

WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION AUTUMN MEETING 2008
THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER. 7.30 AT WIDCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH

EGM

Richard Wales welcomed everybody and gave apologies from Paddy Doyle and Mr & Mrs Sladen. He thanked Paddy for a wonderful newsletter and announced that there were changes to the committee.

The Vice Chair took over and Richard was proposed as Chair by Robert Strickland and seconded by Ro Emsley. He was voted in unanimously.

The new chair then dealt with other changes.

Jeremy Boss was proposed as treasurer by Robert Strickland and seconded by John Brushfield.

Julian Williams was proposed as committee member for traffic and parking and trader liaison by Mayveen Blackwell and seconded by Sarah Lewis.

Graham Cox, a long-standing member, was proposed as committee member for police liaison and support with events by Sarah Lewis and seconded by Sue Carol.

All nominations were carried unanimously. Richard appealed for a volunteer to be in charge of our Archives and present occasional exhibitions.

Sarah Lewis was presented with a bouquet for many years of service on the committee as Events organiser. It was announced that Mayveen Blackwell, Dr Phil Bendall and Dr. Bob Potter (who couldn't attend) had been made life members of the Association in recognition of their services and certificates were presented to Mayveen and Phil.

Richard then passed on a message from Ralph Oswick. This year's Widcombe Rising was generally agreed to be the best ever and he thanked us for our £1400 contribution. There will be another event in 2010 when it will be the bi-centenary of the opening of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Jeremy Boss gave the Treasurer's report. He thanked Richard for the good order in which he found the accounts. There is £4,300 in our account after our donation to Widcombe Rising and £1000 in the Abbey Cemetery Account. Although this year there will be a small deficit, we are living within our means. There has been a 30% increase in membership and 170 people are now on Direct debit.

The Speaker, Peter Andrews of Transition Bath was then introduced.

We learned that we are not running out of oil but out of cheap oil. Oil underpins everything and out of 98 oil producing countries, 64 are post peak. The major producers left are the Saudis, S. America and Alaska. We are wasting oil on unnecessary products and the government has its head in the

sand. Occasions when countries have run out of oil give us a clue as to what might happen as oil production declines and it becomes more expensive. In N. Korea in the 1990s, society broke down. In Cuba where the population was more educated, it became more adaptive. Oil was rationed for essential things and everyone became a gardener. Skills were swapped and re-learned and people came through although they lost weight.

With Climate Change, we are approaching tipping points.

The Transition Movement preaches:

Local resilience

Carbon reduction now

Producing things closer to home

Holidays in England

Decentralised energy infrastructure.

New skills, localised food, energy descent plans

Local medicinal capacity, local currencies,

Oil, gas, iridium, water, soil and population are also peaking.

Things can be done on a global, national, local and personal level. Going up the energy slope, we used ingenuity, creativity, adaptability and cooperation. Going down, if we're early enough and use these gifts, the future could be better.

In the Bath Bioregion, there are 8 new Transition movements. Transition Bath is one year old; it has films, a monthly forum, talks and events and has set up special interest groups for energy, raising awareness, and food. There is a Transition Learning College.

Peter told us we needed to accept there is a problem, believe we can make a difference, lobby politicians, get to know and cooperate with our community. We can buy local, seasonal and organic food, eat less meat, grow our own food, share gardens, plant a community orchard, keep chickens and eat with friends.

He brought books for us to look at which can be viewed at www.eco-logicbooks.com

Transition Bath can be found at www.transitionbath.org.uk Questions were asked and then Richard thanked Peter for his very interesting and useful talk and the audience dispersed for refreshments.