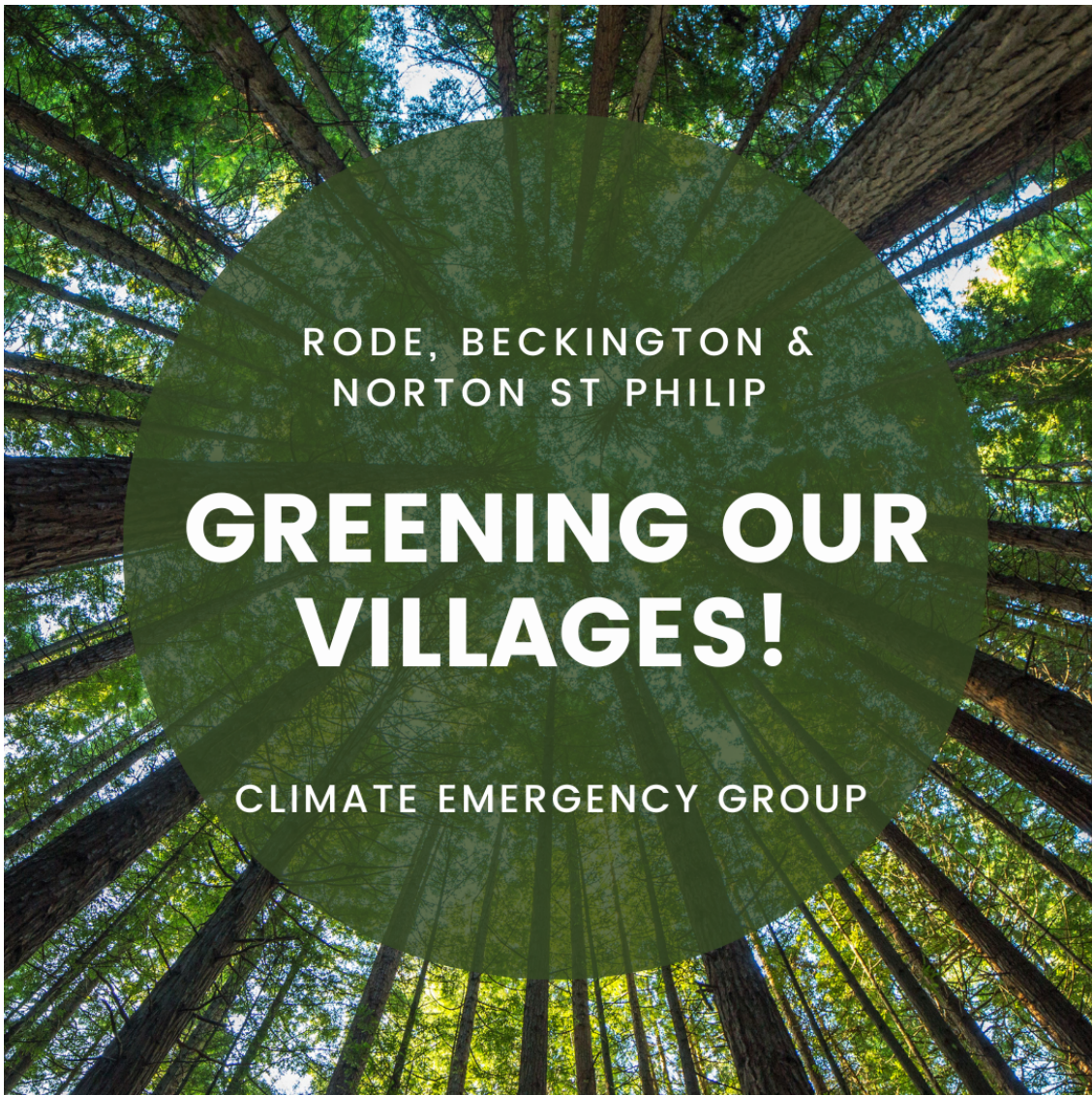


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RODE, BECKINGTON &
NORTON ST PHILIP

GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Welcome to the February Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Well, thankfully January is over, and surely Spring can't be far away! And as the weather warms up (well, a bit) you may be thinking of getting out and about a bit more - if so, cycling is of course a great way to get around - both for good health and the climate. If you're slightly nervous about getting (back) in the saddle, Frome's "Cycle Together" programme is a really good starting point....more info below.

Moving from cycling to recycling, check out the plans for a Repair Café in Rode and the positive results from the recent Tech Amnesty in Frome. The Repair Café will, however, need some volunteer menders/repairers....drop me a line if you know of any candidates!

newsletter, feel free to forward this issue. New subscribers can sign-up by following the link below:

[https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?
fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr
uF20](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr uF20)

And all past editions of this newsletter, plus various resources, advice and information, are available on the Rode Village Website:

<https://www.rodevillage.com/climate-emergency/>

jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



Proposed Solar Farm in Rode - update

Rode Parish Council recently received the following update from Low Carbon, the company behind the proposed Solar Farm in Rode:

- Low Carbon is working with the various parties who made objections to the planning application (and/or required further information) - eg: Highways, Landscape Officer, Conservation Officer, etc;
- One definite change to the application will be to “pull away” from Flexham Farm [this is likely to mean that some of the proposed areas of panels in the immediate surrounds of Flexham Farm will be removed];
- This work may enable Low Carbon to provide relevant documentation to the Case Officer in time to have the application discussed at the March meeting of the Somerset Council East Planning Committee (which is 5th March)
- More likely, it will go to the April meeting (2nd April)

Low Carbon has promised to keep readers updated on any changes to the application as a result of this ongoing work.

Meanwhile, Somerset Council has been developing a Local Area Energy Plan. This will help identify areas across Somerset that are suitable for renewable energy generation such as solar and wind. It includes an assessment of all council assets and recommended projects to take forward and collaborate on. The council is in the process of consulting internally on the final draft of the report and will be presenting it at the February meeting of the Wessex Community Energy Network. If interested, you can attend the meeting (it's in Taunton, details here): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wcen-february-network-meeting-registration-799967403037>

A recording of the presentations will be available after the event at <https://wessexce.net/>

The objective is to publish the plan in early March. I'm told that Somerset Council planners are now looking at how the plan will inform policy.



Repair Café in Rode

Plans are underway to bring a Repair Café to Rode! Building on the success of the Norton St Philip Repair Café, the idea is to hold at least a couple of events a year in Rode, with the first one tentatively pencilled-in for **Saturday 8th June** (in Rode Memorial Hall). In order for this event to take place we obviously need expert repairers! So - if you have some knowledge or experience of fixing household objects (be they electrical, mechanical, pottery, porcelaine, clothing or footwear....) please email me using the address below. And please pass on this request to anyone you know who may be interested in helping out.

Contact email: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



Community Orchard

I recently came across a great little article on the Somerset Community Food website....it's encouraging people to start a Community Orchard, and I wondered whether this was something of interest to any local residents or groups?

There are a number of great examples in Somerset (albeit in the west of the county):

Frieze Hill Community Orchard (Taunton): Set up in 2003 by a group of local people. The land used to form part of the adjacent allotments. The volunteer run group have planted over 100 trees, diverse hedges and organised lots of popular local events.

Porlock Vale Community Orchard (nr Minehead): Supported through the Get Growing Support Fund as part of the Somerset Land & Food Project. However their work started many months before, when two volunteers talked about how to revitalise the orchard in the village, communicating with the landowner and bringing people together to make the restoration possible.

Brendon Orchards, Wiveliscombe (nr Taunton): They hold community juicing sessions, run by volunteers where you can press small quantities of your own juice.

The article lists loads of resources and has links to organisations which help promote community orchards. Check it out here:

<https://www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk/community-orchards-forest-gardens>



Cycle together

Cycle Together supports adults living in and around Frome to cycle more through a free programme of events. Taking part in Cycle Together will help you feel more confident, to cycle more often and be more active. There's a range of assistance, including free Adult Cycle Training courses, organised group bike rides, and bike maintenance classes.

Full details here: <https://www.fromebikeproject.org/cycle-together/>



Tech Amnesty!

The "Tech Amnesty" in Frome Town Hall car park (sign-posted in the January Newsletter) was a great success....over 500 electrical items were donated, including 120 laptops and over 190 phones. The donations totalled 960kg of Smart Tech collected!

All this equipment is now with "Donate It" who will data wipe and where possible, refurbish and redistribute the tech to those who need it most. Anything that can't be reused will be disposed of responsibly.

If you missed the event, and have some old tech equipment that you no longer use, you can take the items to one of the "Donate It" drop off points (including one at Frome Town Hall), Full details here: <https://donateit.co.uk/>



Great Big Green Week - 8th to 16th June 2024

Emergency Group has organised a range of activities as part of this, the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. We will be looking to hold some more events in and around Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip.....if you have some ideas for how we can further promote sustainable living in our villages, please drop me a line (jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com)



Community Action Groups

Somerset

Green New Year Resolutions

OK - so it's February! But you don't need to start every New Year's Resolution on 1st January. And if you're still looking for inspiration, here's a nice little list from the Somerset Community Action Group website:

Fix and Mend at Repair Cafés:

In 2024, make a commitment to sustainability by getting your broken items fixed at your local repair café (there's a quarterly Repair Café in Norton St Philip, and hopefully one in Rode soon - plus others nearby in Bradford, Frome, Trowbridge). Somerset's repair network provides a great resource: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/somerset-repair-network/> Embrace a culture of repair and reduce waste!

Combine Litter Picking with Wholesome Activities:

In 2024, why not commit to a weekly or monthly litter pick in your local area,

outdoors. [NB: if you're doing this on or near a road, it's a very good idea to litter pick as a couple or small group, wearing a hi-vis vest and keeping a constant watch for passing traffic.]

Keep Unwanted Items in Circulation:

De-clutter responsibly in 2024 by keeping unwanted items in circulation. Make a resolution to sell them on platforms like Vinted, Ebay, or Facebook Marketplace to make some money. Alternatively, consider donating to charity or participating in SwapShops for a sustainable approach.

Maximise Donation and Recycling Efforts:

Make a commitment to donating and recycling as much as possible in 2024. Explore options from kerbside recycling to dedicated recycling points. Ensure that items beyond repair find a responsible end (eg: see the Tech Amnesty paragraph above).

Embrace Secondhand First with the Traid Pledge:

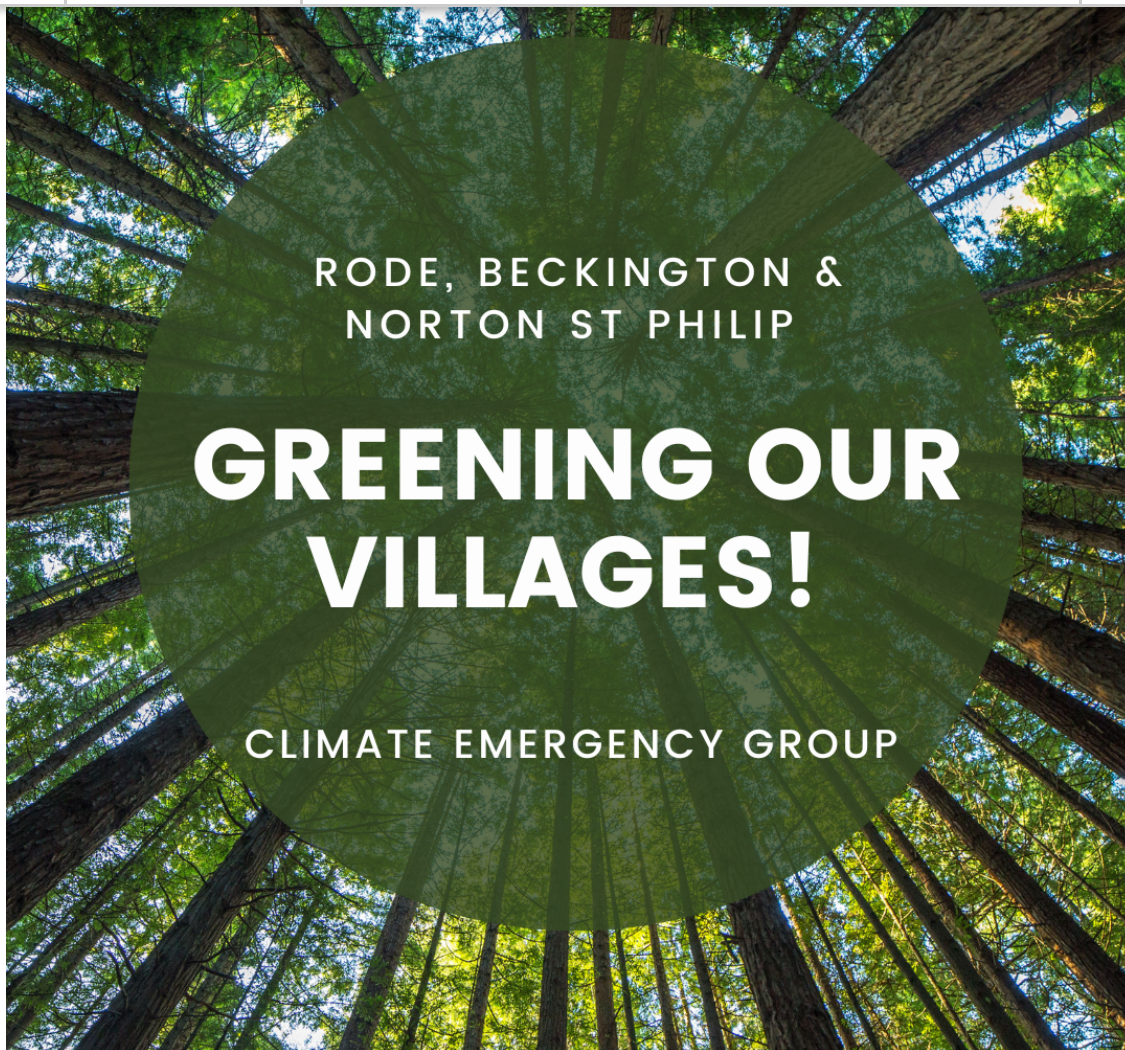
Make a fashion statement in 2024 by committing to buy #SecondhandFirst. Take the Traid pledge and fill your wardrobe with unique pre-loved items. Learn more about clothes recycling here: <https://www.traid.org.uk/>

Volunteer with Local Community Groups:

Explore your interests and skills by volunteering with a local community group (there are loads in Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip!). Make new friends and contribute to the well-being of your community in 2024.

Reduce Food Waste for a Greener Planet:

Make a goal to reduce your food waste in 2024. Improve your meal planning skills or explore creative recipes to use up leftovers. This resolution benefits both the planet and your pocket.



Finally, the next Climate Emergency Group meeting is on **Monday 26th February** in Rode Memorial Hall (Committee Room), starting at **7pm**. If you'd like to join the group you will be very welcome, and it would be great to see you at the meeting (drop me a line beforehand and I can forward the Agenda, etc).

And a quick footnote, to add that I will be stepping back from "leading" the Group in the summer. By then I'll have been in the hot-seat for three years and I think it's time for someone with more expertise, energy, and time, to take on the mantle - and in particular to inspire us to reach the next level. If you think that person is YOU - please drop me a line....and, if it's not you, but you know someone who could be interested, please ask them to get in contact.

Email: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



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Rode Climate Emergency Group · 17 High Street · Rode · Frome, Somerset BA11 6NZ · United Kingdom

