

PUTTING ON A ANNUAL CELEBRATION

People:	People organising the annual celebration
Time:	Varies
Resources:	This guide and a place to meet to plan celebration

How can this help us?

It is really important to celebrate what you have achieved over the past year, often by the time December comes you have forgotten everything you did earlier on in the year, so it's great to have a reminder. It is also an opportunity to get together with people and just have a social time, relax and have some fun. You don't need to do this just once a year, lots of groups celebrate achievements when they happen.

The guide:

The following will help to make your celebration run smoothly:

The invitation:

- Make sure your invitation is clear, that people know it will be fun, what's happening, what's being celebrated
- Invite people personally
- Invite partners and friends if that feels right, or not, this is celebration after all!

Food and Drink:

- It's a celebration, and celebrations need refreshment
- Feast well
- Celebrate your local food culture

• A capturing of what's being celebrated:

- Give form to what you've done and achieved, and what's being celebrated
- Create a timeline, a display of photos, a film of your story so far.
- Celebrate the small things as much as the bigger things
- Celebrate those who joined and mark those who have left

• Look Forward:

- This celebration is not the end of the whole thing, merely a pausing point
- Where might the group go next? Find fun and engaging ways to capture people's ideas for where to go next

Keep it changing:

- At the Transition Lewes event there was a choir, a couple of talks, some poetry, a raffle, more singing, bagpipes, dancing, the opportunity to interact with Transition Town Lewes projects, mention of the campaign for a community take-over of the site we were on, food, drink

Dancing:

- A good celebration really benefits from the opportunity to have a good dance.
- The perfect way to wrap up a good celebration

A sense of context:

- Invite other local organisations you've interacted with to have stalls, whatever they like
- Celebrate the web of connections and relationships you've created and the sum total of what you have produced between yourselves

Document It!:

- Have someone there to take photos, or video, or to document the event in some way or other
- You'll be glad subsequently that you did
- Getting all those people together in one place won't happen again in the same way

No graphs!:

- By all means have someone along to give a talk, but keep it upbeat and positive
- Tell stories, make it funny
- Keep the energy up
- It's a celebration, remember!

Critical Mass:

- A really good celebration needs a good turnout.
- Try to make sure you have a good crowd in.

In short, this event should be about celebrating what you have achieved, appreciating what people have done, strengthening relationships and most importantly having fun. This may seem like a simple thing to do but often it is the simple things that are the most effective.

More support:

For more support and information on reflection and celebration go here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/reflect-and-celebrate/>

Check out the 7 essential ingredients of Transition here:

<http://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/starting-transition/7-essential-ingredients/>

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