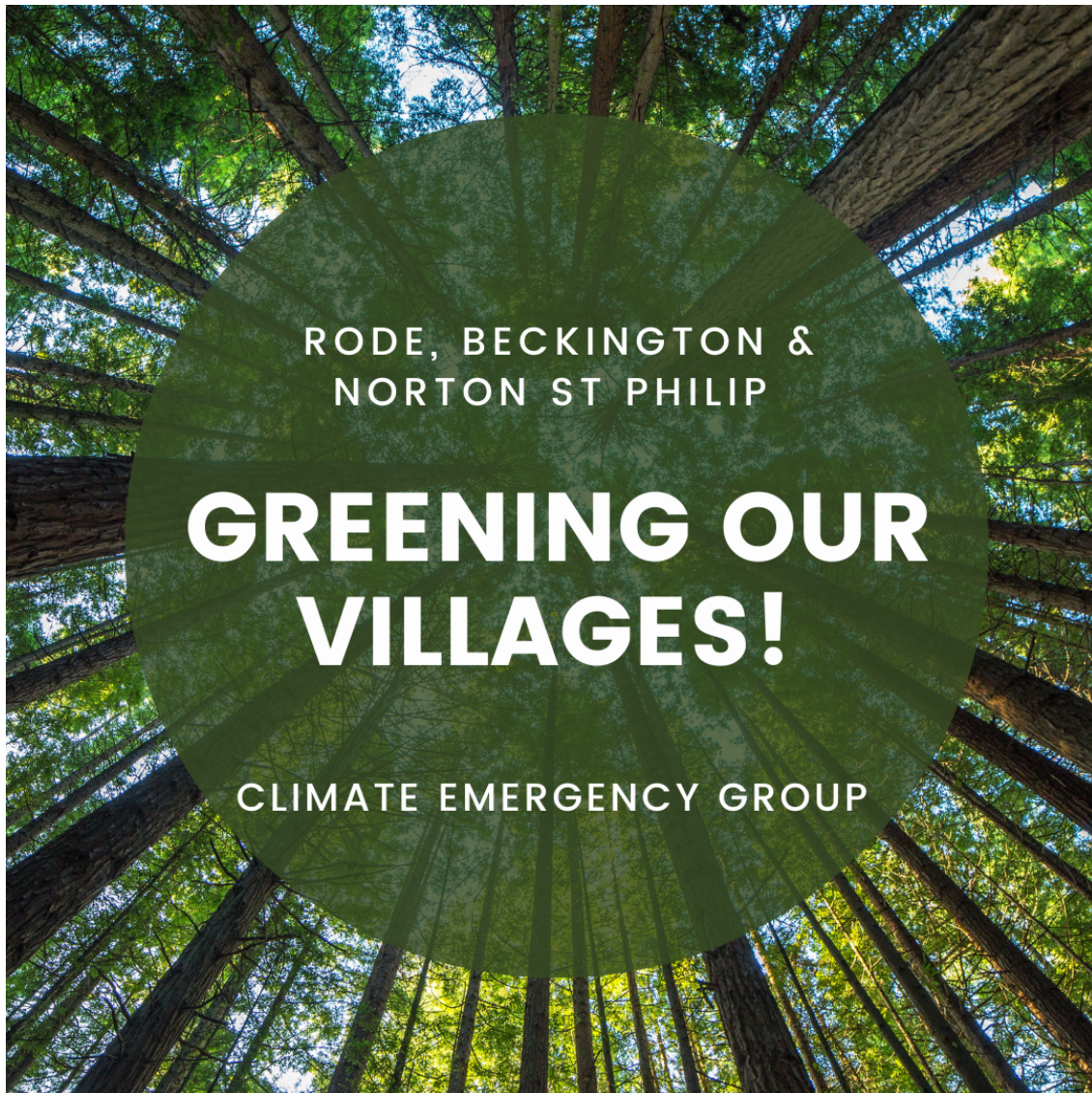


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RODE, BECKINGTON &
NORTON ST PHILIP

GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Welcome to the February Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Hi everyone!

I'm pleased that a couple of my own (very minor) initiatives have progressed well over the past month or so.

Firstly, I took part in **Veganuary** with virtually zero relapses! At the outset I had given myself two "golden tickets" which I used on a couple of occasions to add eggs to an otherwise vegan brunch. Excepting that, I was 100% vegan for the whole of January. I must admit to missing cheese, and also milk chocolate...but the upside was discovering how interesting and varied vegan cooking can be. I also learned quite a bit throughout the month - mainly courtesy of the daily emails from the Veganuary organisation. I may not be quite ready to go 100% vegan, but I'm now much more aware of the climate impact of

namely to eat at least 30 different types of plant per week. Initially this looks challenging, but I easily managed 38 in the first week, and slightly more over the rest of the month. Remember - tea and coffee are plants, as are herbs and spices (obviously!). For tips on how to get more plants into your diet, check out <https://joinzoe.com/post/eat-more-plants>

Secondly, our **secondary glazing** installation is now in full swing! Living in an old house (in a conservation area) has its charms - but in a cold winter with astronomical energy costs you begin to realise the disadvantages. Fortunately last year we took advantage of a scheme run by the Centre For Sustainable Energy (CSE) and purchased a subsidised Retrofit Survey. As a result we've made various minor, relatively cheap changes - eg: installing a "chimney sheep" to reduce heat loss via an open fireplace. However, to make a meaningful difference to the energy efficiency of our home we've had to invest in the fabric of the building...and the next step is secondary glazing. The option of replacing our windows with double-glazed units was impossible where the windows were on the front of the house (due to conservation area legislation) - so the alternative is secondary glazing, which should reduce heat loss through our single-glazed windows by around 70%. After quite a bit of research we opted for a West Country based firm, Mitchell & Dickinson, who have developed a system using plexiglass (a modern, lightweight equivalent to glass that's used in the aeronautical industry) to provide a second layer to period windows.

The image below shows the work underway in one of our bedrooms (and I'm happy to host a "tour" if anyone wishes to see the results at close quarters!)

Jim



Street-lighting in Rode

Rode Parish Council has been debating the potential to switch off some of the street-lighting in the village after midnight. The objective is to reduce energy use and improve the environment for nocturnal wildlife. The initiative would also save money. There are approximately 70 street lights in the village, of which around 30 have been identified to potentially be switched off after midnight. A consultation exercise will be undertaken before a final decision is made.



Great Big Green Week (10th - 18th June 2023)

Great Big Green Week is a national celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature....the first Great Big Green Week took place in September 2021, and was the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Over 5,000 events celebrated how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encouraged others to get involved too.

Last year the event was even bigger! For 2023 the timing has moved forward to mid-June, and Frome Town Council has just announced that its own popular "Great Big Green Week" will also move to coincide with the national event.

Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip (and other local communities) are hoping to take part - initial thoughts are just emerging, and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Climate Emergency Group.

Wiltshire, but a part of Rode used to be! Anyway, the WCA has a wide membership and there's potentially much we could learn from other climate conscious groups in the region. They also have an excellent range of resources. It's worth checking out their website: <https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk>

Frome Potato Day and Seed Swap 2023

Sunday 19th February
10am-2pm @ Cheese & Grain
£3 Entry

Wonderful stalls
seed potatoes, bulbs, seeds, plants and fruit trees, local food

Seed Swap
Bring your excess seeds in clearly marked paper envelopes and swap for exciting new varieties!

With Community Groups, Workshops, and fun Kids Activities

Find everything you need to inspire you this growing season

Community Composting Loop: Frome
10am-11am
FREE

No-Dig Gardening Charles Dowding
11am-12.30pm
£10 book with eventbrite

Wood for the Trees Films and Talk
1pm-2pm
FREE

Frome Field 2 Fork are running another of their "Potato Day & Seed Swaps" at the Cheese & Grain on Sunday 19th February. Lots of stalls to inspire you, plus a Community Seed Swap and two workshops: "Community and Home Composting", and "No-Dig Gardening" (with best selling author and master gardener Charles Dowding) 11am -12.30pm £10

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