



Latest News from South Shropshire Climate Action

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to our November newsletter.

The bigger picture

COP28: 30th November - 12th December



Image source: [COP28 United Arab Emirates - Climate Justice Alliance](#)

The most controversial COP yet, COP28, the annual UN Climate Conference will be held at the end of this month in the United Arab Emirates.

Government representatives, businesses, scientists, charities, faith groups and others will gather to assess the ongoing climate emergency and attempt to reach further consensus on the critical need to take meaningful action.

This year's event is being held in a major fossil fuel producing nation presided over by COP President, Dr. Al Jaber, a CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. The extent to which this will undermine the action needed remains to be seen.

4th December - Carbon Literacy Action Day

This action day is taking place globally to coincide with COP28. The Carbon Literacy Project course runs from 9am – 5:30pm with a 45 minute break for lunch and costs £10 for carbon literacy certification. Book a place using this [link](#).

STOP PRESS - The North West Relief Road



On the 31st October the decision was taken by [Shropshire Council](#) to approve Shrewsbury's North West Relief Road. There will be further comment on this in the next newsletter.

News from our network

Biodiversity Net Gain conference, Harper Adam's University

On the 28th September we attended an event hosted at the Agri-Epi centre which saw the official launch of the Marches Land Use Study and a new £100k Low Carbon Innovative Land Use Fund, established by the Marches LEP. The LEP co-hosted the day with the Marches Nature Partnership, the Forestry Commission and other key stakeholders to present the results of the study, carried out by TACP (UK) Ltd. The study identifies the potential for green investment in the Marches, particularly focusing on energy production, woodland creation and environmentally friendly land uses. It acts as a guide to help landowners look at alternative ways of managing their land, helping to promote sustainable energy production and biodiversity. New measures, such as the as biodiversity net gain legislation, likely to come into law next year, mean that new developments must ensure at least a 10% gain in biodiversity, if that is not possible where the development is taking place it may result in inward investment in places like the Marches where biodiversity net gain is achievable. The Low Carbon Innovative Land Use Fund is available to develop and deliver projects reflecting some of the opportunities within the land use report. Further information is available [here](#).



Celebrating the launch of our walk through Ludlow's green spaces leaflet

by Trice Astill, Shropshire Wildlife Trust Ludlow Branch

On the 4th October representatives from local Ludlow organisations, including Ludlow Library, Hands Together Ludlow, and Friends of Whitcliffe Common, joined us for an evening stroll around the town's green spaces using the recently republished walk leaflet produced by Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Ludlow branch and SSCA and designed by local artist Sarah Jameson.

We wound our way around the castle walls, through the gardens, past the sycamore tree, leaves still green, onto the high paths overlooking the Teme and down to the Millenium Green. Over the Dinham Bridge and along the Bread Walk by the river, past the rock layers, waterfall, weirs and salmon run. We walked up the steps to Whitcliffe, following the path to Ludford and over the bridge to Lower Broad Street then up past the Butter Cross to St Laurence's Church and the Jubilee Garden. There our walk ended as dusk fell.

If you know Ludlow you might consider why this short walk took us nearly 2 hours? That is the purpose of the walk: we took time – time to “stand and stare” and really look for wildlife and to listen to birdsong and to sounds of the river, time to breathe and relax, time to talk, to get to know each other and to swap information and knowledge. We saw mistletoe above the insect hides on the tree by the castle, goosanders diving on the Teme by Dinham Bridge among the mallards, dippers on the rocks by Ludford bridge and a farewell flypast of swans at sunset over the Readers House. We heard blackbirds alarm calling, the chatter of jackdaws and winter song of robins. We admired the linear garden in pots along Lower Broad Street and the flower colours glowing in the lowering light and finally enjoyed the peace of the Jubilee Garden.

Members of the group noted how the walk is an opportunity to discover a different side to Ludlow “*Although I've lived here all my life and played here as a child, with the group I'm seeing it in a new way*”; and to take a step back from a busy life: “*It's been so relaxing after work. I wouldn't normally have done something like this but it's helped me destress*”; and engage and learn about the natural world: “*I love the soothing sound of the river, just being near water*”. It also offered us a more engaging way to get to know one another while walking outside,

rather than meeting around a table.

The three aims of producing the map and walk were for residents and visitors to discover, observe and enjoy the wildlife in Ludlow town, improve people's mental and physical wellbeing by connecting to Nature and offer a sustainable tourism option for visitors.

If you or your organisation are interested in the Walk Through Ludlow's Green Spaces leaflet you can download your own copy as well as an A3 poster of the walk from SSCA's new website [here](#). Alternatively Ludlow residents can obtain a paper copy free of charge from the Hands Together Ludlow office and visitors can access them from Ludlow Visitor Information Centre (for a small cost).

SSCA at Ludlow Library as part of Green Libraries Week



SSCA volunteer Robin Grimmatt managed our stand at Ludlow library on the 6th October. We showcased information from groups across Shropshire on how people can take action to reduce their carbon emissions and support Nature including:

- our Retrofit Toolkit produced in partnership with Stretton Climate Care
- our Walk Through Ludlow's Green Spaces leaflet produced with Shropshire Wildlife Trust Ludlow branch
- Zero Carbon Shropshire's leaflets providing tips on the climate action people can take
- Save Our Shropshire's carbon literacy workshops
- Marches Energy Agency leaflets on energy efficient homes
- and Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project on how to turn roadside verges into wildlife friendly meadows.

We will have a permanent display of leaflets at Ludlow Library and hope to develop similar links with other libraries across the county so that people can gain access to useful information on how they can take climate action.

Opportunities to make a difference

- **Are you interested in volunteering for South Shropshire Climate Action?**

We need volunteers to help at events, staff the retrofit exhibition, talk to the public about the work that is going on across the network, forge links with other organisations, get involved with writing content for our new website and our newsletters. Please contact us by email to find out more at SSCA@mea.org.uk

- **Add your views to this Government [consultation](#) on banning wet wipes containing plastic** across the UK under plans to tackle plastic pollution and clean up waterways. You have until the 25th November to submit your views.

Relaxing interlude



If you missed our newsflash last month, it's time to sit down with a cup of tea and take a look at our new [South Shropshire Climate Action website](#) to see what actions we can take as individuals, communities, schools, town and parish councils and businesses to support south Shropshire to reach net zero by 2030.

The website covers how we can protect Nature, reduce our carbon emissions and improve our health and wellbeing in the process across the topics of energy and housing, land use (including food), transport and repair-reuse-recycle initiatives. We highlight the invaluable work that local organisations are already doing in Shropshire to help tackle the climate and Nature crises and how you can get involved.

The website is a work in progress that will continue to develop over time as gaps continue to be filled. We welcome any comments that you may have. If your organisation is doing something that is linked to this work then please contact us so we can share that information. Email Nick and Fiona at SSCA@mea.org.uk

This month's spotlight is on Climate Cafés in Shropshire



A Shropshire climate campaigner has joined forces with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust to launch a series of 'Climate Cafés' in Shropshire where people can come together to share their concerns and support one another in light of the climate crisis.

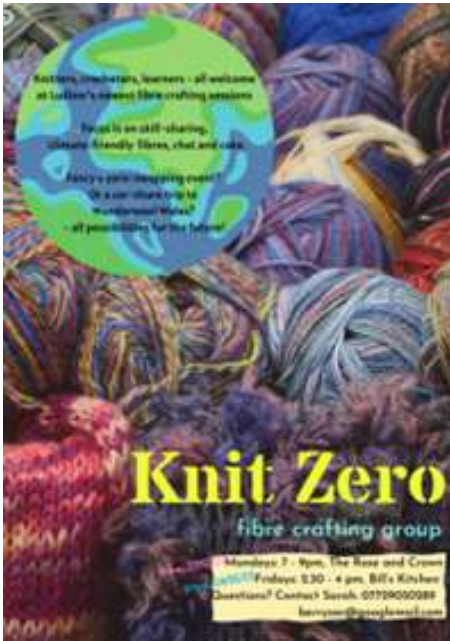
After months of planning, the first couple of Climate Cafés have already been held at various venues in Shrewsbury and Ironbridge. Co-organiser Ellie Meredith says the team are overjoyed to finally make this happen and are hoping to make it a monthly event. *"In today's world, where eco-anxiety and climate grief cast a shadow on our collective consciousness, it is crucial that we come together to address these emotions. The extreme heatwaves we experienced globally in July have only reinforced feelings of powerlessness and doomism. However, united, we can be stronger and more effective in making a difference."*

Climate cafés span 46 countries, and includes Force of Nature, a global community of young environmental enthusiasts who have created an environment where young people can address their climate anxiety. Through the initiative, the team hopes to provide a safe and inclusive space for discussion, offer signposting to other organisations, as well as interactive workshops and brainstorming sessions. Ellie hopes that *"... together, we will kick-start community projects, taking practical steps to tackle environmental challenges at the local level."*

To follow the work that Ellie and the wider network are doing you can follow her on: [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

A feature of our [new website includes a section on eco anxiety](#) and what you can do about it. It includes further information about climate cafes as a key way to understand and address climate concerns and some helpful reading and videos.

Future events



The Knit Zero group is a café/pub get-together in Ludlow for knitters, crocheters and learners, with a focus on using climate-friendly fibres, and on sharing practical skills for climate resilience, as well as patterns, ideas, cake, etc. There are two sessions a week:

- Mondays 7-9 pm at The Rose and Crown, Ludlow;
- and Fridays 2.30-4 pm at Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow.

Please contact Sarah if you'd like to come along by email: berrysar@googlemail.com



Save Our Shropshire (SOS) offers free places on climate course this November

Come to this online course if you want to know the facts about climate change and take the right action for you. Go back to your friends, family, and colleagues and help them to know the right things to do. SOS will also make clear how you can save significant amounts of money in this time of a cost-of-living crisis – particularly on your energy bills.

The course will be held via Zoom on November 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 6.30 pm to 9 pm. This course is designed for householders. It has been approved by the Carbon Literacy Project.

The course will give you reasons why we should take urgent action, advise you on how to measure your “footprint” and go through the specific actions you should take. We will also help you engage with your community and establish some fantastic projects.

You could also get a Carbon Literacy Project certificate. CLP will review your answers to their assessment, and let you know if you have been awarded the certificate. You will need to pay £10.00 if you want to apply for certification.

The workshops can be booked using this [link](#). Scroll to the end of the page to find the booking link.es and help them to know the right things to do.

PAGE'S MEADOW TALKS AND FILMS



JOE PIMBLETT CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Find out how the Trust is working towards a healthy, resilient River Severn for everyone!

Joe will talk about river restoration, community work on the river and farming with the environment advice and grants.

**7.30pm Thursday 9th
November 2023**

CLEE ST MARGARET VILLAGE HALL

ALL welcome donation suggested £3.00. Includes tea coffee local apple juice and biscuits.

10th - 12th November:

CAT at 50: Annual Members Conference

Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth.

This year, our members' conference will look back at five decades of environmental innovation and education at CAT, and forward to the next chapter as we work together on solutions to the climate and nature emergency.

Book your tickets via this [link](#).



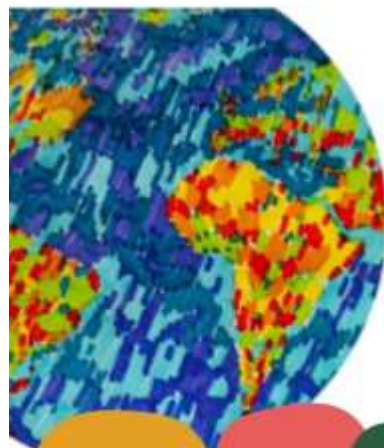


CLIMATE FRESK

All the cards are in your hands!

Sign up to a Climate Fresk Workshop: 15th November

Want to help tackle climate change but don't have the time to become a climate scientist? In just 3 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresk workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Sign up via [Eventbrite](#) to a Climate Fresk Workshop being organised by Zero Carbon Shropshire at venues in Shrewsbury.



Stretton Climate Care

invite you to join us on

Wednesday

15th November 7:30pm

at the

Methodist Church Stretton SY6 7BG



We are delighted to be hosting some young people who will share their thoughts and ideas about the climate and biodiversity crises.

There will be a short AGM at 7pm before the panel discussion at 7:30pm when you are free to ask questions and join in with discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend-young or old!

<https://strettonclimatecare.org.uk>





The importance of Town and Parish Councils to help deliver Nature Recovery across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

Fitz Village Hall 9.45am to 4pm, Friday November 17th

Programme

- 9.15am** **Arrival:** Tea/Coffee/breakfast croissants available from 9.15am
- 9.45am** **Dr Richard Keymer, Middle Marches Community Land Trust**
Welcome, introductions and outline of the day
- 9.50am** **Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport:** Nature Recovery across Shropshire
- 10.00am** **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Vice chair National Association of Local Councils (NALC)**
The role of Town and Parish Councils in Nature Recovery
- 10.30am** **Andrew Maliphant, Environmental and Sustainability Advisor Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and advisor to NALC:** Place based initiative's
- 10.45am** **Allan Wilson, Vice chair Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and climate change portfolio holder:** How Parish Councils can support local groups
- 11.15am** **Suzanne Wykes, Specialist Practitioner Ecology at Shropshire Council**
Local nature recovery strategy: how you can be involved
- 12.15pm** **Lunch and networking**
- 1.15pm** **Mandy Thorn, High Sheriff of Shropshire**
The Power of bringing together Town and Parish Councils and citizens for Nature Recovery
- 1.30pm** **Simon Cooter, Natural England Senior Reserve Manager, Stiperstones and Downton Gorge NNRs:** Species action plans for the Stepping Stones project
- 2.00pm** **Pete Carty, Bishop's Castle Parish Initiative:** Go Wild in Bishop's Castle
- 2.30pm** **Tea & Coffee break**
- 3.00pm** **Lauren Quinn, Senior River Ranger, Severn Trent**
Protecting rivers across the Severn Trent region and helping them to thrive.
- 3.30pm** **Richard Grindle, CEO Shropshire Wildlife Trust:** Nature Recovery across Shropshire
- 4.00pm** **Dr Richard Keymer:** Closing remarks

Register for the event by email: conferences@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

Find out more information via the [website](#)



Event: SGFP AGM & Shared Meal



A short AGM followed by a sharing of plans for 2024 and a celebration of the Good Food Movement.

Friday 17th November at 7pm.

**Bradbury Hall at The Trinity Centre, Church Rd,
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9HF**

Register on Eventbrite

#goodfoodmovement

Join Shropshire Good Food Partnership for their AGM & shared meal to celebrate their achievements this year.

Please register for this free event through [Eventbrite](#).

United for Warm Homes Day of Action: 18th November

Join community groups and local partners taking part in a nationwide Day of Action, calling for lower energy bills and warm homes for all. We'll be putting pressure on our politicians to act, by showing that our communities are united for warm homes. Take part in 3 simple steps:

1. Get involved
2. Organise your event
3. Engage your politician

Find out more [here](#).

National Tree Week, 25th November- 3rd December



National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration. The 9-day run of festivities encourage communities to get together, plant trees, and to value the importance of trees to the wellbeing of our ecosystem.

You can find more information and ways you can get involved by heading to the [Tree Council website](#).

Of interest

Listen



The [latest series](#) of Drilled, a podcast about the climate crisis, points out the real threat to free speech: the clampdown on environmental protests. US host Amy Westervelt works with journalists from Nigeria, Australia and India to share examples of climate action and how it is being oppressed.

Read

Spinning Out: Climate Change, Mental Health and Fighting for a Better Future
by Charlie Hertzog Young.

Published by [Footnote Press](#)

'Utterly brilliant - engaging, thrilling, disturbing, revelatory, explosive' George Monbiot.

"An urgent, eye-opening study by leading climate change activist, researcher and writer that draws on the latest research and evidence to unravel systemic ways that climate change is driving people mad - and show how we can find inspiration in that madness".

Future Editions of Spotlight On...

We hope that this newsletter will be used to share information about events and opportunities, but also enable a deeper look at issues relating to South Shropshire moving towards a zero carbon future. Different themes will be explored in different editions of the newsletter, and you may want to suggest a topic or contribute expertise of your own. Please send requests and ideas for future issues to SSCA@mea.org.uk

Best wishes,

Nick and Fiona

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