



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages update September 2022

Hello

August is usually a quieter month but there still seemed to be plenty going on which you can read about below. The report on our work, since starting in 2019, presented at the AGM, is now [online](#).

In place of our usual monthly meeting in September, we will have a guest speaker from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership **on Tuesday 20th September, starting at 7:30pm in Faceby Village Hall**. The Partnership are restoring peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors with the goal to restore and conserve upland peat resources in order to ensure the long-term future of these unique and valuable habitats. The talk will be followed by a short update on the work of the Climate Action group. We are pleased that from October our monthly meetings will be back in The Globe, Stokesley.

Energy

Local Area Energy Plan

Several of our group are due to meet with Energy Systems Catapult who are putting together a case study on the Stokesley area for the York & North Yorkshire Local Area Energy Plan. We asked to be able to input into the case study given our local knowledge.

Warm This Winter

Friends of the Earth alerted us to the new coalition that are running the [Warm This Winter](#) campaign urging the government to act to lower energy bills now and in the future. They are asking for emergency support now, help to upgrade homes, access to cheap renewable energy and to free us from expensive oil and gas. We will look at how we can support this campaign over the next few months.

Green Energy talk

Eileen spotted that the Durham Book Festival has an event [Green Energy in the North East](#) that might be of interest.

Food

Yatton House Community Garden

The initial work on the [Yatton House Community Garden](#) is nearly completed. There will be a working party on Tuesday 13th September starting at 2pm to dig out the weeds from the area that will become the hot beds. By next year we will be in a better position to make use of the tasty Discovery apples. If you are interested get [in touch](#).

The Food group is exploring with Stokesley Town Council the possibility of having a community garden in Stokesley.



Apple pressing

This autumn we are planning to lend out the apple pressing equipment to a few groups and individuals along with running a couple of events in the area in October. Keep an eye on our [website/Facebook page](#) for any public events.

Feeding Britain

Geoff asked us to promote the following online event.

“Professor Tim Lang, the UK’s leading expert on food policy, says we already faced a challenge unmatched since the war. And things just got worse...

The internationally renowned professor of food policy at London’s City University has been a consultant to the World Health Organization, special adviser to four House of Commons select committee inquiries and a food policy adviser to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. So when he says in his book, *Feeding Britain*, that, “*although not officially at war, the UK is, de facto, facing a wartime scale of food challenge*”, it’s worth paying attention. We are, he says, in serious trouble.



Join us for the York Diocese zoom “Feeding Britain” at 9:30 am on Saturday October 8th to hear what the Professor has to say about food security, food production, environment and climate change, food justice, food trade, healthy eating, and geopolitical issues.

Following Prof Tim’s Keynote speech, we’ll hear from Archbishop Stephen, have an opportunity for discussion and ask questions. The session will close with a meditation led by Mark Betson, National Rural Officer for the Church of England

Use the [link](#) to register and join us for an exciting morning!”

Nature

Great Ayton Floodplain Meadow

Wildflower Seed Sowing

Saturday 10th September

from 1pm – 4pm in the floodplain meadow

Help rake the meadow, sow seeds and see if a local metal detectorist finds anything interesting. Led by Martin Allen, an expert botanist. (If wet will take place the following Saturday)

Find out more: www.environmentaltrust.org.uk/great-ayton-floodplain-meadow

Project funded by Great Ayton Parish Council and the Margaret K. Mawson Environmental Trust

Great Ayton Floodplain Meadow

Following on from the successful seed collecting event in the floodplain meadow in Great Ayton, there will be a seed sowing event on Saturday 10th September.

Come to the floodplain meadow (next to the river, below the football pitches), between 1pm and 4pm to help rake and sow. There will also be a chance to see if a local metal detectorist finds anything interesting in the field. The session will be led by Martin Allen, an expert botanist.

If it is wet, then the session will be run the following Saturday 17th September.

[Find out more](#) about the project.

Transport

Thanks to Barry for organising The Route Ahead to Sustainable Transport event on July 30th and for the following report.

“This event was organised as part of the overall goal to increase awareness of the climate crisis, and specifically to highlight sustainable options in relation to transport.

The Moors Bus and the Hambleton Bus User group highlighted public transport options. Details were available in relation to the Esk Valley Railway and the service between Middlesbrough, Great Ayton, Battersby, Kildale and Whitby. The positive benefits of walking were highlighted together with details of a U3A group (Bus Walking Group) promoting access to walking routes via the use of public transport.

The use of bicycles for travel and transport featured the use of a bike for shopping. A fold up Brompton Bike helped to show how a combination of public transport and pedal power is an effective means of longer distance travel. Something of a centre piece of the presentation was a short film of the ‘Glasgow Bike Bus’ which featured how on one day a week, a group of primary school children, (supervised by parents), make their way to school by bike, negotiating a number of busy roads. The Bike Bus has the support of the city council.

An associated theme was that of the work that the Climate Action Group has been involved in with regards to the ‘20s Plenty’ campaign.

A range of electric bikes (on loan from Labman) were available if anyone wanted to try an electric bike.



George Carter ran a rolling presentation on the Red Car Project – George is part of a team involved in designing a car based on wood which would have minimal embodied carbon. A range of electric cars were also on show with their owners on hand to answer questions. They included a Peugeot 208, Nissan Leaf, Skoda Enyaq, Volkswagen ID3, Jaguar Pace and a Hybrid Kao. In addition, a hydrogen powered Toyota Mirai was also on show. This was a something of a prototype and highlighted the on-going feasibility work of the Teesside Net Zero project and the steps underway to produce a Hydrogen powered vehicle. Information from Stokesley Town Council was displayed about the EV charging points they are planning for the town.

There was a steady flow of people during the 3 hours from 10 am until 1 pm. At a rough estimate, possible 60 people attended.”

Waste

Bilsdale Show – Saturday 27th August

The Waste group put together a team to collect litter at Bilsdale Show and promote recycling and we also managed to engage with a large number of people directly on the climate. It was a pleasant surprise that there was not much litter to pick up. We received the following form the show organisers:

“Thank you so much for coming, we are all so pleased that the day went so well and you guys all played a part in that. There is no doubt that you made a difference as we had hardly any rubbish to pick up. It’s normally a longer job to check the field. Thank you. We would love to have you back again next year.”

Refill Scheme

Latest signups to the Refill Scheme include Great Ayton Parish Council as they have added a water bottle refill station, as part of refurbishing the public toilets in the village, and The Discovery Centre in Great Ayton. We will be promoting all the venues that have signed up during [Great Big Green Week](#) which runs from the 24th September to the 2nd October.

Stokesley and Villages Repair Cafes

Bring your household items in need of repair e.g. electrical appliances, mechanical equipment, furniture, clothing, crockery, laptops, smartphones, etc - to the Repair Cafe and extend the life of your items, learn repair skills, prevent landfill waste and help fight climate change! We are pleased that we have now got our first repair café arranged for The Globe in Stokesley as well as running another in Swainby.

Saturday 10th September, 10am-12pm - Swainby Village Hall

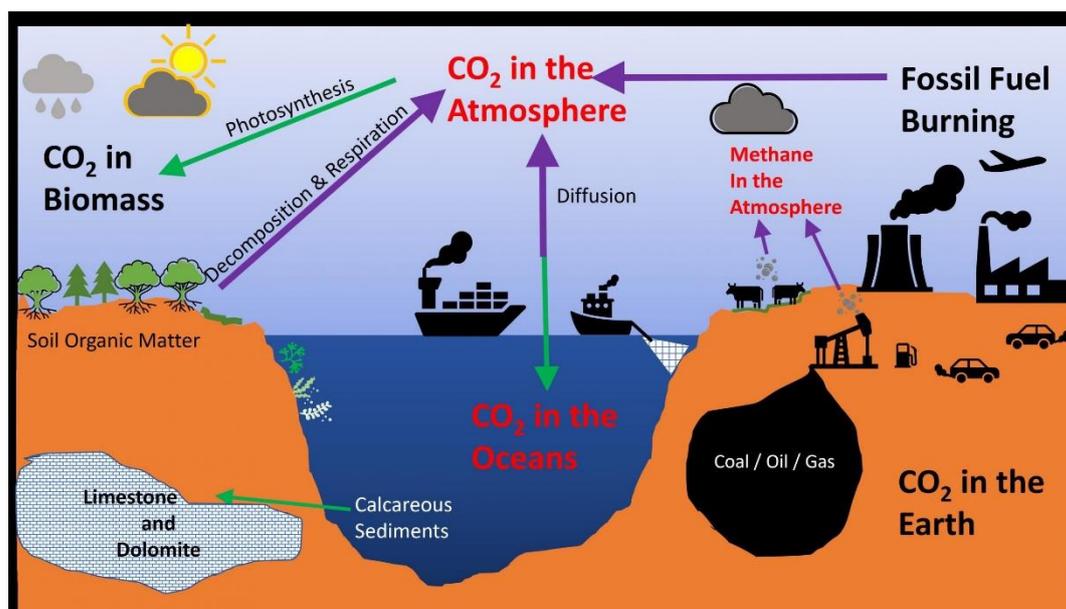
Saturday 24th September 10am-12pm - Stokesley Globe Community Library

Further details here on our [website](#).

Zero carbon planning

Working with North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council

Several members of the steering group met with Jos Holmes, Climate Change Policy Officer for North Yorkshire County Council, Tracey Flint Recycling and Climate Change Officer and Paul Staines Director of Environment for Hambleton District Council along with representatives of other environment groups in Hambleton to hear about the Councils' plans and to discuss how we can start working together more formally particularly around communication.



Darlington and Stockton Times Climate Column

[August's Climate Column](#) on net zero was the last in the series of six we initially agreed to write for the Darlington and Stockton Times. Thanks to Simon for creating the carbon cycle image above and writing the article with help from others in Climate Column team. We are pleased that the Editor, Hannah Chapman, would like us to continue with the column particularly given the developments that will be happening at a county level.

Hope to see you at one of the September events.

Caryn Loftus,

on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group Steering group:
Bridget Holmstrom, Caryn Loftus, Jack Turton, Ron Kirk and Simon Gibbon