



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER FUTURE**

**REGISTERED CHARITY 1198273**

## **NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2023**

*Hello! Here's our latest newsletter. We hope it's of interest. If you've ideas for future issues, let us know at [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com)*

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## **GOOD NEWS ON AND IN THE OCEAN WAVES!**

Governments have finally agreed a Global Ocean Treaty at the United Nations, after almost two decades of negotiations. It sets the rules and tools for protecting ocean life over nearly half of our planet. Most importantly, it provides a pathway to creating marine protected areas across the world's oceans. The Treaty finally makes it possible to create a network of ocean sanctuaries across the globe, areas where fragile ecosystems and marine life can recover and thrive.

This gives governments the opportunity to actually reach the vital '30 x30' goal of protecting at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. Without such a treaty, there would be no legal route to protecting large areas of international waters.

Since two-thirds of the world's vast expanse of ocean sits outside the jurisdiction of any nation, protecting the high seas – and their huge marine biodiversity – would be nigh on impossible without such an agreement. Oceans, overall, take up 90% of the excess heat and around 25% of the CO2 generated by humanity's burning of fossil fuels. But, without formal protection, much of it is vulnerable to overfishing, pollution and the effects of climate change.

The "High Seas Treaty" is yet to be formally adopted, but the agreed text establishes a new regime of protections. It is these that now need to be worked on – at speed, lest these pledges seem hollow. We must wish all those involved well, to back up this bold commitment.



## NOTES FROM OUR CHAIR – CATH MOSS ....

Thank you to everyone who has supported our #TakeTheBus campaign this quarter, during which we enjoyed our monthly trips on the 358 to The Strines Nightingales for evenings of music and merriment with the Gally Canters. These are now a regular part of our calendar, every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, so why not come and join us? If music isn't your thing, then why not join us in travelling to the Regent Cinema in Marple, 28th April to see The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry? Meet at the bus station at 7.15p.m.

And of course, if you can't make one of our planned trips, then why not #TakeTheBus anyway. It really is a fun and sociable way to travel, as well as being good for the planet! And let's celebrate the government's extension of the £2 cap on all single bus fares to end of June and the associated link <https://bettertransport.org.uk/enter-our-epic-bus-journey-competition/> which offers a prize of £150 National Trust vouchers to the longest 3 leg journey for £6!

Talking about the planet, the latest IPCC report suggests things are really "hotting up" and that we are close to a tipping point that requires urgent action to arrest irreversible, damaging, climate change. Given the pending crisis, Sustainable Hayfield will be supporting "The Big One", a 4 day peaceful protest to "Unite to Survive" in London from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April being arranged by Extinction Rebellion and supported by more than 70 environmental and other campaign groups. We plan to be there on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and would encourage as many people to join us as possibly can. We need to make it BIG.

Over 50 people are travelling from High Peak and Hope Valley to London between 21 and 24 April 2023 as we **Unite to Survive**. Some are travelling as part of a group, and others are joining as individuals. Among us will be seasoned campaigners, those who've never attended such an event before, and for some people it will be their first ever protest. Everyone is welcome. Every single person makes us collectively more powerful, and makes our voices harder for the Government to ignore.

For more details of the event, see <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one/> and for travel and accommodation options see <https://rebeltoolkit.extinctionrebellion.uk/books/100-days/page/transport-and-accommodation>. If you'd like to join us on the train on the Saturday, please contact [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com) or check out the Sustainable Hayfield The Big One event on Facebook to coordinate arrangements.

**To help make it as friendly and accessible as we can, you are invited to join a local online meeting beforehand, to connect with other like-minded people and, hopefully, arrange to gather in one place in London. The online meeting is Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-7.45p.m. To get details of this zoom call, [please click to RSVP](#).**

And finally, given the urgency of the situation, we think it is time to turn up the heat on our government / local MP and broaden public awareness of the climate crisis. To do this, we plan to create a writing group of up to 20 people to regularly write (say 2 x a year) to local papers and our MP / councillors on environmental issues. If writing is your thing, and you are passionate about making a difference, why not contact [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com) to join the group? Thank you!

## LOCAL SUSTAINABLE HAYFIELD BIODIVERSITY UPDATE

Some months ago, we reported establishment of a Sustainable Hayfield Biodiversity Group. They've been busy since, with several projects designed to support delivery of greater biodiversity in Hayfield. Here's some.

### BATS, MOTHS and BUTTERFLIES

From a successful funding application to High Peak Council, the group has purchased a bat detector and a moth trap. This enables them to chart what is already around. Around mid-April, they'll be organising an initial bat and moth survey in/around the parish. And the Butterfly Conservation Trust has been asked to visit Platt's Wood (beyond the allotments and off Oaks Avenue) and to establish any incidence of the handsome Purple Hairstreak butterfly, which love oak trees but which are hard to spot as they fly around the tree tops.



### **VETERAN TREES**

Some early work has been done looking at local tree cover/species. Now they're going to look for veteran or ancient trees in the parish which have a special significance for the variety of wildlife they host. Platt's Wood will be used as a 'testing ground' for this work.

### **BUS STATION ROUNDABOUT**

The group did some clearance/tidying up of the site last year. Now they have the permission of the DCC Countryside Rangers to scarify and re-seed the traffic island with wildflowers, which should start soon.

### **MEETINGS WITH KEY 'INFLUENCERS'**

The group is developing links with key nature-based conservation bodies (e.g. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Wild Peak project) and is building its knowledge base of key conservation priorities (e.g. the rapid and continuing decline of populations of swifts). This is to ensure the group is well-placed to develop credible plans for enhancing local biodiversity. It's looking to join with DWT and local farmers to consider options for more diversity on farmland in the parish.

### **SETTING UP A TREE NURSERY**

With the agreement of the Parochial Church Council, the group is pursuing plans to develop a mini tree nursery in the cemetery grounds, as part of a wider, dispersed, tree nursery occupying several sites. Such mini nurseries – each of just a few square metres – produce young trees for planting out. It is clear that the UK needs much more tree cover and commercial suppliers cannot meet the need. For example, DCC has committed to planting 1,000,000 new trees in the county by 2030!

The seedlings will be grown from local seed by local people. They'll need to be protected from predators and wind damage. A detailed specification is being drawn up, with expert help.

There will be opportunity for local people to get involved and thereby broaden their appreciation of local environmental issues.



### **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Look out for announcements on the Hayfield (Facebook) Community Diary page, or look at the group's new web page at [www.sustainablehayfield.com](http://www.sustainablehayfield.com). Or you can contact the group at [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com).

## TWO LOCAL BIODIVERSITY TALKS OF INTEREST

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30p.m., Bradbury House, Glossop**, illustrated talk on 'Conservation within plantation forests'. Dr Scott Pedley will explore issues involved when trying to manage biodiversity in commercial forests. Followed by AGM. £3, bring your own mug

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7.30p.m., New Mills Town Hall**, illustrated talk on 'Fungi' by Deb Hampson and Bengt Saxmark. £2 for New Mills Natural History Society non-members.

## FOOD GROUP NEWS UPDATE: Jo Hanney keeps us 'in the loop'

### Library garden

Spring has come to the library garden and lots of the wildflower perennials and bulbs that we put in the wildflower patch in 2022 are starting to come to life and put on a show. The fruit bushes are looking well and the strawberry plants we planted last year are looking really healthy. As well as the ongoing maintenance, we are keen to do some clearing at the back of the library garden which is quite overgrown with brambles and nettles, so are hoping that we can get some more volunteers to help us tackle that area. There's forthcoming work parties arranged on: **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10-12p.m. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2-4p.m. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 10-12p.m. Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2-4p.m.** If you can help at any of the above, that would be great. We've some tools you can borrow, but bring your own gloves. And if you can't manage those, but want to be involved, contact us at [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com)

### Plant swap.



Following previous years' successful seed and plant swaps, we're setting this up again outside at the Library Garden from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Bring along any seeds and seedlings for sharing to leave at the swap station. It's a good time of year to dig up and divide perennials in your garden, so if you have a favourite one to share, bring that along too. Don't forget to label what your plant is – there will be a supply of labels at the station. Don't worry if you've nothing to swap: just enjoy other people's surplus plants and give them a new home. Please don't leave any other gardening related stuff like pots and tools, as they get blown around and make a bit of a mess.

### Peat-free gardening

Just an annual reminder that it's **REALLY** important to use peat-free compost in your garden as part of your action to tackle climate change. Our peatbogs are natural stores of carbon and help to remove CO2 from the atmosphere, so we need to keep the peat in the ground! Digging up this peat to make compost, releases that CO2 back into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. There are now many good peat-free alternative usually available at most garden centres and at many supermarkets. Why not urge your favourite garden centre to stock it, if they don't. For more information on going Peat-free: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-go-peat-free> or <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/peat>. Or if you want to buy plants from peat free nurseries, this link provides a good list <https://dogwooddays.net/2020/04/30/updated-peat-free-nurseries-list/>



### **Farming and nature**

There's increasing recognition of the importance of regenerative agriculture as part of our food production systems to face both the climate and biodiversity crises. There's action at a national level from organisations like the Soil Association <https://www.soilassociation.org/causes-campaigns/a-ten-year-transition-to-agroecology/transforming-the-way-we-farm/> and <https://regenerativefoodandfarming.co.uk> and there are also some really positive actions happening locally:

- **Sunart Fields** is a 120 acre upland farm based near Whaley Bridge, working to restore a healthy balance with nature. Until 2019 the land it was an active dairy farm, and for 100 years earlier was coal mined. It's now managed restoratively, creating conditions that will allow nature to thrive. For more details <https://www.sunartfields.com>
- **Farming in a Protected Landscape** - since 2021 farmers/land managers in England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have been able to apply for grants to make improvements to the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access on their land. Here are some examples of what the money has been used for the Peak District National Park <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/living-and-working/farmers-land-managers/case-studies>

### **THANK YOU, LITTER PICKERS!**

Thanks very much to the approaching 30 generous souls who turned out late last month to take part in the 'Great Hayfield Spring Clean (Litter Pick)'. Once again, our efforts were not wasted.

Between us, we managed to amass around 30 bin bags' full of waste. Plastic and cans were common items collected, together with plenty of sweet wrappers. Arcane collections from previous events were not repeated, but a stash of make-up samples raised some eyebrows. And, along public footpaths, neatly wrapped and deliberately discarded dog poo bags were commonplace. Why go to such trouble and then fail to take the next step? Report any dog owner/walker you see throwing away such antisocial waste.

But, overall, litter volumes were down on previous years, which is encouraging. Let's hope it continues that way! .



*JUST SOME OF THE RUBBISH COLLECTED ON THE GREAT LITTER PICK*

### **ENERGY EFFORTS**

Our Home Energy MOT scheme is coming to an end, with the last few visits being arranged. It's been a great success, with around 135 requests received for visits to assess home energy efficiency and install low level insulation aides. Feedback received has been very positive, which is testimony to the care and knowledge of Graham Hirst, who has almost single-handedly overseen the visits which have been such a source of useful advice to so many parish households. Thanks so much, Graham!

We'll soon be writing up a report of the scheme, so that it may encourage others. We believe it's possibly the first time in the UK such an extensive undertaking has been offered to a whole community, which may mean there'll be a good deal of interest in its operation, and outcomes.



We held a street stall outside St Matthew's in late February to promote the scheme and were joined by colleagues from our waste and recycling group who, with members of the Hayfield WI and The Zink Project, had made soft draught excluders from surplus shirt, jeans and curtain materials and who were giving them away for free! Surprise, surprise, all 70 or so excluders were snapped up in about an hour and a half!



In other energy-related matters:

- there's new rules for households using wood burning stoves, an increasing source of air pollution. English households in 'smoke control areas' (which cover most of England's towns and cities) now face fines of up to £300 and even criminal records if they flout new log burner rules, which have cut the amount of smoke new stoves can emit from 5gms to 3gms. 'On the spot' fines can be issued as part of the government's **new 25-year environmental plan**. Log burners, with coal fires, are now the largest source of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) - small particles of air pollution which find their way into the body's lungs and blood. When operating, a wood-burning stove emits more particles per hour than a diesel lorry!



- we've received details of progress being made to cut the UK's methane emissions. The government has pledged to cut these by 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels. Good progress is being made – except in agriculture, which is responsible for around half of all UK emissions of this most damaging of greenhouse gases, and where almost no progress is being made. We're writing to DEFRA to ask what's being done;
- we're framing a response to DCC on its latest proposals for its Minerals Local Plan, which is a considerable improvement on an earlier iteration, which seemed to give a potential green light to further coal mining and fracking in Derbyshire. More safeguards to stop such developments have been incorporated;

- we've arranged for a talk in the autumn, after Sustainable Hayfield's AGM, September 21<sup>st</sup>, on the business of searching out and putting into operation installation of an air source heat pump, which increasing number s of us will be having to do as gas boilers progressively get phased out. Rich Lowe, from Hayfield, has very kindly agreed to chart his experience for us and we much look forward to hearing about his work, and the benefits he and his family have derived from having such a heat pump installed. More details in due course;

#### **PUSHING THE POWERS THAT BE.....**

We see it as our role to press for fairness and equity in our public life, and to require public bodies to 'do the right thing' in their areas of jurisdiction, helping to build sustainability and resilience in public affairs. So, quietly, in the last couple of months, we've:

- helped the Parish Council to develop an environmentally sustainable approach to procurement of goods and services, which will guide its future practice. The Council also agreed to seek evidence from those community groups seeking funding from it of commitment to the Council's own principles and practices in the field of environmental sustainability;
- responded to High Peak Borough Council's PBC's call for comments on its proposals to review/rewrite its Local Plan. This Plan sets the framework for future Council policy in relation to housing and commercial developments, travel and transport, energy generation and more. We highlighted the need for the Council to reset its own housing policies towards provision of much more social and affordable housing, and set high standards of energy efficiency for such provision, the need to develop a more integrated transport and travel provision, and promotion of greater biodiversity on land over which the Council has some influence. Overall, we highlighted the need for a new Local Plan to support cuts in greenhouse gas emissions as an overriding priority in dealing with the Council's own declared 'climate emergency';
- supported Hayfield Parish Council draft a letter to United Utilities concerning the discharge of sewage in storm overflows into Hollingworth Clough from Swallow House Lane and the lack of data about standards at its Hayfield Waste Water Treatment Works. Previous polite enquiries to UU have met with no response, so the Council has written directly to UU's Chief Executive, seeking answers to reasonable questions. The Council also copied in Robert Langan MP, in the hope that this might generate more of a response.

We hope these are the sort of things you'd expect us to do, and support us in doing.

#### **SUSTAINABLE HAYFIELD COMMITTEE**

*Here's our 'guiding lights'. Do contact us on anything that 'moves' you!*

**Cath Moss 01663 745392**

**Jo Hanney 01663 749795**

**Roland Strube 01663 49062 Derek**

**Clarke 01663 742019**

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**Chris Linford 07756 046000**

**Margaret Roberts 07715 558044**

#### **THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS.....**

Thanks for supporting Sustainable Hayfield, and for reading this newsletter. We hope you've found it of interest. We'll update you on events as they arise. If you've got items you want to share via the newsletter, contact Laurie James at [sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehayfielduk@gmail.com) – we'd love to hear from you! And you can find us on Facebook.



If you don't get our newsletters direct, let Laurie James (details above) know, and you'll be put on the 'mailing list'. If you no longer wish to get our newsletters, tell us and we'll remove your name from the mailing list.

#### **AND FINALLY..... HOW TO DEAL WITH AN ENERGY CRISIS – 1974 STYLE!**

We're grateful to Keith Brisley, who's dug out the advertisement reproduced overleaf from the Hayfield 'community archive'. It shows just how far we've come in our sensibilities in the intervening (almost) 50 years! We hope you can smile at it....even as we have to pursue a quite different path!

# HOME HEATING ENERGY CRISIS

FEB 1 1974

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