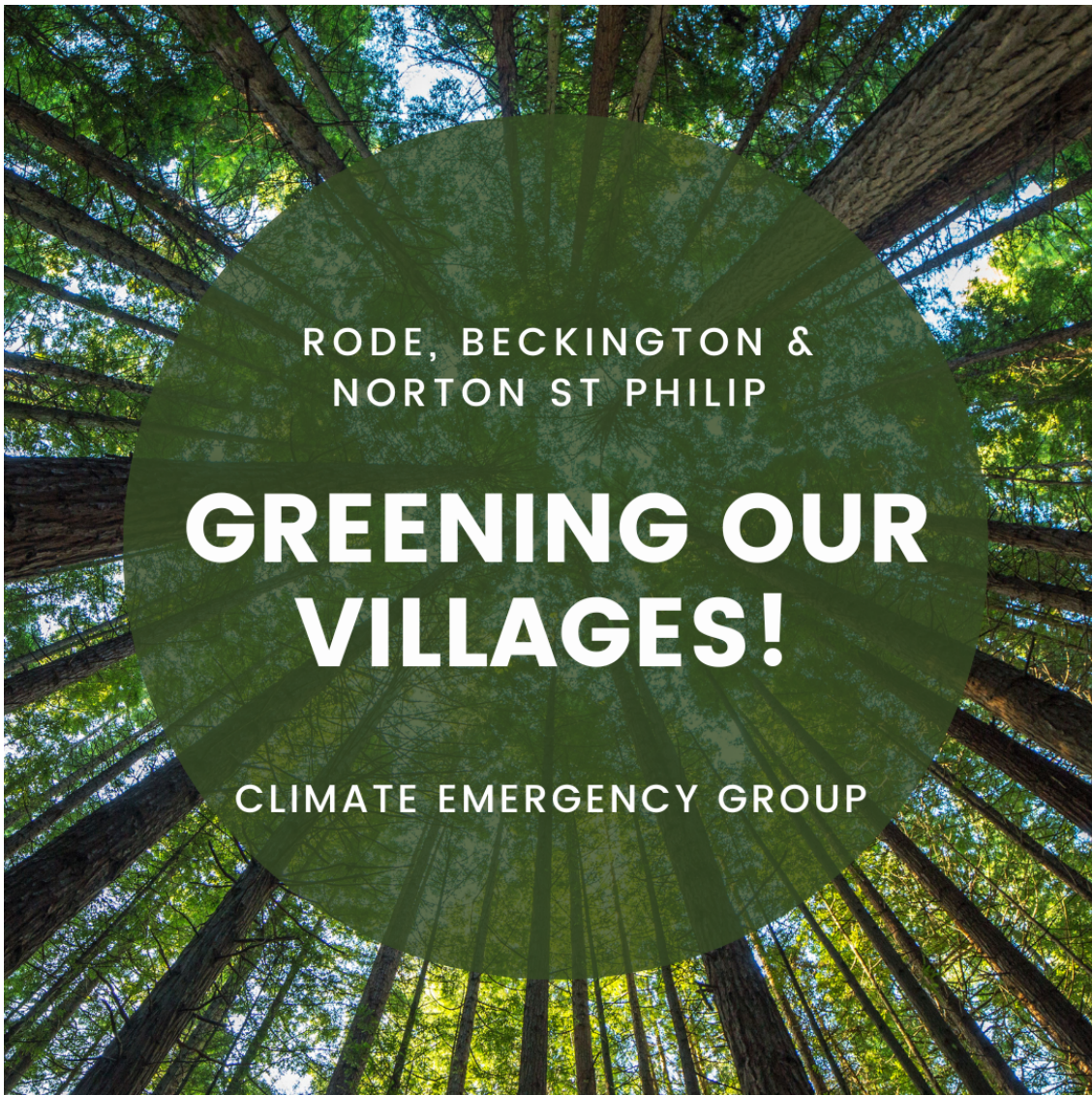


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RODE, BECKINGTON &
NORTON ST PHILIP

GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Welcome to the November Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Apologies that this is slightly later than usual - partially due to my trip to Amsterdam last week (more on that later!).

Whilst much of the recent news nationally and globally has been depressing, and actually quite frightening, on the climate front, this makes it even more vital that, as individuals and groups, we strive to make a difference. So it was particularly heartening to attend a great little event in South Stoke recently - "Sustainability Shorts" - see below.

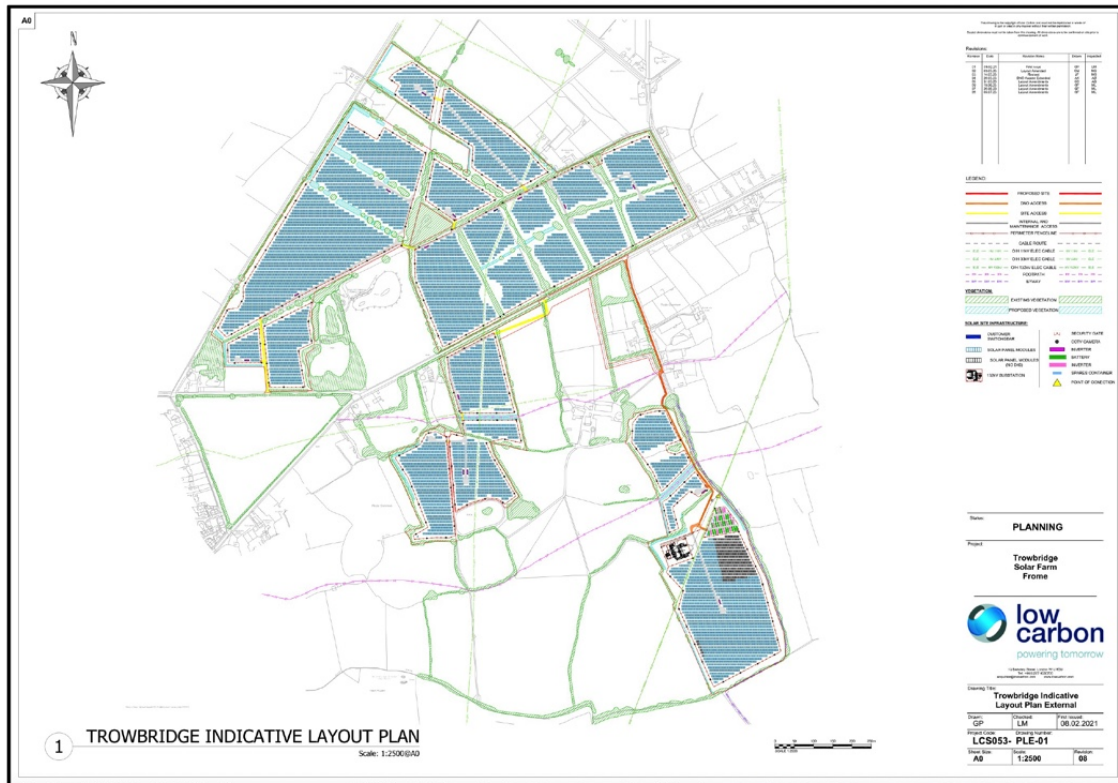
And, as we approach the end of 2023, we're only 8 subscribers away from hitting the magic 100 mark! If you know someone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, feel free to forward this issue. New subscribers can sign-up by following

[https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGruF20)

[fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGruF20](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGruF20)

Jim

jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



Proposed Solar Farm in Rode

As noted in previous newsletters, the planning application for the proposed new Solar Farm in Rode was due to be submitted in July, but has been delayed several times. Rode Parish Council has been informed that Somerset Council has asked Low Carbon* to complete "pre-determination Archaeological Trial Trenching". This work began on 30 October 2023 and is scheduled to last 4 weeks, dependent on ground and weather conditions. [*Low Carbon is the company behind the proposed solar farm]



Sustainability Shorts

Last month I attended a great little event at The Packhorse Inn, South Stoke, run by Transition Bath. The event ("Sustainability Shorts") comprised seven speakers, each with a ten minute slot, talking on a diverse range of environment-related subjects. Full details can be found here:

<https://transitionbath.org/sustainability-shorts-at-the-packhorse/>

The Climate Emergency Group is looking to organise a similar event in Rode in early 2024, and Sustainability Bath is planning another event in January, so watch this space for more info.

Incidentally, here are a few links to some of the subject matter from the event at The Packhorse:

Regenerative Gardening: www.regengrowing.org

James Levelle: <https://www.jamesmlevelle.com/>

Dr Rosie Jones: <https://bathpsychologypractice.org/therapy/cbt/>

Transition Bath: <https://transitionbath.org/>



Veganuary?

We're still over a month away from Veganuary, but it was heartening to read recently that people in the UK consumed less meat last year than at any point since records began in the 1970s - a 14% decline since 2012. More details here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/24/uk-meat-consumption-lowest-level-since-record-began-data-reveal>

In 2020, the UK Climate Change Committee made a series of practical recommendations regarding how the UK could achieve Net Zero by 2050. This included a target for a 35% reduction in meat consumption (per person), by 2050. In fact, the National Food Strategy (an independent study on behalf of the UK government) is more ambitious in the near term, recommending a 30% reduction by 2032 (see visual, above). And Veganuary is a great way to encourage that reduction (I did it earlier this year and - despite returning to a more normal diet from February onwards - we're definitely eating a lot less meat and dairy this year).

And for 2024, the Veganuary team are making a big effort to encourage workplaces to take a lead....if you know someone in a position to inspire their colleagues to reduce their meat consumption, check out the Veganuary "Workplace Challenge" here:

<https://veganuary.com/get-involved/workplace-challenge/>



Community Energy

At our most recent Climate Emergency Group meeting we agreed to start exploring the potential for a community energy project in Rode and the surrounding villages. Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through a partnership with commercial or public sector partners.

There are over 500 community energy organisations in the UK, and the sector is growing rapidly. Here in Rode/Beckington/Norton St Philip we are at the very early, exploratory stage – and there's much to investigate before anything concrete emerges. However, if you would be interested in getting involved in the project, let us know by emailing me (jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com).



The advertisement features a teal background. On the left, a white and red Compass Bus is shown with 'Glenwood 67' on its destination sign. To the right, a large gold coin displays '£2*'. The text 'Single journey bus fares' is at the top left, and 'capped at' is in the center. At the bottom, there is a small note '* some services excluded', the UK Government logo, and a 'Help for Households' logo.

Buses!

Further good news in relation to buses....the government has extended the £2 fare cap until the end of next year. The fare cap was originally due to increase to £2.50 per single journey from the beginning of this month, but the £2 fare will continue at least until 31 December 2024. This provides continuing incentive to use our local buses and - as ever - it's a case of "use them or lose them".

With that in mind, Somerset Bus Partnership has been campaigning to improve Somerset's bus services for nearly 3 years, and is probably the most active bus user group in the country. With the extension of the £2 fare cap, they need to reprint a range of publicity material, and need our support to do this.

So far, the £2 fare has resulted in increased bus usage, but we need people to be taking even more bus journeys if we're not to face further bus cuts in the future.....Somerset Council simply doesn't have enough money to fund our buses, especially at this time of extreme financial difficulty.

So - if you can - please think about making a small donation to Somerset Bus Partnership. Details here:

<https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/membership>

Trains!

After my trip to Marseille by train last month, I'm continuing to follow Brighton & Hove Albion's European adventure by rail. Last week we were playing in Amsterdam,

are direct trains in each direction (meaning no requirement to change in Brussels), with single fares starting at a VERY reasonable £39.



In my case, I opted for one of the non-direct options on the way back - which means you do the immigration checks at Brussels rather than Amsterdam (the timings allow for the change of train and the security checks, etc in Brussels). And because all entry formalities are completed before you get to the UK, once you jump off the train at St Pancras it's possible to get to Paddington in 20 minutes!



And Amsterdam is an incredibly beautiful city - even under rather grey November skies. I can particularly recommend a visit to the Johan Crujff Arena :-)



Cycling!

It's definitely wet....and on the face of it, not great cycling weather. However, Sustrans has a range of tips and advice to help keep us active over the autumn and winter months. Find out more here:



Finally, early next month, **December 9th**, is Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, organised by the Climate Justice Coalition. The coalition comprises a number of groups and individuals - including Friends of the Earth, CAFOD, and War on Want, committed to building solidarity and power for Climate Justice in Britain and across the globe. More info here:

<https://climatejustice.uk/9-december-day-of-action-for-climate-justice/>

TROWBRIDGE REPAIR CAFÉ



Finally, we're working on bringing a Repair Café to Rode - more news next month. In the meantime, if you have something that needs mending, take it along to Trowbridge Guide Hut (Trowbridge Town park) on **Saturday 25th November (10am - 3pm)**.



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