



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update March 2021

Hello

Following on from our successful meeting last month, when those present helped answer the questions raised, Simon has offered to tell us about the work he undertook renovating his 1955's dormer bungalow and the lessons he learnt along the way at our meeting this month next **Tuesday 16th March, starting at 7:30pm**. We'll also find out what some of the sub-groups have been up to including a few quiz questions from the food group.

Here is the link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82303154250?pwd=K1RQeDErVUpsNERCTIB6Ykh4MDFZz09>

or tel. 0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874 / 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 823 0315 4250

Passcode: 450578

Below is a quick update for this month as we've been busy tree planting! A fuller update next month, including the answers to the questions covered at the last meeting.

Nature

Tree planting

Thank you to all those who responded to the request to help plant trees. Here is the update that was shared via Stokesley Loop, we also had an article in the Darlington and Stockton Times and the video has been shared on Facebook.

"Caroline Kitching owns land at Howard Court in Great Ayton. She has been involved with CASaV and is enthusiastic to help with saving the planet. When she heard about Protect Earth, a charity aiming to plant trees across the U.K., she jumped at the chance to have trees planted on some of her land. Working with Caryn Loftus, co-ordinator of CASaV, Caroline arranged this weekend of tree planting with four three-hour sessions and about 16 volunteers in each session. The trustees of Protect Earth (Phil, Andy and Edd) organised obtaining all the trees, canes, guards and gave a demonstration of how to plant the trees. By the end of the first session, with great support from Protect Earth, the volunteers had planted about 480 trees.

Mike Newton has put together a video about the Saturday morning tree planting session. On the YouTube, Caryn Loftus thanks all the volunteers and explains the background to tree planting. She goes on to explain all the other areas that CASaV is involved in. She has since commented, "There have been a couple of queries about people travelling to help plant trees so it is worth mentioning that Protect Earth, the charity who supplied the trees and oversaw the planting, checked the Govt Covid guidelines and confirmed that travel for work and volunteering was allowable. The majority of volunteers were from the local area as for lots of reasons we need to limit our travel as much as possible. The few from further afield were the Protect Earth team and family who help manage the land.



A wide variety of native trees was chosen to be planted including a new woodland area of Common Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), and Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*). Also, a shelter belt including: Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Alder, Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Holly, Box (*Buxus sempervirens*), Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), even some Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*). A total of over 1,750 trees were planted over the course of the weekend.”

Thinking of nature related videos, Marjorie sent the following: “I found this [video](#) about wilding most interesting and maybe other members will be interested in the ways of running the Knepp Estate and the for questions and answers at the end of the talk.

Food

Try Growing Stall stall - 6th March

The seed stall proved popular again this year. Wendy said that, “*Most gone by 11.45, except for some of my unusual things! Thanks for contributions and support.*”



Zero carbon

Hambleton DC climate change policy, strategy and action plan

Hambleton's cabinet approved their climate change policy, strategy and action plan. We didn't get much notice it was about to happen but Ron and I attended the meeting online. Whilst not perfect it is a great start. Ron was able to speak in the meeting and say that we look forward to working with them. Here are [the papers](#). Hopefully they will send out a press release soon that we can share.

Meeting with Rishi Sunak

Also, without much notice, I have been given the opportunity to meet with Rishi, on Friday for 10 mins, as part of one of his surgeries. I have said I want to cover the following but will also be stressing the urgency to act now and at a faster pace:

Background to group

Regional and local plans:

- York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council (HDC)
- Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission
- Climate Action group activity

Need for leadership and vision from Government

- The budget
- COP26
- Joined up approach across all Government departments
- Green jobs
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission

The new commission will be launched next Wednesday, 17th March. “Find out how the Commission will provide an independent voice to help support the delivery of ambitious climate actions across the region. And most importantly, discover how the Commission plans to work and how you may be able contribute to the success of this new initiative.” You can book a [free place](#).

Spring is slowly starting but definitely coming.

Caryn Loftus, on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group