

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network Newsletter

April 2024 – Issue 37

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, Wroxall and Wellesbourne.

The next event is a 'Green Themed Arts and Entertainment Event' hosted by Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) on Saturday June 15th 2024 at Lillington Club.

Mapping Warwickshire's Climate and Environmental Action Groups

LCWN Steering Group member, Ian Wood, is mapping the locations of all the Warwickshire climate and environment community action groups in the Network. Ian needs you to check that all the data, locations, contacts and descriptions are what you want to see on the map when the pins are clicked.

[LCWN Map - Google My Maps](#) (right click, open hyperlink). Let us know if you have any changes that need to be made, email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Mapping climate action community groups offers several co-benefits that extend beyond the immediate goal of addressing climate change. Let's explore some of these benefits:

- **Reduced Isolation and Loneliness:** Everyone can see where their nearest group is when they want to get active. Community groups provide a sense of belonging and social interaction. Mapping these groups helps connect individuals, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- **Improved Community Cohesion:** Mapping community groups involved in climate action fosters collaboration and strengthens social bonds. When people work together toward a common cause, it enhances community cohesion and resilience.
- **Healthier Local Environment:** By identifying and mapping climate action initiatives, communities can address local environmental issues. This leads to cleaner air, reduced pollution, and a more pleasant living environment for residents.



- **Enhanced Physical and Mental Health:** Active participation in climate action groups promotes physical activity, mental well-being, and a sense of purpose. Engaging in meaningful activities related to climate change positively impacts overall health.
- **Empowerment and Resilience:** When community members actively participate in climate action, they gain knowledge, skills, and a sense of empowerment. This contributes to community resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate challenges.

In summary, mapping climate action community groups not only facilitates effective decision-making but also strengthens community bonds, improves health, and empowers individuals to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Climate Change and Plastic Pollution in Oceans Project – Friday 23rd February 2024

Rotary and Savers Charity launched an exhibition of artwork produced by schools, Rotary Groups, the WI and other community groups in Coventry and Warwickshire on the theme of climate change and ocean plastic pollution. The exhibition is at Holy Trinity Church in Coventry until June.

The project encouraged students to research issues associated with the human impact on the oceans and produce artwork showing what they had learned. Baginton Fields Special School pupils produced the winning artwork and won a set of nature books for their library.

Gabrielle Back, Rotary Club Heart of England Environment Officer & District Assistant Governor and Chair of the Savers Charity Trustees, ran a programme of activities and seminars to complement the school artwork. Community groups were also encouraged to produce artwork. Hundreds of brightly coloured fish were created and used to create several impressive collages.



Jacky Lawrence, Trustee of Savers Charity, April 2024

The Fascinating World of Bees and Beekeeping, Wednesday 10th April 2024

Local bee-keeper Alan Deeley came along from Burton Green to give us some amazing insights into the world of bees and beekeeping. Aided by his assistant bear (Justin Bee Bear!) Alan shared his knowledge in an informative and humorous style. Not a single powerpoint slide was used in the making of the talk but there were all kinds of props including an actual hive with a “virtual” bee colony!



At the end of the talk we were able to sample/purchase different types of honey, and I've been enjoying delicious fudge-like soft set honey on my toast each morning since.

Amazing bee fact: around 50,000 bee-miles are required to make a single jar of honey!



Martin Wood, SWEAT, 2024

LCWN Steering Group

LCWN Spring Social – bring and share lunch, 23rd March 2024

A good time was had by all with interesting conversations, mutual encouragement, sharing of ideas and delicious food. Groups represented at the social included: Harbury Future Energy CIC, Harbury e-Wheels, Harbury Energy Initiative, Napton Environmental Action Team, Kenilworth All Together Greener, Boddington Sustainability Group, Stourvale Action For the Environment, Community Energy Warwickshire, Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now, Bishop's Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change, Grapevine Environmental Action Team, Warwick Avon Rotary and Sustainable Wellesbourne.

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 \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

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** 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 CLEAN Green Bash, Saturday June 15th 2024 2 p.m. till 11 p.m. at Lillington Social Club

The Clean Green Bash
Saturday June 15th afternoon + evening

Lillington Social Club, Lime Avenue, CV32 7DA

Activities, Ideas, Entertainments
Everyone welcome FREE

AFTERNOON 2.00 – 5.00

- Upcycling activities for adults and children
- Local groups displays
- Sunflower project celebrations
- Insulation tips and thermal imaging
- Recycling advice, TerraCycle and other ideas
- Stalls and information from experts
- **EARTH-BOUND THEATRE CO. PERFORMANCE**
- Free refreshments

EVENING 7.00 – 11.00

- Stalls and displays
- Spoken word, comedy, Open Mic
- The 10-minute Crazy Optimistic Opera
- **AWARD-WINNING CLIMATE CHANGE COMEDIAN STUART GOLDSMITH**
- Live music

More info/ to take part: Matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk
saving energy saving money finding fun

CLEAN: Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now CIC



Matt Black, Chair, CLEAN, 077656 – 84941, Matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Napton Know-How Talk – Getting Confident with Fermentation by Erica Moody, Napton Village Hall, Saturday 18th May 2024, 2 p.m. till 4 p.m.

Join the Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT) Napton Know-How Talks for an enlightening session on fermentation with Erica Moody. Whether you're a seasoned fermenter or a curious beginner, this talk promises to be both educational and enjoyable. Learn about the magic of microbial transformations and



discover how fermentation can enhance flavors, preserve foods, and promote gut health. Don't miss out on this opportunity to delve into the world of probiotics and tangy delights!

Remember, fermentation isn't just about preserving food—it's about cultivating a vibrant ecosystem of microorganisms that benefit both our taste buds and our well-being.

For further information email: neat@gmx.co.uk, [Events for April 2024 – Napton Parish Council](#)

Kenilworth Eco Fair, Kenilworth Methodist Church, Priory Road, Saturday 18th May 2024, 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Kenilworth Eco Fair will be a wonderful opportunity to explore sustainable practices, connect with like-minded individuals, and learn more about eco-friendly initiatives.

Eco Fayre

local eco groups
plastic-free living
reusables
wildlife
home energy advice
active travel
local producers
plant swap
creative crafts
biodiversity
recycling
local growers
repairing
refurbishing
activities for kids
art & craft

Saturday 18th May
10am-1pm **FREE** entry
Kenilworth Methodist Church
Priory Road CV8 1LQ

Inspiration for all!
Ideas to spark imaginations,
enthusiasm to motivate,
advice to support change,
fun activities for all ages,
Fairtrade and homemade
refreshments to share.

Please come on foot, bike or bus
and park any cars at the station.
Email ecofayre@lovekenilworth.org.uk
for more information or view the
Kenilworth Eco Fayre
Facebook page.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

biodiversity change creativity
energy resilience ideas

[Facebook](#)



Napton Repair Café, Napton Village Hall, Sunday 19th May 2024, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Napton Parish Council's Climate and Environment Working Party and NEAT are hosting a second village Repair Café.

A poster for the Next Repair Cafe. The title 'Next Repair Cafe' is in large yellow letters at the top. Below it, the date and time '1.30-4.30 pm Sun 19th May' and location 'NAPTON VILLAGE HALL' are in yellow. A cartoon character of a repair person in a yellow hard hat and blue overalls is in the top right. The background is a stylized green landscape with a white path. Four teal diamond shapes contain the text: 'Microwave malfunction ??', 'Holes in your haversack?', 'Broken bicycle brakes?', and 'Printer gone phut?'. To the right, the text 'DON'T DISCARD IT ... WE'LL TRY TO FIX IT!' is in white, followed by 'Bring your item along on the day and our team of local volunteers will try to help ...' in white. Below this, '- FIXING - MENDING - REPAIRING -' is in white. At the bottom, a teal box contains the text 'Or just come along to support the concept', 'Enjoy a cuppa and slice of delicious cake in our pop-up cafe', and 'All proceeds to help us become self-funding' in white.

Next Repair Cafe

1.30-4.30 pm Sun 19th May
NAPTON VILLAGE HALL

Microwave malfunction ??

Holes in your haversack?

Broken bicycle brakes?

Printer gone phut?

**DON'T DISCARD IT ...
WE'LL TRY TO FIX IT!**

Bring your item along on the day and our team of local volunteers will try to help ...

- FIXING - MENDING - REPAIRING -

Or just come along to support the concept
Enjoy a cuppa and slice of delicious cake in our pop-up cafe
All proceeds to help us become self-funding

Stourvale Great Big Green Week Events – Saturday 8th June – Saturday 15th June 2024

There will be various SAFE events in and around Shipston, to raise awareness of Environmental Issues and Solutions. See the web site updates on the events including : a Family Town Trail; a Visit/Walk around Cornmill Meadows; two chances to visit a local Regenerative Farm; Two Opportunities to take part in a 'Wonderful Weeds Walk'; a visit to a Solar Farm (Stratford on Avon's GBGW); and an Illustrated Talk about Swifts' Conservation.



[Stourvale Great Big Green Week - Great Big Green Week](#)

Get in touch if you'd like to know more, especially if you can volunteer to help in any way. Email or call **Jacey Jackson** on jacey@2jays.co.uk or 01608 661288.

- Shipston Town Council now own 2 thermal imaging cameras which can be borrowed by residents.
- Shipston's monthly litter-pick now has several young children involved and some mini hi-viz vests and small picker-uppers have been purchased.



- River-testing is done by volunteers on a weekly basis from the bridge in Shipston and 2 other sites, one up-stream, one down.



The poster is framed by a green border. At the top left is a tree branch with green leaves. At the top right is the 'THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK' logo with a green heart, and the 'SAFE Stourvale Action for the Environment' logo with a tree and a blue bird. The main title 'Shipston Town Trail!' is in large green letters, with a small black bird perched on the 'i'. Below it, 'Celebrating the UK's Great Big Green Week' is in a smaller, black, handwritten-style font. The date and time 'Saturday 8th June' and '10am - 3pm' are in large green letters. A decorative path of brown and green footprints winds around the central text. The text 'Join us for Shipston's first Great Big Green Week Family Trail!' is in bold black. Below that, a paragraph explains the trail: 'Taking part is simple - on the day, look for the green 'SAFE' flags dotted around the town centre at our 6 key bases. Pick up your map from the first base you come across and visit the rest throughout the day.' Another paragraph says: 'You'll get a sticker at each base you visit and the first 100 children to complete the trail will receive a goody bag from the base outside the Co-op! We can't wait to see you there!' A QR code is at the bottom right, and a bee illustration is at the bottom left. A URL is provided: <https://tinyurl.com/ShipstonGBGW>.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

SAFE
Stourvale
Action for the
Environment

Shipston Town Trail!

Celebrating the UK's Great Big Green Week

Saturday 8th June

10am - 3pm

Join us for Shipston's first Great Big Green Week Family Trail!

Taking part is simple - on the day, look for the green 'SAFE' flags dotted around the town centre at our 6 key bases. Pick up your map from the first base you come across and visit the rest throughout the day.

You'll get a sticker at each base you visit and the first 100 children to complete the trail will receive a goody bag from the base outside the Co-op! We can't wait to see you there!

For more information about all of Shipston's Great Big Green Week events, please scan the QR code or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/ShipstonGBGW>



Bidford's Clothes Swap At the Village Cafe, First Saturday of each month, 2-4pm

Coffee, cake, a new outfit and a warm feeling knowing your unwanted clothes have a new life - what's not to like?

How does it work?

- Dig out up to 10 items of clothing that you don't want - clean and in reasonable condition, please
- Bring them along to the Clothes Swap
- Get a token to swap the same number of items
- Have fun choosing from the clothes, shoes, bags, hats, etc.



[Bidford Climate Change Action Group - Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council \(bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk)

[Bidford's Clothes Swap - April – Sustainable Warwickshire](#)

[Bidford's Clothes Swap - May – Sustainable Warwickshire](#)

The autumn LCWN social plus bring and share lunch will be on Saturday September 21st 2024, 12:30 till 3 p.m. in Napton. Contact Jacky Lawrence for further details if you'd like to join us at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Stratford on Avon District People's Climate Assembly, Friday 5th July 2024, Council Chambers and council rooms, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford CV37 6HX, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A council-facilitated, community-led climate change local engagement event for Great Big Green Week (GBGW) 2024. [About - Great Big Green Week](#)

National GBGW runs from 8th June to 16th June 2024. There will be a launch event on Saturday 8th June led by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in New Place gardens. The launch event will introduce the week and aims to be celebratory and have a festival feel. There will also be Climate-focused events on the 6th July at the RSC.

SDC's Engagement event will mark five years since SDC declared a climate emergency, it will showcase progress and plans, as well as best practice in the district, and looks forward to further action involving everyone.

Main aims:

- To promote community engagement with action for climate and nature across the district, including schools.
- To provide a springboard for more action.
- To showcase local best practice.

For further details email: sue.ostrander@stratford-dc.gov.uk

LCWN Schools Project Team - News

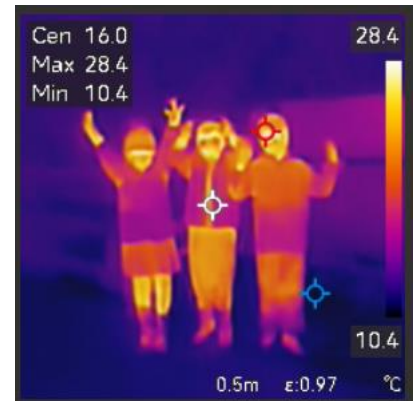
Sustainability progress at Brookhurst Primary in Leamington Spa.

Kate Waterfield is the Sustainability Lead and one of the Forest School teachers who meets regularly with Brookhurst Primary's Eco Team. They have already made good progress in working towards zero carbon, including signing up to Let's Go Zero, carrying out regular litter picks, plus getting the school to switch to recycled paper and reduce paper usage.

The school continues to work on the One World project with a sister school in Sierra Leone. Students at both schools share their eco goals, send each other pictures and build connections.

Waste is another area where students are making inroads. Used glue sticks and pens are collected for recycling at Ryman's in Leamington. Warwickshire Waste Partnership are visiting the school for Outdoor Classroom Day in May. They will be working with students to upcycle old newspapers into pots that they then use for planting.

In terms of future plans, the Eco Team are gathering data to share with the school community about the considerable energy and cost savings made by the school's recent switch to LED lighting and they are looking into installing EV chargers in the school car park, to encourage greener travel choices for staff.



The school reduces food waste by having students separate leftover food from other waste, so that it can be sent for anaerobic digestion to produce fertilizer for farmers and methane that is fed into the national gas network. The cook has freezer menu days when she prepares meals by finishing off freezer contents before the holidays so that she can use up all of the food and also turn off one of the freezers over the break to save energy. Students get to choose whether their meal is veggie or non but other than that they won't know exactly which meal it will be. This clever tip saves the school energy, reduces bills and avoids food waste.

Another exciting development at the school is coming this summer. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is coordinating a major project to expand the forest school area by 50%. Severn Trent will be providing funding and volunteer hours to scarify and plant woodland areas plus add a path, a hedged border and trees will gradually evolve from the existing plantings.

Sarah Mills, Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor to schools (West Midlands), March 2024,

[Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)

[UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero \(letsgozero.org\)](#)



LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

SIGN UP
TODAY!

Join us and help protect your pupils' future

Around 3,000 schools have signed up to Let's Go Zero – the campaign
helping schools transition to zero carbon by 2030

But we need you, because more school sign-ups proves to leaders there is a growing appetite for change in the UK, and we can call on government to support all schools on their zero carbon journeys

By joining Let's Go Zero, you will gain access to our **free sustainability support network**, including our specialist **Climate Action Advisors** who audit your school's emissions, help create **Climate Action Plans**, and guide you putting them into action. We can help **cut your school running costs**, support access to **funding**, and outline easy ways to embed **sustainability in the curriculum**.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

This means your school will improve its **energy management** and **sustainable behaviours**, and **boost health and wellbeing** among students and teachers. And did we mention you're helping protect the planet too? Ensuring there's a world fit for our children to grow into.

"This feels like a bit of a threshold moment where I can actually see something good and ambitious happening."

Esther Gray, Vice-Principal,
The Ferrers School, Meridian Trust

"I definitely didn't want any token gestures. These are brilliant, really practical measures."

Emma Johnson, Headteacher,
Ravenshead CofE
Primary School



SCAN ME

From helping embed a **Sustainability Lead** to tips on **cutting waste** from food, rubbish and water and encouraging **active travel** to school, we can support as little or as much as you like.

FIRST STEPS

If you're taking your first steps towards zero carbon, or are ready to raise your sustainable journey to the next level, Let's Go Zero is by your side, all the way. Schools and universities are responsible for at least 30% of public sector emissions and by responding to young people's calls for action, schools can be trailblazers for their communities.

You can be the **spark for community action** encouraging more people to take action in their everyday lives to help tackle the climate crisis.

Cutting your emission will have a dramatic impact on UK-wide targets of reaching zero carbon by 2030, helping us safeguard the planet for future generations.

Sign up today at www.letsgozero.org

We would love to hear about any school initiatives which you think could be shared. Do email, Teresa (O'Connor) Buckle at: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Warwickshire County Council – Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast

Community Action

All across Warwickshire there are groups of local people who are concerned about climate change and have joined together to run events, raise awareness, share ideas and deliver projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Our very own Bob Sherman was one of the guests on the latest edition of Sustainable Warwickshire. Along with Andrew Maliphant (the Environmental and Sustainability Advisor to the Society of Local Council Clerks), he discussed the value of community groups when working to reduce carbon emissions and the benefits of them working closely with town and parish councils. It's a really great, thought-provoking discussion, so please do download, have a listen and if you like it, subscribe to the whole series, or leave a review.



You can either search for Sustainable Warwickshire on Spotify or Apple, or go to:

<https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com>

Town and Parish Council News

Local Council involvement in The Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. It took place March 15th – 31st and WALC are awaiting news from its Councils and communities about what action they took. [Home - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)

Why is this campaign important?

- Litter lasts a lifetime: Once discarded, litter remains in our environment for decades, making its way from land into our waterways and oceans - plastic bottles can last around 450 years.
- Harm to wildlife - The RSPCA receive thousands of calls a year about animals that are caught up in or injured by litter. By removing materials that don't belong from their natural habitats, we protect wildlife and marine life.
- The cost of litter - Each year, as a country, we spend hundreds of millions of pounds clearing up litter. This is money that could be better spent on other public services, like social care and education.
- A Waste of resources - Each day, around 20 million drinks containers are 'lost from the loop' (this means, they don't get recycled). Plastic bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles are all recyclable and can be turned into new drinks vessels. But if they are littered, the valuable materials they are made of are wasted. It takes less energy to recycle than make new, so capturing these materials is critical.
- Taking care of our community - Research from **Keep Britain Tidy** shows that people feel less safe, and house prices are affected, when an area looks littered and uncared for. By taking care of our neighbourhoods, we increase feelings of pride and safety.

Last year WALC checked in with its members - here are highlights of what Councils and communities have done in Warwickshire:

- Bidford-on-Avon PC provided funding to Bidford Rubbish Friends for insurance and equipment, including pickers, tubs and hi-vis jackets.



- Bishops Itchington PC bought pickers, hoops, high-vis jackets and protective gloves for use by volunteers as well as Duke of Edinburgh groups working towards their awards. Equipment is kept in the parish office for residents to use.
- Lighthorne Heath organise an annual litter pick.
- Priors Marston purchased equipment and conducted the risk assessment.
- Southam Town Council has supported Southam Rubbish Friends with a grant, to help fund public liability insurance.

Keep Britain Tidy provide a beginner's guide packed full of handy tips and advice. [Beginner's Guide To Litter Picking 2023 \(keepbritaintidy.org\)](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/Beginners-Guide-To-Litter-Picking-2023)

If you'd like to organise your own litter-picking group or event, check out their **Litter Heroes Guide to Organising a Litter-Pick** [How to organise a litter-picking event \(keepbritaintidy.org\)](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/How-to-organise-a-litter-picking-event) and **Risk Assessment Template**. [KBT LitterHeroes Streets and Open Spaces Risk Assessment 2024.docx \(live.com\)](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/KBT-LitterHeroes-Streets-and-Open-Spaces-Risk-Assessment-2024.docx)

This year, **Keep Britain Tidy** has introduced **Great British Spring Clean Awards** - the Golden Globes of the litter-fighting community (one might even call them the Green Globes!) - to officially recognise and reward volunteers and partners.

One accolade rewards a passionate member of a local authority or town/parish council - or a partnership between a council and another group such as community group - which has pulled all the stops out to ensure people across their area have been able to join together to tackle litter.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING ORGANISER!

[#GBSpringClean Awards 2024: Outstanding Organiser Nomination Form Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GBSpringCleanAwards2024)

Claudine Pearson, Support Officer, Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils

The University of Warwick, Wellesbourne Campus, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF

The Great Collaboration Banter Sessions – for Parish and Town Councils

There is a great deal of climate action already happening at parish and town council level, and by community groups. The Great Collaboration free weekly informal **Banter Sessions** start with a speaker on a topic followed by a wider discussion, and everyone is welcome! You can join these sessions via this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcu2urjMvGdJH09t0GQ72fBJSFr9zzIDj>.



The 6th March 2024 session was on carbon literacy for Town and Parish Councillors and community groups.

[9. CarbonLiteracy 06Mar24 Belinda Bawden \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9. CarbonLiteracy 06Mar24 Belinda Bawden)

The 20th March 2024 session was about Carbon Copy.

[11. Carbon Copy, with Ric Casale 20Mar24 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11. Carbon Copy, with Ric Casale 20Mar24)

The 27th March 2024 session was on future energy landscapes.

[12 CSE Centre for Sustainable Energy 27Mar24 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12 CSE Centre for Sustainable Energy 27Mar24)

The 3rd April 2024 session was on biodiversity net gain.

[13. Biodiversity Net Gain 03Apr2 Andrew Maliphant \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13. Biodiversity Net Gain 03Apr2 Andrew Maliphant)



The 10th April 2024 session was around Buckminster Fuller's World Game.

[14. The World Game 10Apr24 Graham Stoddart-Stones \(youtube.com\)](#)

Dealing with climate change to improve the future of our families and communities is now more important than ever. Let us work on this together – we look forward to hearing from you!

Andrew Maliphant, The Great Collaboration, email: office@greatcollaboration.uk

[The Great Collaboration - Environmental Commitments You Can Make](#)

www.greatcollaboration.uk

Tech News

Greenpower Park

On 27th March 2024 plans to place Coventry at the epicentre of the green industrial revolution took a significant leap forward with the launch of Greenpower Park - the UK Centre of Electrification and Clean Energy. The location offers an all-in-one solution for battery research, industrialisation, manufacturing, testing, recycling and electrified logistics designed to foster the UK's growing battery ecosystem.

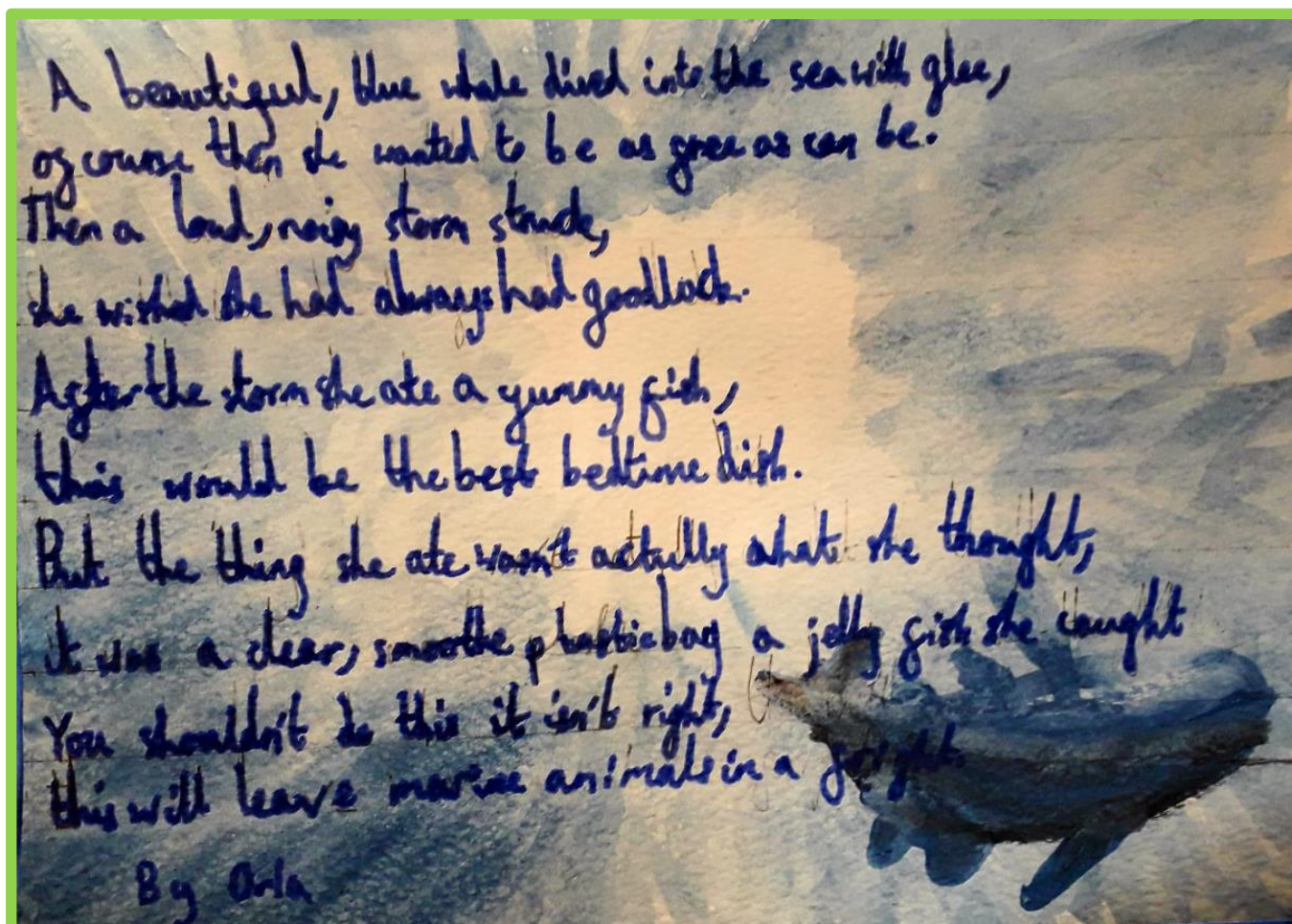
[Greenpower Park](#)



Poetry Corner

Canon Park Primary School were highly commended in the Rotary / Savers Climate Change and Plastic Pollution in Oceans Project. Holy Trinity Church is open for private prayer and visitors on Wednesday, 11.00am to 2.00pm, Thursday to Saturday, 11.00am to 3.00pm, Sunday, 12.30pm until 4.30pm.

[Holy Trinity Coventry](#)



10 Climate Urban Myths - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

Here are 10 things I hear people say about climate action. Are they true?

I do my bit: I recycle all my packaging

This reminds me of “you can’t see the wood for the trees” or “don’t sweat the small stuff”. Yes, recycling is a good thing to do. But it is so much better to reduce the excess consumption that inevitably results in the need to recycle, and to buy goods with less packaging.

A deposit return scheme could enable drinks containers to be washed and reused, which is better than recycling. Even better, drinking tap water from a glass is far less resource intensive than buying bottled drinks.

Tesco’s slogan is “every little helps”. Yes, but every big change would help a lot more. We need to cut our emissions to zero which requires some big changes such as installing heat pumps, travel less, changing our diets etc.

I do my bit: I have solar panels

Solar panels are helpful, but they won’t cut your carbon footprint by that much. The real carbon issue in the UK is how we heat our homes. The average house uses 3,000 kWh per year of electricity and 11,000 kWh for heating. Electricity is already mainly generated from low carbon sources, and the Government target is for it to be carbon neutral by 2035, so installing solar panels won’t make a big difference to your carbon footprint.

Meanwhile your gas boiler emits around 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Yes, we need solar panels, but we really need to tackle emissions from heating our homes.

Population growth is the problem

Our global impact on the environment can be expressed by multiplying population x consumption x resource efficiency. Over the last century population has grown fast, consumption even faster; outpacing the steady improvement in resource efficiency. Due to improved levels of education, population growth is slowing and is now falling in many countries, including the UK (excluding migration), Russia and China. I think population growth will sort itself out over the coming decades.

Consumption is the elephant in the room. It is the massive growth in our purchase of consumer goods and services that has caused an exponential rise in greenhouse gas emissions. Historically, wealthy countries have driven this growth, but increasingly it is from the wealthy elite from all countries. There seems to be no end in sight to the extravagance and massive use of resources that humans can aspire to. Excessive consumption of resources is the problem. The real question is how can we be satisfied with our lives without consuming more resources? Tackling inequality will help. Perhaps the topic of a future blog!

Local beef is sustainable

Cattle (in the UK) mainly eat grass grown from natural rainfall, and transport emissions to market are low. Some contend that the methane emitted by cattle is somehow ‘natural’ and that this is offset by carbon sequestered into the soil.

Yes, local beef is better than cattle raised on grass or soya beans from land that was previously tropical rainforest, but it is not good enough. Because of the methane produced, beef has a far higher impact on



the climate and environment than almost every other food and this even applies to the most 'productive' beef raised in huge indoor pens in the USA. And I can't find a serious peer reviewed science paper that backs the long-term carbon sequestration argument. Also, the grassland tends to be land that was previously woodland, so there is a better option to restore much of this for wildlife or timber production. My conclusion is that we should reserve eating beef for special occasions, and yes, this should be locally reared beef - low density cattle farming done in the right way can be good for biodiversity.

Natural gas is clean

Interestingly views on this have shifted in the last decade or so. Switching to 'clean' gas was seen to be an improvement at a time when coal generated our electricity and provided much of our heating. Carbon emissions from gas power stations are around half that of coal. But that is before taking account of any leaks. Methane can leak at all stages of gas distribution: from gas wells, processing, storage, transmission pipelines and distribution pipes in our streets. When you take this into account the overall emissions from gas aren't that much better than coal. Whilst the emissions from gas power stations could be addressed through carbon capture and storage, this is an energy intensive process that would require even more gas to be burnt to run the equipment needed.

We need to achieve zero emissions, so 'natural' gas just isn't clean enough for electricity, heating, or cooking.

We need to protect 'hard working families'

I dislike this phrase. The implication is that taking action to cut emissions will unnecessarily harm 'hard working families'. What about families who are unemployed, or those who don't work hard! And not acting will harm all families, including the hard-working ones.

We need to slash our carbon emissions, and quickly. This can be achieved at little overall cost (e.g. as the cost of electric vehicles fall, they will save society money). Policies can, and should be, designed to protect lower income families – many policies favour the wealthier who are more likely to take advantage of grants and subsidies for electric vehicles, solar panels, and heat pumps. Isn't it better to protect all society and strive for more equity and fairness?

Building 30,000 'eco-homes' will reduce Council carbon emissions

No, no and no again! All new homes will increase carbon emissions. Even in the unlikely event that they are net zero in use, constructing them will result in emissions from clearing the land, building materials and construction activities. Many 'eco-homes' are large, using a lot of resources to build and furnish. And they are often in the countryside with the inevitability of increasing car dependency. A large detached eco-house in the countryside might appeal to many, but please think of the consequences.

Our focus should be to renovate and improve existing homes and neighbourhoods, and to encourage most of us to choose to live in towns and cities because they are attractive and vibrant places to live.

Carbon neutral aviation is just around the corner

I read regular announcements about 'breakthroughs' in sustainable aviation. However, none are remotely near ready for mass deployment.

Electric planes are improving but will always be limited by the weight of the batteries which suggests that they will be of most use for short haul journeys. My belief is that electric powered short flights carrying a

few passengers will simply create a new demand for commuters and sightseeing tourists – but this will not substitute existing aviation routes.

An experimental flight across the Atlantic was recently fuelled by waste fats and oils. But there simply aren't enough 'wastes' available, whilst using biomass would require huge areas of land that could be better used to grow food, or as a wildlife habitat.

Two other possibilities are hydrogen (from renewables) and new synthetic liquid fuels. Both are experimental and resource (energy) intensive to produce. They will therefore be expensive. Maybe their day will come, but it takes decades to develop the infrastructure required for aviation, and of course, the industry is rather risk averse and difficult to change. In the meantime, we should press for real carbon offsets of flights – pay to bury an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide for every flight taken.

Electric Vehicles are worse than petrol

Of course, all private vehicles have a significant environmental impact. The best thing is to organise your life to avoid the need for regular travel and to use public transport, cycle or walk most of the time.

EVs are inherently more energy efficient than internal combustion engines. Only 30% of the energy from petrol is converted into useful forward motion, whereas an electric car achieves 80%. This is a staggering difference and means that the shift to EVs will significantly decrease our overall energy consumption.

"But what about the battery", I hear you say. Batteries do require a lot of metal and minerals to produce and most of this comes from mining. Some comes from unregulated mines in low-income countries causing environmental and social damage. But overall, the volumes of materials required are a small fraction of the volume of oil drilled to run our petrol cars. Have you seen the environmental mess of the Canadian tar sands, or the oil wells in Iraq? In any case, it is possible to recycle and reuse most of the components in batteries so the long-term need for virgin mining will eventually decrease.

Environmental regulations hurt business

Nearly every new piece of legislation is accompanied by howls of complaints by businesses, and sometimes by journalists and consumers. But just imagine if we didn't bring in new legislation. We'd still be driving without wearing seat belts, our pubs would be smoky, our coal power stations would cause acid rain, we'd be using energy guzzling fridges and freezers, our ozone layer would be destroyed.....

Sensible regulations improve standards and help to create a better society. The presumed cost of new regulations is frequently exaggerated, and the benefits to society are understated (clean air). Sensible regulations create a 'level playing field' for businesses to compete. Given the climate emergency, I think we need more regulations, particularly those which focus on outcomes as this provides some flexibility in delivery.

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 here [Buy \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk). I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects. Follow me: @carbonchoicesuk ([twitter](#)) @carbonchoices ([Facebook](#)) @carbonchoices ([Instagram](#)).

[10 Climate Urban Myths \(carbonchoices.uk\)](https://carbonchoices.uk) **Neil Kitching, 10 Climate Urban Myths. March 2024**



Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – Taking back control of water

The hedges are in leaf, but the rain is still relentless. We have planted virtually no veg. Some overgrown plants cannot wait any longer to go in the ground and will have to be ditched. While we wait to be able to plant, we're busy digging trenches and installing irrigation pipes. In the bottom of a sodden, collapsing trench, my fellow digger quipped: "It's a shame the pipe doesn't suck the water out as well." Drought seems a long way off, but 35 years of experience – hoping for the best, then desperately trying to install irrigation as crops wilt in parched ground – has taught me the importance of having the system ready before the rains stop.



It generally takes longer and costs more to harvest a stunted, moisture-stressed crop. Pickers hate it, and quality is compromised. Increasingly, success as a grower is determined by the ability to control water: we must manage the excess, to stop it from eroding soil or depriving roots of oxygen in waterlogged ground – and also irrigate to avert the worst impacts of drought. In Devon, with our high average rainfall, many growers have survived without irrigation so far. That's a fair bet for winter-maturing crops such as leeks, cabbages, and kale, planted in late summer, into a moist seed bed that will sustain them until the autumn rains. But with increasingly unpredictable rainfall, irrigation is essential for summer and autumn crops. After this wet spring, I think more growers will consider drainage on flatter farms, too. On our farm in the French Vendée, we've invested in both irrigation and drainage, removing the risks that come with dry summers and wet springs.

Or perhaps we will end up covering our farms in polytunnels. Over the last 30 years, British strawberries have moved from 90% grown in open fields, to 90% grown under plastic. Most are grown hydroponically in gutters, or in peat on tabletops. (Neither of these systems are permitted under organic certification, where crops must be grown in the soil – but we can use polytunnels.) The main drivers of the change have been ergonomic: picking at eye level and ensuring a predictable supply by removing the vagaries of a British summer. The dry, clean, controlled environment will also facilitate the inevitable progress of robot picking. I question how much longer we will be able to find the dexterous, hardy, and admirably zen pickers we need for our leeks and kale, who are able to endure a winter outside in the pouring rain.

Guy Singh-Watson, April 2024, farmer and founder and creator of Riverford Organic Farm

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 \(heartofenglandcf.co.uk\)](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Grants | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)



- [Green Homes Grants - Energy efficiency at home - Warwick District Council \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](https://warwickdc.gov.uk)

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 Café | Facebook](#)

Other

- [Community-led climate action can lead the way | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#)
- [Building Community Action Through Climate Hubs - resilience](#)
- [Join for zero carbon schools • Lets Go Zero](#)
- [School case studies - Lets Go Zero](#)
- [Climate Action Advisors: Register your Interest \(office.com\)](#)
- [Sustainability and climate change strategy: our progress so far, December 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Home - Count Your Carbon](#)
- [Home | Education Nature Park](#)
- [Climate Action Awards | Education Nature Park](#)
- [Finding funding | Education Nature Park](#)
- [Beneath The Surface - an Evenlode Catchment Partnership film \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [4. Community Climate Action Plan 31Jan24 Joolz Thompson \(youtube.com\)](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zLafveHhNY&feature=youtu.be> starts at 2:55
- [Teach Action not Fear in Climate Science 28Feb24 Maddie McGregor \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [About Midlands Net Zero Hub – Midlands Net Zero Hub](#)
- [Hydro Power Project - Cromford Mills](#)
- [Waterpower returns to Cromford Mills to kick-start a 'green' industrial revolution – Midlands Net Zero Hub](#)
- [Green Power Park - Trailblazing UK centre of electrification and clean energy and West Midlands Gigafactory to spearhead the green industrial revolution](#)
- Innovation for Agriculture [Home - Innovation for Agriculture \(i4agri.org\)](#), [March 2024 Snapshots | LinkedIn](#)

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 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)

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 let us know what you wish to see in your newsletter: 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: lowcarbonworks@gmail.com referring to the issue date and number for queries or phone Jacky Lawrence on 07906 440496.