



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER FUTURE

REGISTERED CHARITY 1198273

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2023

Hello! Here's our latest newsletter. We hope it's of interest. If you've ideas for future issues, let us know at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com

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AN (ALMOST) COMPLETEY SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE!



We're putting the finishing touches to our evaluation of the Home Energy MOT project our Energy group undertook, with partners Marches Energy Agency, over the autumn/winter 2022-23. And it's clear it has, in its own terms, been a clear success. Under the project:

- * over 100 village households got free advice and low level installations/aides to promote their energy efficiency;
- * the MOT visits, overwhelmingly undertaken by our own Graham Hirst, were warmly received;
- * feedback was universally positive, with many citing how the visits improved household warmth and energy use;
- * a significant proportion of households have since taken further steps of their own to ensure greater efficiency;
- * aides issued and installed will save around three quarters of a tonne of carbon emissions annually, and;
- * with further steps households are taking, we estimate in excess of one tonne of emissions will be being saved annually as a result of this project and associated changes households are making.

That all goes some way to achieving the estimated requirement that UK homes need to cut emissions by 3.4% annually if we are to get anywhere near achieving 'net zero' by 2050. Thank you, one and all!

The report will also identify the real need for altered approaches from public agencies to make 'cold homes' (predominantly stone-walled, with no meaningful cavity) fit for a net zero world. This means more flexible provision, and more help, with substantial deep retrofit options (e.g. external and internal wall insulation, air source heat pumps) to be available to households in more economical ways.

We'll soon send our report to local green activists and opinion leaders, suggesting the project's relevance elsewhere. And we'll make it available to you too. But if you want to be sure of getting your own copy, contact Richard Noakes, Chair of our Energy Group at shayfieldenergygroup@gmail.com.

Why an 'almost' completely successful initiative? Because if we'd had more time and more resources, we could have done even more! But we're proud of what we achieved, in what may be the UK's first project of its kind.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR – Cath Moss reflects, and updates

First off, given the time of year that it is, here's a couple of pics of a wildflower area planted at the primary school, to gladden all hearts....



Second, many thanks to everyone who took part in the home energy MOT project over the last 6 months (see front page), and to the energy group team who worked hard and skilfully to make it happen. This was a hugely successful project, which should have helped the cost of energy come down for many households, and resulted in an appreciable dent in our collective CO2 footprint at the same time. We'll be considering what next to do.....

The Buses and Bikes group have also been active, particularly having fun taking the 257 Sunday service to Fairholmes and Castleton (both on one day). The trips, whilst displaying some of the uncertainty of bus travel at the moment, even so opened up conversations about how many lovely places/walks there are just a bus journey away. So, we thought we would try a few more out this summer. Current trips planned are:

23rd July – Trip to Fairholmes on the 257 due to popular demand!

6th August – Trip to Marple on the 358, followed by canal walk back to New Mills and the 358 bus back....

27th August – Trip to Castleton on the 257, where we'll pick up the open top Breezer bus to Baslow / Chatsworth.

So put the dates in your diary! Or if you can't make the date but fancy the trip, just go and do it anyway at your own convenience. Bus company & timetable details are here, to help...

<https://www.hulleys-of-baslow.co.uk/>

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/greater-manchester/358/hayfield-stockport/>

We can promise you it is lots of fun!

We were also delighted to see the borough, and our own Parish, council support No Mow May – leading to an abundance of wildflowers, greenery, and insect populations along our roadsides. Let's applaud them for doing so.

Finally, with news of a hottest-ever June, it feels appropriate to stir up the activism within us.

So why not sign up to one of Greenpeace's petitions, at <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/take-action/> or join us in writing to our MP/local newspapers to prompt government to accelerate its plans to reduce methane emissions. We can provide a template letter if you wish (contact our energy group at shayfielenergygroup@gmail.com). As you may know, cutting methane emissions is the quickest, cheapest and easiest way to make a significant cut in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and thereby stave off the climate change's worst impacts. Even so, the UK government is refusing to ban the routine flaring and venting of methane from North Sea gas and oil drilling wells – despite the cost of this being outweighed by the value of the gas saved if retained for normal commercial use. Check out this article for the facts: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/apr/12/uk-off-track-on-pledge-to-cut-methane-emissions-study-30-per-cent-2030?>

Wishing you all a sustainable summer, starting of course with Plastic Free July!

Bats

We've become familiar with the techniques of identification of bats using our ultrasound detector and have so far surveyed three areas around the village, with two more planned. We want to do more, in order to build up an accurate picture of bat populations around Hayfield, so if you have bats around your property or are simply curious to find out, we'd love to hear from you. Our detector is simple to use and comes with guidance, so if anyone would like to borrow it for a few days then please get in touch.



Moths

Similar to the bats, we want to know more about our local moth population and will be deploying our moth trap at various locations around the area over the next couple of months.

Wildflowers

We are monitoring the existing wildflowers on the bus station roundabout over summer (they have been giving a good display) and will enhance it with additional seeding in the autumn. We'd also like to establish further wildflower areas around the village and we are in discussions with another area which have done this very successfully using volunteers. Watch this space!

Hayfield Community Tree Nursery

Our tree nursery is now set up at an initial three locations around the village, producing young trees for eventual planting out as part of a national effort to significantly increase tree cover in the UK. If you've any seedlings from seeds that you collected from us at Apple day last year, or you've grown your own from seed and are wondering what to do with them, you can now bring them to us to grow on in the nursery. There is a collection point outside the library entrance – just let us know when and where the seed came from (if you know) and where it's been growing. Thanks!



Volunteers

We're planning on carrying out several additional tasks in the coming months – removal of invasive species (Himalayan Balsam), pond restoration, collection of tree seeds and tree planting – for which we'll need volunteers. We'll put out more details separately.

As ever, we'd like more members to join the group. If interested, please email Sustainable Hayfield in the usual way, at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com. It needn't take a lot of your time, just what you can afford. Thanks!

SO, HOW, OVERALL, ARE WE DOING?

There's far too much lazy rhetoric in the UK about being 'world leaders'. Being realistic, a medium-sized economy in relative decline is only ever likely to be 'world-beating' in one or two large areas, and a few specialist fields.

But, regarding climate change, we have had claims in this field, notably via passage of the legally-binding Climate Change Act, and in our development of off shore wind resources. We've also closed our coal mines a lot faster than many. There's huge amounts left to do, but some good starts were made.

Now, in its latest, 400 plus page report, the government's independent The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has released a damning update warning that the UK has "lost" its global leadership position on climate change. The CCC found government efforts to scale up climate action as "worryingly slow", saying it was "markedly" less confident that the UK can reach its targets for cutting carbon emissions than it was a year ago.

Targets: Last year, the CCC said there were "credible" policies in place to make 40% of the emissions cuts needed over the next decade. Now, just 20% of those cuts are covered. Instead, it estimates that existing "credible" climate policies will see emissions flatline – and says only nine out of 50 key indicators are currently "on track". For those who are interested, see [Carbon Brief's](#) in-depth coverage of the report for more details.

Expansion: In recent weeks, the government has dismissed calls to end new North Sea oil-and-gas licences. Yet the CCC report states explicitly that "expansion of fossil fuel production is not in line with net-zero". And, surprise, surprise, seeing the government's inaction, large fossil fuel companies like Shell are committing to expanded fossil fuel extraction, and some reversal of previous commitments to develop renewables. They read the runes. Meanwhile, the CCC warned that "the UK could no longer expand any of its airports without closures or shrinking of capacity elsewhere" but there seems no government acceptance of this. And the CCC's Chair, a Conservative, has described the sanctioning of a new coal mine in Cumbria as 'madness'.

This is why we need to keep campaigning, as Cath Moss has suggested (page 2). And doing our bit, in our own ways. Our government is playing too slow and too loose with all our futures

TWO DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A little way ahead, but no harm registering these now:

- **Thursday 21st September, 7.30p.m., Sustainable Hayfield AGM**, at St John's Church. Everyone welcome but only members can vote. If you haven't yet signed up as a member – it's all free and without obligations – email us at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com and we'll sort that out. The (brief) AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk from Richard Lowe on his experience of researching, having installed and operating his air source heat pump, to maximise household comfort and efficiency: given gas boilers are destined for phase-out, this should be very interesting;
- **Saturday 7th October, 1.00-4.30p.m., Apple Day** at the primary school. Its attractions are well-known and much appreciated. If you've ideas for a 'sustainable stall', or are able to help on the day with the event, contact us at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!



NEW PARISH COUNCIL – NEW IMPETUS?

Regular readers will recall that we seek to work actively and collaboratively with the Parish Council to strengthen its 'green agenda'. Recently, we've helped produce a 'sustainable procurement framework', which the Council adopted, to help guide its commissioning and contracting activity.

As you probably know, a new Parish Council contains some new members, two of whom have joined us on the Council's Climate Emergency Working Group (Sustainable Hayfield is represented by Laurie James, Pennie Roberts and Paul Finn). That Group is now looking at how best to reinforce expectations around green practices from those seeking to use council land/premises for events. We hope to report progress in a later issue of this newsletter.

FOOD GROUP – JO HANNEY UPDATES US ON THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES, AND 'ALL THINGS FOOD'

Library Garden

Thanks very much to all who took part in the plant swap through the spring and enjoyed sharing plants with each other. We hope that you managed to ensure that you now have a variety of veg and flowers, rather than a big glut of anything ☺. We will aim to do the same again next year.

The strawberries, raspberries and currants are just starting to ripen in the library garden. Please remember that this community garden is for all to enjoy. So, over the coming summer months, why not pop over to the library garden to see whether there is any harvest for you to enjoy/take away?

There's also a good collection of herbs in the herb bed, if you want to use some in your cooking or to make some herbal tea. There's also a large clump of comfrey, so please feel free to come and take some of that to make comfrey liquid fertiliser. For instructions on how to do this, visit <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-make-a-comfrey-feed/>.

If you'd like to help with looking after the library garden, we are a friendly group of volunteers, who always welcome an extra pair of hands. Contact us via sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com



Wildlife friendly gardening

Making space for nature is crucial as we face an increasing decline in biodiversity. It is possible to make some changes to the way you garden to ensure that we are working with nature. There's lots of advice online and here's some suggested links: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/>. The RSPB has lots of ideas and some inspirational stories about what others are doing.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening> Together, our gardens are a vast living landscape. With an estimated 24 million gardens in the UK, the way they are cared for can make a big difference to the natural world – the Wildlife Trusts provide lots of practical ideas on this webpage.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/5-tips-turning-your-garden-wildlife-haven> - five key concepts for rewilding your garden from the WWF

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife> RHS ideas for gardening in a way that is sympathetic to nature, which is good for wildlife and good for us too. Plus a short video <https://www.rhs.org.uk/videos/advice/Gardening-for-wildlife>

Agricultural Shows and Farmers Markets

Now that summer's upon us, why not visit one of the many agricultural shows in the area during these months:

<https://www.hopeshow.co.uk>

<https://www.bakewellahs.co.uk/bakewell-country-festival>

<https://www.manifoldvalleyshow.co.uk>

<https://www.ashbourneshow.co.uk>

<https://leekshow.org.uk>

<https://www.chatsworth.org/events/chatsworth-country-fair/>

Or why not visit some of the local farmers markets in the Derbyshire? More information is available at:

<https://www.peakdistrictonline.co.uk/farmers-markets/>

STOP PRESS, STOP PRESS, STOP PRESS.....

Our Biodiversity Group is holding two sessions designed to control Himalayan Balsam along our local watercourses. As you probably know, removing such balsam is easy: you just need gloves and, maybe, wellies if you intend getting into the water. The sessions are 10 until 12 this Saturday, July 8th and also on Saturday July 15th. Having held one session at the bottom of Swallow House Lane, these sessions will be a little 'upriver' of those. If you can be involved, contact us at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com. Thanks a lot!

SUSTAINABLE HAYFIELD COMMITTEE

Here's our 'guiding lights'. Do contact us on anything that 'moves' you!

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THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS.....

Thanks for supporting Sustainable Hayfield, and for reading this newsletter. We hope you've found it of interest. We'll update you on events as they arise. If you've got items you want to share via the newsletter, contact Laurie James at sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com – we'd love to hear from you! And you can find us on Facebook.



If you don't get our newsletters direct, let Laurie James (details above) know, and you'll be put on the 'mailing list'. If you no longer wish to get our newsletters, tell us and we'll remove your name from the mailing list.