

Happy Valentine's and welcome to February's Update

This month we bring you local and national climate action news, events and activities including how you can 'show the love' for the planet, save money on energy bills, how to get free seeds in good time for early sowing, where to get broken household items repaired, news about forth coming wildflower walks and more.

What's Going On – general news and events

Monthly meeting

This month's whole group CASAV meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st February** at **The Globe Community Library, North Road, Stokesley from 7:30 – 9:00pm**. Everyone is welcome to hear about group developments and coming events as well as to discuss current topics and how you can be involved. Our focus this month is the new North Yorkshire climate change strategy consultation which will be launched on Monday 13th February along with starting to think how we can have our own action plan with targets for the area.

Darlington & Stockton Times Monthly Climate Column

Each month CASaV produces a column for the D&S on a pertinent climate topic. If you missed January's you can see it here:

<https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/opinion/comment/23237423.actions-2023-help-fight-climate-change/>

Show the love this February

This month the Climate Coalition is encouraging us to contact our MP to champion action on the climate, nature and cost of living crises, and to urge the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to prioritise these issues in 2023 and beyond. Information about this campaign including a template email can be found here <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/>



Great Big Green Week – 10-18th June - save the date!

The Great Big Green Week is a yearly event across the country to celebrate community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. We welcome your thoughts and ideas of how CASAV could contribute towards this. More information here: <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Updates from the groups

Energy

The Money Saving Boiler Challenge is a campaign from the charity Nesta to help people save cash by changing a single setting on their combi boiler.



Since launching the campaign in October over 180,000 people have used Nesta's free online tool to turn down their boiler flow temperature, saving around £20m on energy bills and 31,000 tonnes of carbon emissions. The campaign is featured in the [Government's public information campaign 'It all adds up'](#) and official energy-saving recommendations, and on [BBC news 'Five ways to cut costs this winter'](#).

Research has shown that 98% of people in the UK have taken at least one energy-saving measure this winter, but many don't know which measures are the most effective. Adjusting your combi boiler flow temperature is easy, free, and one of the best ways to cut energy bills.

5 simple at home steps to save money and energy this winter

For many of us, small changes to the way we heat our homes can have a big impact on energy bills. Here are five evidence-based ways to save on energy use at home:

1. Do you own a combi boiler? Get involved in the Money Saving Boiler Challenge from Nesta, the UK's innovation charity, which aims to get 1m UK households to turn down their boiler flow temperature.

Many combi boilers in the UK burn more gas, generate more carbon emissions and cost more in energy bills than they need to. By adjusting the boiler flow temperature to 60 degrees or less, the average household will save around **£112 off their bill each year**. Go to Nesta's free, simple online tool to find out how: www.moneysavingboilerchallenge.com

2. Lower the settings on thermostatic radiator valves. TRVs are widely misused as on/off switches. Turning the dial to the mid point, or 1.5°C cooler, on TRVs outside the living room, such as in bedrooms and non-living areas, can save a typical household **£68 a year**.

3. Turn down hot water temperature on combi boilers to 42°C. Combi boilers also allow users to control the temperature of hot water supplied to taps and showers. Reducing the hot water temperature reduces the amount of fuel needed to heat the water. Turning down hot water temperatures on a combi boiler could save a typical household **£26, or 2% off their gas bill per year**.

4. Reduce hot water cylinder temperature to 60°C. Homes that have heating systems with a separate hot water cylinder can turn down the temperature of the cylinder itself so that water is not heated unnecessarily. The temperature should not be reduced below 60°C, as legionella bacteria, that can cause Legionnaires' disease, can survive and grow in warm

water stored below 60°C. Setting your hot water cylinder to 60°C could cut 2% off a household's gas use, or **£26 off a typical gas bill, each year.**

5. Turn off pre-heat settings on combi boilers

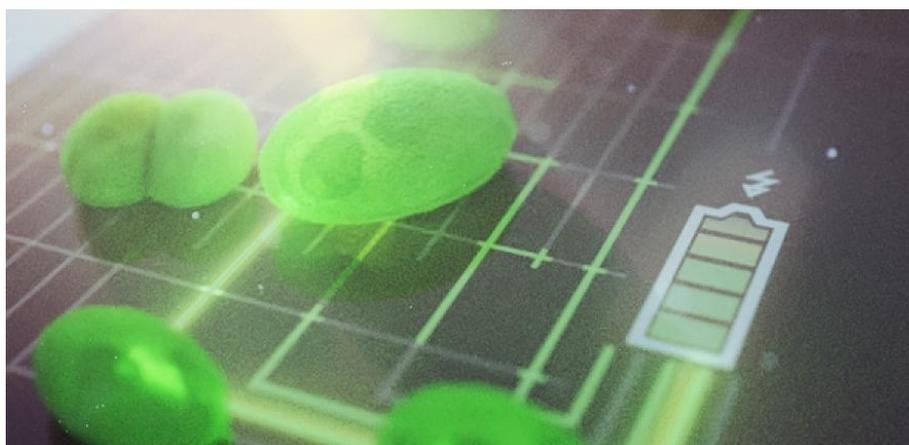
Some combi boilers have a pre-heat setting that enables users to get hot water straight away, rather than waiting a few seconds for the taps to run hot. Turning off the pre-heat setting can help save households some energy at no extra cost. The Heating Hub has created some brilliant bespoke instructions for how to turn off this setting on different boiler types: [Vaillant](#), [Ideal](#) and [Worcester](#). Turning off the preheat setting could save households 0.8% or **£10 off a typical gas bill per year.**

For more home energy saving tips, take a look at [Money Saving Expert's Checklist to save £100s](#)

Energy from algae

Researchers at Cambridge University have used a widespread species of blue-green algae to power a microprocessor continuously for a year – and counting – using nothing but ambient light and water. Their system has potential as a reliable and renewable way to power small devices.

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/scientists-create-reliable-biological-photovoltaic-cell-using-algae>



Food

Free seed giveaway

At the next Farmer's Market in Stokesley on Saturday March 4th the Food group will have a stall 9-11am encouraging people to grow their own vegetables and flowers, giving away free seeds and advice.

If anyone has any spare seeds, commercial or their own collected from last year please bring to the Globe Community Library seed share box or bring them along to the market square on 4th March.

Also, in Great Ayton, The Discovery Centre seed box is open again for this year with a great donation of seed packets to get us started. See if there is something new for you to try or donate spare seeds.

Vegan Fair

Also on Saturday March 4th there is a Vegan Fair in at Egglecliffe Community Centre, Egglecliffe, Durham Lane, TS16 0EH 10.30am - 4pm. There will be stalls selling all-vegan food and drinks, clothing, crafts, cosmetics, and gifts all from local and independent businesses. Entry by donation, and all profits will go to Farplace Animal Rescue.

More information here: <https://www.myvegantown.org.uk/event/eaglescliffe-vegan-fair>

Yatton House Community Garden

Are you a Co-op member? If you are, remember you can still help fund the community garden that CASaV are helping develop with Yatton House, Brighten Up Great Ayton group and local Rotary groups. You can find out more and choose this [local cause](#) to support. If you are interested in joining a working party in the garden email [Caryn](mailto:carynloftus@gmail.com) [mailto:carynloftus@gmail.com].

Nature / Environment

Tree planting in the local area has taken place in Hutton Rudby and at Low Easby. Over 1400 trees were planted over three days at Low Easby. For those who want more tree planting there is another session on 16th February at Low Easby. More details are available



from Judy Power at Judy@teesrivertrust.org.

The Nature group is planning various events over the course of the year, including the popular wildflower walks and bug hunt. Subject to finding an expert we also want to run bat walks and a fungus foray. We are also planning a Biodiversity Event in the spring that will take place in Stokesley Town Hall. We would like to do this at the beginning of May but apparently there is a Coronation taking place!!

The Wildlife Trusts have issued a report about the loss of biodiversity as a consequence of HS2. It is clear that the HS2 company has vastly underestimated the amount of biodiversity and locations that is impacted and has vastly overestimated the value of tree planting and grassland reinstatement. The report can be found on the Wildlife Trusts website. They are also sending an open letter to the Secretaries of the Environment and Transport and are asking Trust members and the public to sign. CASaV will sign the letter as a group.

Revealed: HS2's data failings

We need your help to make sure nature is protected

Dear friends

As a movement, The Wildlife Trusts have been concerned about HS2's impacts on nature ever since the scheme was announced.

Since then, the Wildlife Trusts have been working hard to influence the high speed railway line. Collectively we've published two major reports setting out proposals for a truly 'green corridor' and evidencing the risks to nature if the scheme remains unchanged.

We have had a tremendous response from members like you over the years as well as from the wider public. HS2 keeps moving forward – and we still need better transport networks across the north of England – but new evidence shows that things are even worse for nature than we all thought.

Will you sign our open letter?

For years, we've been asking how HS2 Ltd will limit the impacts on nature, and how they intend to make up for the damage. Tired of waiting, our friends at Cheshire Wildlife Trust undertook an audit of the environmental impacts as stated by HS2 Ltd.

We have been shocked by what they've found.

Their audit reveals:

- Inconsistent mapping and modelling

- Wild spaces and protected habitats undervalued
- Wildlife stuck between construction areas ignored
- Huge numbers of trees and ponds not counted at all

and none of the detail is available to the public.

The baseline of biodiversity loss – which is what is used to determine what happens to make things better - is so off track, whatever HS2 Ltd does for nature will be too little, too late.

Unless things change **now**.

We've published this open letter addressed to the two Secretaries of State responsible, Mark Harper and Therese Coffey.

In this we have set out the evidence and what needs to happen **now**. Because of the gravity of the situation, we are demanding that construction on Phase 1 is suspended, and a pause is put on the Phase 2a plans with immediate effect.

We're asking all of our members to [sign and share this letter](#).

Swift Action

In 2021 swifts were added to the Red list in the [2021 UK Conservation Status Report](#). Red is the highest conservation priority, with species on this list needing urgent action.



Photo: Nick Upton NPL

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2018/jun/21/saving-britains-swifts-in-pictures>

The Discovery Centre in Great Ayton are leading a new project, in conjunction with the Brighten Up Great Ayton group and CASaV, to encourage more swifts to nest in the village. The project will be launched on Monday 27th February from 7:00 – 8:00pm in The Discovery Centre, High Street, Great Ayton. Come along to find out more about these amazing birds and how we can help them. Graham Jeffreys from the company Habibat, who design and manufacture a range of bird and bat boxes and are based in the village, will be on hand to answer questions about swift boxes. Graham has kindly offered to donate 10 swift boxes for the village to help the existing swift colony. We will also have information on buying swift boxes for those who don't live in Great Ayton.

If you can't attend on the 27th February but are interested in the project then get in touch with [Caryn](mailto:carynloftus@gmail.com) [mailto:carynloftus@gmail.com].

Transport

20s Plenty for North Yorkshire

Locally the 20s Plenty for North Yorkshire has been campaigning to encourage local councils to introduce maximum 20 mph zones in the centre of towns and villages and in particular where pedestrians are most vulnerable e.g. outside schools and where there is a high footfall. At these lower speeds not only can road deaths and injuries be substantially reduced but also climate changing exhaust gases can be lessened.

At a NYCC County Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19th January although a vote narrowly failed to have a default 20 mph across the whole of the county for areas currently 30 mph the vote was passed to have 20 mph outside schools and in areas with a high footfall and also another vote was passed to have a default 20 mph in the areas of Harrogate & Knaresborough and Selby & Ainsty. The next step is to encourage NYCC to commit to a budget to back this up. You can be involved by writing to the NYCC executive members (details in link below) and attending the next Full Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd February at County Hall Northallerton at 10.30am.

Details here <https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1145&MId=5045>

D&S article highlighting CASaV's very own George Carter and his plans for developing an electric car facility

The article covers many of George's environmental activities including news about the RedCar, a small, non-polluting electric vehicle which could be hired at Park and Ride facilities, enabling people to drive into the centre of towns and cities, aimed at benefitting parents with children and buggies, business people with items to transport, and people with mobility issues.

<https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/23287628.george-carter-labman-founder-inventions-inspiring-others/>

Waste

Stokesley and Villages Repair Cafes

Since January's update there has been another well attended Repair Cafe held in Swainby Village Hall on 21st January. Since our Repair Cafes began last year over 300 household items have been repaired and are back in use, preventing them from going to waste in landfill or incineration. We have been also able to share the climate action message with all of the 100s of people who have attended, many not directly involved with CASAV.



The next Repair Cafe will be at the Globe Community Centre Stokesley on Saturday 11th February 10-12 and the March Repair Cafe will be on 18th March at Swainby Village Hall 10-12.

Remember, 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!

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

Rotters

The North Yorkshire Rotters are out and about this month spreading the word about reducing waste through composting. You can see them at these events:

Monday 13 February - Workshops at Eastfield community library - More Than Books, High Street, Eastfield, Scarborough, YO11 3LL - 10.30am to 12.30pm

- Monday 13 February - Workshops at Filey library, Station Avenue, Filey, YO14 9AH - 11am to 1pm
- Tuesday 14 February - Workshops at Starbeck library, 68A High Street, Starbeck, Harrogate, HG2 7LW - 10am to midday
- Tuesday 14 February - Workshops at Harrogate library, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EG - 1.30pm to 3.30pm
- Monday 6 March - Nigel Browns Love Food Hate Waste Cookery demonstrations at Selby Market Place, YO8 4PA - 8.30am to 3pm
- Wednesday 8 March 2023 - Knaresborough Market with Nigel Brown's love food hate waste cookery demonstration - Knaresborough Market Place - 9am to 2pm

- Friday 10 March 2023 - Stokesley Market - Stokesley Market - 9am to 2pm

Signing off

If you have any news or any event / activity you would like promoting on this monthly update please [email](#) Kate by the end of February.

Kate will also be helping promote activities via Facebook and Instagram so let her know if there is anything that you would like shared via our [Facebook group](#) or Instagram page if you are not a Facebook / Instagram user.

Hope to see you at the CASAV whole group monthly meeting on the 21st February (details at the start of the update!)

Kate Gibbon,

on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group Steering group:

Bridget Holmstrom, Caryn Loftus, Jack Turton, Ron Kirk and Simon Gibbon