

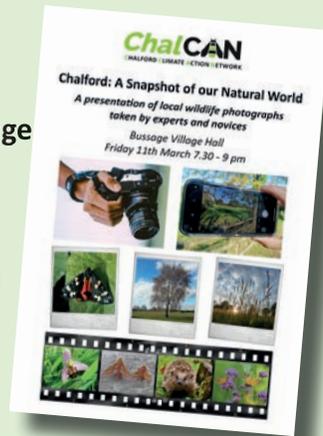
Newsletter

February 2022

Dates for your diary

- **Chalford: a snapshot of our natural world on Friday 11th March at Bussage Village Hall 7.30-9.30pm.** Come and see amazing photos all taken locally and learn about local wildlife, trees and flowers. If you have photos you'd like to show, send them to Penny (using a method like We transfer or Bigfile). You don't have to be a professional photographer - some great shots can be taken on mobiles. Send your pictures in by Monday 28th February.
- **Community Walk on Saturday 19th March starting from Chalford Sports and Social Club at 10am.** Explore the beauty of our area in all seasons, meet other locals and at the end enjoy a hot drink and cake at the CSSC. These are family friendly walks, not overly strenuous (around 2-3 miles/one and a half to two hours); dogs on leads welcome. The route will be decided just prior to each walk according to the weather.
- **An Open Evening with Chalford Climate Action Network at Chalford Sports and Social Club on Saturday 2nd April 6.30pm for a 7pm start.** Free pizza and the bar will be open
 - Disappointed by COP26?
 - Got unanswered questions, or some great ideas?
 - Want to do what you can for climate change and nature?
 - We CAN all make a difference...
 - Join your neighbours and ChalCAN to chat about these issues

This is a gathering for anyone in the area who'd like to think more about these topics and how we can work together in the community to address climate and environmental issues. A short presentation on carbon emissions in the Parish will be followed by discussions about what we can all do, and what the priorities for ChalCAN should be for the coming year of action. We'd like to hear from as many people as possible, so please do come along, whether you'd like to participate with your own ideas, or just listen to find out more about the issues.



20 is Plenty in Chalford and Eastcombe Campaign

Are you concerned about speeding vehicles? Would you like our roads to be safer for schoolchildren, pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers alike? ChalCAN, working with BisCAN is mounting a '20 is Plenty in Chalford and Eastcombe' campaign. 20 mph limits on roads where people live, work, shop, play and learn can...

- reduce accidents
- reduce pollution and CO2 emissions
- make active travel (biking, walking) possible for more residents
- make it safer for horse-riders
- have little impact on journey times.. and
- are increasingly accepted in many areas (e.g. Wales, Scotland).

Since the County Council is deliberating whether this should be considered across the county (as has been the case in Cornwall and Oxfordshire) and will be consulting on this later in the spring, this is timely. We're collating local residents' views on a implementing a default 20pmh limit in the area wherever practical, and promoting safer driving through banners, stickers and

posters (available from the Parish Centre). We'll be out and about in local shops in the coming weeks to talk to people and working with local schools.



Please sign our petition at www.change.org/p/20-is-plenty-in-chalford-and-eastcombe and/or let us know your views. Contact Penny info@chalcan.org.uk



ChalCAN Biodiversity Action

Recently, Biodiversity volunteers have been hard at work planting.

Brownhill Native Hedge Planting

Last year we sent small landowners in the parish information about ash dieback, offering advice and help for replanting. One successful outcome was in Brownhill where, with our help, one landowner ordered 100 metres of native hedging from the Woodland Trust comprising 425 native shrubs and 25 Rowan trees. Biodiversity Action supplied 13 volunteers to plant the hedge one cold and foggy weekend in January. Brownhill now has a wonderful wildlife corridor linked to a woodland strip: hedgerows provide shelter and food for many birds, small animals and insects and should always be considered over fencing. Advice and help is free to anyone considering such a project to enhance the biodiversity in the parish.

Bussage Pleasure Ground.

Funded and supplied by Ash Dieback Gloucestershire a great selection of trees were planted in January - Wild Cherry, Bird Cherry, Pauls Scarlet Hawthorn, Silver Birch and Whitebeam. Kept watered, they should be part of our living landscape for many years to come.



Borrow the ChalCAN thermal camera to review your insulation

ChalCAN's thermal imaging camera can help you detect temperature differences in your home. Poorly insulated areas show up as cold spots (viewed internally) or hot spots (viewed externally), and help you think about what changes to draughtproofing or insulation you can make, reducing both your energy bill and your carbon footprint. The device is easy to use: plug it into a mobile phone (has to be android), linking the camera via an app to reveal where you're losing heat. Get in touch if you'd like to borrow it.

Gloucestershire Libraries have a climate change initiative called Greener Together, with collections of new books arriving in all the libraries. You can look up a topic or the name of a specific book on the Spydus Gloucestershire Library catalogue and reserve it to be picked up from any library...and all for free. Or just come in to browse and pick up a book from the Greener Together selection. To join the library, you need proof of address and can then borrow up to 20 books. Nailsworth alone has loads of newly arrived, climate change related books.

Stroud Repair Café

A great opportunity to get textiles and electrical goods repaired, and tools sharpened. Repairs are carried out in return for a donation to cover materials. All sessions at Atelier, 19A Lower Street, Stroud, GL5 2HT. [Slots must be booked online](#)

- Textile repairs: Saturday 26th Feb
- Tool Sharpening & Textile repairs: 26th March
- Electrical and Textile repairs: 28th May

Meet Make Mend

Atelier also runs a group session on the first Wednesday of every month from 7-8.30pm for darning and mending, and sewing and textile projects, both by hand and with a sewing machine. Share ideas, borrow tools and chat to like-minded people. Each session costs £7 to attend. Book via [Atelier's website](#).

Edible Stroud

This local group has just got funding from GWR to improve the bay area next to platform 1 at Stroud Railway Station. Having built some raised beds a couple of years ago that are planted with soft fruits, herbs and flowers, the funding will go towards the cost of a stronger membrane to put around the beds to suppress weed growth, woodchip to put on top of the membrane, and compost to top up the raised beds. Contact josiecowgill@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or joining the Edible Stroud mailing list.



How can we help the bees?

All bees and pollinating insects are struggling to adjust to mankind's interference with the environment resulting in lack of forage and a changing climate. Bees often face a further danger from some human interventions using chemicals to control unwanted insects and weeds. So some simple steps to help our pollinators:

- Improve the habitat and forage for bees and pollinating insects in your garden by not using insecticides and planting pollen bearing flowers rather than hybrids. You can also leave areas of your garden unkempt allowing good habitat for all different insects and mammals.

- Buy or make a bee hotel ([See Wildlife Trusts](#)) for bees who don't live in colonies but look for solitary shelter.

If you're interested in beekeeping have a look at [Stroud Beekeepers' website](#). They are planning an introductory course for people new to beekeeping, and a course for people with 3-5 years' experience (this summer).

For children there is [Stroud BuzzClub](#) aiming to educate children of all ages about the importance of honeybees and pollinating insects. It's based in the walled garden of Stroud Museum in Stratford Park, where they have a horizontal top bar hive, protective clothing for the children to safely look at the bees, and the beautifully planted garden where all pollinating insects that visit the flowers can be seen. The Buzz Club is planning to re-instate it's Sunday morning activities from 11-12 when children and their parents, can turn up to spend the hour looking at, and talking about bees. Check their website for latest information



Co-housing in Chalford?

We desperately need more homes, and especially affordable ones. One exciting option is a local sustainable co-housing project. Each household would have their own private house and small garden, but there would be common facilities (e.g. a

place for members to eat and socialise together, a shared laundry room, maybe electric cars) and shared grounds for growing vegetables and for children to play. Crucially, all houses would be designed to be as near zero emissions as possible, with heat pumps, solar panels and high levels of insulation. It would be great to gauge the level of interest in such a plan. If you've ever visited Springhill Co-housing in Stroud, you'll know that co-housing can be a lovely way of living. If you might like to help design or live in a community like this, please get in touch.

Transition Stroud Social Media Co-ordinator vacancy

The role is to research and deliver 3 – 5 Facebook posts a week and share regular information on Twitter from Transition Stroud Action Groups, the TS Council, local climate action groups, the local community and the wider Transition network. Remuneration: £100 per month. See the [vacancies page](#) for the full job description and application process. **The deadline is 27th February 2022.**

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