

CONNECTING LOW CARBON GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Low Carbon Warwickshire Network

October 2025 – Issue – 53

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, two in Wellesbourne and Lillington with other possibilities being explored for Rugby, Bishops Tachbrook, Shipston and Alcester.

Wellesbourne’s ‘What’s Up with Fashion and Textiles?’ Event

Wellesbourne held their ‘What’s Up with Fashion and Textiles?’ on Saturday October 4th. For any groups interested in doing something similar the following may be helpful.

Clothes

We all have them and need a variety to deal with our variable climate. There has been much discussion over recent years about the ethics of some companies concerning workers conditions in factories particularly in the far east but what about the environmental impact of the clothes we buy, what they are made from, how long we keep them for and how we dispose of them? Our event explored some of these themes around different types of textiles with an emphasis on avoiding landfill by repair, up-cycling, re-purposing and recycling clothing.



The UK’s Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) recently published a document called “2024 Textiles Market Situation Report” focusing on clothing which highlighted some interesting facts.

On the positive side its research discovered that in the UK, on average, people are now wearing an item of clothing longer compared to their last survey in 2013 – as an example jeans are being worn for an average of 4 years rather than 3 before being discarded, and over half the population look for second hand clothes in charity shops or using online second-hand sites. Over the past decade this sector has grown by over 150%. Another impressive fact is that 60% of people will try and repair clothing to prolong its life.

However, the report highlights that the flourishing fast fashion sector which churns out the latest fashions at basement bargain prices means that on average an item of clothing is worn less than 10 times, added to which in the UK, there are 1.6 billion items of unworn clothing hanging in our wardrobes – that’s an average of 31 pieces of clothing for each adult! Over 1.7 million tonnes of clothing is thrown away annually



in the UK with 300,000 tonnes – equivalent to 7,500 fully loaded articulated lorries - being disposed of in household general waste and the same amount as unsold stock from retailers.

The environmental impact of the production of cloth and clothing is complex with seemingly environmentally friendly natural materials such as cotton and wool requiring significant amounts of water to grow and process, whereas manmade fibres such as polyesters come from oil with its own well-known impact.

There are a number of more sustainable alternatives with clothing now being made from bamboo, wood fibres (Tencel), pineapple leaves (Piñatex) and even fungi (Mycotextiles) with some well-known retailers beginning to use these in clothing fabrics.

For those who would like to minimise the environmental impact of clothing the report suggests:-

- Buy less and choose quality as it should last longer;
- Learn to repair, reuse, repurpose – Wellesbourne's Repair Café can help;
- Look for garments made from re-cycled or more sustainable fabrics;
- Donate unwanted clothes to good causes. Two of the three charity shops in Wellesbourne take clothing namely Myton Hospice and Shakespeare Hospice.;
- Shop second hand



The event welcomed over 70 visitors. Many were re-introduced to crafts that they might have tried many years ago and now pledged to try again – crafts like rag rugging, making lavender bags out of jeans, and stamping with wooden blocks to revitalise old fabrics.

There were also a series of well attended talks by local crafters who make a point of re-using fabric, including making baby layettes from old wedding dresses, Philip Anderson spoke about the history and culture of re-purposing fabric for quilts and there was a talk about eco-friendly fabrics.



The local Crafternoon group talked about adorning our local post boxes with topical knitted creations, and the Wellesbourne Repair Café talked about mending textiles. The team are keen to create a legacy from the event and will be looking at further opportunities to employ craft skills that help to keep fabric out of landfill.

'Inspirational' was a word frequently used on the feedback sheet (literally a sheet). Some of the notable reflections by the organising group on the event were that:

- We definitely attracted people who had not been to the previous Sustainable Wellesbourne events.
- Whilst people may have come for the crafts rather than sustainability, all the activity leaders talked about how to use the craft skills to extend the life of clothes and other textiles.
- The format of the event worked well; some people came for a specific talk and then went round all the activities or came for the activities and stayed for a talk – it was important we had both.

The event was supported by the RSA thanks to RSA Fellow, Teresa Buckle, who we met through networking with the LCWN. A warm thank you to Teresa also, as she was with us on the day and was part of the organising team.

Lucy Hartley, Mark Hayward, Ann Hebden, Sustainable Wellesbourne

The LCWN Autumn Bring and Share Lunch Social

A good time, great conversations, a chance to meet people from a variety of the active groups in Warwickshire and a delicious feast was enjoyed by all at the autumn bring and share lunch social on Saturday 4th October.



Thank you to: Action 21 (A21), Let's Make Stuff Happen Ansley and Arley, Bishop's Tachbrook Resident's Action on Climate Change (TRACC), Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now (CLEAN), Harbury Future Energy (HFE), Harbury e-Wheels, Let's Go Zero, Napton Environmental Action Team (NEAT), Napton River Watch, the RSA Central Area, Shipston in Bloom, Savers and Stourvale Action For the Environment (SAFE).

Matt Black from CLEAN entertained us all with extracts from his play 'The Storm Officer' and his audience-participation poem 'Go Eco'.



Jacky Lawrence, NEAT

Would you like to be a part of the LCWN Steering Group?

The LCWN Steering group steers and guides the direction of the LCWN and **we are very interested in recruiting members** from the north of the county and anyone who may bring different experiences, perspectives and skills. If you are interested, **please get in touch** at lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com. The Steering Group meet infrequently and only when we have something of significance to discuss and it is possible to join on-line. To find out a little more about the other steering group members see their 'who are we?' answers:-

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

Jacky Lawrence FRSA - [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 FRSA - [LCWN-Newsletter-February-2023-issue-24.pdf \(harburyenergy.co.uk\)](#)

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

- To date, the LCWN have secured funding for community engagement events at: Harbury, Napton on the Hill, Henley-in-Arden, Church Lawford, Boddington, Kenilworth, Brailes, Cubbington, Wroxall, Lillington and three events at Wellesbourne.
- The aim of all LCWN events is to inspire the formation of new environmental groups to start in rural areas and provide useful information to enthuse existing groups.
- The RSA have supported these events through funding room hire, creating an Eventbrite link, helping design posters and promoting all events through their Fellows Network.
- [Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Harbury Energy Initiative](#) (please note, the web link for the LCWN still comes up as Harbury Energy Initiative, but HEI is now incorporated into Harbury Future Energy.

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. Get in touch for more details. email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

The 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.



<https://youtu.be/eUh-TXKIdiE>, RSA Minimate: Climate Change and the Future of Humanity
[Sustainability Network - The RSA](#)
[Climate change Archives - The RSA](#)

Act on Energy

Warwickshire Energy Advice – We are encouraging residents across all of Warwickshire to phone for full energy information, advice and guidance - call our expert advisors.



With over 25 years' experience, Act on Energy is an award-winning charity, delivering free, impartial energy advice. Working in partnership with the Local Authorities and external organisations, we offer a range of services such as help with applying for grants, access to funding for energy efficiency measures and in-home support for those struggling with the cost of living.

Free advice phone line: 0800 988 2881, Email: advice@actonenergy.org.uk,
Website: www.actonenergy.org.uk

INTO THE WARMTH

Your One-Stop-Shop for all things Winter

- ✓ Energy bill clinic (bring your bills)
- ✓ Free benefit check
- ✓ Support in your community
- ✓ Apply for heating repairs
- ✓ Find local services & warm spaces
- ✓ Check eligibility for grants
- ✓ Free hot drinks & biscuits

5 November
11 - 4

Town Hall
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6EJ

Act On Energy
save money and the environment

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The poster features a background image of hands holding a cup of tea, with snowflake graphics. A QR code is located on the right side of the list of services.

[Act On Energy - Into the Warmth](#)
[Stratford - Into the Warmth | Facebook](#)

Madeleine Avila-Thomas, Act on Energy

Butterfly Conservation Trust

The results of Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count are in, and while the numbers are a vast improvement on 2024's record lows, urgent measures are still needed to reverse long-term decline.
[Butterflies fail to shine despite hottest UK summer on record | Butterfly Conservation](#)

Canal and River Trust Report

The 2024/25 Annual Report & Accounts highlights the impact of climate change on our canal network, the rising cost of maintenance, and the significance of future funding cuts.
[Annual Report & Accounts | Canal & River Trust](#)



Climate Emergency UK - The Local Climate Report: State of UK council climate action

This new report delves into the headline stats from each of the 7 Scorecards sections (Collaboration, Transport, Planning etc.), as well as a special Adaptation infographic, alongside analysis written by a key sector expert.



Attendance at the Local Climate Report Launch & On- Line Conference is **£33.22**, Tuesday, November 4 · 12:30 - 3:30pm. The [Council Climate Action Scorecards](#) are a unique tool designed to inform citizens on local climate action and encourage participation in democratic processes. The report details the state of local climate action, demonstrating where progress has been made and where councils are struggling to reduce emissions.

Paid tickets: While this event is paid for, if costs are a barrier, or you have previously been a volunteer with Climate Emergency UK, please select the **pay as you feel** ticket and offer any donation amount.

[The Local Climate Report Launch & Conference Tickets, Tue, Nov 4, 2025, at 12:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Community Energy Warwickshire – a goodbye

Community Energy Warwickshire are now closed for business. Since they started in 2010, they had installed around 170kWp of solar panels on Stratford, Warwick and Leamington hospitals enabling their use of renewable energy funded through a share offer.

They also financially supported [mainly via the Heart of England Community Foundation] many other projects promoting renewable energy and energy saving.

Whilst active they investigated several other renewable energy projects for possible community investment, but none were successful due to the many obstacles identified at the time. Hopefully all such obstacles could now be overcome if looked at anew.

Eco Schools

Funding is available from Warwickshire County Councils' Sustainable Futures Strategy which sets out a goal to increase the number of schools who obtain the Eco-Schools Green Flag.

[Eco-Schools – Education and Early Years providers](#)

[Eco Schools 2025/26](#)

Let's Go Zero Schools

Let's Go Zero provide free support to help schools in England create climate action plans in line with the DfE guidance to have these in place in all educational settings by 2025 – schools can register interest here: [Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)

[Join for zero carbon schools • Lets Go Zero](#)



- OVO foundation Nature Prize with LGZ [Our competitions - Lets Go Zero](#), **Deadline: 17 Nov 2025**
- Tree planting grants of between £250 and £2,500 from [Branching Out Fund - The Tree Council](#)
Deadline: 14 Nov 2025

Sarah Mills, Let's Go Zero



Net Zero Stratford – Climate Hub

SDC Climate Panel Meeting – Stratford District Council, Nov 4th 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, [Climate Panel Meeting – Stratford District Council – Net Zero](#)



Janet Palmer, Net Zero Stratford

Rugby Eco Hub

- First and Third Saturday of the month at Rugby Eco Hub, Betts Hall, Claremont Centre, 43 Clifton Rd, Rugby CV21 3QE (entrance on Bath Street, opposite Lawrence Sheriff School) [Repair Cafe](#)
- Every 1st and 3rd Thursday: Knitting Classes with Irina, The Eco Hub, 7pm - 9pm, [Rugby Eco Hub Knitting Classes](#)
- [Library of Things](#)
- Volunteer opportunities [Live Volunteer Bulletin.docx - Google Docs](#)
- [Rugby Eco Hub's First Year Fiesta Tickets, Sat, Nov 29, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#), from 3.96 – £6.13



Kirsty Denyer, Operations team

Savers / Rotary - Endangered Species Project

Endangered species project

The number of places where animals can live free and happy lives is shrinking. Global wildlife populations are in decline with some species under threat of extinction.

Teachers,

Encourage your students to research:

- ❖ The most endangered animals.
- ❖ Why are their populations declining?
- ❖ What is being done to protect them?
- ❖ What more could we do to help?

- ✓ Then write and illustrate a poem about what they have found out.
- ✓ Certificates for all and prizes for the best entries.
- ✓ The winning submissions will be published in an anthology.

Please send entries by end of May 2026 to:
Gabrielle Back, 3 Underhill Close,
Finham, Coventry CV3 6RB





Savers Charity Number 1108191

Solar for Schools

Solar for Schools (SfS) work with the following local schools: The Dasset CofE Primary School, Farndon Fields Primary School, St Particks CofE (aided) Junior and Infant School.

[The Dasset Church of England Primary School - Solar Schools](#)

[Farndon Fields Primary School - Solar for Schools](#)

[St Patricks Church of England Primary Academy - Solar for Schools](#)

[Alcester Grammar School - Solar for Schools](#)



There are 3 different funding approaches with PPA only being one of these. [Mar 25 CBS bond offer](#)
The contact at SfS for Warwickshire schools is Tom Darby: tomd@solarforschools.co.uk

South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme

The SWLCEP event at Leamington Spa Town Hall was on Friday 17th October 2025 and was designed to bring us together and shape a coordinated, community-driven approach to climate and nature action across South Warwickshire.



[Local Climate Engagement Programme | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

A summary of the event can be found at this link: [South Warwickshire Unites for Climate and Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)

Sustainable Brailes – Repair Café

We run a Repair Café more or less every two months at the Pavilion in Brailes, 10-12. We usually have sewers, gadget menders, bike repairs and lots of refreshments.

[Sustainable Brailes – Brailes Village](#)



Sue Davies, Sustainable Brailes

The Bicycle Bus

We could help your school start a bicycle bus initiative. Get in touch at simon@thebicyclebus.co.uk

[Warwick Gates Bicycle Bus | Parent Led Active Travel Initiative](#)

[The Bicycle Bus - South Warwickshire Climate Champions - Warwick District Council.](#)



Simon Storey

Founder of The Bicycle Bus, Founding Director Cycle Infinity CIC, Bicycle Mayor Warwick District

The Great Collaboration

Banter sessions for Town & Parish Councils and their communities are given weekly on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom. They present a friendly, cooperative forum that aims to provide helpful tips and suggestions, with plenty of lively discussion about climate and environmental matters! Nominally lasting for 60 minutes.



[Banter sessions \(inc table of all sessions\) | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)

[Banter 92: 22Oct25 Climate Café Listening Circles, with Linda Aspey | The Great Collaboration Knowledgebase](#)

Warwickshire County Council

Listen to Sustainable Warwickshire podcasts on Spotify or Apple or visit <https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com/>

[Sustainable Warwickshire | Warwickshire County Council](#)

[Warwickshire Sustainability Newsletter - September 2025 Edition](#)

[Warwickshire County Council Makes Strides Towards Net Zero – Sustainable Warwickshire](#)

[Warwickshire Climate Emergency – Sustainable Warwickshire](#)



Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - State of Habitats Report 2025

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's [Natural Capital Assessment Partnership](#) team (a partnership including the Trust and 8 regional local authorities) have put together a State of Habitats 2025 report for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. The data in the report show us the overall diversity of habitats, where different habitats are found and the total area of each type. This is vital information as there are competing pressures on limited available land.

[Natural Capital Assessment Partnership \(NCAP\) | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#)
[State of Habitats | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#)

Fossil Fuel Subsidies - by our guest blogger Neil Kitching

What is an energy subsidy? Why can't we simply abolish them? What effect do they have?

But, firstly I'd like to let you know that I have upgraded my website. It is now a secure site, and you can see all my blogs by [date published](#), or search by [keyword](#) or by blog [categories](#). Carbon Choices also features at number 10 on [FeedSpot's list](#) of the 40 best Carbon Blogs and websites in 2025. Please let your friends and colleagues know!



You will often hear politicians say that they will end subsidies for fossil fuels. The chances are that they don't mean what they say! Ending all fossil fuel subsidies, however desirable, is often political suicide.

An energy subsidy is any government action that lowers the cost of energy production, raises the price received by an energy producer or lowers the price paid by energy consumers. It could be aimed at lowering energy costs for **consumers** or designed to increase **production**. Its stated purpose could be to support economic growth, provide energy security, protect consumers or to cut pollution or carbon emissions. Subsidies are offered by all governments for most if not all energy sources, including fossil fuels and renewable energy.

It is difficult to change or abolish subsidies as the 'losers' from any change will be more unhappy than the 'winners' are made happy.

Global Promises

Climate economists are clear that one of the most efficient ways to tackle climate change is to get energy prices right. In broad terms this means taxing carbon emissions to account for the damage that they cause. Fossil fuel subsidies are the antithesis of this. Even if you don't tax carbon emissions, the International Energy Agency (IEA) argues that the one of the most cost-effective actions to tackle climate change is to scrap all fossil fuel subsidies.

In 2009 the G20 promised to phase out "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies. This pledge was repeated by all governments at COP26 in 2021 but with no end date specified. Progress has been hampered by disagreement over definitions, lack of detail in the pledges, and lack of an action plan. Even worse, fossil fuel subsidies increased following the Russian invasion of Ukraine as a temporary measure to protect consumers from rising energy prices.

Definition of a Subsidy

The World Trade Organisation's technical definition can be read [here](#). In my words, an energy subsidy is any government action to lower the cost of energy **production** or lower the price paid by **consumers**. An "inefficient" subsidy is something that encourages wasteful consumption.

Money can be paid by a government to reduce the cost of producing or consuming fossil fuels, for example grants and loans, or it can be revenue foregone, for example tax credits or tax exemptions.

In one report the International Monetary Fund extended this definition to include 'implicit' subsidies. These are the social costs associated with the consumption of fossil fuels. Economists call these 'externalities'. This includes the health impacts of air pollutants, the environmental and social damage of climate change from the CO2 released, and even includes the social cost of road accidents and congestion.

Global Subsidies

Fossil fuel subsidies soared after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, from \$500bn to over a \$1 trillion per year. In 2020, Iran topped the list for consumption subsidies (e.g. cheap petrol prices) followed by China and India. Those subsidies, dominated by price subsidies for consumers, reached almost [\\$1.7 trillion in 2022](#). In aggregate, most countries provide a higher level of subsidies for fossil fuels than for renewable energy. This particularly applies to petroleum-producing countries like the USA, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

However, using the wider definition used by the International Monetary Fund, global fossil fuel subsidies were around \$7 trillion in 2022, apportioned as follows:

- Explicit subsidies, 18%
- Foregone VAT on social costs, 5%
- Social costs of air pollution, 30%
- Social costs of climate change from burning fossil fuels, 30%
- Vehicle externalities (road accidents, traffic congestion, and road wear and tear), 17%

These wider costs are an important consideration but are not 'subsidies' in my view. They are estimated costs arising over many years and importantly they are not real expenditure or a source of new revenue that can be repurposed by governments to a better use. Including vehicle externalities is also odd, as these would be equally as large if every vehicle was powered by electric batteries.

UK Energy Subsidies

The UK has many energy subsidies, often implemented to reduce fuel poverty or to tackle the 'cost-of-living' crisis.

VAT is levied at a reduced rate of 5% on household natural gas and electricity bills, compared with the standard rate of 20%. This is a subsidy for household energy, a significant proportion of which is still supplied by fossil fuels.

There are other consumer subsidies including the Winter Fuel Allowance and a discounted price for heating oil. Meanwhile, oil and gas drilling benefits from tax breaks and allowances for exploration and investment in new fields. Some also argue, with reason, that grants to promote carbon capture and storage are really a subsidy to prolong the use of fossil fuels. Global Justice Now estimates that the UK Government provides £17 billion per year in fossil fuel subsidies.



One minor subsidy is the Cold Weather Payments system in England. If the average temperature in your area falls below 0°C for a week then most people on benefits will be paid £25. This is a sensible and targeted subsidy – paid only during unusually cold weather and benefitting only those on lower incomes.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine the UK Government introduced the Energy Price Guarantee and Energy Bill Support Scheme for households, and the Energy Bills Relief Scheme for businesses. Some £39bn was provided under this scheme.

Implications of Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Generally they reduce the price of energy supplied from fossil fuels.

This tends to increase demand and reduces the benefits (payback period) of investing in energy efficiency measures therefore increasing air pollution and CO₂ emissions. Even worse it hinders the cost effectiveness of innovation and investment into cleaner forms of energy and therefore acts against the growth of renewable energy.

Consumption subsidies are often introduced to reduce fuel poverty and to help lower income households. However, many subsidies are not that well targeted. Richer people have larger houses and travel more, so they benefit more from fossil fuel subsidies. This particularly applies to aviation subsidies (most jet kerosene is not subject to the same excise taxes as are applied to similar transport fuels) which discriminates against 'greener' train travel, and disproportionately benefits richer households who tend to fly more.

Subsidies, like lower rates of VAT levied on energy, reduce a government's tax income which must be made up from higher taxes elsewhere.

Political Astuteness, or Cowardice?

To be fair on our politicians, the public do not like governments abolishing subsidies that they have got used to. There are examples from across the world, including the 'gilets jaunes' protests against increases in fuel taxes in France, riots in Iran, and the recent political storm in the UK over the Government's attempt to restrict the winter fuel allowance for pensioners.

Strong political direction is required with a clear communication strategy to explain the benefits for society and for the climate of the proposed changes. Subsidies can be phased out, the money saved can be redirected to energy and social programmes (investment in home energy efficiency) or governments can offer targeted support to vulnerable households.

What about Renewable Energy Subsidies?

Of course, there are numerous subsidies designed to encourage the production and consumption of renewable energy. I have taken advantage of these, for example, claiming feed-in-tariffs for solar photovoltaic panels and a grant for my electric heat pump. And companies that supply electricity to the grid generated by wind turbines or solar generators can claim contracts for difference - government guarantees to help de-risk the development of new, cleaner sources of electricity.

In my view these subsidies can be justified to encourage investment and to 'kick start' new technology with environmental and economic benefits. For example, solar feed-in-tariffs were gradually phased out as the cost of solar panels continued to fall. Now the solar industry can compete without subsidies. Similarly, the

contracts for difference awarded to new wind and solar generators have been falling which will lead to downward pressure on electricity prices.

Conclusions

Yes, we should phase out fossil fuel subsidies. It is scandalous that governments provide extra support to the fossil fuel industry. We should go further, and tax the use of energy (as we do already with road fuel tax). These actions will encourage investments in energy efficiency and accelerate the shift to renewable energy.

If any change will specifically adversely affect lower income households, then we can ameliorate this through other means, such as raising specific benefits. For further information on fossil fuel subsidies, I recommend the [Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker](#).

[Blog updated following helpful feedback from Ronald Steenblik, former (retired) OECD Special Counsellor for Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform].

You might also enjoy my book, Carbon Choices, on the common-sense solutions to our climate and nature crises. Available from Amazon or a signed copy direct from me. I am donating one third of profits to rewilding projects.

If you have any ideas for future blogs, then please contact Neil at carbonchoices@gmail.com
[Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)

Neil Kitching, Carbon Choices

Thoughts from an Organic Farmer – News from the farm: Rewilding the croquet lawn

When I sowed my first leeks 40 years ago, I, like my father and neighbours, felt I was fulfilling a profound, even moral, purpose: to grow food and feed people (the more the better) and on every square metre that could be bent to my will. As ego subsided with age, and as the crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss emerged, so too did an awareness that we sit within nature as well as on top of it, and that wielding our power with insensitivity and ignorance would be our downfall.



Like many farmers, I confess to being initially affronted by the rise of the rewilding movement which questioned the purpose of land stewardship and our profession. I remain concerned that rewilding substantial areas of productive land will offshore the environmental impact of feeding ourselves – often to countries with less regulation and more acute environmental and social challenges. But last week, Geetie and I were hosted by conservationists, Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell, on our second visit to Knepp – their 3,500-acre, heavy clay, Sussex estate that has been largely rewilded over the last 20 years. Wonderful as it was to see storks and beavers thriving, and to eat in the fabulous restaurant (which we are flatteringly told was inspired by their son Ned's stint at Geetie's Bull Inn in Totnes) the most interesting aspect was witnessing Charlie, an estate-owning aristocrat and former conventional farmer, show so much humility at the feet of his teacher: Nature. Why was one field still mostly grass and ragwort, another largely brambles, one completely canopied in willow, and another a mixture of all?

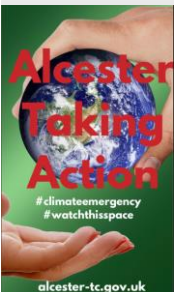
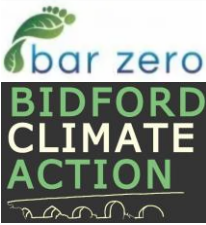
Perhaps the weather conditions, quantity of acorns shed, or the number of rabbits scratching the surface played their parts, but with engaging humility, Charlie was happy to concede that he really didn't know – there is no predetermined goal and he's happy to let each former field find its own way towards an ecological climax that will not be reached until long after we are both underground. Listening led me to re-evaluate my calling and question the urge to control and impose tidiness. Perhaps the lesson to us all is one of accepting an outcome dictated by ecology rather than the owner's master plan. So deep and profound has been the journey for Charlie and Isabella that the once-manicured but ecologically barren croquet lawn next to the castle has now gone the same way.

Learn more at [Knepp - Rewilding Pioneers](#), Photograph c/o Knepp.

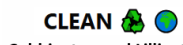
[News from the farm: Rewilding the croquet lawn - Wicked Leeks.](#)

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

Want to get involved? – The groups / organisations associated with the LCWN

Group Organisation Name	/ Logo	Links
Achieving Results Communities (ARC)		HomePage - ARC CIC News - ARC CIC
Act on Energy		Act On Energy Award-Winning Energy Advice Charity Events Act on Energy
Action 21		Climate Emergency — Action 21 Join Us — Action 21
Alcester Town Council		ATC-Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-Plan-v4.pdf Climate and Nature Alcester Town Council
Avon Dassett PC		Climate-Initiative-Business-Case.pdf
Bar Zero		Bar Zero - helping Barford save the planet Facebook Bar Zero Barford - Download - Warwick District Council. Bidford Climate Change Action Group Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council Facebook
Bidford Climate Action		
Binley Woods PC		Binley Woods Parish Council



Group / Organisation Name	Logo	Links
Bishops Itchington PC Bishops Tachbrook Resident's Action on Climate Change (TRACC) Boddington Parish Council, Sustainability Group	 Bishop's Itchington Parish Council	Climate Change Action - Bishops Itchington Parish Council Tackling Climate Change in Bishops Tachbrook - Bishop's Tachbrook TRACC - A year on - Bishop's Tachbrook Sustainability bugle-Oct21-issue21-fina1l.pdf Thermal Imaging Camera
Ilmington 20:20 Claverdon Harnessing Alternative and Renewable Green Energy (CHARGE)	 ILMINGTON 20:20  CLAVERDON PARISH COUNCIL	Ilmington Ilmington2020Vision Draft-Biodiversity-Action-Plan-27-Feb-2025.pdf About Ilmington2020Vision CHARGE CIC – Claverdon Parish Council A path to a greener Claverdon – No. 2 February 2025 – Claverdon Parish Council CHARGE CIC Renewable Energy Meeting 1st April 2025 – Claverdon Parish Council
Clean Air Warwickshire	 CLEAN AIR WARWICKSHIRE	https://etiennedevaux.github.io/CleanAirWarwickshire/ Clean Air Warwickshire
Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now	 CLEAN Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now	Royal Leamington Spa Town Council – Awards Climate Change Grants to Local Projects Royal Leamington Spa Town Council Lillington Connect Facebook Fundraiser by Matt Black : Support CLEAN Energise - Leamington Facebook
Energise Leamington	 Energise - Leamington @EnergiseLearn	
Grapevine Environmental Action Team	 GRAPEVINE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM G.R.E.A.T	Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT) - Download - Warwick District Council.
Green Schools Project	 GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT	Home page - Green Schools Project

Group / Organisation Name	Logo	Links
Greening Mickleton Wolverton Parish Council		Greening Mickleton welcometomickleton.uk
Harbury Future Energy Hatton Extinction Rebellion		Harbury Future Energy – Harbury Energy Initiative Harbury Future Energy www.harburyenergy.co.uk
Henley Climate Action		Agenda item - Public Speaking – Warwickshire County Council CLIMATE CHANGE & THE LOCAL COMMUNITY – Henley in Arden Parish Council REPORT CLLR TURNER MEETING 04.03.2024
Kenilworth All Together Greener		Facebook Kenilworth All Together Greener – The Kenilworth Centre
Kenilworth Town Council		Climate Action Score Card Ranking - Kenilworth Town Council Kenilworth Town Council Climate Emergency
Let's Go Zero		UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero Saving energy in schools - Lets Go Zero Warwickshire Schools leading the way on climate action - Warwickshire County Council
Let's Make Stuff Happen Mancetter Parish Council		(10) Let's Make Stuff Happen: Overview LinkedIn
Napton Environmental Action Team		MANCETTER PARISH Napton Environmental Action Team – Sustainable Warwickshire Napton-Climate-and-Environment-Survey-Data-Report-19th-October-2023.pdf
Pillerton Hersey PC		Pillerton Hersey Parish - Home
Friends of Radford's Green Environment		FoRGE - Friends of Radford's Green Environment - South Warwickshire Climate Champions - Warwick District Council. Friends of Radford's Green Environment - FoRGE - Our Warwickshire

Group / Organisation Name	Logo	Links
Rugby Eco Hub		Home Rugby Eco Hub Rugby and Stratford Climate Eco hubs featured in Sustainable Warwickshire podcast - Warwickshire County Council Transition Town Rugby
Rugby Transition Town		
Savers charity		Facebook Local pupils help ensure many hands make colourful work for new Rotary exhibition on Climate Change Chalmers News PR Many hands make colourful work in Warwickshire - The Stratford Observer
Shipston Bloom Shrewley Wroxall Environment Action Team	 	Flower Power - Shipston Town Council SWEAT – Shrewley Parish Council , Shrewley and Wroxall Environment Action Team (including Beausale, Haseley and Honiley)
Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change		Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change Community Group
Stourvale Action For the Environment		Stourvale Action for the Environment New look for SAFE - Shipston Town Council
Stratford Climate Action		Stratford Climate Action – Local responses to the climate crisis in Stratford-upon-Avon and South Warwickshire
Stratford Friends of the Earth		Friends of the Earth Home
Stratford Methodist Church Eco Congregation		Eco-Church – STRATFORD UPON AVON WITH HENLEY METHODIST CHURCH First Methodist Church receives Gold Eco Church Award - The Methodist Church
Stretton on Fosse Parish Council		Stretton Sustainability Stretton-on-Fosse Stretton Biodiversity Group Facebook Biodiversity Group Stretton-on-Fosse

Group / Organisation Name	Logo	Links
Sustainability Initiative		
Sustainable Brailes		Sustainable Brailes – Brailes Village
Sustainable Wellesbourne		Facebook Climate Emergency Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council
Warwickshire Climate Alliance		Warwickshire Climate Alliance

LCWN Steering Group member, Ian Wood, has mapped the locations of all the Warwickshire climate and environment community action groups in the Network.

[LCWN Map - Google My Maps](#) (right click, open hyperlink).

If there are still gaps or errors in your entry, or if you have a question, please let Ian know.

email: lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

Useful Links

- Heart of England Community Energy [Solar Soft Loans | Heart of England CE \(hecommunityenergy.org\)](#) HECE's Solar Soft Loans are a subsidised investment model. They are only available to schools and community organisations.
- Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils LTD (WALC) [Climate and Nature - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [Key Environmental Dates: 2025 Calendar - WALC - Town and Parish Council Support](#)
- [South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife \(SWAN\)](#)

LCWN Facebook group

[Low Carbon Warwickshire Network | Facebook](#)

Set up by Emma Powell for everyone to share useful things. Please like and follow it. Please send any comments to lowcarbonwarks@gmail.com

(2) [Low Carbon Warwickshire Network | Facebook](#)

<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.

