

Newsletter

August 2021

COP 26: November 1st – 12th

COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties' and will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. This year's conference in Glasgow, delayed due to the pandemic, marks the 26th round of climate talks since they began, hence the name COP26. It's a chance for world leaders to negotiate the rules, guidelines and co-operation needed to tackle climate change and its impacts.

Important things on the table include:

- **Closing the emissions gap:** the submission of new national pledges on emissions reduction. COP26 will be a test to see whether countries are prepared to close the gap to reach the cuts we need to stay below 1.5°C (the recognised maximum temperature by which the planet can warm before irreversible damage is caused).
- **Carbon markets negotiations:** an aspect of the Paris Agreement that's yet to be finalised. Worryingly, discussions may open the door to global carbon markets that would allow polluters to continue emitting greenhouse gases, for a price, either through trading or offsetting.
- **Climate finance:** wealthy countries are failing to meet the target agreed to provide finance to help poorer countries adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis and transition to clean energy quickly.
- **Loss and Damage:** the phrase used for how we deal with the unavoidable impacts of climate breakdown that are already beyond our control. There'll be a push at the talks by many countries suffering the impacts of climate breakdown, like Mozambique and Germany, to secure more finance and action to address this crucial area.

The negotiations mark the most significant opportunity to secure global agreements and reign in the world's biggest polluters. COP gives us the chance to engage more people in the climate justice movement, to connect with people in our communities, across the country and internationally to get a better understanding of climate justice, and international climate issues. With heightened political, media and public attention on climate, we have a unique opportunity to push the UK government to do more.

ChalCAN will be doing everything it can before and during COP26 to bring the community together and address climate change issues through local initiatives. We need you to come to events, share your thoughts and consider how you, personally, can contribute. Events will start in the Big Green Week, 18th – 26th September, and continue until COP26 finishes on November 12th.

This is where the real change happens. To find out more go to COP26





Chalford Biodiversity Trail

The new Trail is up and walking! It was good to see lots of people on France Lynch Pleasure Ground on Saturday 31st July

and to chat with people who have walked part, or all, of the new Trail. Some brave souls have even run it! Future developments include way-marking the trail and running guided walks for small groups. All details of the Trail are at chalcan.org.uk/chalford-wildlife-trails, whilst leaflets and maps are in the Parish Council office and Chalford Community shop. You can also use the QR code on the Trail information boards at Frith Wood, Abnash Bank, Middle Hill Spinney and Meadow, Parish Bank and France Lynch Pleasure Ground.

France Lynch Pleasure Ground

If you've enjoyed seeing masses of wildflowers blooming on France Lynch Pleasure Ground do please let the Parish Council know. The change in the mowing regime has resulted in a display of wildflowers as good as on any conservation reserve - something to be proud of. To showcase this there are some lovely drawings on the playground fence of flowers that children from Chalford Hill School found when they became plant detectives.

Swifts

For many of us Swifts are the very image of summer, but have you noticed how few there are this year? These marvellous birds (they don't touch ground for up to 4 years!) are in serious decline in Britain. Are you interested in trying to maintain and increase their numbers? We're looking to form a Swift Support Group ready for next year. If you'd like to join us, please email or phone us – details below.

TK Students

In mid-July ChalCAN volunteers led some sessions with 14/15 year-old students from Thomas Keble School. They made two upcycled wood-based games, and both learnt and practiced measuring trees in Frith. This was an enjoyable event which may lead to future joint projects – e.g. waste, debates about COP26. With TK embarking on the construction of a new, low carbon school we hope there will be other on-site opportunities for learning.

Sustainable Investing – save the world and your pension pot

Let's talk about money and how it affects the climate.

The average UK pension pot finances 23 tonnes of CO2 emissions through the businesses it invests in every year (the annual equivalent of running nine family cars or burning 1,100 coal fires). Friends of the Earth say that most employees don't think about the issue and don't know that they are funding fossil-fuel companies. However, pressure is now growing from the workforce, and more fossil-free funds are becoming available.

Some big UK pension schemes have grasped the nettle: some have set net-zero carbon emissions targets; others have announced plans to stop investing in climate damaging sectors. It is your right to discuss this with your employer. Make my Money Matter has a template email you can send to encourage them to change what they are doing. Don't be fobbed off with the answer that it's too complicated and likely to reduce returns. That may have once been the case but now there are many cited cases where green funds have way outperformed other stock.

If you have a pension fund or investments that you manage yourself (or through a financial advisor) you have even more control and ability to switch into sustainable investments. Financial advisors are taking up these issues and should be keen to explore ways to make your money work in areas which reflect your ethics and concerns; and if they aren't helpful then look around for a new one.

Sustainable investing is thankfully now regarded more than just a trend, or something to investigate only for ethical reasons. Don't accept that it is too risky, because it also is likely to bring some significant financial benefits. Contrary to what used to be the case, there is generally less risk involved, and you will also be putting your money towards companies that want to create a better world. On the other hand, if a company's actions are in some way damaging the environment, there may well be legislation passed that could affect that company's profits and therefore your returns. So environmentally conscious companies are potentially more likely to have a secure future and strong growth.

There are lots of sources if you want to explore this issue further – a good place to start is the Financial Times' Moral Money (cosy up to someone with a subscription!) or check other sources online: Interactive Investor has a good summary of the key things to look out for to get you thinking.



Go to chalcan.org.uk or follow us on Facebook  for lots of useful ideas



First Ground Source Heat Pump in Chalford?

This photo shows the first stages of installing a Ground Source Heat Pump. In this example, pipes 1-2m underground will collect heat over a wide area (even cold ground in winter contains enough energy to heat a property). Pipes can also be dropped into the ground vertically, which reduces the area needed; however the bedrock under Chalford may make this impractical. Whilst Air Source Heat Pumps are catching on, ChalCAN are not aware of any other Ground Source Heat Pumps...if you have one please do let us know! This installation will heat a 17th century listed property with cast iron radiators and single glazed windows, although it will also have a gas boiler as back-up heating. The pump will be an 'ecoforest ecoGEO B1. 5-22kw', which claims to have an efficiency of up to 490% (providing 4.9kWh heat for every 1kWh of electricity used). This system qualifies for the Renewable Heat Incentive which will reward the homeowners with a payment every quarter for the next 7 years.

Wish you could Ride a Bike more Confidently?

A reminder that in September ChalCAN's Transport group will be running Bikeability Training for Adults – the aim being to refresh your cycling skills, renew your interest in cycling and build confidence. Each one-off, three-hour session, for 3 adults only (arranged at a time to suit participants) will be FREE. Places limited, so to book contact Penny (details below) or to find out more call or text Peter on 07970 949628.

11th September: Retrofit Fair

Would you like to improve the comfort of your home, reduce your carbon footprint and save money?

On September 11th Nailsworth CAN are holding an event from 9am to 3pm in the forecourt of Stroud Subscription Rooms.

There will be lots of information and advice on a wide range of topics: heat loss assessments, insulation, avoiding damp issues, heat pumps, solar PV, Mechanical Ventilation & Heat Recovery (MVHR) and more. ChalCAN will be there too! Go to Nailsworth CAN for more information and updates.

Stroud District Council has published a new video explaining its CN2030 strategy and the actions being taken across the Council. It has also secured funding to explore how to rationalise, repurpose and retrofit sites, including SDC's Ebley Mill HQ and key Stroud Town Centre buildings.



If you would like to get involved with ChalCAN or be put in touch with one of the action groups (Biodiversity, Food & Waste, Energy or Transport) please contact Penny at – info@chalcan.org.uk

ChalCAN is on Instagram@chalford.can and



Facebook – please follow us

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND FAMILY