

Minutes of TLT Steering Group Meeting, 7.30pm, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

In person at Plas Madoc

and on Zoom

Present were: Geoff, Penny, Janice, Sally, Sian (part)

1. Apologies – Heulyn, Angela, David, Hilary, Catherine
2. May minutes and matters arising

Re. the publicity, it was seen as important to get this right. Perhaps it needs a slight re-think. PN had thought there was some repetition. PN had also omitted to send it round again for comment, there having been no response previously.

Sally had attended the talk by Rob Hopkins at the Hay Festival, which had been a friendly conversation, well-attended. There was very good audience participation and reaction. There was a podcast made during lockdown. The idea of being a Time Traveller was explored – thinking about where you would be 20 years from now, making a timeline. Sally said this idea had also been proposed in the Thrive course she attended. The minutes from May were approved.

3. Project updates:

- a) Green Coffee – this is next week (NB PN has forgotten to put out a reminder...)
- b) Incredible Edible and Seed Library – email sent from Catherine:

*IE The Arlais Garden is now largely planted out for the season and flourishing due to the warm spring. We managed to get through the long, dry spell without totally emptying the waterbutts and water harvester. Plants are happily scrambling up the new arches and trellis.*

*The Seed library makes new contacts each week. The stock is getting low, a positive picture at this time of year. Saved seed and commercial seed is regularly donated. The end of the summer, as plants are setting seed, will be a good time to campaign for more focused seed saving.*

- c) Repair Café, Pomarium and Forest Garden –  
Hilary sent the following email:

*Repair Cafe: still ticking over nicely, we are coming very close to reaching the 2,000 mark for completed repairs. We were approached by a researcher from the Miller Research company, wanting to find out about how we started, how it affected our lives, the impact on our community, etc, and I had a long chat with her by telephone last week. We're a bit short of receptionists this Saturday, so if anyone feels like volunteering.....*

*Pomarium: Work has started, and while I had to spend a lot of time clearing up the broken glass scattered all over the tarmac area by some people, two others made a start cutting the grass around the trees. I joined them in this later.*

*Cutting the grass manually, as we have done so far by scything, is extremely tiring and takes a long time, and we were wondering if TLT would countenance our buying a strimmer of our own: I looked them up online, and although some cost as much as about £300, the reasonable prices are between £100-150. Obviously this would take up all of our petty cash, and so would need to come from the funds we handed over from FORP last year. Is there any of that left? Perhaps this could be discussed this evening? I look forward to hearing what is decided.*

The Steering Group discussed this and as at that point Sian had not joined the meeting, we were not quorate (5) the matter was not decided. Geoff said he had done a lot of clearing himself and a strimmer is more dangerous than scything. A second hand one may be acquired for about £30. More scything volunteers are needed.

It was agreed that **any request for money needs to be accompanied by attendance at the relevant steering group meeting so that questions may be put.**

- d) Morsbags – see last minutes. These may be given out on any Carnival stall.
- 4. Town council liaison – Sian said there were many ideas being considered but none ready to be discussed publicly.
- 5. Future monthly talks-
  - a) Steven Jones, permaculture and biochar specialist, on improving soils and sequestering carbon, outside at the **Forest Garden, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 for 6.30 – 8.30pm** depending on the weather. Rock Park café will

open just for us to get some refreshments at 6pm! Canopy available in case of rain and café as a back-up venue.

- b) Mat Sheldon from Tir Coed has now agreed to do our **July** talk on 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Commodore.
  - c) Riversimple owe a response to David – they could take the **August** slot perhaps? David to follow up. It was discussed whether there should be a gap with no talk in August, or not. Opinion was divided.
  - d) David suggests - Ashley Collins, the PCC Head of Recycling etc, following his talk to the PACE AGM, to ask whether he or someone from his team might be able to give us a talk focusing on what actually happens to each of the materials collected (plastic, paper, etc) and how they ensure legitimate/ethical processing and end uses.
  - e) Mike Eccles of Hay on Wye is offering a talk – **PN** to follow up.
  - f) Would Dorianne like to present her thesis on food self-sufficiency in Powys?
6. General publicity. Review of the revised TLT leaflet – PN had omitted to circulate
7. Llandrindod Carnival 5<sup>th</sup> July. Janice had not had opportunity to work on this. A share with TripTo (Welsh title not noted!) Car Share scheme was still a possibility. JS to follow up.
8. For note:
- David had sent in the following -
- Big Green Week, 7th - 15th June
- World Refill Day - 16th June
- It was noted that many local shops in L'dod and neighbouring towns now offered refills, both of food and cleaning materials. Loose sales preferable to those packaged in plastic.
9. AOB
- a) Janice mentioned an interactive exhibition on veganism in Birmingham running until 23.8.25, 11 – 7 in the library.
  - b) Sally mentioned an open Day. Newsletter items. PN mentioned that as a result of some people having difficulty receiving emails from Geoff's TLT members list, PN has compiled an alternative list, partly on a TLT Microsoft Group email and partly a list to be included BCC on emails as she had been unable to amend the group list. All this means that in order to capture all members, PN has to send the newsletter out. As Sally's emails always disappear into spam for PN,

then please could Sally message Penny to alert her to her having sent it and then she can retrieve it!

- c) Sian said she had attended this meeting to put forward her idea once again for a Food Trail leaflet, highlighting places of local interest to residents and visitors where they could buy good food, including vegan and GF alternatives. These could include food outlets such as Van's, the Alleyway Market on a Friday, the Thomas Shop, sales of local produce including meats from farm gates and roadsides. Penny mentioned the fact that Michelle Pearce had written a couple of good articles for the Out and About in Llandrindod magazine on a similar subject. Sian requests that as she cannot travel easily any more, could everyone report on any outlets that may be of interest in their area, including surrounding areas. **ALL to report back**