

## January 2024 Newsletter

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## Biodiversity

The winter months are always a busy time for bare-rooted tree and hedge planting. This year we made an early start before Christmas, putting in three lovely Amelanchier trees on Brantwood Green. With a little luck they might even flower for the first time this spring.

Our January weekends are booked up with lots of planting plans. Some new trees are going to fill the gaps on the path on the far side of the Middle Hill allotments, thanks to funding from the Gloucestershire Ash Dieback Fund. Then there are a busy few days working with the children of Bussage School to plant a hedge along the bottom of their field (thanks to the Tree Council for its support!). We are also due to put in some replacement trees at the end of Dorrington Court. And if that's not enough, we need to coppice the huge Hazel in Brownhill churchyard – hopefully producing lots of bean sticks as a by-product ready for spring!

As you can imagine, we can never have too many volunteers – do please contact ChalCAN ([info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk)) if you can help!

## Bike updates

### Bike rack installations

Look out for the new bike racks at Bussage Primary School, Eastcombe Scout Hut and France Lynch Church Rooms. We think they should provide secure and convenient bike storage and hopefully encourage everyone onto their bikes!

In the very near future bike racks are also going to be installed at Frith Youth Centre and Chalford Sports and Social Club. This is all partially or totally funded by ChalCAN and Build Back Better funding.

### E-bike hire scheme

We are investigating the possibility of being part of a Stroud e-bike hire scheme. The idea is that two

e-bikes would be available for hire, to enable local people to test out whether an e-bike would work for them. This is being run by Transition Stroud, in conjunction with the Bike Drop and we are looking at the possibility of joining with BisCAN to help with the logistics of making this work locally.

We're keen to get going on this project, but one hurdle is finding somewhere to store the bikes when not on hire. We're also looking for someone to administer the scheme and do routine maintenance. If this is something you'd be interested in taking on or sharing with others, we'd love to hear from you at [info@chalcan.org.uk](mailto:info@chalcan.org.uk)!

### New village bike route

We hope to launch a new 5km bike route in the spring, following trials last summer and autumn. It will be open to everyone, whether you're a seasoned cyclist who wants to see our lovely village or a family after a flattish route! Watch this space – signs will be going up in the next few months.



Our 9-year-old test cyclist (above) said "I used my top gear for the first time! It was a great journey."

## Recycling

There are a few changes to local plastic recycling options this year.

- **Toothpaste tubes, roll-ons, make-up packaging and face cream tubs:** please take these to Boots in Stroud. Advantage Card holders can claim points on their recycling ([register online first](#))!
- **Shampoo bottles** can now go in with your standard kerbside recycling.
- **Coffee pods:** use [Podback.org](http://Podback.org) for free bags to return – **please don't take them to school.** You can do this from home or via Collect+ stores.

Look out for a Terracycle poster with a whole host of other recycling options in the next newsletter!