Ludlow Quaker Journal

May/ June 2023

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.

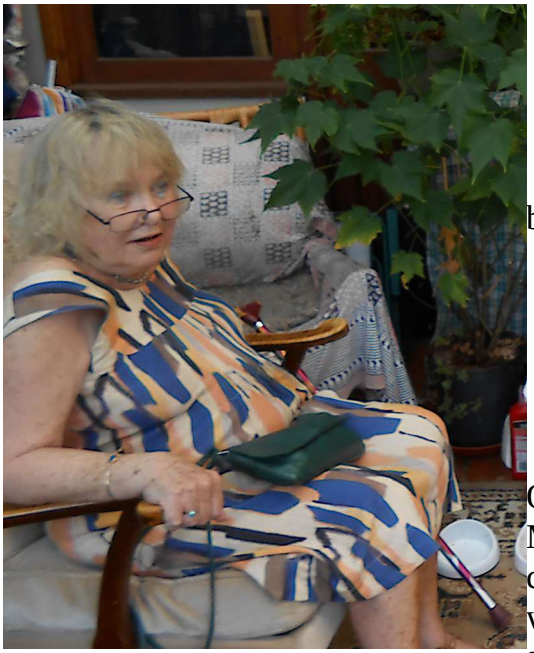
Contents:

page 2. Jane McCabe
page 3. Growing Yellow Rattle in Cynthia's meadow
page 4. Quaker Truth and Integrity Award
page 6. Gluten free strawberry & pistachio olive oil cake
page 6. South Shropshire Interfaith news
page 7. Tax Justice UK
page 8. Debt Justice event and Ludlow Discussion group news
page 9. The One by Tony d'Souza
page 10. News from QARN
page 11. Environmental Issues pages
CTAL Caring for Creation group, Caring for God's Acre news, Ludlow Green Festival, South Shropshire Climate Action and Freegle

DO LOOK ON LUDLOW MEETING WEB SITE FOR ALL THE JOURNALS

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

Knowing Jane McCabe



Jane visiting Barbara to eat home grown bananas in 2019

Our Friend Jane McCabe who died on the 4th. May 2023 aged 77, was without doubt a complicated person, a woman of contrasts. She was cultured, passionate, loving and lovable but sometimes exasperating and unrealistic.
She was born in Fargo, North Dakota, USA, her father being a commercial pilot, and went to a Quaker school. One of her passions was for literature and she opted for an academic life, teaching poetry at Tufts University, Boston. There she lived with her widowed husband Bernard, also a poetry lecturer, and the eight children of his earlier marriage. He was Irish and a very close friend of Seamus Heaney the Nobel prize winner. The two families spent a lot of time together, holidaying in Italy, and Jane and Bernard were also present in Stockholm when Seamus received his award. One of Jane's ambitions had been to write about the intensely personal times they spent with the Heaney family, but sadly she didn't manage to fulfill this, a regrettable loss.
Jane was passionate about animals and after Bernard died, compensated for his loss by acquiring a family of animals - two dogs, two cats and umpteen chickens. She was also a fine cook and a very accommodating hostess. Her love of poetry pervaded every aspect of her life and made her a wonderfully interesting and stimulating companion. She kept up with both American and English politics and news and was forthright in expressing her opinions. Her health fluctuated so that her later years were punctuated by regular hospital episodes but her mental capacity remained as lively as ever.
Jane was delightful, a woman of rare enthusiasm and great intellectual capacity. Exasperating yes, but altogether a very individual character who is already much missed by those of us who knew her.

Susie Green

Here is a photo of Jane's two brothers Paul and Alan Johnston and Mariah Reinhard, her niece, who came over from America for Jane's funeral on 26th June. It was lovely to meet them and learn more about Jane's life.

Cynthia’s new meadow.

Growing Yellow Rattle

Here are some pictures of our little hay meadow. The rattle has just finished flowering, but hopefully you can see the seed heads forming - like big nodules to form the ‘rattles’ when they are dry. There was a lot more rattle this year than last and there was a distinct correlation with the vigour of the grass. More rattle, less grass. As you know it’s a parasite on grass roots and so decreases the growth of the grass.

We cut the meadow when we're sure that the rattle seed heads are well dried and have shed most of the seed back into the sward - and so the cycle continues of course. That's usually toward the end of August or even into September. We also need a guaranteed week of dry weather. We cut it with a big strimmer with a blade and then leave it to dry in the sun. We 'turn' it at least once and try to rake it to non-rattle areas to spread the seed before storing it away in a dry place - in our case an old plastic oil storage tank that split. Far too useful to get rid of. It served as a log store at our previous house - big 1000 litre tank so lots of room. There is an ample supply of hay for our two rabbits and next door's guinea pigs until the next hay making.

Yellow Rattle seed heads

Quaker Truth and Integrity Group

Concerns over the decline of truth and integrity in public life prompted the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group (QTIG) to set up an annual award.

This will recognise an exceptional contribution by a British individual or organisation towards the enhancement of standards of truth and integrity in public life.

In the award citation, QTIG said: “As an investigative journalist and author, Carole has with great courage exposed serious instances of malpractice and threats to democracy.

> As an investigative journalist and author, Carole has with great courage exposed serious instances of malpractice and threats to democracy.

- Quaker Truth and Integrity Group

“In doing so, she has made a major contribution towards the enhancement of truth and integrity in public affairs."

Quakers have been committed to truth since the mid-17th century and QTIG was set up in 2022 in response to concerns over the undermining of truth and integrity in public life.

These concerns were highlighted this week as the Privileges Committee found former Prime Minister Boris Johnson deliberately misled

found former Prime Minister Boris Johnson deliberately misled parliament over parties held at Downing Street in contravention of coronavirus restrictions.

Lying to parliament means lying to the people it represents. Governing with integrity is essential for generating trust, QTIG says, and when that trust breaks down people become disillusioned, and leaders lose their mandate.

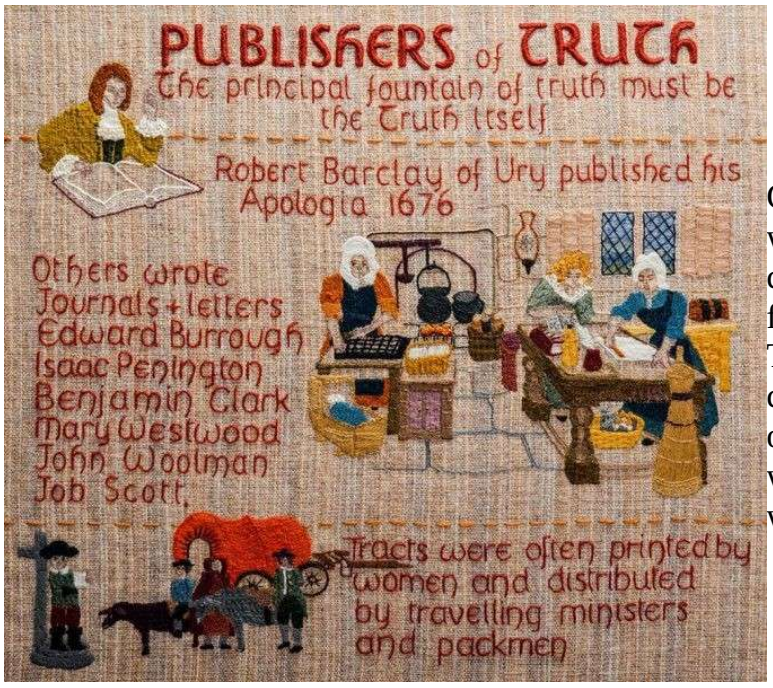
QTIG hope the new award will shine a light onto these issues and stimulate growing interest around the importance of maintaining standards of truth and integrity in public life.

Carole Cadwalladr won the Orwell Prize for political journalism and was a finalist for a 2019 Pulitzer Prize for her work in exposing the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal.

She is a features writer for the Observer and focusses on the threat to democracy from technological influences.

She undertakes this work at great personal cost, with a UNESCO report finding that she has been subjected to years of “deeply sexist and misogynistic online violence" because of her work.

“In seeking to promote democracy and the rule of law over and above personal interests, Carole is an exceptionally worthy recipient of the first Quaker Truth & Integrity Award," the QTIG citation reads.



Carole Cadwalladr was presented with a copy of this panel from the Quaker Tapestry, which celebrates the history of Quakers bearing witness through their writing.

Gluten free strawberry & pistachio olive oil cake

Ingredients

200ml olive oil, plus extra for the tin
225g shelled pistachios
200g caster sugar
3 large eggs
150g polenta
1 tsp gluten-free baking powder (Dr Oetker baking powder is gluten free}
200g strawberries, chopped, plus extra to serve

(Icing sugar and crème fraîche or yogurt, to serve)

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line the base of a 23cm cake tin. Put 200g of the pistachios in a blender, and whizz until it looks like ground almonds.

Whisk the sugar and eggs together with an electric whisk until pale and fluffy – this should take about 5 mins. Add the olive oil, continually whisking, then fold in the ground pistachios, polenta and baking powder with a pinch of salt. Fold in the strawberries, then scrape into the tin. Roughly chop the remaining pistachios and scatter over the top.

Bake for 50-55 mins until golden and risen. Leave to cool in the cake tin to room temperature before transferring to a cake stand or plate. Dust with icing sugar and serve with crème fraîche or yogurt and extra strawberries.

Thank you Peter for yet another wonderful recipe.

South Shropshire Interfaith group news.

NEXT EVENT

Our next event is a walk and talk on Thursday evening, 13th July, leaving the Pilgrim Centre in Craven Arms at 6.30pm for a walk by the River Onny and across the new foot bridge over the railway line, during which a local guide will point out interesting features. The walk will take approximately one hour.

We return to the Pilgrim Centre for refreshments and are then inviting those who wish to do so to give a brief five minute faith talk on water or their own reflections on the subject.

OTHER EVENTS We also have in mind an opportunity to learn about ECO

Churches, Mosques and Synagogues and later in the year we hope to arrange a tree planting during Interfaith Week in November.

In January we host the Holocaust Memorial Day with the theme ‘Fragility of Freedom’. We look forward to welcoming you at any of these events you find yourselves able to attend.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION This is on-line every Tuesday and Thursday at 8pm in Church Stretton , and as a non-denominational group it welcomes everyone. Christian Meditation is a modern name for a form of contemplative prayer found in early Christian monastic communities and in other major faith traditions.

Why do the rich in this country seem to be getting richer? This group have some answers I think. Here are some bits from an email at the beginning of June.

TAX JUSTICE UK

We’d raise £22 billion a year if we taxed the assets of the UK’s 350 richest families at 2%.

the Times Rich List revealed the wealth of the super rich continues growing.

We worked jointly with the New Economics Foundation and the Economic Change Unit to do the research.

Winning over MPs

Our wealth tax message is really hitting home in the media – but we’re also building our reputation in Parliament.

You have now sent a huge 8,600 messages to your MPs. Thank you again if you sent a message. If you can get in touch with your MP it all helps.

We’re getting really positive feedback from some MPs. But of course some are less enthusiastic.

Wealth industry uncovered

A new report from ‘Progressive Advisors Movement ‘ lays bare anti-tax views and practices prevalent in the private wealth industry.

The report found that tax advisors to the super-rich have a culture that is critical of tax. The industry uses homogenous ‘anti-tax’ language in its communications and encourages clients into tax reduction schemes. The group who wrote the report, say.

They also argue the private wealth industry is a key player in lobbying the government to reduce tax on its wealthy clients.

Robert Palmer Executive Director

Debt Justice recent events

I attended a Debt Justice zoom on 22nd June where representatives from Barbados and Zambia talked about the suffering there because of their great debt burdens. The Barbados representative gave a very moving account of the exploitation of the country for generations for growing sugar beat and this meant clearing all the indigenous forests. Now they can not grow food crops properly and have to import food. Although it is the rich countries who benefited for all those years they do not help now. They continue to exploit the people with high interest rates, and the International Monetary Fund has now imposed austerity on the country.
There is hope that the Summit of finance companies and governments in France starting on 23rd June will find ways to alleviate the suffering and give such countries help with funds, or big reductions in interest rates on loans, enough to mitigate for Climate Change as they are baring the brunt for terrible storms and floods. If they do not find a way there will be huge loss of life.
Barbara

Ludlow Quaker Meeting Discussion Group.
The group will be running once a month on the fourth Friday of every month at the Meeting House. At the last two sessions we were thinking about the place of Christianity in Quakerism. Ben Pink Dandelion, in the presentation to Yearly Meeting a few years ago, said Quakers can bang on a big drum with the exhilaration of the power of love, but the debate about the future direction of Quakerism as a Religious Society is daunting. We struggled with what to believe and considered the Christian traditions of our main churches. We understand that our actions today can lead to a better world if done with love. We asked if we can hold onto the deep meaning of the power of the spirit of love found in the teachings of Jesus, and which early Quakers understood, in this time of secularism?
There is no meeting in July. Our next meeting will be on August 25th when Colin has offered to lead the discussions with a presentation about ‘Man, God, Nature and the Environment‘. He will be using references from Quaker Faith and Practice 25 and 29 as well as Revelations, Matthew and Psalms. But there will be more information nearer the time.
Please contact Barbara if you want to know more

This consideration has come from The Friend publication 10th February 2023 by kind permission of Tony d'Souza

The One

It is. That is, it always existed. For this reason, there never was a beginning nor will there ever be an end. It is eternal and timeless - beyond past, present and future.

Though it cannot be known by the mind, by thinking, it can be remembered because it lies in us and around us. We can seek it for ourselves as a trained dog or pig might scent a truffle growing on the root of an oak tree. We find it within ourselves.

It is – Being. Pure and simple. Indeed, it is the only thing that can be truly said to exist, or more exactly, it alone exists and all else exists in relation to it. What we perceive is an effect, while it alone is cause. The world of our perception leads us to believe we are cause and not effect, but this is not necessarily true. As William Blake observed "This life's dim windows of the soul distort the heavens from pole to pole and lead you to believe a lie when you see with, not through, the eye"

It is consciousness. It is intelligence beyond the intelligence of the human mind, yet all authentic intelligence is born of it. It is an intelligence incomparably vaster than our own. Imagine an ant crawling into the back of a supercomputer. The ant feels around with its antennae, perhaps sensing some lights flashing on and off. However, the ant will never be able to understand by its own efforts how the supercomputer works. Our human intelligence is in the same perspective to the vast intelligence of the One.

It is joy. Though it is not the joy that you can feel. It is not joy or happiness in a human scale, but is far greater than that. It is the joy of Life itself. It is the joyful song of the universe - of a bursting supernova. It is the joy of the atoms of water churned in an ocean wave. It is the simple and incomparable joy of a tree growing alone and majestic in a forest and the liquid joy of birdsong poured out upon a hurting and bewildered world. It is the immeasurable joy of creation that continues to ripple out all through the universe – the song of Being itself. The nearest a human has come to capturing this in the final movement of the 9th Symphony by that apostle of the infinite, Ludwig Van Beethoven.

It is choiceless. Meaning it is incapable of choosing one thing above another. And because of this, it is unaffected by desire or fear, attraction or repulsion. It is beyond the opposites, all of which are mind made. The proof of its reality is in this. It is the light of pure awareness, and as the light, it is the healer of all the ills of the mind and soul. Healing the mind heals perception. The light is the gateway to the peace of God.

It is peace. A peace so great that all creation is held breathless within it. The door to knowing peace is acceptance. This does not mean that you have to accept the unjust or unacceptable. It is higher than that. It is an open hearted "yes" to Life while leaving all judgement, and in particular all grievance and resentment aside. Peace can only come to a mind that is no longer at war with reality. It is beyond human comprehension,

which is why the “Peace of God passes all understanding.” It is always with us because it is within us as a gift of grace.

News from QARN (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network)

The QARN AGM will take place in Birmingham (Priory Rooms/Bull Street) on Saturday 8th July. Between 11.00 and 12.30 we will hold our AGM and also hear a speaker from Migrant Voice who has been invited to tell us about the campaign against extortionate visa fees.

QARN has contacts with a large number of other organisations also working to support and fight for the human rights of Refugees and Asylum seekers.
Here are few recent notifications via their email chat room

An informative article from **Free Movement** on the use of social media by the Home Office to create and promote the hostile environment .

Liberty : from June this year.
In the latest investigation with the Sunday Mirror, they uncovered shocking data showing that 102 immigration custody staff were suspended between Jan 2020 and mid-Feb 2023. Forty-nine of the cases took place last year.

Documents from disciplinary cases obtained by Freedom of Information requests reveal a sharp rise in the number of staff investigated. Fourteen Mitie staff were suspended last year after an expose by Sunday Mirror and new documents show six Mitie staff later had their certifications revoked and two resigned during further investigations. Other documents include officers’ written accounts of eight “use-of-force” incidents that led to a dozen staff suspensions.
MPs said the findings “raise serious questions” about the government’s plans to drastically expand the detention estate, while campaigners said the documents suggest problems such as racism and use of force may be “endemic” in removal centres.

Waging Peace: Things have been dreadfully hectic with respect to the tragic situation which daily worsens in Sudan. They are having to cope with more cases of suicidal intent.

To mark Refugee Week 2023, **Women for Refugee Women's End Detention group, for women with experience of immigration detention,** launched their second campaigning action to do with ‘Mitie’ , the main provider of detention centres.
Many well-known brands, such as Ikea, Sainsbury’s and Bravissimo contract Mitie for their services and are therefore inadvertently causing great harm to people seeking safety. Using Mitie is also at odds with these companies' stated public support for refugee and women’s rights. They would love your support with writing to these companies asking them to consider what they are doing.

Together with Refugees: ask if it would be possible to hold a Hospitality Not Hostility picnic outside a detention centre? They hope it would send a powerful message about the positive alternative we want for people seeking safety in the UK – and highlight the lack of hospitality they currently receive being locked up.

QARN also has representatives on

Churches Refugee Network
Immigration detention
Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Quaker Council for European Affairs – QCEA News says UK is not alone in this hostile environment for Refugees and Asylum seekers. There are many EU countries using 'push back' practices. Some time torture and other methods have been used to force people back and away from borders.
Ireland seems to be the only country that has good policies.

This whole issue has been brought into focus, especially with the media interest, with the sinking of the fishing boat on 19th June near Greece. It was thought there could have been 600 people aboard when the boat sank, and the women and children were locked inside so none of them escaped. The Greek people had 3 days of morning but will the truth ever come to light about what really happened with any chance of rescue.

I note the article in The Friend publication of 9th June from Howard Grace about refugee Bharti Dhir. It is a compelling story about suffering and the strength to carry on.

Environmental issues pages

Caring for Creation up-date (CTAL environmental group)

1. Eco Church – St Laurence's are registering to start working toward an Eco Church award, the Quakers have silver award, as do the Methodists. The Methodists recently had a meeting to discuss moving towards the gold award. Barbara will ask if Quakers want to progress toward a gold. It was suggested that Eco Church and Freegle could be discussed at CTAL meetings to get ecumenical involvement in these issues.

2. Green Christian are offering to 'Green your Church' by visiting to speak at a service; to speak at a service and then have workshops afterwards; or to have an 'On the Road Together' full day event on a Saturday. The Methodists are considering suggesting this as a way to get more congregation involvement in working towards the Eco Church gold award, but it could also be opened up to other churches.

3. 'Just One Thing' – offer a different 'green' thing each month to church members, e.g.
Carbon footprint – we could encourage church members to calculate their own individual footprints by choosing a suitable website that is not too complicated and offering 'surgeries' if people would like help to calculate.
Repair Cafe/Men's Shed – encourage people to repair things or get them repaired. The Repair Cafe is very good but only meets every three months. Maybe the Men's Shed would be interested in offering a similar service.

4. Date of Next Meeting – provisional date, **Thursday 5th October**, 10.00 a.m.

Extra news: Kim Stillwell, Methodist Minister, is retiring and his farewell service will be at 6.00 pm on 9 July, at the Methodist Church, to be followed by refreshments.

He will be much missed, especially by this group which he has given a lot of support to.

Ludlow Green Festival

Sunday 9th July

Take part in the Swap Shop!
South Shropshire Climate Action group attended the Next Generation Fair at the Community Centre, Craven Arms in glorious spring sunshine on Saturday 20th May. Along with their usual information stand about SSCA and other organisations in the network, they held their first Swap event to encourage people to reuse children's toys, books and clothes. By reusing and sharing we can help each other through the cost of living crisis and help the planet by reducing carbon emissions and waste.

There were lots of satisfied customers and the remaining stock will be on their stall at Ludlow Green Festival on Sunday 9th July. So if you have any items for any age group (adults and children) to donate or swap including toys, games, books, DVDs CDs, household items, clothes etc., take them along to their stall. They are looking forward to seeing you there.

CARING FOR
GOD'S ACRE

News for May

Britain's Most Unusual Lizards

The slow worm is a species of reptile that can be found all over the UK and is well adapted to both rural and urban environments. Burial grounds, gardens, verges and allotments can all provide important places of refuge for slow worms, and with a little extra attention, these sites can also benefit other reptiles and amphibians, such as grass snakes, frogs, toads, and newts.

Although often mistaken for snakes, slow worms are actually legless lizards with eyelids, a flat forked tongue, and the ability to shed their tails to evade predators. Slow worms can grow up to 30cm in length and typically live for 20-30 years in the wild, though the record for the oldest slow worm is held by a male that lived for 54 years in Copenhagen Zoo!

Like all reptiles, slow worms rely on the sun's heat to warm themselves, but they usually stay hidden under cover, such as in long grass, woodpiles, or compost heaps, where they hunt for prey like slugs and earthworms. During winter, they hibernate among tussocky grass, log piles, compost heaps, or stones, and emerge in the spring. When mowing or using strimmers in long or tussocky grass, it's important to check the area for slow worms first.
Unfortunately, slow worms are facing declining populations due to habitat loss. Therefore, managing our spaces to better support these lovable lizards can go a long way in protecting them.

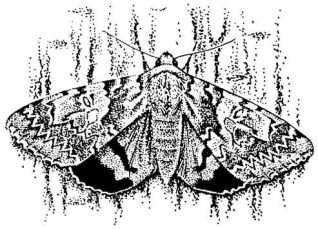
News for June

The Night Shift
The UK is home to over 2,500 species of moths. They grace our skies with a diverse palette of shapes, sizes, and colours. Unlike their butterfly relatives, most species of moth are primarily active during the night and have evolved adaptations such as sensitive antennae which guide them through the darkness, detecting subtle chemical signals that lead them to nectar and mates. The flowers of some plants open and become more fragrant in the evening, luring in the moths. These flowers also tend to have pale hues to reflect the moonlight and be easily seen by a range of nocturnal pollinators.

To distinguish a moth from a butterfly, focus on the shape of the antennae - most butterflies have club-shaped antennae with a little delicate ball at the end whilst moths' are usually feathery, saw-shaped or taper to a fine point. If you find yourself too far away to admire the intricate details of their antennae, fear not! Look at their wings – most moths rest with their wings flat and outstretched in peaceful repose, whilst most butterflies fold their wings upright with elegance and grace.

Often camouflaged to perfection, many moth species blend seamlessly with their environment, their patterns mirroring the intricate details of tree bark, leaves, twigs or lichen – keeping them hidden from prying eyes.
The lifespan of moths varies greatly between species. Some flutter through existence for mere days while others fly the night skies for months. Regardless of their lifespan, moths play a vital role as pollinators, weaving together the delicate threads of the ecosystem.

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



Here is a humming bird moth from my garden in Orelton a couple of years ago. It is a day time moth of course.

South Shropshire Climate Action News (some bits if you missed it)

1) SSCA attended the Zero Carbon Shropshire AGM held on May 17th followed by a panel discussion on accelerating action on the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. The "hybrid" meeting allowed for both personal and online attendance. We heard from a panel of local decision makers and experts including Carolyn Healy (Telford & Wrekin council), Ian Nellins, Julian Dean (both on the climate board for Shropshire Council), Philip Dunne MP (MP for Ludlow and Chair of the Environment Audit Committee) and Lawrence Kinnersley (Shropshire Wildlife Trust).
In the question and answer session that followed we asked how the local councils (at parish, town and county level) could proactively engage young people in the decision making of councils around the climate and ecological emergencies. After all, it is young people and future generations who are the ones who will be most impacted by these unfolding crises and it is vital that their views are heard within our political processes.

2) Middle Marches Community Land Trust (MMCLT) ran an excellent conference on Friday 12th May, "Creating Stepping Stones for Nature Recovery", bringing together experts active within South Shropshire and beyond. The event enabled sharing of good practice, expertise and commitment and gave local organisations, individuals, farmers and campaign groups a sense of how much more effective they can be when working together. Nick Read and Jane Cullen rated this a 5-star conference!

3) An LCWIP sets out a 10-year plan for delivering new or improved infrastructure for walking and cycling – to encourage more people to choose active modes of travel wherever possible. The draft Shropshire LCWIP focuses on seven key market towns – Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Church Stretton, Ludlow and Whitchurch. A list of proposals has been drawn up for each town, with schemes ranked in order of priority based on their effectiveness and deliverability.

The Knit Zero group is a café/pub get-together in Ludlow for knitters, crocheters and learners, with a focus on using climate-friendly fibres, and on sharing practical skills for climate resilience, as well as patterns, ideas, cake, etc. There are two sessions a week:

- Mondays 7-9 pm at The Rose and Crown, Ludlow;
- and Fridays 2.30-4 pm at Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow; and when the weather warms up, we'll be able to meet outdoors.

- Please contact Sarah if you'd like to come along by email:

berrysar@googlemail.com

Freegle

Nothing much has changed since our name change. The home page looks quite a bit different, and the email address is new (and you have seen it at the top of this page) but other than that - all the rules are the same, all of your moderators are the same, and our group is still GRASS ROOTS and LOCAL.
We're still dedicated to keeping things out of land fill, and the same moderation team are still here beavering away in the background helping to keep the group running smoothly.

The main reason for our move is simple. While freecycle is a GREAT idea, all our UK groups were basically forced to work under a system devised in and for the United States. Leaders of freecycle in the UK spent more than two years talking with the main freecycle network trying to get the freedom to run things in a way more suited to our own country and our own laws. Nothing changed.

In July 2009 four leading members of our national UK freecycle team resigned. Moderators around the country then formed an Independent Association of freecycle Moderators and again tried talks with the freecycle network. But again to no avail. Following that, an increasing number of Group Owners and Moderators were SUMMARILY DISMISSED from freecycle including the former UK Director of freecycle UK.
Thus, In September 2009 Freegle was born, and since then three hundred and four groups have either changed their allegiance or have been created.
And we have now increased that number by one.

Ludlow and Leominster Freegle Moderating Team

Problem with The National Grid

I have just read an interesting article in Ray's E&T publication (The Institute of Engineering and Technology) March 2023. There are lots of interesting articles of course, this edition is full of AI issues. However it caught my eye for this Journal's environmental section. Apparently there are problems connecting any renewable energy projects to the Grid. At the moment it is taking 15 years to get anything connected up. This is both astonishing and worrying.
For the National Grid ESO (the electricity system operator for Great Britain) to build a new circuit can take 10 years. The new arm of the Grid, Centrica Energy Assets is finding land from landowners and getting planning permission is not the big problem, it is linking to the Grid.

The director of Centrica says 80% of 300 substations across UK need up-grading. There is also a big need for regulatory changes but Ofgem say that government intervention is needed to speed things up. At the moment it is unlikely targets of decarbonisation in 2035 will be met.

Barbara