

Events foster connections...

...and connections create communities. Stour Community First and Transition (Stour) Valley organise events to help build a better community.

The next round of events are set to start in September 2009. We'd love to see you there to help build on the foundations we've laid, so...

...for further information and dates contact us today...

Stour Community First

info@stourcommunityfirst.org
www.stourcommunityfirst.org
Telephone 0844 585 2049

Transition (Stour) Valley

info@visit-manningtree.co.uk
http://transitionvalley.blogspot.com
We are a new group and our email systems and web site are under development, but emails will be forwarded.

What are you waiting for?

Why not explore more?

If you like the idea of a stronger, more resilient community for you and future generations, contact us today.

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For more information about the Transition Movement in general...
www.transitiontowns.org

or Peak Oil
www.peakoil.net

or Climate Change
www.ipcc.ch

What are you waiting for?

What is Community?

Like most things, 'community' does not fit into a nice neat package. We use the word a lot, but it is important to ask more seriously exactly what it means.

Take a short journey with us to explore the idea of 'community' and a stronger, more resilient future.



Brought to you through a collaboration between


Stour Community First

and *Transition Valley*

Do we live in a Community?

When you consider that a ‘community’ is a rather fuzzy idea, can you be certain you live in one?

You cannot see a whole community, you cannot touch it, and you cannot directly experience it. Like the words “hill” or “snowflake”, a community may come in one of many shapes, sizes, colours and locations, no two of which are alike.

More importantly, a community is not just the people who are in it. A community usually already existed long before all of its current residents were born, and it will probably continue to exist when all of the people in it have left. It is something that is beyond its actual components, its residents or its members. A community may have members who have temporarily moved to other locations. They may wish eventually to return, but not all do.

Stour Community First and Transition (Stour) Valley are two local groups dedicated to exploring the strength and, more importantly, the resilience of the communities of Manningtree and the surrounding area.

But why is resilience important?

What threats do we face?

In a time of global financial crisis it’s easy to forget that there are other threats lurking.

When you face more immediate challenges, the longer-term problems of Climate Change and Peak Oil become a little harder to focus on - but let’s try now.

Climate Change can manifest in changes to averages, extremes, or measures, and can occur in a specific region or for the Earth as a whole. CO2 from our modern living is a key factor in the cause of Climate Change.

Peak Oil is the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline. Certainly bad news for our currently heavily oil-dependent lifestyles.

Just to weave the Climate Change and Peak Oil situations together for you...

- Climate Change makes a carbon reduction transition essential.
- Peak Oil makes it inevitable.
- Community and Transition initiatives that create community resilience make it feasible, viable and attractive to tackle the problem.

What difference can you make?

How can we prepare?

Before you can prepare for the future it all starts with asking the big question...

“For all those aspects of life that this community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience (to mitigate the effects of Peak Oil) and drastically reduce carbon emissions (to mitigate the effects of Climate Change)?”

By working together to find the answer we can create a coordinated range of projects, across all areas of life that strives to rebuild the resilience we’ve lost as a result of cheap oil, and drastically reduce the community’s carbon emissions.

If, collectively, we plan and act early enough, there’s every likelihood that we can create a way of living that’s significantly more connected, more vibrant and more in touch with our environment than the oil-addicted treadmill that we find ourselves on today. Stour Community First and Transition (Stour) Valley are working now to prepare for a better future.

For further information contact us today... what are you waiting for?

Working together to build a stronger, more resilient community.