



BROWNSHILL, BUSSAGE, CHALFORD & FRANCE LYNCH

WORKING AS A COMMUNITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Newsletter

December 2021

Has COP26 left you with concerns for the future of our planet and community? Are you wondering what we can do to reduce carbon emissions individually and collectively? If so, come and join us at 'ChalCAN Connect', at the Chalford Sports and Social Club on Thursday January 20th 6.30pm for a 7pm start. This is a gathering for anyone in the area who would like to think more about this issue and what we can do. *For more information, please contact us.*

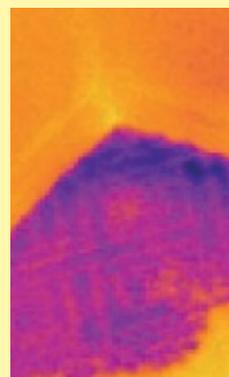
Borrow the ChalCAN thermal camera to review your insulation

Anyone living in a draughty or improperly insulated house knows how difficult it can be to keep your home warm. Small changes to draughtproofing or insulation can make a huge difference to your energy bill, and reduce your carbon footprint.

Missing insulation allows both heat and cold to infiltrate, which shows as hot or cold spots on your walls or ceiling when viewed by a thermal camera. You can easily detect areas of missing insulation by walking around your house with a thermal imager and looking for temperature differences.

Common areas where you're likely to find missing insulation include the space around outlets and switches; the edges of attics (where the outside walls meet the roof) and unfinished garages, which if connected to the rest of the house can siphon huge amounts of heat during the winter. Insulation in wall cavities can also settle over time, causing gaps to appear.

To find out where heat escapes around your home why not borrow the thermal imaging camera from ChalCAN for free? It's super-easy to use: you simply plug it into a mobile phone, which hooks the camera up to an app revealing the exact spots in your home where you're losing heat.



What do the colours mean?

- Orange/yellow/white colours mean the area is warm - the brighter the colours are, the hotter the area is.
- Dark blue/purple colours mean the area is cold - the darker the blue, the colder the area is.

Whilst using your camera outside your home...

- You want to see the cold blue colours, showing that your heating is being kept inside your house and you're not wasting your energy on heating the sky!
- If you see bright yellow/white colours on your walls, roof or windows, focus on these areas when looking to improve insulation.

Whilst using your camera inside your home...

- You want to see the warm yellow colours, showing that cold air isn't coming in and your heating isn't escaping out.
- If you see dark blue colours, focus on these areas when looking for draughts to plug and areas to better insulate.

So get in touch (contact details below) if you'd like to borrow the camera. In our coming newsletters, we'll make some practical suggestions of simple and inexpensive methods to reduce draughts and heat-loss through doors, windows, unused rooms, loft-hatches, chimneys, floorboards, and address some questions about radiators and hot water tanks and pipework.

ChalCAN is now on Instagram! Follow us at @chalford.can

Biodiversity Action

The Trail: We are starting to organise waymarks for the Biodiversity Trail. Can't read a map? Don't know what a QR code is? Never fear, you'll still be able to find your way on these lovely walks that link up sites full of wildlife and biodiversity. Early days, but we are hoping the trail will be fully signed



by Spring. Until then, find the map and leaflet on the [ChalCAN website](https://chalcan.org.uk) or from the Parish Council office, or use the QR code on the noticeboards along the Trail. Huge thanks to the Open Gardens Trail Committee for the generous donation for waymarking.

Planting: During National Tree Week we planted a Birch and an Oak with Chalford Hill Primary School on their playing field. Our helpers were Arthur and Florence. Well done, school – 2 more trees!

Hedgehogs: The Hedgehog Project is going well. Thanks for telling us about your sightings. Bussage in particular has a lot of these endangered little creatures. To help them through the winter leave a messy corner in your garden-pile of twigs, logs, broken plant pots, plant trimmings. A small hole in the fence helps them move about – it only has to be 13x13cm. Sadly one sighting was a drowned hedgehog in a garden pond. They can swim but may not be able to climb out. Make sure there is an escape route-stones, a plank etc.

There's lots of information on how to help hedgehogs on www.hedgehogstreet.org

Community Walks

Building on a successful walk in the autumn, ChalCAN are planning a series of walks to explore the beauty of our area in all seasons. Walks will start from Chalford Sports and Social Club at 10am, and at the end walkers can enjoy a hot drink and



cake at the CSSC. These will be family friendly, not overly strenuous (around two miles/one and a half hours); dogs are welcome on leads. The route will be decided just prior to each walk according to the weather. Walks will generally be on the second **Saturday of each month, except for January. Do put the dates in your diary: January 15th, February 12th, March 12th; contact Penny for more information. Check out our routes on our website. (chalcan.org.uk/walking-2)**

Stop Press: EV charging for public use comes to Chalford

Congratulations to Chalford Parish Council who have now installed two Electric Vehicle charging points at the Parish Centre. They are accessible 24/7 and are charged at 25p per kwh. Simply download the Project EV Pro App, scan the QR code or enter the numeric ID for the charge point and follow instructions. Great for local residents who do not have easy street access to a charger, and for visitors who need to top up.

PV Installation Update

You may have heard about the opportunity for reduced rate bulk installation deal for solar PV panels being organised through ChalCAN by Richard Dean. Thanks to everyone who responded to the offer:

in only a few weeks around 18 households have expressed an interest, which is great. In addition, following an article in the newsletter for primary care

services in Gloucs, ten GP surgeries want to be part of the scheme! Greater numbers, especially in the commercial sector, will hopefully translate to getting a better discount. If anyone is still pondering whether to install PV on their home roof or at their business - the scheme is still open to late comers! **Get in touch with Richard on richarddean@myself.com.**

Access Bike Project

Want to cycle more but can't afford a bike? Wondering what to do with that old bike? The Access Bike Project in Stroud can help. Based at Unit 2A, Fromehall Mill, Stroud, the project aims 'to give everyone the chance to fall in love with cycling'. Donated bikes of all ages and sizes are refurbished at the Project's workshop and sold at a much-reduced price, covering the cost of any

parts. One thing the Project is most proud of is the mentoring programme working with vulnerable and disabled young adults, who in addition to learning bike mechanics, gain confidence and personal skills, make new friends and see all the benefits of working as part of a team. The Project is open Tuesday - Thursday from 12-6pm. **Find out more and view bikes for sale at accessbike.org.**

Buses

Applegates' decision to discontinue the SM5 school bus services to Stroud and SGS Berkeley College from Christmas is a blow for many families and a backwards step for sustainable transport – we do not want an extra 30-40 cars travelling up and down our hills. Stagecoach is considering running a double decker in the mornings, but that might not be possible in the afternoons. The Parish Council are on the case. If a replacement bus service cannot be found we hope that car shares can be arranged e.g. through Whats App groups.

Repurposing IT for those in need

A reminder that if you have used IT equipment that you are replacing (less than six years old and in good working order) it can be put to excellent use for two local organisations. GARAS - Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers and IT Schools Africa (based in Cheltenham) which refurbishes and upgrades computer equipment for use in schools in Africa, and for disadvantaged individuals in Gloucestershire. (No printers, phones, tablets, iPads, scanners, servers, CRT monitors or PCs with Vista or XP please). All equipment should be wiped before donating. Mary Wormington has offered to collect and deliver equipment to both these groups.

Please email maryewormington@gmail.com if you have questions or to arrange a time.



Consumer Power Corner

How green is your hair salon? Next time you go for a haircut ask your hairdresser if they participate in the Green Salon Collective (GSC) or some similar scheme. If not, suggest that they enrol. Just think about the issues: hair, metals, towels, chemicals, PPE, plastics, paper. The GSC has a great programme to find circular solutions for salon waste, and this initiative is supported by leading companies such as L'Oréal and Aveda.

Check it out at greensaloncollective.com.



Finally don't forget our suggestions in 12 days of a Climate Friendly Christmas, most of all Day 12: Focus on what matters... Family, friends, community and for some an important religious festival... not stuff!

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 Do browse our website chalcan.org.uk, follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram @chalford.can
PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND FAMILY