

Newsletter

October 2021

Upcoming ChalCAN events and activities

On **Saturday 16th October 10.30-12.30** there will be a community event to celebrate our wonderful local wood at **Frith Wood**. There will be a Tree of Thanks, memories, music, cake, and hope. Also, an opportunity to join Friends of Frith Wood, a group being launched to protect the wood for future generations. Everyone who loves and appreciates Frith Wood welcome – meet at the bottom car park. Bring along a small decoration or message (with string) or you can make one on the day. Friends of Frith Wood will be independent of ChalCAN and can be found on Facebook. **For further information contact Sophie 07973 529603.**

On **Thursday 28th October 7.30-9.30 pm** there will be a **Wind Energy Information Evening** at the **Methodist Chapel, Midway, Chalford Hill**. The talk will consider the role wind energy can play in meeting energy needs locally, with input from Dr Andrew Henderson (an offshore wind expert) and Ron Colyer (Westmill Windfarm Coop).

Free entry but small donation towards hall hire would be appreciated.



Calling all repairers

You probably have in your house an old friend that you've repaired; their handle may have fallen off, they may have a patch sewn on or a paperclip glued across them. Probably they bring you joy whenever you encounter them in a way that an unfixed replacement will never manage. Repair is not just about treading more lightly on the environment but surrounding ourselves with the satisfaction of lovingly mended possessions.

The Repair Squad is looking for people who can repair and would like to help train a new generation of young repairers. In general young people do not have experience of repairing, but these skills exist in sheds and garages around Chalford. This project aims to bring together those with experience of repair, to help children and young people learn how to repair, through guidance and sharing of skills.

You don't have to be masters of the art, but just possess the ability to be systematic in the face of unknown faults or have repair skills such as darning, stitching, joining, soldering, woodwork etc. You also don't need to be available on a regular basis but can sign up on days which are convenient.

The Squad is currently based at the Lighthouse, a small school for home-educated children in Brownhill (just below the monastery) and would look for opportunities to reach out to other groups of young people across the community if successful. The squad will assemble on one Thursday a month between 10am and 12pm. Children and their parents will bring in broken possessions and be guided through their repair. We will drink tea, eat biscuits, repair possessions and revel in mend and make do.

Please pass on this article to anyone who you think might be interested. Ollie can be contacted here.



Recent Events in ChalCAN

September and early October have been an incredibly busy for ChalCAN volunteers! *Here's a round-up of the activities, some of the key points that emerged, and our ongoing plans.*

Stand at CSSC Community Market

We met lots of people at the Market in September. ChalCAN volunteers brought along their electric cars and talked about their experience of buying, driving and charging EV's. Ollie was on hand to give hands on advice about repair work on bikes and other goods (see Repair Squad item page 1). We had courgettes to give away as well as courgette recipes and the Biodiversity group explained their projects (see page 3) and gave out leaflets about the Biodiversity Trail (follow link for map and details).



Screening of 'Demain'

Late in September ChalCAN put on a well-attended screening of the French-made film 'Demain'. This documentary film presents a vision of a more community-based way of living. Driven by the need to reduce carbon emissions, there was a focus on food, energy, the economy and democratic processes, showing how much of what we take for granted as the status quo does not 'have to be that way'. The inspiring alternatives shown were clearly more effective and better for society, people and the environment. With examples from around the globe, and plenty from the UK (Todmorden, Totnes and Bristol), the film provided us with essential insight into what we can all work towards in our parish and beyond.

'The latter three chapters — Economy, Democracy, and Education — are really where "Tomorrow" takes flight. Interspersing articulate expert talking heads with the stories of businesses, communities, and projects that illustrate potential solutions to the problems at hand, the film builds to a hopeful portrait of grass-roots activism and citizen engagement.'

Our thanks to France Lynch Church Rooms for being helpful with the hire and cinema facility, to the WI and Deirdre (who provided delicious cakes) and to Stroud Film Festival, who sponsored the event and helped with the organisation.

Air Source Heat Pumps Information Evening

ChalCAN's Energy Action Group organised this event at Chalford Village Hall on 30th September. Zoe, from Cotswold Energy, gave an excellent presentation on how heat pumps work, installation and finance.

This was followed by a presentation from Liam, a member of ChalCAN, who had a heat pump installed in January. This perspective offered insight into the personal experience, from the moment the gas boiler failed, through the discovery that a heat pump is a viable alternative (even in an old house...and without underfloor heating or huge radiators), to installation.

After the presentations, the audience had an opportunity to ask lots of questions, which turned into a valuable discussion of all aspects of heat pumps. We even took a few minutes to consider Ground Source Heat Pumps too.

For anyone who couldn't make it, we have prepared a comprehensive article on air source heat pumps, which is accessible on the ChalCAN website here: Heat-Pump-Article.pdf (chalcan.org.uk). We are also compiling a series of case studies on properties which have already had heat pumps or other energy-saving adaptations installed (ChalCAN Case Studies). **Please do contact us if you'd like more information or would like to visit a working example.**



Biodiversity Action in September

We made a film, we organised a talk, we Bio-blitzed, we befriended hedgehogs and we made hay while the sun shone.....

Great Big Green Week:

As well as the stand at Chalford Community Market we launched our Hedgehog Highway campaign. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust gave a talk on how we can all help hedgehogs, and we put 200 flyers through doors in streets close to Frith Wood. *If you'd like to help hedgehogs, take a look at hedgehogstreet.org.* Let us know if you see a hedgehog - email info@chalcan.org.uk

We made a film:

Planting a tree is one way to take carbon out of the air and help mitigate climate change. But it's complex - to be successful the trees need to be:

- *in the right place - critical to their survival*
- *the right species - mix of broad-leaved species gives resilience*
- *looked after for the first 2 years*

The film shows how ChalCAN and the Parish Council have achieved this at

The Spinney on Middle Hill. Have a look at <https://youtu.be/24H3jZKacVw>

What's a Bio-blitz?

It's a snapshot of the variety of life found in a specific place. The records collected form part of a genuine scientific survey. This Europe-wide project aims to give a snap-shot on one day; residents took part in Frith Wood and on a piece of land in Chalford Hill. This will contribute to our survey of the parish.

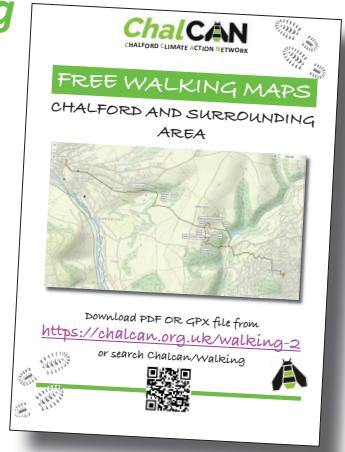
Raking it in!

We raked! Yep, we were raking up hay on the areas we manage. We've been really pleased with the increase this year in wildflowers, bees and insects. The Parish Council cut the grass in September (thank you Chris) and so it was 'calling all volunteers – please come and rake'. And they did, even in the pouring rain. Big thank you to everyone involved. Next year if you'd like some fragrant, flower-filled hay do let us know.



Walking.. and taking the bus!

Last month the transport group launched a series of walking routes round the village at <https://chalcan.org.uk/walking-2>. We led a walk down through the Strawberry Field in September and are planning another walk for November: watch our events page and Facebook for details.



With our improved village bus service we'd also like to suggest some options:

- Why not take a walk down to Stroud Brewery and take the bus back?
- How about a trip to the cinema or out to a meal in Stroud, walking there then taking the bus back (or both ways if the walk is too much)

Inspirations

A circular image showing a vibrant, diverse patch of wildflowers in shades of blue, yellow, red, and white, growing in a grassy field. Below the image is the text 'By Penny Squire'.

Inspirations
Local composer Penny Squire has released another film called *Inspirations*. It's a not-for-profit project comprising 15 mins of music and film with ideas for leisure activities and skills to learn that have a low carbon footprint and require little or no travelling. The music is an original composition performed by Distanza Quartet (formed when recording remotely for the BBC Philharmonic during lockdown) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LETKPHL7eLw>

COP26 news

If you're interested in following COP26 you can find a programme of events here

If you'd like to access information that is helpful to explain COP26 and its significance to children and young people try the National Geographic site and the BBC site

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