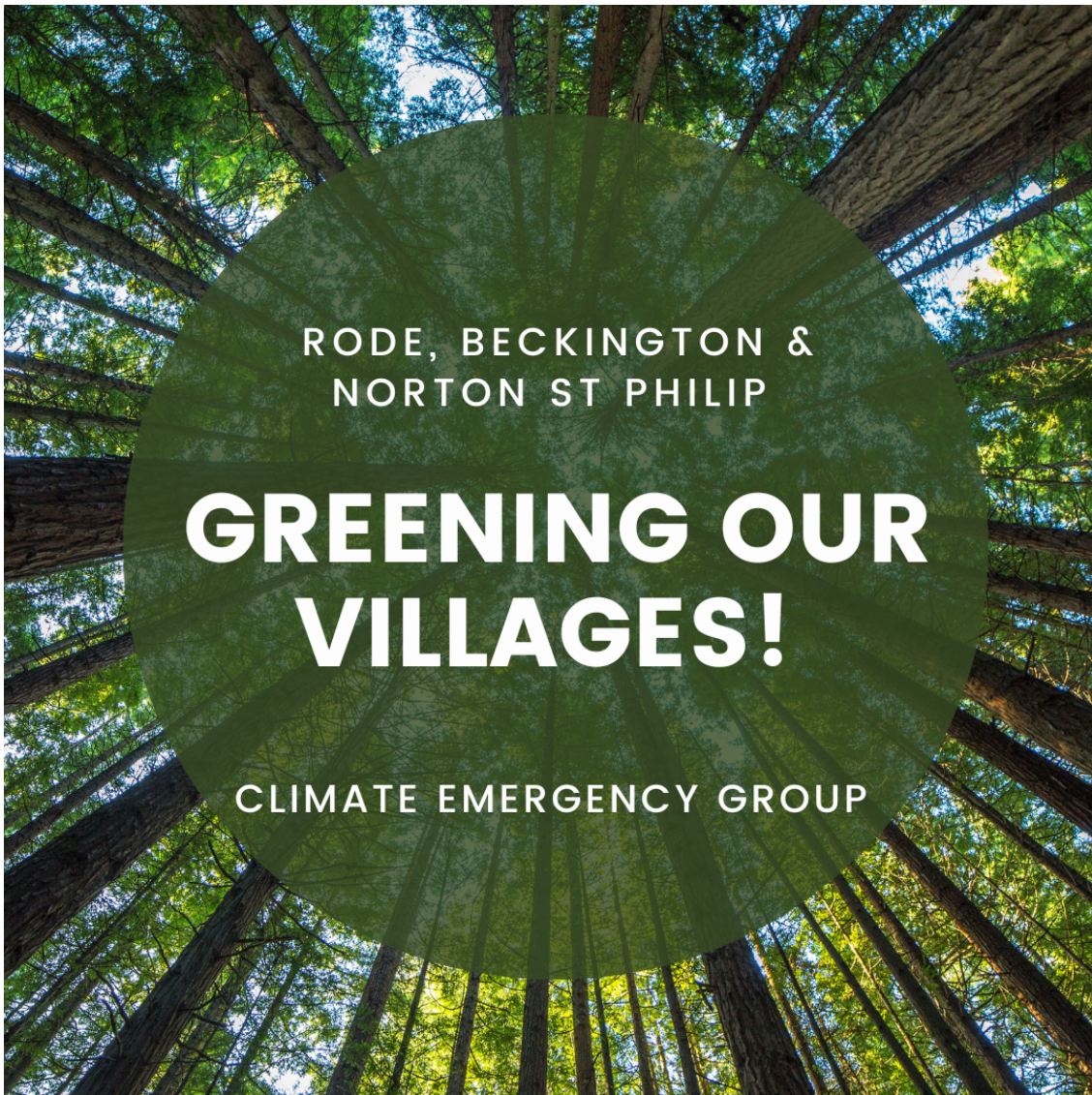


[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome to the March Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Suddenly, lots seems to be happening! There's a further consultation process in relation to the proposed solar farm in Rode, there are more opportunities to visit Green Homes locally, the Climate Emergency Group has set it's 6 key objectives for 2024, we're planning our first Repair Café in Rode, and there are all sorts of events locally and nationally this month...just a few of which are referenced below. So, without further ado, welcome to this month's newsletter :-)

And - as always - 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 the link below:

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

As noted in the February newsletter, the planning application for a large-scale solar farm in Rode was due to be determined by 12th February. However, the applicant was required to provide a significant amount of additional information in order to respond to issues raised by consultees. Rode Parish Council has been informed that the determination date has therefore been extended and the application will probably be considered at the April meeting of the Somerset East Planning Committee (2nd April).

This additional information is now available on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/> [On the SC website, go to "Planning, buildings and land", then select "View or comment on a planning application", choose "Mendip", then go to "Find an application". The application reference is **2023/2183/FUL**].

The applicant has made some relatively minor changes to the proposed development (see list below), but unfortunately doesn't appear to have responded to the main concerns of local residents (which relate to the scale of the development, its proximity to the village of Rode, and its impact on

forward by Historic England, the Somerset Council Conservation Officer, and the Mendip Conservation Officer.

The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Removed some panels to the east and west of Flexham Farm house, and away from Frith Farm/Bradford Road.
2. Proposed some additional landscaping across the site, specifically:
 - (a) reinstatement of two historic field boundaries in the north-west,
 - (b) additional planting along boundary near Flexham Farm,
 - (c) additional planting along boundary near no 8 Frome Road (a listed building),
3. Relocating an inverter away from Flexham Farm Listed Building.
4. Increasing 'no build' buffers across the site from boundary vegetation in areas of bat activity;
5. Increasing drainage near the Battery / Substation field.
6. Adding in additional space for turning into Rode Farm (Access 2, A361) and Vehicle parking / passing place within the Site.
7. Introducing a permissive Bridleway connecting Monkley Lane with Poplar Tree Lane.

As a result of the additional information, and the changes to the proposed development, Somerset Council has announced a re-consultation period, which runs until **14th March**.

If you wish to comment on any of these changes, and/or the updated information now available, on the Somerset Council website, make sure you are logged in (if you haven't previously logged in, simply register first). Then go to "Planning, buildings and land", select "View or comment on a planning application", choose "Mendip", then go to "Find an application". The application reference is **2023/2183/FUL**. You should see an option to "make a comment" towards the top right of your screen.



Do you have an interesting home eco-project to share?

Over the past couple of years the Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip Climate Emergency Group has held two "Green Open Home" events, with (on each occasion) around a dozen local homes hosting visits to their energy-saving projects. The technologies on display have ranged from solar PV and heat pumps to electric bikes and secondary glazing.

We're now looking to provide a permanent on-line resource (hosted on the Rode village website) with details of local "eco-projects", to include some background on the project, the pros and cons, learnings and recommendations, etc, etc - with the overall objective of inspiring more local residents to investigate and implement energy and carbon-saving solutions.

If you've undertaken such a project - no matter how small - and would be prepared to share some information on-line, then please get in touch at the address below.

Contact email: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com



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 on **Saturday 8th June** (in Rode Memorial Hall). In order for this event to be a success 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



Climate Emergency Group - Objectives for 2024

The Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip Climate Emergency Group met at the end of February and agreed the following key objectives for 2024 (most of which are continuations from last year's objectives, but no less important for that):

- a. **Support Local Bus Services:** It seems that the D2 services through Rode are again under threat, with the cost of running buses via Rode adding 6% to the overall cost, but raising only 2% more revenue. It is likely that the summer timetable will be largely unchanged, but there are risks that Rode (and perhaps other villages) will lose D2 services when the autumn/winter timetables come into force in September. It is therefore vital that we do what we can to help increase bus utilisation, in particular in Rode, over the coming months
- b. **Work to deliver public EV charging points in Rode, Beckington & NSP:** There are challenges to identifying a site in Rode, caused by the potential relocation of the Memorial Hall. Hopefully a plan will begin to emerge over the summer which will enable a permanent site in Rode to be identified. However, there are also potential sites in Beckington (eg: Whiterow Farm; village hall car park, and environs), and NSP (eg: Fleur de Lys car park).
- c. **Continue to inspire change through community events:** Plans for a

run further local events. Also, we recently discussed running a "Sustainability Shorts" event (similar to that run by Transition Bath)

d. **Support the provision of safe walking/cycling routes:** The work on the LCWIP in Beckington has reached an impasse. We need to investigate what further can be achieved here for local connectivity.

e. **Improve communication:** Much achieved in 2023....but still scope to improve (eg: more coverage in local parish magazines – monthly articles published in Rode, but not in other local villages).

f. **Commence work on a Community Energy Project:** There is definite potential for more local hydro projects, and we also agreed to investigate the potential for local households, businesses and schools, etc, to implement Solar PV [nb: check Beckington Primary School – any lessons for other local schools? CW to investigate]



Frome Community Bike Project - refurbished bikes

Frome Community Bike Project now has an online shop, with refurbished bikes for sale - details here: <https://fcbp.square.site/>

Or check out the bikes available in person at the workshop (Station Approach, Frome - open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 4pm, and Saturday

And on Saturday, 20th March, there'll be a Frome Saturday Market outside the library (9am - 3pm). There will be a selection of bikes for sale, free advice and bike safety checks with Dr Bike.

Plus, on Thursday 21st March there's an open day at the workshop (10am - 4pm) as part of the Frome Kindness Festival.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT 11-17 MARCH

The Big Plastic Count

Nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, and just 12% is recycled in the UK. Taking part in The Big Plastic Count is easy, and can act as a great tool to encourage further action by governments, corporates, and individuals...we took part last year, and it was fascinating to see how much plastic we accumulated in just a week. It certainly made an impression, and since then we've been far more aware of the products we purchase and the way they are wrapped. Sign up here: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up>



Rewilding

Do you know a local land-owner, or someone interested in re-wilding? If so, they (or you) may be interested in an event being hosted by Heal Rewilding, a local organisation which raises money to buy land for rewilding. Their first site is at Witham Priory, just south of Frome.

And Heal has just announced its first ever rewilding gathering called "Into the Light" which is taking place on **Friday 10 May and Saturday 11 May** (at Witham Priory). Tickets are available online, with a limited number available at early bird rates with a 15% discount.

If you're interested in what's happening in rewilding, would like to spend time with others who love wildlife and want to help it thrive again, this is for you!

Into The Light runs over two days and you can book for one day or both days. There will be a big tent for talks and a smaller tent for book talks and other fringe activities.

On Friday, the focus is on rewilding finance and technology.

On Saturday, talks will be more general, on wildlife, rewilding projects and broader themes.

There's a fantastic programme each day, with a roster of brilliant speakers and plenty of time between talks for conversations. More information about the themes for each day and confirmed speakers is on the ticket page ([link](#))

Food and drink will be available to buy during the event or you can bring your own. There will be a bar on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/healrewilding/1175259#>



Wiltshire Climate Alliance Green Open Homes

We're hoping to run another "Green Open Homes" event locally in 2024, but in the meantime, you may be interested in a similar event in Wiltshire - with several properties being reasonably close (Bradford-on-Avon, Warminster, etc). As is customary, this Green Open Homes event - **which runs from 9th - 17th March** - is an opportunity to ask a local resident about an energy saving improvement that they've made, and see if it might work for you. Visiting a home is a great way to find out about the reality of getting solar panels, insulation, triple glazing, or new heating options, without talking to a salesman. You can have a good look at the technology, ask the residents whether the installation was a hassle, and find out much they're really saving on their energy bills as a result. Further details, including a list of all the properties involved, can be found here:

<https://wwb.greenopenhomes.net/wiltshire-and-swindon-green-open-homes-292>

CLIMATE HUB

Bath & North East
Somerset

CLIMATE HUB SPRINGTIME ASSEMBLY

A COLLECTIVE OF GREEN ORGANISATIONS
GATHERING TOGETHER TO SHARE
INFORMATION AND IDEAS ABOUT POSITIVE
ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



- Children's activities
- Workshop
- Talks
- Quiz
- Music
- Assemble and Sing
- Displays and information on a range of topics
- Seed planting

For more information, please email us at
climatehubbanes@gmail.com or visit
<https://www.facebook.com/ClimateHubBanes>

SUPPORT • LEARN • CONNECT • ACT

For people and planet

**Friday 22nd March
11am-7pm**

**Sat and Sun
23rd & 24th March
11am-4pm**

In collaboration with
National Trust, Bath
Assembly Rooms, BA1 2QH

Sustainability Shorts event in Bath

Transition Bath are running another of their popular "Sustainability Shorts" events later this month...it takes place at Bath Assembly Rooms on **Friday 22nd March from 5pm-7pm** with four speakers, each talking for 10 minutes on a variety of themes with 5 minutes for questions after each talk. The speakers are:

Pete Dyson, Bicycle Mayor of Bath and author of Transport For Humans:

Saying the savings time for a brighter, greener tomorrow.

Marian Hill, an illustrator (and founder of Buzz and Scuttle), who has become fascinated with our local native insect species, will be introducing some of Nature's invertebrate waste disposal experts who are busily tidying our local landscape and improving soil health in the process.

Caroline Hickman, University of Bath lecturer in social work and climate psychology, will be discussing eco anxiety and distress about the climate and ecological crisis in children and young people globally.

Aleksander Domanski, documentary filmmaker, biologist and photographer, will be sharing some of his footage exploring human and animal stories that celebrate resilience and problem solving in a changing world.

The event is free, but you need to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainability-shorts-music-and-vegan-food-at-bath-assembly-rooms-tickets-823572416267?>

This is part of the Climate Hub Springtime Assembly.



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

This year's GBGW starts on 8th June. For the last couple of years the Climate 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)



Sorry For The Inconvenience (by Lynne Jones)

For those who may be considering non-violent climate protest - or just those who are fascinated by the ordinary citizens who have already taken that step, this online event should be good. Featuring Lynne Jones, author of "Sorry for the Inconvenience", it takes place on **18th March (7pm - 8pm)**, direct from The Lighthouse bookshop in Edinburgh (£2.00)

Tickets here: <https://lighthousebookshop.com/events/sorry-for-the-inconvenience-but-this-is-an-emergency-lynne-jones-on-the-nonviolent-struggle-for-our-planets-future>

An insider's candid account of our new era of mass protest, calling passionately for action against existential threats....A lifetime of activism has taught Jones that we all have more power than we realise. It's time to use that power—before it's too late.

About the book

As floods, fires and unprecedented heatwaves rage across the planet, more and more people are turning to nonviolent action to achieve political change. Can it work?

Doctor and aid worker Lynne Jones offers a compelling, ground-level account of the last five years of protests in the UK, exploring how and why ordinary citizens have resorted to extraordinary methods to confront the global climate and nature crises.

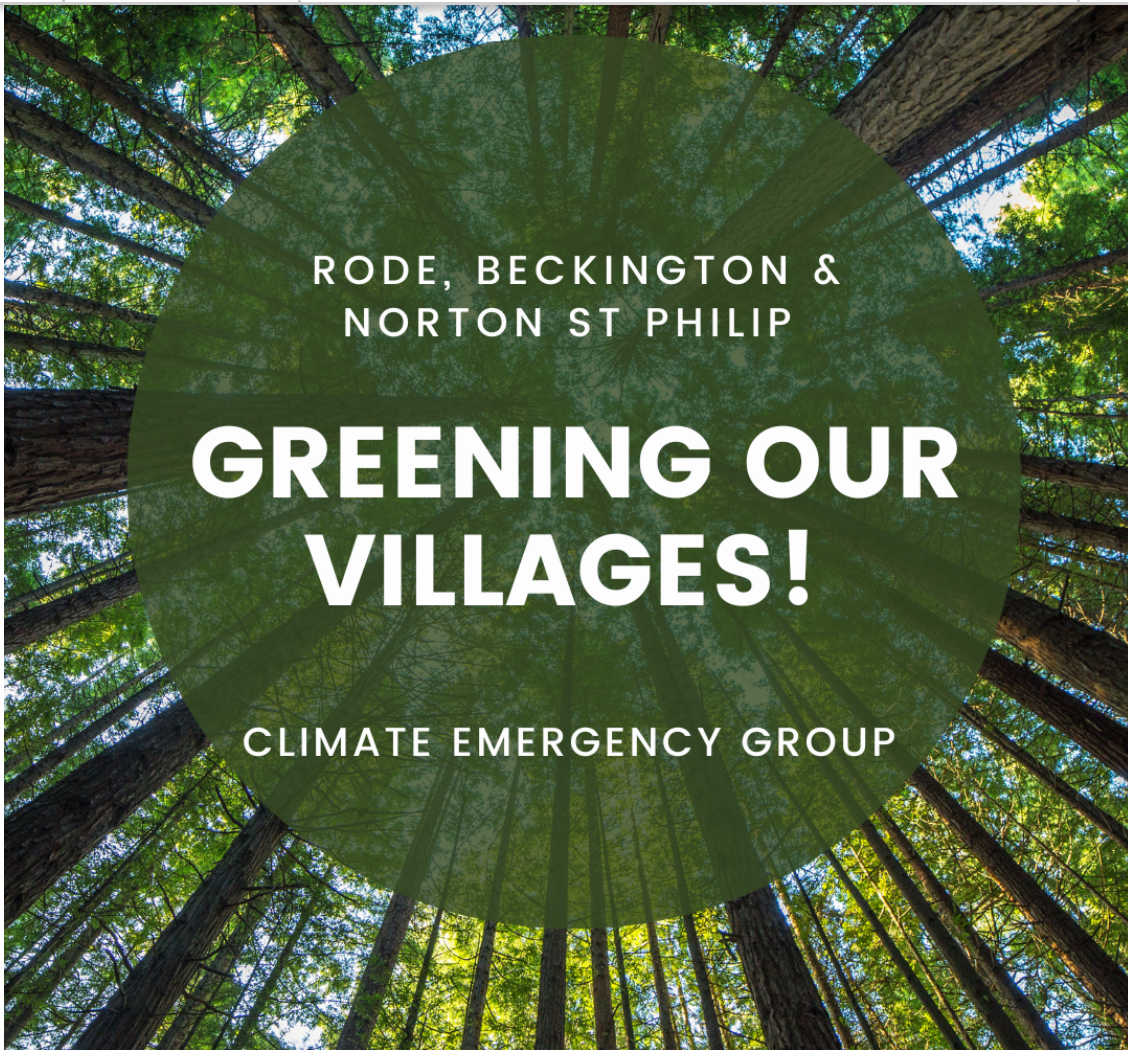
Drawing on her experiences opposing nuclear weapons at Greenham Common airbase in the 1980s, and sharing her journey in movements like Extinction

another key questions about nonviolent action in a world on the brink. Can we learn from the protest movements of the past? How do you communicate with those who disagree? What are the most effective forms of disruption in a Western democracy? Is property damage nonviolent? Is the law just? How important are direct interventions, boycotts and non-cooperation? What can we learn from indigenous activists in the Global South?

A lifetime of activism has taught Jones that we all have more power than we realise. It's time to use that power for meaningful, transformative change—before it's too late.

About the author

Lynne Jones OBE is a child psychiatrist, WHO and UNICEF consultant, and author of acclaimed books including *Outside the Asylum* and *Then They Started Shooting*. BBC Radio, the *New Statesman*, the *London Review of Books* and *O, The Oprah Magazine* have featured her field diaries from conflict and disaster areas.



RODE, BECKINGTON &
NORTON ST PHILIP

GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Finally, a quick reminder that I will be stepping back from "leading" the Climate Emergency 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



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

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

