

## Transition Chichester Annual Report 2023

### Finance

At the end of the financial year on October 31, TC had a healthy bank balance of £12,234 thanks to several successful fund-raising bids. Grants were awarded to Grow Chichester from Sussex Community Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund, and also to the Great Big Green Week programme from Chichester City Council and the Great Big Green Week organisation. Regular donations are received monthly from a few individual donors through Local Giving.

### Projects

#### Grow Chichester:

Weekly gardening sessions have been held at the Bishop's Palace Veg Plot throughout the year, and out-reach work with marginalised groups has continued. We now have volunteers from the Sanctuary and have established contact with Parklands and Lavant Road medical practices who have begun to send us volunteers under their social prescribing scheme.

As mentioned in the section on finance, our funding bids were successful and will enable us to continue run Bishop's Palace Veg Plot as a therapeutic garden for another couple of years.

After a long wait (11 months) the greenhouse (which was comprehensively vandalised in April 2022) has been repaired and we are able to grow our seedlings there once more.

Peter May from the Brighton Permaculture Trust led two pruning sessions in the community orchard in Oaklands Park. The wildflower meadow in the orchard by the Festival Theatre as a Platinum Jubilee project was a joy to behold. Despite the drought, we had a bumper harvest. Surplus apples were donated to UK Harvest or juiced and distributed to volunteers.

Four of the raised beds in Oaklands Park have been replaced. We are actively seeking more volunteers to help in this garden

#### Earth Café

The weekly Earth Café has proved very popular. After a few months at Wagtails, the café returned to the Guide Hall in September. It is now run by a team of volunteers. The café serves as an information point about eco activities in Chichester and often hosts activities such as sewing or soup making. The café provides a small regular source of income, some of which was used to provide separate insurance cover for the Repair Café

#### Repair Café

A trial Repair Café was held at the New Park Centre in August, followed by a couple of Fixing Fast Fashion events. Due to the expense of hall hire it was decided to link the Repair Café and the Earth Café. Since February, the Repair Café has been held on the fourth Friday of the month as part of the Earth Café. Repairs to electrical and electronic items, sewing repairs and other small repairs are provided. A special Repair Café was hosted by Chichester Festival Theatre on June 10 as part of Great Big Green Week 2023.

## **Food for Friends**

This is a new project which started in the autumn and focuses on building community. It is supported by Chichester Quakers. A link has been created with The Sanctuary, which supports newly arrived asylum-seekers. Fortnightly sessions are held where refugees from different countries work with local volunteers to cook lunch and share their cuisine.

## **The following projects are on hold:**

**Swap Shop:** The quality of the goods brought to Swap Shops has deteriorated and volunteers have been left with a large amount of junk to dispose of. The Button Boot Sale introduced at the Great Big Green Week might in future replace Swap Shops.

**Eco-cinema:** It proved difficult to restart Eco cinema after the pandemic. No showings have been arranged this year apart from the very successful Green Screen Showings at the New Park cinema as part of Great Big Green Week. We are considering putting on a few film showings in the autumn

## **Events**

**Great Big Green Week:** TC has formed a partnership with the New Park Centre and a series of events took place during Great Big Green Week (September 24-October 1). The New Park Centre provided venues free of charge and we received grants from the City Council and the Great Big Green Week organisation.

The following events took place:

- 4 showings of environmental films in the New Park cinema on separate Mondays over one month followed by a short presentation or discussion session. The films were very well attended and almost filled the cinema on a couple of occasions.
- Button Boot Sale: a tabletop sale of unwanted items where 'shoppers' exchanged buttons for goods. 'Sellers' took their 'unsold' items away with them.
- A green business meeting attended by over 40 participants to discuss sustainable business practices with local businesses and organisations
- An information afternoon where 20 local environmental groups were represented

Great Big Green Week 2023 was held in June, which was only 9 months after the event held in 2022. This was felt to be too soon, so apart from the Repair Café at the theatre, TC did not participate this year.