

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

May 2021 Issue 6

The Low Carbon Warwickshire Network aims to connect low carbon groups across the county, sharing ideas and stimulating and supporting new activity. Although primarily rural in focus, we exclude no one.



<https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/warwickshire-low-carbon-network>

Welcome to the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) Newsletter

The LCWN aims to create a central hub providing guidance, information and inspiration for new and existing groups, mainly in rural areas. 'Creating Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill and Henley-in-Arden with other on-line events being planned. The events at Church Lawford, Snitterfield and Kenilworth are on-hold due to the pandemic.

A range of partners are working together to help secure the resources the Network will need to grow and deliver on its vision.

TRACC RECORD 2020 - 2021

Tachbrook Residents' Action on Climate Change

By Martin Drew

Just over a year ago was not exactly a great time to launch a Residents' action group to combat climate warming. Response to an article last March in the Parish Magazine to publicise and recruit members wasn't exactly overwhelming. Understandably the immediate threat of something called Covid19 was a lot more frightening than the destruction of the planet. Apart from myself, only fellow Parish Councillor, Keith Wellsted became the founding members of the Bishop's Tachbrook (BT) Action group. Further efforts and articles in the Parish Magazine during the lockdown months met with little success. Originally, we had planned to hold village meetings to generate interest but as this was out of the question, it was decided that time would be better spent learning from the experience of established local climate action groups and finding out what support and funding are available from local authority and national initiatives.



Undoubtedly making contact with Bob Sherman at Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) was to prove invaluable. Founded 2010, HEI leads the way when it comes to reducing emissions by planning to generate renewable community energy from wind and solar sources. Bob has provided a range of useful contacts and ideas including a name for our group. He came up with TRACC (Tachbrook Residents' Action on Climate Change). He also suggested that a way to engage residents was through their children. HEI organised the children at Harbury Primary School to carry out an energy efficiency survey on their homes. It's a project TRACC are planning for BT.

However, our first scheme, organised by our third member Kay Haycock was a competition supported by Head teacher Mrs. C Kilbey, Head Teacher at BT CE Primary School. Kay proposed a competition



for the youngsters to think up a name and design a logo for a children's version of TRACC. The winner was 8-year-old Harriet Lankfer who produced a really scary picture and a superb name, "The Can Doers".

TRACC's knowledge bank has built up over the year. We are members of Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) that provides news and shares information from local Climate Action Groups. LCWN advised on companies to provide information and cost for installing an Electric Vehicle charger at the proposed new car park on the Meadow. I have attended a number of talks including a very informative presentation on electric and hydrogen powered vehicles organised by Kenilworth Town Council's Climate Emergency Working Group. I also took part in a webinar on the future of rural transport organised by The Rural Community Energy Fund; plus, useful information has come from Coventry's Green New Deal Group.

TRACC has had advice from Dave Barber, WDC Programme Director for Climate Change and Councillor Alan Rhead, portfolio holder on Environment and Neighbourhood. TRACC members were consulted for WDC's People's Inquiry on Climate Change by Emma Royston, a BT resident who had been tasked to find the level of interest and Climate Change initiatives in BT with a view to reviewing and supporting future activities. Emma is now a member of TRACC.

Zoom meetings are held regularly to plan projects and strategy. The latest developments include considering suitable community initiatives eligible for Green Shoots Funding through WCC. The latest projects comprise a Repair/Recycle hub based in the new storage shed near the allotments. Residents bring along all manner of things: electrical, mechanical, bicycles, toys, you name it, let the repair team get to work giving them a new lease of life and not add to landfill. Don't chuck it, mend it is the theme. TRACC plans to sign up to the Repair Café Wales operating model as this has proved to be very successful and has been adopted by nearby Barford's Bar Zero Repair Shop.

In addition, TRACC is proposing a Carbon Capture Planting programme around the Parish. This will involve a detailed survey of the parish to identify suitable areas for planting (including permissions from landowners). Green Shoots funding is available to support cost of planting trees etc. Allied to this is a plan to plant green spaces with herbs and wildflowers. This is often called guerilla planting and it's an ideal project for getting children involved in climate change action. Space permitting there may be a communal garden or community orchard. Lastly, setting up a Communal Composting system is being planned to recycle food and garden waste.

It has been an extremely challenging year but, despite this, progress has been made in establishing a Group dedicated to doing its local best to reverse the effects of climate change. What's more TRACC has just welcomed two new members, Kelly Box and Lisa Brealey. As Covid recedes from ruling our lives, TRACC will be more active, doing its bit to protect BT and the planet.

Want to help BT go zero carbon?

Come and join TRACC especially if you have expert knowledge or simply want to do your bit to help in any way you can.

Email: BishopsTRACC@outlook.com

Who are we? Introducing.....

This month we get **Derrick Knight** from **Sparks-slc** to talk to us about his low carbon journey.



1. What is your first memory of when you realised things needed to change?

My earliest work as a metallurgist for a mining and refining company highlighted the need for an awareness of the environment and important action to protect it. As a new graduate metallurgist in 1979 I joined the team at Britannia Refined Metals and the associated operation at Mt. Isa Mine in Australia and I was immediately aware of the legitimate public interest in the dangers from the lead industry. Through my work at the UK refinery in Kent I was able to bring forward many modifications to the industry's refining and production practices and support major capital investment in air and water quality improvements at the UK site and subsequently at sister sites in the US. I was pleased to be embedded in the industry at the time that lead was being removed from motor vehicle fuel and to be involved in the removal of lead and its compounds from numerous other areas of life. My keen interest in cleaning up this industry remained throughout my subsequent years as a consultant to the global heavy metals refinery network.

2. What made you commit to doing something?

As for many people, my career path has taken many twists and turns but happily in 2007 as a relatively new parent and concerned for my son's future and also nudged by other life events I decided to seek out others with local environmental expertise in Warwickshire. I was pleased to receive a very positive response to my enquiries from someone called Jacky at Warwickshire County Council and her colleague Jonathan. Thus began the journey on which I continue today, nudged and supported by a number of key people to whom I am very grateful.

3. What have you done?

As a self-employed technologist, a period of ill health prompted me to look closely at my basic needs and the basic needs of all of us for living sustainably. I determined that clean air, clean water, food, shelter and (perhaps) human interaction are the principal resources required to sustain us in a broader healthy environment and from that foundation everything else can follow.

With this basic premise in mind, I began a ten-year exploration of how to live sustainably without recourse to a significant cash budget and so the SPARKS – Sustainable Living Centres project was launched in 2009 at Stoneleigh Park.

Financial difficulties at Stoneleigh Park and their impending bankruptcy encouraged the SPARKS-SLC project to relocate in March 2010 but taught an important lesson about the original project model and the horrific carbon footprint that the Stoneleigh Park, 640-acre visitor centre version of the project, would have produced. The project found a new home in August 2010, with help from a supportive landowner on the outskirts of Leamington Spa, the research continued and has furnished skills in rainwater harvesting, fruit and vegetable growing, straw bale building and Passiv Haus construction (and deconstruction), woodland management and the site also provided a base for a blacksmithing service.

Expertise has been gained in renewable energy systems for domestic and commercial use and an energy advice service offered to the local community encouraging confidence and investment in renewable energy in hundreds of systems. Supporting the Renewable Energy Club Warwickshire as well as building

confidence in renewables identified a public interest in wood fuel heating and introduced an opportunity to develop research funds for SPARKS-SLC through the supply of wood fuel products.

The SPARKS – Natural Fuel Network grew to become one of the principal wood fuel supply sources in Warwick District and a key support to the District Council's exploration of wood fuel as a lower carbon alternative to electric heating in the off-gas grid village locations. As a weekly supplier to the community, interest grew in our sustainable living credentials and the opportunity arose to provide advice and other low carbon supplies across Warwick District.

4. What's kept you going? What sustains you?

The enthusiasm for the advice, supplies and the service kept the project going although the original 10-year project target was constantly in mind and the desire to move on to develop mechanisms for extending the reach of the project and disseminating the learning. I am kept going by a constant watch on the ever-increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and the less well reported methane levels together with knowledge of the reducing Arctic and Antarctic sea ice levels and the liveable land loss around the world.

Close support from family and friends sustains me.

5. If there was one thing / one solution you wished everyone knew about / did - what would it be ?

Although I fear that we have missed the key opportunities to make significant changes to our impact on carbon dioxide levels and mitigation is now just a word not an action I look forward to the time of the 'hundredth monkey' and collective action on informed sustainable living choices and us all living in a manner that doesn't harm the lives of future generations.

I wish for us all to move on past the discussion about the reality of climate change and to agree to engage harmoniously in numerous healthy endeavours within the wider biosphere. I do not see that taking action to reduce our carbon footprint and leaving a better world for the next generation is in any way harmful.

Derrick Knight MIM C.Eng, Cert Drama Ed.

What on Earth is COP26?

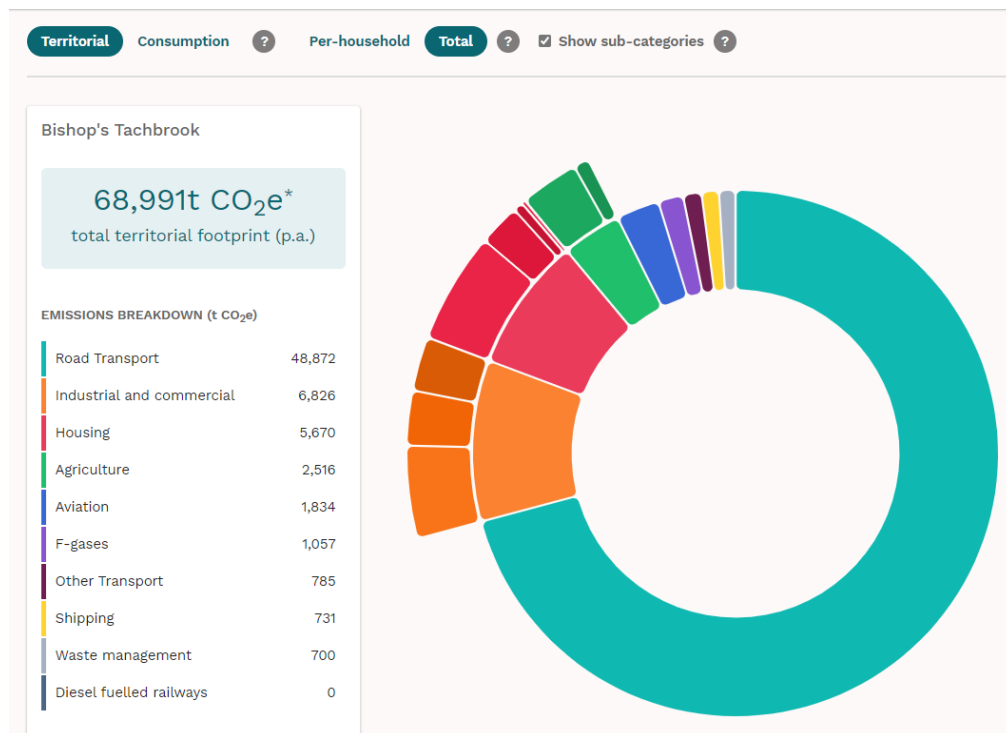
Taken from a blog by Neil Kitching @carbonchoicesuk
<http://www.carbonchoices.uk/index.php/blog/blog-7>

COP26 is the 26th global climate conference run by the United Nations. It is being hosted by the UK and held in Glasgow, Scotland between 1 and 12 November 2021. It will be the largest ever international conference held in the UK, hosting up to 30,000 climate experts, negotiators, heads of state, media and observer organisations from over 200 countries - if Covid regulations allow. COP stands for 'conference of the parties' where the 'parties' are international governments. Fundamentally, COP26 is the setting for the world's most complex international negotiations.

The event itself comprises two parts. The 'blue zone' is the official UN area on the banks of the River Clyde comprising the main Scottish Event Campus exhibition halls, the SEC Armadillo auditorium and the SSE Hydro arena. Across the river is the 'green zone' centred on the Science Centre. This space is managed by the UK Government and will host country pavilions, commercial exhibition space and events. The Scottish Government has no official status at COP26, but will work with other state and regional governments to influence the negotiators and will clearly want to showcase Scotland's climate credentials. Businesses, cities and regions may wish to sign up to the UN backed 'Race to Zero' campaign. In addition, a whole host of side events will then occur across Glasgow and beyond.

Have you looked at your Parish or Town carbon footprint yet?

The aim of the Impact carbon footprinting tool is to give small communities data on their carbon emissions that is easy to interpret, easy to share, and which gives them a clear idea of their main 'impact areas' – those big segments where concerted, community-based action could really make a dent in local emissions. The information is displayed visually via a series of charts. However, for those who do want to access the raw data, you can visit the Downloads page to do so. [Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://impact-tool.org.uk)

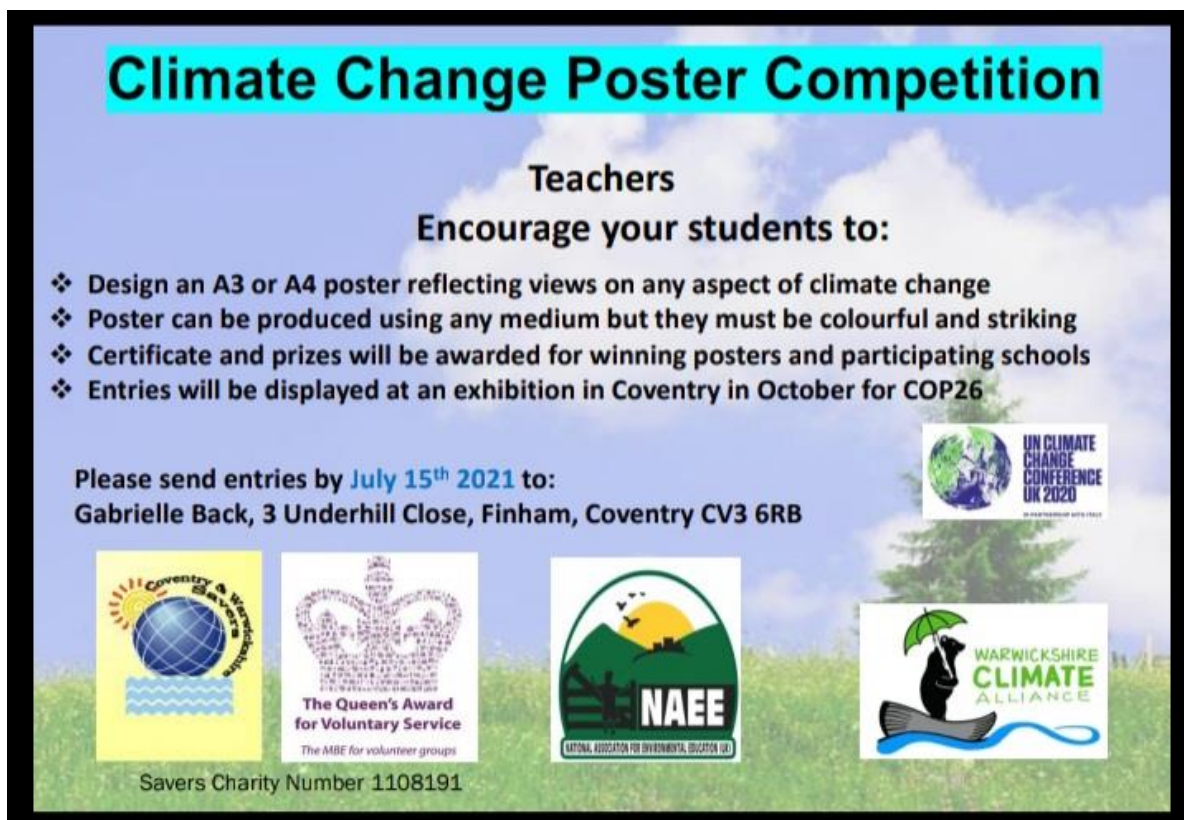


Want to get Involved? – find your local climate action group

1. Low Carbon Warwickshire Network (LCWN) and
2. Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI) – Bob Sherman, email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com phone: 07919157224
3. Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) – Jonathan Horsfield and Jacky Lawrence, email: neat@gmx.co.uk email
4. Henley Climate Action - John Stott, email: dstott@uwclub.net phone: 01564 792251
5. Stretton on Fosse Sustainability Initiative - Dave Passingham, email: davepassingham@hotmail.com phone 07973 846605
6. Warwickshire Climate Alliance - Dominic Harrison, email: harrison_dominic@hotmail.com phone: 07977 279002
7. Build Back Better (Ilmington) - Liz Garton, email: lizgarton15@gmail.com
8. TRACC (Bishop's Tachbrook) - Martin Drew, email: bishopstracc@outlook.com
9. GROW (Wolverton) - Paul Anthony, email: paul.anthony@wolvertonpc.org.uk phone: 077109821456
10. Pillerton Hersey PC - Tim Newcombe (although no longer on the PC), email: timnewcombe123@btinternet.com
11. Grapevine Environmental Action Team (Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley) – Tass, email: hellogreatfuture@gmail.com

- <https://www.facebook.com/transitiontownrugby>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Kenilworth-All-Together-Greener-331940026990994/>
- [Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change | Community Group \(snitterfieldacc.org\)](https://www.facebook.com/Snitterfield-Actioning-Climate-Change-Community-Group-331940026990994/)

School Climate Change Poster Competition



Climate Change Poster Competition

Teachers
Encourage your students to:

- ❖ Design an A3 or A4 poster reflecting views on any aspect of climate change
- ❖ Poster can be produced using any medium but they must be colourful and striking
- ❖ Certificate and prizes will be awarded for winning posters and participating schools
- ❖ Entries will be displayed at an exhibition in Coventry in October for COP26

Please send entries by **July 15th 2021** to:
Gabrielle Back, 3 Underhill Close, Finham, Coventry CV3 6RB

Logos displayed on the poster include:
 - Coventry & Warwickshire Savers Charity (Savers Charity Number 1108191)
 - The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
 - NAE (National Association for Environmental Education)
 - UN Climate Change Conference UK 2020
 - Warwickshire Climate Alliance

News

Warwickshire County Council have published their first climate change and sustainability newsletter. Contact webmaster@warwickshire.gov.uk to sign up to receive the May 2021 Edition.



Welcome to the Warwickshire County Council regular newsletter on climate change and sustainability in Warwickshire. Each edition will bring a round-up of the latest climate change news, events and projects, all related to reducing carbon emissions across the county.

Useful Links

Funding

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund>
- <https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/available-grants/>
- Community Energy Warwickshire Fund
<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf>
- <https://semble.org/>
- <https://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx>
- [Welcome | My Funding Central](#)

Warwickshire Solar Together

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/solartogether>

Warwickshire Councils

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategies-policies-legislation/facing-challenge-climate-change-warwickshire/2>
- https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20468/sustainability_and_climate_change/1636/warwick-district-people-s-climate-change-inquiry
- https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/51/climate_change

Resources for young people

- <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/youth-members>
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>
- <https://betterenergyschoolawards.org.uk/>
- <https://yppte.org.uk/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn>
- <https://ukscn.org/take-action/> UK Student Climate Network

Interesting projects from elsewhere

- <https://ecobirmingham.com/blog/environmental-community-learning-programme/>



Have your say— What do you want to see in future editions?

This is your newsletter and only as good as you make it – it is your opportunity to :

- publicise any on-line events you are holding
- let other community groups know what you are currently up to and other news
- share your experiences

Ideas, requests, offers, Q & A, hints & tips

Please send all copy (by 5th of each month), news items, case studies, details of events, comments, suggestions and enquiries about this newsletter to: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com referring to the issue date and number for queries or phone Jacky Lawrence on 07906 440496.



FUND:
Community Energy Warwickshire Fund

AREA:
Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull

STATUS: **OPEN**

MAXIMUM: £2,000

DEADLINE: Rolling Programme

