

Newsletter

January 2023

Food and Waste: get involved!

- Are you concerned about food waste?
- Does the fast fashion industry worry you?
- Would you like to share healthy eating recipes?
- Are you an experienced veg grower?
- Would you like to promote repairing, upcycling, recycling and .. just buying less stuff?



As ChalCAN re-launch our Food and Waste group we'd love to hear from you. We'd like to hold workshops, work with schools, run exchange events. **Get in touch with Kate: info@chalcan.org.uk**



Biodiversity

We ended the old year and started the new year with new growth.

In December our successful biochar workshop was all about enhancing soil and feeding plants. Then in January we planted 3 Rowan trees on Manor Village. They will enhance the area, providing shade, flowers, berries for a whole range of wildlife. All the comments from passers-by were very positive. Now we need a better name for 'the bit behind Tesco'. We'll be asking for ideas shortly.

Biodiversity aims for 2023 are:

- Engage with as many local people as possible
- Create closer links with, and work together with, local organisations such as our neighbouring climate action networks
- Work on protecting and planting more areas within the parish
- Run regular 'how to' workshops

It's going to be a great, green year!

Free Draughtproof and Insulation Surveys



Don't let your heat and ££ escape! It's not too late to sign up for a FREE home insulation survey. The ChalCAN

Energy group is working with a local insulation expert to offer free domestic surveys to households in Chalford. To date, 14 surveys have been undertaken and more are planned, in each case a brief report outlines suggestions to reduce heat loss, save money and reduce carbon emissions (e.g. remedying loft insulation, draughty conservatory doors or floorboards and cold windows).

The survey takes around 45 minutes: the surveyor will look round your property, poking into the loft hatch and cellar (if you have one!), chat to you about how you heat your home, and offer handy hints and tips to help you keep warm at lower cost. ChalCAN hopes to have sufficient funding to provide support in making some of the alterations recommended (e.g. additional loft insulation) if these prove unaffordable.

The surveys are funded from the County Council 'Build Back Better Fund'. If you'd like to book a survey, email ChalCAN at: info@chalcan.org.uk

Transport news

BIKE RACKS! Have you thought of taking your bike on a local journey but been unsure about where you can leave it? ChalCAN was awarded a grant under the County Council Build Back Better Fund towards installing bike racks at community building and other locations around the area. We've had interest from Bussage School, The Frith Youth Centre, Eastcombe Scouts and France Lynch Church Rooms. If you're aware of other locations where racks could usefully be installed, let us know. We're keen to encourage people of all ages to cycle (or walk) where possible for local trips instead of using their cars. It keeps the roads safer, helps reduce parking congestion, reduces CO2 emissions, and helps keep us healthy.



SCHOOL SAFETY: we're planning work with local primary schools to encourage parents and children to walk to school whenever possible and - if driving is essential - to park in places that do not cause congestion or road safety issues. Long lines of parked cars can result in traffic speeding to get past them all. Try standing outside Bussage School and watching cars zooming past at 50mph at drop-off time – or where Middle Hill meets Randall's Green outside Chalford Hill. Both can be seriously worrying in terms of road safety.



OUR COMMUNITY WALKS have resumed! We meet at Chalford Sports and Social Club at 10am. Look out for ChalCAN volunteers with high viz jackets. All welcome, including dogs (must be on a lead) and children (who don't have to be on a lead!). Walks last about an hour and a half and are not too strenuous. The route is decided just prior to the walk, depending on the weather, and we'll do our best to get that on our Facebook page. It's a great way to walk off those mince pies, enjoy the local scenery and meet other local people.

The dates for the walks are Saturday January 21st, February 18th and March 18th



Buy Nothing New Month

Buying high volumes of stuff we don't need is causing enormous harm to our planet. From manufacturing and packaging to shipping and delivery, every stage of the production cycle emits huge volumes of carbon, heating up Earth to unsustainable levels. Also, our throwaway culture creates mountains of waste and the

disposal methods are damaging our environment even further.

While giving away our unwanted stuff and recycling are both great, we need to buy less. That's what the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, **Buy Nothing New Month** is all about. A month to embrace buying nothing new for the whole of January,

except essentials like food & meds. Although January is half way through, why not try it for February? Think about what you want versus what you need, reconsider if you can repair versus replace and think about whether you can rent, borrow or buy second-hand rather than buy new.



Upcoming Events • Upcoming Events • Upcoming Events

Diary and Calendar Swap

Until January 31st you can swap, exchange or access 2023 diaries or calendars at Stroud Valleys Project. If you have one you don't need or still need to get one, go to the shop at 8 Threadneedle Street, Stroud, GL5 1AF.

Peregrine Falcons Talk – Sat 21 January at 2pm

Stroud Valleys Project is hosting a talk about Peregrine Falcons at Stroud Brewery. Booking at [SVP](#) Raptor experts will give an insight into the lives of these remarkable birds.

Transition Stroud supports local Repair Cafes including:

- **Nailsworth: Sundays 22 January, 26th February and 26th March** Nailsworth Community Workshop, Nailsworth Sub Rooms, Bath Road, Nailsworth for electrical and mechanical repairs. [Book a slot online.](#)
- **Stroud: Saturday 28 January.** Held on the last Saturday of the month in Trinity Rooms, Field Road, Stroud. Booking on the [Atelier website](#) soon.

Big Garden Birdwatch: Friday 27th January to Sunday 29th January

Join the RSPB's [Big Garden Birdwatch 2023](#): simply choose an hour and count the birds you see land in your garden or in your local park. [Register through RSPB website.](#) You report back what you saw at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](#) before 19 February. There's guidance on identification on their site.



Stroud Potato Day, Saturday 4 February at Stroud Farmer's Market

Come along to the popular annual Spud sale from 8.30am to 2pm run by [Down to Earth](#) and Transition Stroud. There will be a wide range of types and varieties. Buy 3Kg or just one tuber!



Access Bike Project Monthly Bike Ride into Stroud from Brimscombe: Saturday 4 February

This ride to the market takes place every first Saturday of the month from [The Long Table](#) at Brimscombe Mill. Meet at 10am for a chat and a drink (thanks to [The Bike Drop](#)), before leaving at 10.30am to ride along the A419 into Stroud and finishing at [The Electric Bike Shop](#) Stroud at about 11am. This is a group ride, protecting young and less confident riders. The idea is to have fun and to push for better cycle infrastructure along this route and around the district!

Food for Wildlife Workshop: Sunday February 5th from 9.30-3pm

Learn what to do and how to share all or part of your garden with wildlife. This workshop is the first in a 'Nature's Recovery' series. Subsequent ones in March and April focus on Shelter & Water. Location: the Pavilion, Cainscross. Donation of £10 to help with costs if affordable. [Book here.](#)

Pre-loved Clothes Sale: Sunday February 26th: 11am-4pm: Stroud Brewery

Book a table to sell clothes you no longer want [here](#) or go along a grab a bargain!

Dry Stone Walling Taster Weekend March 2023: Sat, 25 Mar 10:00 - Sun, 26 Mar 15:00

Learn how to create a dry-stone wall that will endure for decades. The two-day session takes place on a beautiful piece of land on Rodborough Common. All materials are included. [Booking at SVP here](#)