Ludlow Quaker Journal

November/ December 2022

This Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. Please contact Barbara Mark if you would like to have something included or wonder if you have a subject that might be of interest.
It will be published on-line only and will come out when enough articles have been gathered in. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome.
Do remember if this copy is pdf you can listen to it via Windows 10 'read aloud' option at the top of the sheet.

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Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.

On 31st October our friend Murial Kidall died, at the age of 96, after a short illness. Her funeral on 14th November 2022, at the Wyre Forest Crematorium, Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn,was partly done in the way of friends.

Muriel had asked for her funeral to be 'a celebration of a wonderful life' and indeed it was!
We heard that she had been 'fast tracked' into a career as a qualified architect in her late teens and had practised as an architect for the next 70 years! Her final 'assignment' was probably to give freely of her advice as part of Premises Committee when plans were being drawn up for the Meeting House extension just a few years ago.
She had met and married a fellow architect and they had two daughters who both told us of their happy family life in several different parts of the country. Her architectural work brought her briefly to Hereford where she was asked to redesign a building at the SAS base at Credenhill. Did any of us know that we had an honorary member of the SAS in Ludlow Meeting?! Her daughters were delighted that her funeral was held at Wyre Forest Crematorium, a well designed pleasantly light and airy building. One of her student assignments had been to design a crematorium so it seemed very appropriate. Sally and Jane thought Muriel would certainly approve.
Muriel's husband was a lot older than her and sadly died in his 70s. She cared for him as his dementia progressed and had planned to move to Framlingham where she had found a suitable care home. He died before that took place, but Muriel moved anyway

and set about settling into her new life in a new area. She became much involved with the cultural life of the town. particular musical things, as she had done wherever she lived. She had a real love of classical music with an impressive collection of recordings. It was also in her 60s that she took up skiing as a serious

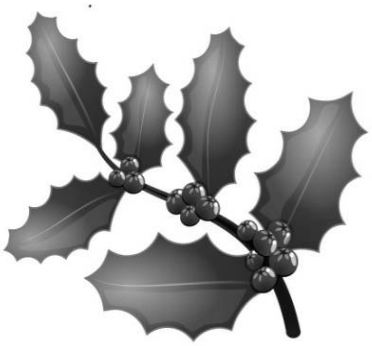
holiday adventure. She was determined to be fit enough to keep up with her younger friends and companions. She trained hard to be able to do so and we heard how she took on some difficult slopes with enthusiasm and skill. Skiing was not her only holiday adventure. She travelled widely - China, Africa and Greece were all places that she explored, even taking language lessons in Greek and Mandarin to help her to get the most out of her visits. Her daughter, Sally, had moved to Australia some time ago and so Muriel travelled to see her and her family often.
She had a lovely sense of humour as her son in law told us as he recounted a long standing family joke. Ian reminded us that 'Reginald Perrin' always thought of a hippopotamus when there was any mention of his mother in law. Muriel invariably made a point of finding a suitable hippo birthday card for him each year, as well as the occasional hippo ornament from her travels! Another little bit of humour that we all saw was her trusty 'chariot'. It must have been difficult for her to give up driving, but she made the most of her mobility scooter as she whizzed off around the town, still enjoying her 'wonderful life'. Muriel had been interested in Quakers for some time, but her regular attendance at Meeting for Worship during her five years in Ludlow suggests that she was very comfortable with her spiritual home.
She will be much missed.
Thank you Cynthia for these reflections

Christian Viewpoint printed in Ludlow Advertiser

The increased cost of energy, and therefore of much else, resulting from the Ukraine conflict has made it impossible for many people to live within their incomes. While it is up to the Government to adopt the fiscal and monetary approaches and other measures to meet the situation, the churches have a role in influencing the longer term objectives while responding to urgent needs through, for example, involvement in the operation of food banks.
While growth undoubtedly brings economic benefits, it is at least debatable whether it is sustainable in a world with finite natural resources. That issue aside, the use of Gross Domestic Product(GDP) as a sufficient measure of economic progress is increasingly being questioned as it fails to give any indication of how human wellbeing is affected. Growth or no growth, any financial regime that consistently makes the rich richer while the poor become poorer cannot accord with Christian principles. In facing difficult financial situations as at present the overriding need is for any burdens to be seen as fairly shared and for the severely disadvantaged to be treated compassionately. The more just and caring our society may be the better it will be placed to meet anything the future may hold.
David Milner

Holly's clusters of red berries and shiny leaves are adding much welcome colour to our churchyards and cemeteries this yuletide.

Holly is native to the UK and our wildlife loves it. Earlier in the year bees and other insects will have enjoyed its nectar and pollen, while its leaves, buds and berries will have been eaten by the caterpillars of the Holly blue butterfly and various moths. Now, even in the depths of winter, the holly is a vital shelter and berry source for birds, and its dry leaf litter a perfect bed for hedgehogs and other small mammals.



Holly has adorned gardens and homes for centuries. As far back as the 15th century, it decorated churches at Christmas and small plants were used in pots as indoor Christmas trees. During the 19th century, plant hunters brought exotic specimens back from China and Japan. With its high tolerance to pollution, holly was prized by the Victorians and used as a signature plant in early formal gardens and parks.

In days gone by there was widespread belief that cutting down a whole holly tree brought bad luck and many stories exist of the great lengths taken to ensure a tree was not felled. Using its branches however, was thought to be acceptable. In some areas holly was harvested for winter animal fodder. Its leaves contain some of the highest calorific contents of any tree browsed by animals and are rich in nutrients. Remnants of old grinding machines that made the spiny leaves of holly (and gorse) more palatable, can still be found in some areas today.

Although many of its uses may now be a distant memory – such as it being hauled through chimneys to ensure a decent sweep, and its use to ward off witches – this beautiful native tree certainly still has a favourite place in our hearts at Christmas.

Andrea
Andrea Gilpin andrea@cfga.org.uk
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

May The Light shine on you this Christmas time.

The Pity of War

Reflecting on the past year, we have achieved a lot. Almost exactly a year ago, we had just visited the foundry to see the full size mould, which our donations up until then had allowed us to commission (see picture, left). We had already decided to reduce the size of the scupture, from some three metres to about two metres in order to reduce the cost. We had about £1,000 in the account. This left us with some tens of thousands of pounds to raise in order to complete the project. Not an easy task at the best of times!

Challenges

The beginning of 2022 was challenging, to say the least. Two years of pandemic (and counting) had taken their toll. A fairly recent evacuation of refugees from Afghanistan, tension on the Russia/Ukraine border, and an economic downturn all contributed. The prospect of raising a large amount of money seemed a bigger challenge. Then, Russia invaded Ukraine and suddenly there were millions of civilian victims of war being affected. Many were displaced, injured or killed. There, in front of us, almost in real time, was the true pity of war. Several strategic meetings with the sculptor later, we decided to keep a low profile while this humanitarian crisis was happening, out of respect for those so tragically involved.

Good news!

Early in the year, we heard that an anonymous supporter was pledging £15,000 to our project. This was a major boost to our morale. It significantly reduced the amount we needed to raise. We approached Southern Marches Quakers (from whom the concern had originally arisen) to see if they could help. After deliberating about it, they came back with the incredibly generous offer of £10,000! Suddenly we were within reach of our target, only needing about £4,000 to achieve our goal. We were therefore able to be very positive with Andy Ansell, NMA Head of Estates, on our recent site visit. This visit was to choose a site for the memorial. We were lucky to have a sunny afternoon, and Andy warmly received us.

As for the outreach for the Pity of War project, the maquette of the sculpture has been on tour around the UK, with the maquette has already been seen by thousands at locations such as Portsmouth (Museum of the Royal Navy), English Cathedrals (Chester, Salisbury, Coventry, Oxford, Sheffield, Lichfield, St Albans,) Hay on Wye, London, it has also been exhibited in Limburg Germany.

The Pity of War maquette is now also permanently on display at The British Embassy in Paris and Dubai, at The Basilica of St Mary in Minnesota USA, in the UK at Chester Cathedral, Liverpool, Sheffield, Winchester and University Church Oxford and there is soon to be a Pity of war maquette at the British Embassy in Japan.

Additionally The Pity of War project has been busy developing outreach for schools and communities across the country and has provided a free educational resource pack with age appropriate activities to raise awareness of the physical, psychological, social, educational, economic and cultural effects of war upon the civilian population. This work is ongoing and is creating a lasting legacy beyond the siting of the statue for the next generation to understand the meaning of the Pity of war, the cause and message the project stands for and helps shapes lessons to be learned for the future to aid understanding of how conflict affects people even as I write this today.

May the Pity of War memorial sculpture stand to represent the voices of those who deal with the impact of war and conflict daily and whose stories are so often untold and unheard.

Draw Breath, a poem by Geoffrey Weeden

- Posted by Josh Nicholas

Breathe in the quiet purpose of this place;
Through outward stillness, seek a calm within.
Here we can find forgiveness and forgive;
Here feel the healing miracle begin.

Breathe out the busy world, the teeming mind,
The follies, fears and failures of the week;
Breathe out contention, pettiness and pride,
And wait in trust for that of God to speak.

Breathe in communion, friend with quiet friend,
Each drawing closer in this timeless hour;
As all our different needs and gifts are drawn
To the one source of comfort, love and power.

Breathe out at last, to God, the heart's full thanks
That we have seen this vision, known this grace;
Renewed through love, let us that love extend
Through all our daily life beyond this place.

Letter from Madagascar on Thursday, 11 November 2021

Dear Friends of Ania,

I am delighted to tell you that Ania has passed her final primary school exams with flying colours). This is a considerable achievement because only 42% of rural primary school children in Madagascar reach this stage, with of course a much lower percentage for girls, so you can be very proud of her.

To celebrate, Rasoa, my adopted sister, who is overseeing her welfare in the village and holding some of the funds, took Ania to the market and bought her a new dress, which she wore to receive her certificate. We were hoping for a photograph, but it has not appeared.

However, here is a picture of Ania in her new school uniform, the sports kit, satchel and exercise books are all a compulsory expense. We don't have to pay for transport, because she walks the two miles to school.

Ania is doing very well at secondary school. She's one of the top students in her class and
loves it. She eats well and is healthy and happy.

So the child, thanks to you and Rasoa, has the start in life that comes from being well nourished and cared for. All thanks to your generosity.

With our love and thanks,

Luke and Ursula

Ruth Harvey Speaker on 'How to build a Just Society'

Ruth Harvey, the leader of the Iona Community, was invited by the Ludlow Under Pressure group to speak to the CTAL audience on 12th October at Broad Street Methodists. There were about 70 people to listen to her speak.
It was difficult (or maybe easier) to be speaking at the time of economic melt down as the new Prime Minister tries new things in government.
Ruth invited the audience to move from a conventional position to pose radical challenges. She spoke about three Imperatives; political, community and Europe.

1) 'Commonweal' rather than 'Commonwealth'. (Commonweal being an archaic word emphasising seeking the best for everyone; all being equal.)
Was politics today looking for 'the common good'?
She had been part of a Scottish People's Assembly about Climate Change a few years ago. She had found the whole process inspiring. People came together from all walks of life and talked through aspects of this big issue, asked for scientific data and explored what the country could do about it. They took their findings and 90 recommendations to the Scottish Parliament with great hopes. However kind words were said and no follow up happened.
A Scottish MP told her, after this, that he felt Democracy could not cope with this Climate catastrophe.
She told us about a book which described many citizens assemblies run in small towns and cities, and counties. She then gave us time to talk to the people around us and asked if Ludlow could run a citizens assembly. She wondered what subject we would choose to discuss.

2) Levelling out rather than levelling up.
In other words sharing out rather than a notion of dragging people out of poverty. The imperative was to have conversations with those who are struggling and find out what they thought would help them. We needed to look at the issues from the Community point of view.
She felt there was a need for a manifesto where the poorest were at the centre.
She read part of the Beatitudes from Matthew chapter 5 as a guide to the essential values of our agenda. Jesus turned things upside down. The suggested some more with reference to the subject in hand.
The gap between rich and poor is getting larger in the UK. In the book 'The Spirit Level' there was a lot of data which showed more equal societies are much happier, healthier and successful places. The examples were the Nordic countries and Japan. UK and America were the worst places in the Western world.
She touched on certain feelings living in Penrith, on the border between Scotland and England, which gave her a different perspective. She wondered if living in Ludlow felt similar

3) Working for true community with Europe.
On her most recent visit to Europe she had been saddened by the fact she was not allowed to visit a place because the UK was not in the EU any more. She still feels part of Europe and finds the separation distressing.
She is a person who believes in collaboration and cooperation. All her life has been involved in that.

She encouraged us to make friends with people from Europe and keep in contact. Europe was more than just an economic community, it went much deeper than that.

After a coffee break it was a question and answer time which she preferred to be a discussion. Discussion there certainly was! Not everyone agreeing with what she had said.

A trifle with a difference for Christmas

Winter berry trifle

Ingredients
500g bag frozen mixed berries
4 tbsp golden caster sugar
4 tbsp (or any other berry liqueur) crème de cassis
16 Savoiardi trifle biscuits
250ml tub mascarpone
500ml tub fresh custard
2 tsp vanilla extract
284ml and 142ml pot double cream

Method
STEP 1
Put the berries and sugar in a pan and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Stir in the cassis and cool slightly.
STEP 2
Put a layer of Savoiardi biscuits in the bottom of a large glass trifle dish and spoon over ⅔ of the berry mix (you might not need all the liquid).
STEP 3
Beat the mascarpone until smooth then gradually beat in the custard and stir in the vanilla. Spoon on top of the cake and berries. whip the cream to soft peaks and dollop onto the custard. Chill for an hour. Just before serving, spoon over the rest of the berry mix.
Thank you Peter

Truth and Integrity : working with this concern/ an Article in QUAKE

QTIG welcomes your upholding. Many thanks to all those Friends who have written to express your support.

There are several ways you might become more directly engaged, without the necessity of spending hours in committee meetings or

1. *Send the Declaration to your local MP – of whatever party*

As an AM, an LM or simply as an individual, you can send the Declaration (found on the QTIG Homepage) to your MP, along with letter. Some points that might be conveyed include:

- The Declaration illustrates the depth of concern among Quakers about the state of truth and integrity in public affairs in Britain.
- You regard the enhancement of truth and integrity as vital for the preservation of democracy.
- You would welcome any ways in which truth and integrity, along the lines of the Nolan Principles, could be more formally enshrined in legislation and Parliamentary practice.
- The Declaration seeks to shine light on the good and explore avenues for cooperation with other bodies, and we would welcome any expressions of support.
- One means of doing so will be the new Quaker Truth & Integrity Award.

2. Engaging with Truth and Integrity in you local community

As an AM or LM, you can choose to recognise examples of truth and integrity in your local community – as QTIG does on a national level, simply by writing letters of acknowledgement. Examples may be found in everyday life. One Friend was struck by how her garage refused to undertake work 'off the books', ensuring that every transaction was recorded and thus eligible for VAT. There will be other examples of truth and integrity found in your local community – teachers, traffic wardens, community councillors, on local radio stations and in local newspapers where an individual or a group has acted with probity. As local Quakers you can acknowledge this, and help shine a light on the good.

Climate Change

Snippets from The New Scientist publication

There is an article in the October 26th 2019 issue about how deforestation, and climate change, bring the threat of more diseases to humans. Malaria is spreading because of the warming earth and Ebola came from deforestation.

April/May 2020

Corona Virus is now in much evidence in these New Scientist publications. There are discussions about cut back on travel and reduction in buying stuff might help reduce humans impact on the planet, and help the world tackle Climate Change.

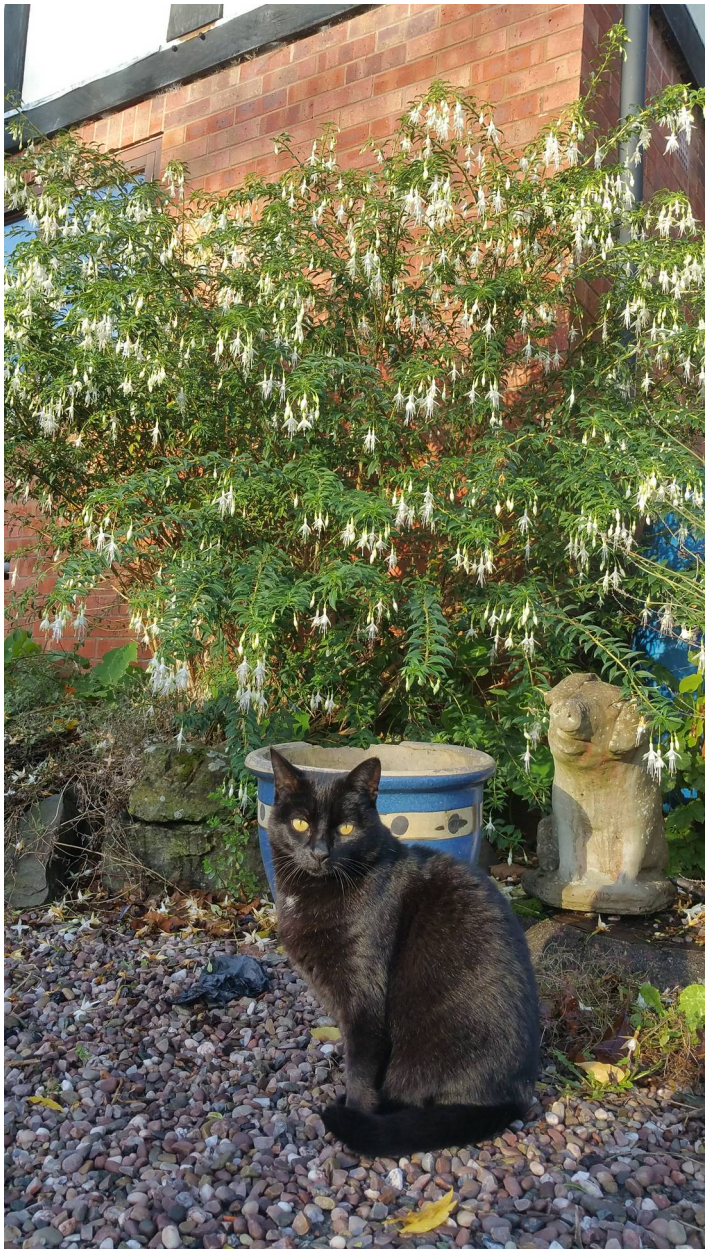
In August 2020

We have a huge problem with plastic waste. Maybe the PBTL plastic developed at Colorado University could be the answer. After use it can be remelted at 100 C and remade into other things.

Thank you for sharing these magazines Nic and Jaque

Photo below

Fuchsias are in the news. They are flowering well into November as mine is. Here is mine with the cat, who wanted to share in the photo, on 28th November. It has been wonderful, but it is a sign of global warming and climate change, which is not good news.



Ludlow 21 AGM Report - Thursday 20th October 2022

As this report covers activity for the whole of the preceding year, some of it will be old news, but it gives a good picture of what Ludlow 21 supports. Representatives from the following groups told us about their activities:

- **Sustainable Transport Group**

Shropshire Council is to provide Ludlow with one new bus shelter per year, with this year's on the Henley Road. We need more residents to use the buses and one way of encouraging this is to have smaller, cheaper, electric vehicles enabling a more frequent service.

The railway station is asking for volunteers to help look after its planters and there is talk of installing a lift.

- **Fair Trade Group**

This group is about promoting ethical trade in Ludlow and encouraging traders to source local products wherever possible. There was concern here about getting more

young people involved to go round talking to traders. Traidcraft is to become known as *Transform Trade.*

- **Energy Group**

The Neen Sollars hydro scheme is working well, generating 60 watts of power into the grid for which they get paid. There was discussion around restructuring the wholesale market as electricity prices are anchored to the higher cost of gas and the feeling was that Ofgem should be acting more forcefully on behalf of consumers, to change this.

- **Incrdible Edible Group**

Opportunities to share seeds and seedlings seem to be very successful. There have been quite a few fruit tree donations which are being planted around the town, but are at risk of being vandalised. Surpluses of seeds and seedlings are donated to local schools. The library would like to be involved with seed swap activity and is making available useful books.

- **Green Festival 2022**

Blessed with sunshine, this was welcomed back with great enthusiasm after last year's Covid gap. It isn't seen as a money-making event but even so, generated a profit of £750. Over 30 schoolchildren wrote postcards to our MP, Philip Dunne about their energy concerns. The 2023 festival will be on Sunday 9th. July.

This ended the formal business of the AGM but it was followed by a **Green Power Hour** offering local groups a chance to speak about their work relating to the environment, climate change and sustainability. There's a lot going on but they only had 3 minutes each so there wasn't a lot of detail !

- **Friends of Mortimer Forest**

Are creating migration corridors through the forest and adjacent lands enabling animals to move around more freely. Local farmers are very supportive. On the 6th. June 2023 there will be a festival to promote their work.

- **South Shropshire Climate Action Group**

Is definitely benefiting from the two posts created from the anonymous donation last year – going for net zero emission themes relating to transport, energy, land and biodiversity. They bring a valuable pofessional flavour to what they are doing which provides greater credibility. They have joined the Marches Energy Agency and Jane Cullen is on the Shropshire Council Climate Advisory Board. There is enthusiasm and momentum and they are anxious to promote a positive message. A new leaflet in the Tourism Office links green spaces in the area.

- **Big Solar Co-op**

This is a not-for-profit organisation in Shrewsbury which is spreading nationally. If an organisation has enough roof space (approx. the size of a tennis court), they assist in helping them to get it covered with solar panels, with the conversion of energy to be fed into the national grid. They offer advice and support with this process.

- **Castle View Meadow**

This is to do with the housing development in Fishmore Road. Ludlow 21 has helped to get pledges of money to enable the purchase of a patch of land at Quarry Bank to remain as a local green space, accompanied by a maintenance agreement to ensure it isn't neglected.

- **Ludlow Repair Café**

Works on the principle that things can be repaired in spite of built-in obsolescence ! They meet four times a year but now have an 'at home' service where items can be taken away and repaired at a more leisurely pace. There are now 18 volunteeers plus an admin. team.

- **Extinction Rebellion**

This group has been very busy with widely-spread non-violent, direct action. Their aim is to change the decision-making processes at local and national levels, that influence how we respond to the climate crisis.

- **Care for Creation**

This group works under the umbrella of Churches Together in Ludlow, encouraging Churches to question how they are responding to Climate Change demands. There is an award system for data submitted - our Meeting House was given a Silver Award five years ago which we need to renew.

- **Hands Together Ludlow**

Uses food donated by shops and hotels, to support vulnerable people and keep a watchful eye on them. They provide community lunches and afternoon teas and there's a drop-in café for young people with free food, also a Community Fridge for perishables. There are new premises in Galdeford.

- **Friends of Gallows Bank**

The town's 'other' Millennium Green which is maintained by a small group to provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife, insects, birds. They would welcome more volunteers.

- **Friends of Whitcliffe Common**

This is maintained by local people, not the council. This year a lot of storm-damaged trees had to be felled but 30 new ones have been planted and are doing well. Although they get donations from the council and their membership, expenses are huge and they are struggling for support.

One recurrent theme was the absence of young people which could be attributed to the fact that not all 'oldies' speak their language ie WhatsApp, facetime, Twitter, tweak, whatever ! Young people know as much if not more about the climate emergency than we do but they communicate differently and so can miss out on involvement in climate change activities by older groups. We need to find ways of improving those links and using their ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

Susie Green

South Shropshire Climate Action Team report.

South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) began in 2019 as a coalition of local organisations and networks to address the climate and ecological crisis. Members collaborated in writing a "Next Steps Climate Action Plan" for the Ludlow Constituency, which was launched in May 2021. In June 2022 Fiona Morgan and Nick Read were appointed as job-sharing Project Coordinators to work with the members in order to help deliver the plan.

The plan is structured around four themes: land and biodiversity, transport, energy and buildings, and community and education. Coordination and strategic oversight for the network's activities are provided by a Steering Group that reflects the membership base and thematic interests. Each theme either has its own local working group, or

SSCA links with those groups which are being supported by the Shropshire-wide initiative Zero Carbon Shropshire.

Nick and Fiona's primary role is to support:

- Coordination, so that organisations and networks are working together to transform South Shropshire into a net zero-carbon society. There is a great deal of activity going on and considerable opportunity to provide peer-to-peer support throughout the area.
- Collaboration, including the creation of partnerships to bid for funds, lobby policy makers, and deliver zero carbon solutions.
- Communication, sharing best practice and local exemplars, developing toolkits, videos and promoting local events that contribute to the zero-carbon agenda.

A major aspiration is to break out of the "green bubble" of those who are already committed to taking action, and to try and inspire other community groups and networks to understand the role they can play in addressing the climate crisis.

For further information please look at our website https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/ or email Nick and Fiona at SSCA@mea.org.uk

Retrofitting homes for green outcomes

COP 27 was supposed to deliver practical actions on reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions but these were blocked by some governments and kicked further down the road. Similarly one of the major challenges the UK must address to reach net zero emissions by 2050 is **retrofitting** our existing housing stock to make it healthier to live in and more energy efficient. Over time different governments have had 'green' initiatives to improve the UK housing stock but these have been limited in scope, often difficult to access and poorly implemented. Sometimes they have been pulled half-way through.

The UK's 30 million homes account for more than 21% of the country's total carbon emissions, with three-quarters of this coming from heating systems. 85% of UK homes are on the gas network, using fossil fuels and producing large quantities of carbon emissions. 80% of the homes we will be living in by 2050 are already built and the majority need improvement.

Improving the housing stock would reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. It would provide new 'green' jobs and skills and make our homes more comfortable. We need to encourage government to promote this area of the economy. At the moment there is some work in the social housing area but there needs to be more support for individual homeowners with finance: grants and loans. The technology is there but there are barriers to implementation in terms of capacity to deliver (skilled people who can do the jobs), supply chains for materials and knowledge available to homeowners.

In terms of homes **retrofitting** means repairing them where necessary, upgrading windows and external doors, and dramatically improving the insulation, not just in the loft but the walls and the floor too. The work undertaken will vary according to individual needs and circumstances but a **'whole house' approach** is fundamental to doing retrofit right. My son was fortunate enough to buy a 5-bedroom Victorian house in Manchester last year that is lovely but leaky, cold and expensive to heat. He has recently had a very useful retrofit survey done of his house that is allowing him to plan his strategy for home improvements. Not everyone will want to go this far but if funds allow it is a good start. However it may be you have a specific question and there is help available.

Where can people contemplating any level of retrofitting find out this information locally? Options are limited as much of the information available relies on charities or not for profit businesses and a small number of people able to carry out the surveys.

The Marches Energy Agency, Lightfoot Enterprises and Stretton Climate Care are local not for profit organisations or charities working to help homeowners identify ways they can retrofit their houses by providing information, surveys and contacts with local approved contractors. The Great Collaboration (Herefordshire based but relevant for Shropshire) provides an online tool to help homeowners identify simple ways they can reduce their carbon emissions. Nationally organisations such as the Energy Saving Trust, Centre for Alternative Technology and National Self Build and Renovation Centre (NSBRC) all provide useful information and guidance

Marches Energy Agency https://mea.org.uk/our-work/energy-advice-at-home/
Lightfoot Enterprises https://lightfootenterprises.org/household-energy-surveys/
Stretton Climate Care https://strettonclimatecare.org.uk/services-for-the-home/
The Great Collaboration https://greatcollaboration.uk/

Energy Saving Trust **https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/retrofitting-the-uks-housing-stock-to-reach-net-zero/**
Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) https://cat.org.uk/
NSBRC https://www.nsbrc.co.uk/

Paul Weeden November 2022

Thoughts about COP27

The UK news had quite a bit about the COP27 conference before it started this year, following on from good coverage at the COP26 last year in Glasgow. The conference, from 6th to 20th November, was in Egypt and it was hoped there would be commitments on what to do to keep to The Paris Agreement, of 2015, going. This was to keep global average temperature rises around 1.5 degrees Celsius. It seems this was not successful. UN Emissions Gap Report 2022 found that policies currently in place point to a 2.8°C temperature rise by the end of the century, a number that could lead to catastrophic consequences for the planet. Full implementation of the latest pledges to reduce greenhouse gases could slow this increase to 1.8-2.1°C, but the report does not find a credible pathway for the 1.5°C target.

There were successes though, such as a ‘Loss and Damage’ commitment (to help those suffering the most from Climate Change) more movement on funding the Adaptation Fund and the inclusion of a youth-led climate forum. This does show, I think, that the government officials did have a concern for the well being of people. It did show compassion. There was also the UN continued support for greater forestation world wide and, locally, the NFU is now working on Environmental Market schemes. So what will all this mean for Ludlow? I suspect we will see little change in government policy but we do have our own Climate Action plan. In Ludlow lots of the community will be trying to insulate, reduce, reuse, recycle, buy local, eat less meat and reduce buying plastic. The spirit which connects us all is inspiring people to act, in what ever they can. It shows love for others and our world guides us to want to help, how ever small, and a small action done by many becomes a powerful action. Ludlow also has the South Shropshire Climate Action plan, to inspire us, which is structured around four themes: land and biodiversity, transport (where funding from the Levelling Up Bill may help), energy and buildings, and community and education. This work is being supported by the Shropshire-wide initiative Zero Carbon Shropshire. Find out more
https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/

Barbara for Ludlow Under Pressure

The Joyful Environmentalist: How to Practise without Preaching by Isabel Losada

In The Guardian of 12th November there was an article by Isabel explaining some features of trying to keep positive in a time when many environmentalists are giving up. She believes a lot has been done already and sees hope for a lot more to be done. She asks everyone of us to take some action, however small it seems. ‘Fall in love with nature’, ‘wear the clothes you already have’, ‘remove plastic from home buys’ and ‘give up the car’ are some of the ideas she shares.
She suggests finding an action that you enjoy. ‘Don’t do nothing’ but do change the way we live a little.

Thank you Ian for sharing this article