garments can be repaired.