

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

January 2024 – Issue 34

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. 'Low Carbon Communities' events have been held in Harbury, Napton on the Hill, Henley-in-Arden, Church Lawford, Boddington, Kenilworth, Brailes, Cubbington and Wroxall. **The next event will be 'Tomorrow's Wellesbourne' on 27th January 2024.**

LCWN Schools Task Group – A review of what's been happening in primary schools eco-Wise over the past year, by Teresa Buckle

When Headteacher Sam Pater, Head of Clinton Primary School, telephoned shortly after the Pandemic and said that he had heard I was interested in learning more about the way schools were dealing with Climate Change, I was very happy, since one of the aims of the LCWN Schools Task Group was to use feedback from as many schools as possible to see how we could continuously improve our offer and be of use to them.

I was delighted to hear Sam's belief that if Primary Schools in Kenilworth could work together, they were in a great position to influence the community from the inside outwards to induce the Sustainable Life skills necessary for living in a world of Climate Change so helping towards Net Zero.

I am not sure whether either of us realised then, how quickly the need of those skills would become urgent, nor how it would filter through all of subjects of the curriculum.

Another aim of the LCWN Schools Task Group was to collate a list of organisations and resources that are available online to help schools act on climate and environmental issues and Jacky Lawrence has compiled a wonderfully comprehensive and clear directory of the amazing number and variety of resources there are. This is now available to Headteachers and Network Groups on request.

Trying to explore these resources individually to see which part of STEM or other subjects were relevant for teaching which age-levels etc. proved very complex and made me aware of the enormity of demands placed on Primary School Staff, many of whom are already working well into the evenings at home to cope with the everyday workloads, pressured by expectations from every angle. It seemed more sensible to talk with teachers directly and see what is already happening within schools, beginning with the Primary Schools in my hometown of Kenilworth. Doing so over these past months has been like a whirlwind and



has left me in no doubt that Society underestimates and undervalues the ingenuity and vital creativity within Primary Schools.

Primary Schools in Kenilworth have worked together this year so that every school now has an Eco School Council comprised of pupils. Each school also has a staff or school-connected Eco- Champion who liaises with other school Eco-Champions in the vicinity. The collaboration of Kenilworth Primary School Heads, initiated by Sam Pater, pledged to make schools and the local environment as plastic -free as possible by the end of June through encouraging the reduction of at least three single- use plastic items. The schools also held a Combined Schools Trash Mob Collection one afternoon with the intention of gaining the 'Plastic Free Accreditation' via 'Surfers Against Sewage' with the broader aim of connecting them together.

As part of these initiatives and in line with the school curriculum, children have written letters promoting a Plastic- Free Kenilworth to either local or national businesses or their M.P. The latter is one way in which schools incorporate the subject requirements of other areas of the National Curriculum.

Another example of how individual teachers use their skills and understanding of pupils was shown by St. John's Bee Project. Surabhi Bhawe, Class teacher at St. John's School, worked with a member of Bee Friendly Kenilworth under the Curriculum Topic 'Pollination'. She focussed on Honey Bees, knowing that the introduction of interactive role-play exercises showing the tasks and danger facing honey bees whilst collecting pollen would engage her pupils, thus expanding their knowledge. The project created such enthusiasm it extended to a beekeeper parent giving informative demonstrations to other classes within the school. This led to the planting of pollinating flowers and then vegetables, eventually involving a sale to parents of the vegetables grown, proceeds going to buy further seeds.

I think this is a good example of influence from the inside filtered outwards to a wider community which generated positive interaction with Kenilworth Mayor Alix Dearing presenting the School with a Silver Bee Friendly Award and The Lions Club donating a tree to be planted in the school grounds.

Once I became aware of such interactions between schools and individual members of local interested groups already helping teachers and pupils with their eco-studies, it seemed sensible to enquire further and Sam explained that although local community organisations are ready to support the schools initiative in their vision, they haven't done anything as yet. Sam explained the wider concept:

'Our aim is for schools to influence the community. We need to set an example as organisations and to educate children to be a part of society that is knowledgeable and productive. However only educating this generation of children and students to be environmentally proactive will not get us where we need to be in 10 years (which is where every generation of people is environmentally responsible not just theirs) so whilst what they learn is an integral part of having an influence, it is as a vehicle for broader societal change that will make the difference needed.'

Whilst the flow and interaction of ideas and communication between pupils, teachers and the community is more viable and practised in Primary than in Secondary Education where subject specialisms are taught separately and concentration on the forthcoming examination puts boundaries around fluidity, Kenilworth is fortunate in that it has long established eco-friendly groups. This not only encourages cross-interest initiatives and community interaction, but more recently and possibly, with the energy from the Primary Heads working together, the influence of the groups such as Kenilworth All Together Greener the



Warwickshire Climate Alliance and Cross Party initiatives by Local and District Councillors and the benefits of closer interaction with Kenilworth High School, exciting initiatives are taking place.

Town Councillor Zoe Levanthal, K.C, working with District and Town Councillors Andrew Milton and Alison Insley respectively, has created a successful scheme to encourage groups of High School Students to cycle to school as part of The Bike Gang and is enthusiastic about encouraging eco-liaison between Kenilworth High School and its Feeder Schools.

The year 2024 has started with a flurry of meetings and energy for a busy year for the LCWN. The success and influence of this Network is a constant good news story from the ground upwards in a very turbulent world. This Network now has 37 Groups involved, each with its own identity and focus and yet with common purpose and has evolved through initiative, sharing experience and communication. We might say that each school in the Kenilworth Schools Network is similar and could be replicated throughout Warwickshire and beyond.

We look forward to hearing about and sharing educational and community action around Low Carbon and Sustainable issues and it would be really great to have a schools or educational link with each group to facilitate communication at all educational levels.

Best wishes for good things in 2024.

Teresa Buckle, M.Ed. FRSA. Email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

LCWN Steering Group

The steering group meet infrequently and only when we have something of significance to discuss. **If you would like to get in touch with us please contact Bob Sherman or Jacky Lawrence at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com**

To find out a little more about the steering group members see their '**who are we?**' answers:-

Bob Sherman - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-3-February-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Jacky Lawrence - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-7-June-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Ted Dowdeswell - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-9-August-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Ian Wood - [LCWN-Newsletter-Issue-10-September-2021.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Teresa Buckle - [LCWN-Newsletter-February-2023-issue-24.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Matt Black - [LCWN-Newsletter-April-2023-issue-26.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Louise Bowlt - [LCWN-Newsletter-August-2023-issue-30.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

Bryn Turner -

Do you want to host a LCWN event in your community?

If you would like to host an RSA funded "Low Carbon Community" event where you live, please email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com and let us know where and when and we will support you in planning it. You will not be on your own.

The LCWN Steering Group have also started to develop an **event resource library** including action, pledge and creativity ideas plus posters to support your event planning.



The RSA

Callum Bate is the Area Manager for the Central Area. His contact details are: The RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6EZ, e: Callum.Bate@rsa.org.uk, w: [The RSA - RSA](http://TheRSA-RSA)



The RSA – the Royal Society for encouragement of the Arts, manufactures and commerce. Where world-leading ideas are turned into world-changing actions. The RSA is committed to a world where everyone can fulfil their potential and contribute to more resilient, rebalanced, and regenerative futures.

Diary Dates

The first event of 2024 is **Tomorrow's Wellesbourne** on January 27th 2024.



The organisers, Lucy and David, from our hosts **Sustainable Wellesbourne**, need to know how many are coming so do please register - and don't leave it to the day before! Quite a few of the LCWN Steering Group will be there and eager to meet you. Register at: [Tomorrow's Wellesbourne: How can we make Wellesbourne more sustainable? Tickets, Sat 27 Jan 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tomorrows-wellesbourne-how-can-we-make-wellesbourne-more-sustainable?from=referral&ref=referral)

The event will be in St. Peter's Church Centre, Church Street, Wellesbourne, CV35 9LS, but parking there is only for those with mobility issues (10 spaces). **Parking is at the Village Hall car park CV35 9NH.** There will be an usher there to give directions to get people to the church venue – a 3 to 5min walk.



Tomorrow's Wellesbourne

Come along to this FREE, informative and inspirational event on how we all can help make Wellesbourne more sustainable. Everyone is welcome!

Programme for the day

9.45 Tea, coffee and cake

10 to 11.00 **Presentations** to include Susan Juned, Leader of SDC and Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Party, RSA – our sponsors, Low Carbon Warwickshire Network, Act On Energy – ways to save money

11.00 to 11.30 More refreshments and circulate round displays

11.30 to 12.30 Further discussion and an opportunity to meet in small groups

1.00 Close

We are part of the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network and the event is supported by the RSA. It is free to attend and open to all. Please book if you can so that we may know rough numbers in advance – but do just come anyway! For more information follow our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lowcarbonwarwickshire) page or get in touch.

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tomorrows-wellesbourne>



Contact: SustainableWellesbourne@wellesbourneandwalton-pc.gov.uk or via the Parish Council Office at no2 School Rd



Sat 27th January 2024
10.00 – 1.00
Doors Open at 9.45am

Refreshments available

**St Peter's Church
Centre, Church
Street CV35 9LS**

NB If driving please park at the Village Hall on School Rd, CV35 9NH unless you have mobility issues.



Question from Sustainable Wellesbourne

Anyone got any experience of developing a Local Nature Action Plan with links to surrounding villages with wildlife corridors?

Napton Know-How Talks on sharing skills and knowledge will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 20th 2024 with a talk on how to make your home energy efficient on a budget and how to use a thermal imaging camera to identify where heat is leaking from your home.



NAPTON
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION
TEAM

TOWARDS
NET ZERO

THE **NAPTON KNOW HOW TALKS** **SKILLS + KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS ... 2-4^{PM}
NAPTON VILLAGE HALL, CV47 8LS

Free Entry
Donations
Welcomed

- 20th Jan'** **An Energy Efficient Home on a Budget – Phil Hemsley (Rugby)**
Phil is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has applied his knowledge to cutting CO2 emissions in a cost-effective way. He has made his own home (a 1930s semi) net zero for less than £10k. He's also on the Church of England Energy Advisory Group and working to reduce costs for St. George's Rugby.
- Thermal Imaging to Identify Heat Losses – Jim Sleight (Napton)**
NEAT has been awarded funds to buy a 'thermal imaging camera'. Images taken (with consent) can show where heat is being lost to help you focus on where to improve insulation. Understand how the scheme will work + register interest in a future survey.

- 17th Feb'** **Growing Fruit and Veg' – Rebecca Stevenson**
Five Acre Farm – a Community Supported Agriculture Project is based at Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton on Dunsmore.
NAPTON SEED SWAP – to be confirmed



FUTURE DATES

TOPICS + SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED

23rd March; 13th April; 18th May; 22nd June

SEE YOUR COMMUNITY FACEBOOK SITES

RESTORING
NATURE

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE – WEB SEARCH ' NAPTON KNOW HOW '

There will be a **LCWN Spring Social** gathering plus bring and share lunch in Napton, 12:30 till 3 on **Saturday 23rd March 2024**. Contact Jacky Lawrence for further details if you'd like to join us at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com or email: jackylawrence31@hotmail.co.uk



The **Warwickshire Climate Alliance** are running an event from 11am-2pm at Coleshill Town Hall on Saturday 9th March. Details are on the poster. Hopefully see you there!



THE BIG SAVE
Your actions count!

Learn simple actions that can make a difference to you, your family and the planet.

**Saturday 9
March 2024
11am - 2pm**

Coleshill Town Council
High Street, Coleshill
Warwickshire. B46 3BG

Lots of activities and cost-saving ideas from local community groups including:

- Pop-up repair cafe
- Free refreshments
- Family-friendly activities
- Music & entertainment
- Children's toy swap
- Free seeds and plants
- And much, much more!

Follow @WarwickshireClimateAlliance on Facebook or @warksclimate on Twitter to keep up to date with the latest event news.

Funded by Warwickshire County Council's Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2022

 **Warwickshire**
County Council

 **WARWICKSHIRE
CLIMATE
ALLIANCE**

CLEAN (Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now) will be holding a low carbon arts event on June 15th at Lillington Club, Leamington. Initial plans for the day include displays, family activities, talks and an evening cabaret.

Who are you?

If you have an interesting story to tell which could inspire others to take action, please send your answers to the five 'who are we?' questions to lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com. We'll include your story in a future newsletter.

1. What is your first memory of when you realised things needed to change?
2. What made you commit to doing something?
3. What have you done?
4. What's kept you going? What sustains you?
5. If there was one thing / one solution you wished everyone knew about / did - what would it be?

The Mediterranean Diet - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

My recent holiday to Turkey got me thinking about the British (and 'western') diet and just how bad it is for our health and for the planet.

Sitting on the terrace in the sunshine, looking out over a blue Mediterranean Sea, the waiter brought our breakfast. Home-made bread, green olives and black olives, butter, apricot jam, a choice of three goat cheeses, tomatoes, cucumber, fresh herbs, peppers, walnuts and a boiled egg. I looked at the spread laid out in front of me and thought how different this is to hotels I am used to. Normally I'd be offered highly processed cereals, a cooked fried meaty breakfast, sugary muffin and highly processed breads accompanied by jam in plastic sachets.



Here, there is no plastic at our table. Everything (except the tea) is local, either grown in the hotel garden or produced in the village. The food is fresh, picked this morning or yesterday, and made from raw ingredients with little processing and no additives or preservatives. My only gripe is that they have served us with too much food, and I hate food waste. However, unlike in some countries, I suspect this waste food is not put in a plastic bag, left to partially decompose, then taken by truck to landfill. More likely it will be fed to the chickens that are running around our table, or to the numerous stray cats and dogs.

The Mediterranean Diet

I googled 'the Mediterranean Diet'. Meals are built around vegetables, fruits, herbs, nuts, beans, whole grains and olive oil, with moderate amounts of fish, poultry and eggs. A Mediterranean Diet reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and depression, and increases overall life expectancy. More importantly perhaps, older people can lead more productive and active lives as they tend not to be obese and are more agile. What's not to like?

Also, there is the happy coincidence that there is a strong correlation between a healthy diet and a low carbon diet. Red meat is associated with the highest greenhouse gas emissions, followed by dairy products

(milk, cheese, chocolate), whilst sugar is moderately high too. Processing and packaging foods in factories adds to the carbon footprint. The lowest emissions are associated with fruit and vegetables, pulses, peas, beans and nuts – all of which are healthy.

So, if our western diet is proven to be bad for us, and bad for the planet, what are our governments doing about it? Not a lot, as far as I can see. The only substantial measure in the UK was the introduction of the 'sugar tax' targeted solely at soft drinks. A tiny step in the right direction. The lobbyists from the major food manufacturers and farm producers are too powerful for most governments to choose to stand up to. Report after independent report recommends further action to help consumers, but these recommendations are swept away, delayed or watered down.

Can I act Locally?

Yes, this is one area where local action will make some difference. Grow vegetables in your garden, rent an allotment, visit community owned farms. Buy fruit and vegetables; using veggie boxes, local greengrocers, markets or whatever is available to you.

Buy fewer take-away meals (are any healthy?), buy fewer ultra processed foods, eat less meat. Buy fewer ready-made meals for your microwave.

If you are a member of a campaigning community environmental group, perhaps your group could run local cookery classes. This would be an effective way to engage with your members and reach a new audience.

But there is only so much that you can do yourself when we are surrounded by advertising and marketing messages; and when food manufacturers, grocers, supermarkets and take-aways promote unhealthy food.

What could governments do?

There is so much that governments could do. But they don't seem inclined to do so, as it would be 'interfering in people's lives'. Is making our lives better, "interfering"?

- Share and highlight the results of studies on ultra processed foods.
- Extend the sugar tax, this sends a message and nudges behaviour.
- Promote (subsidise) local markets and greengrocers.
- Prepare healthy meals in prisons and schools.
- Create a programme of cookery classes for adults at colleges or on-line.
- Regulate to improve labelling and to force reductions in salt, sugar and saturated fats.

A mixture of carrot and stick. If you think this is not possible, then think again. Finland had the worst rate of heart disease in the western world in the 1970's. A sustained government campaign of education, regulation and working with communities has turned this round. The campaign tackled poor diet, smoking and exercise. The dietary campaign centred on reducing the intake of full fat milk and red meat, and to increase consumption of local berries and vegetables. Finland now has a higher life expectancy than the UK.

Conclusions

Our western diet is poor and getting worse. This adversely impacts on our mental and physical health. We know this yet do nothing about it. We need a sustained community-based campaign, championed by a motivated government, to change our behaviours. This would have benefits for communities, our health and wellbeing and for the planet.

Carbon Choices

If you like my blogs, you might also enjoy my book, Carbon Choices on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available direct from me [Buy \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk). I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects. Follow me at X: (Formerly Twitter) [@carbonchoicesuk](https://twitter.com/carbonchoicesuk) / X, Facebook [Facebook](https://facebook.com/carbonchoicesuk) or Instagram [@carbonchoicesuk](https://instagram.com/carbonchoicesuk) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

[The Mediterranean Diet \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk)

Neil Kitching, The Mediterranean Diet, November 2023

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – Searching for the New Generation of Farmers.

It's 50 years since I first laid a hedge, taught by a farming veteran who claimed to have ploughed every field in the parish with a horse. With half a mile to lay this winter, I have to pace myself; two hours wielding the chainsaw and billhook, however satisfying, are enough for this 63-year-old (four years older than average) farmer.

Interspersed with the hedge laying, I am meeting potential trainees to join our team in the new year as students of regenerative agriculture. A far cry from the conservative, Barbour-and-tweed agricultural students of my youth, these are all thoughtful, radical young people making sharp turns in their careers – wanting to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.



None come from farming backgrounds, so we start the interviews by emphasising the repetitive, physically demanding nature of picking broccoli in January or strawberries in June – and the need to keep up with the battle-hardened, more experienced pickers.

Ten years ago, I would have been speaking to hopelessly unrealistic lifestylers with no concept of farm work, who would not have lasted a week. Today, they have a new determination and realism; perhaps born out of the desperate state we are in, combined with the woeful lack of action they see around them. Saving this planet will take practical skills, hard work, and humility beyond the imagination of most.

In the 1980s, when I gave up my life as a management consultant in New York to return to 60-hour weeks and a damp cottage with an outside bathroom, the countryside was already draining of the highly skilled, but undervalued and underpaid, workers needed to run complex mixed farms. Machinery and agrochemicals took their place, as farms grew ever larger and more specialised – helped by the arrival of skilled Eastern European labour in the 1990s. As they too are driven out, we are facing the question: who

will grow our food, lay our hedges, maintain our trees? Who will replace farmers, who now have an average age of 59? Who will transition this industry to meet the needs of a climate and biodiversity crisis?

As much as I admire the courage of our idealistic new entrants, they have a skills mountain to climb. This would be much easier if those who had grown up on the land, plus a few Eastern Europeans, could be persuaded to stay to help them. How do we achieve that? Less romanticisation of a long-lost bucolic idyll, plus better pay, would be a good start.

Guy Singh-Watson, November 2023, farmer and founder and creator of Riverford Organic Farm

Warwickshire County Council – Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast

New Episode Now Available

Planting Trees in Warwickshire

The latest Sustainable Warwickshire podcast is all about tree planting in Warwickshire. It features a conversation between Clint Parker, the WCC Arboricultural Team Leader who has been instrumental in setting up Warwickshire's own tree nursery, designed to make sure there are enough whips and saplings available to meet the growing demand from Warwickshire's communities, and Catherine Laidlaw, a WCC Landscape Officer who offers advice and guidance to community groups, other local councils and partners on site selection and planting plans, as well as access to funding. Together they make our dream tree team! And, as the new tree planting season (November to March) is well underway, we're really hoping that people will take inspiration from their passion and experience to plant (and nurture) their own trees.



As usual, you can find the Sustainable Warwickshire podcast on Spotify or Apple by searching for "Sustainable Warwickshire". All episodes are also available at:

<https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com/>

Have you got any suggestions on guests for future Sustainable Warwickshire episodes? Or ideas for discussions? Let us know via email to climateemergency@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Bob's Tech – Thoughts on Solar Panels

Is it sunny enough here?

England has a reputation for being damp, cool and cloudy. As a gardener, I am only too aware of the disappointments our fickle climate can bring. If it wasn't raining today, I wouldn't be writing this article! The sun does shine, however, and can shine for days on end, as we know from last summer's blistering hot spell. Even in Scotland there is enough sunlight to make solar panels work for you, especially during the long summer days.

Solar panels do not need direct sunshine (unlike solar hot water panels); they need sunlight and solar radiation. You may find it hard to believe but in England we receive similar amounts of solar radiation to many parts of France and Spain and equal amounts to Germany. Maximum sunlight is probably found in



largely rainless deserts and day length varies very little, so production is constant during daylight. But here, far away from any desert, we still receive about 60% of the solar radiation of the Equator. That makes solar panels perfectly appropriate for our climate. The potential energy gap we face because we have been so slow globally to change from fossil fuel energy to renewables means we need solar panels and other technology wherever it can safely and effectively be installed. We have to get energy from some source and sunlight, wind, waves and tides provide it at little cost once installed.

Solar farms and wildlife

Do solar farms have a negative impact on wildlife? Not necessarily. The fact that there is very little human activity on a solar farm means that wildlife can actually thrive. All planning applications have to show a net gain in biodiversity. This is usually achieved by planting of additional hedge screening and trees. Some, where there is no grazing planned, also undertake wildflower re-seeding, which in turn attracts butterflies and insects, which then attract birds. The main obstacle to plant diversity is likely to be the grazing animals.

I turned to the RSPB to find what their view is of solar farms and the effect on birdlife. A study undertaken for them showed that there was no difference in bird visits between solar farms and other agricultural cropped or grazed land but there was an increase in the variety of birds on solar farms.

End of life waste

Solar panels last for at least 30 years. Most modern installations have an expectation of even longer at 40 years - technology improves. This could mean that at the end of this period there is a field full of waste material needing disposal. Except that there is a requirement in the UK for solar panel material to be recycled and the recycling facilities are growing rapidly in efficiency and number. In France this has been going on for some considerable time. Virtually all of a panel can be recycled. 90% of the glass is recyclable and 95% of the semi-conductor material. Silver is stripped out and all the aluminium is reclaimed and re-used to frame new panels. The company Engie claim to recycle 94% of panel components. The remaining 6% is dust and particles, filtered out and used in construction as a sand substitute.

What about toxic materials?

In the UK no toxic materials are used in PV construction. The main components are glass, plastic, aluminium and silicon, one of the most abundant materials on Earth. 76% of every panel is glass, which has been recycled now for decades.

There is a different technology called thin film PV which can contain small amounts of materials that can be more hazardous in quantity, but this is not in common use here.

I hope that this short opinion piece has given you an opportunity to form a balanced view of the importance of solar technology in solving our energy challenge. We need renewable energy sources at scale and quickly if we are to avert the dangerous effects of climate change that are already becoming part of our lives.

Bob Sherman, November 2023

Useful Links

- www.harburyenergy.co.uk
- [Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative](#)



- **Community Energy Warwickshire Fund** <https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf> The fund aims to:
 - • Support the development and installation of renewable energy projects
 - • Encourage the sustainable use of energy and reductions in carbon emissions
 - • Promote public awareness of environmental issues and support educational initiatives
 - Available Funding - There's grant of up to £2,000. Funding must be spent within 1 year. [CEW-2020.pdf \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CEW-2020.pdf)

Repair Cafés

1. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Alcester | Alcester | Facebook](#)
2. [Bar zero Barford | Facebook](#)
3. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Harbury | Facebook](#)
4. [Repair Cafe | Repair Cafe Kenilworth | Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)
5. [Repair Café Leamington Spa | Leamington Spa | Facebook](#)
6. [\(1\) Repair Cafe Rugby | Rugby | Facebook](#)
7. [Stratford Repair Cafe: A Net Zero and Stratford Town Trust Venture, organised by Stephen Norrie - Co-operate \(coop.co.uk\)](#)
8. [\(1\) Repair Café Southam | Facebook](#)
9. [Wellesbourne Repair Cafè | Facebook](#)
10. There will be a first Napton Repair Café, 16th March 2024, 10 a.m. till 12 noon, Napton Village Hall

News

- [Families, business and industry to get energy efficiency support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Around a million homes will be made warmer and hundreds of businesses supported, as £6 billion is allocated to cut energy use and bills.
- [The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [About Us | Neighbourly](#) Neighbourly is an award-winning giving platform that helps businesses make a positive impact in their communities by donating volunteer time, money and surplus products to local good causes.
- [VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme - Groundwork](#) The VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme will help voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) across England to deliver more efficient services for people and communities by saving money on their energy bills.

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

Have we got the correct logo for your group or organisation?

The LCWN aims to bring people together to share ideas and stimulate new activity in rural areas.

Keen to see real practical change in your community?

Are you part of a local low carbon group? Why not join us and the 33 groups already in the Network?



For contact names and details see the May 2023 or earlier newsletters.

[LCWN-Newsletter-May-2023-issue-27.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/LCWN-Newsletter-May-2023-issue-27.pdf)

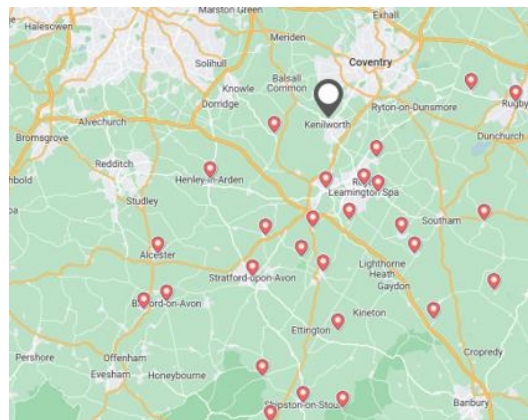
+

Shrewley and Wroxall Environment Action Team (SWEAT)

Clean Water Kineton

Arley and Ansley Big Local

With support from Nik at Arley and Ansley Big Local and her husband Chris we are creating a web resource showing where all the community groups and Parish and Town Councils active in tackling the climate crisis are and giving a link to their web sites – **so make sure your web page is up to date.**



LCWN Facebook group set up by Emma Powell for everyone to share useful things. Please like and follow it. Please send any comments to lowcarbonworks@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Low-Carbon-Warwickshire-Network-101562702401683/>





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, share your experiences, let others know of interesting low carbon news.

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

Please send all copy (by 12th 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.