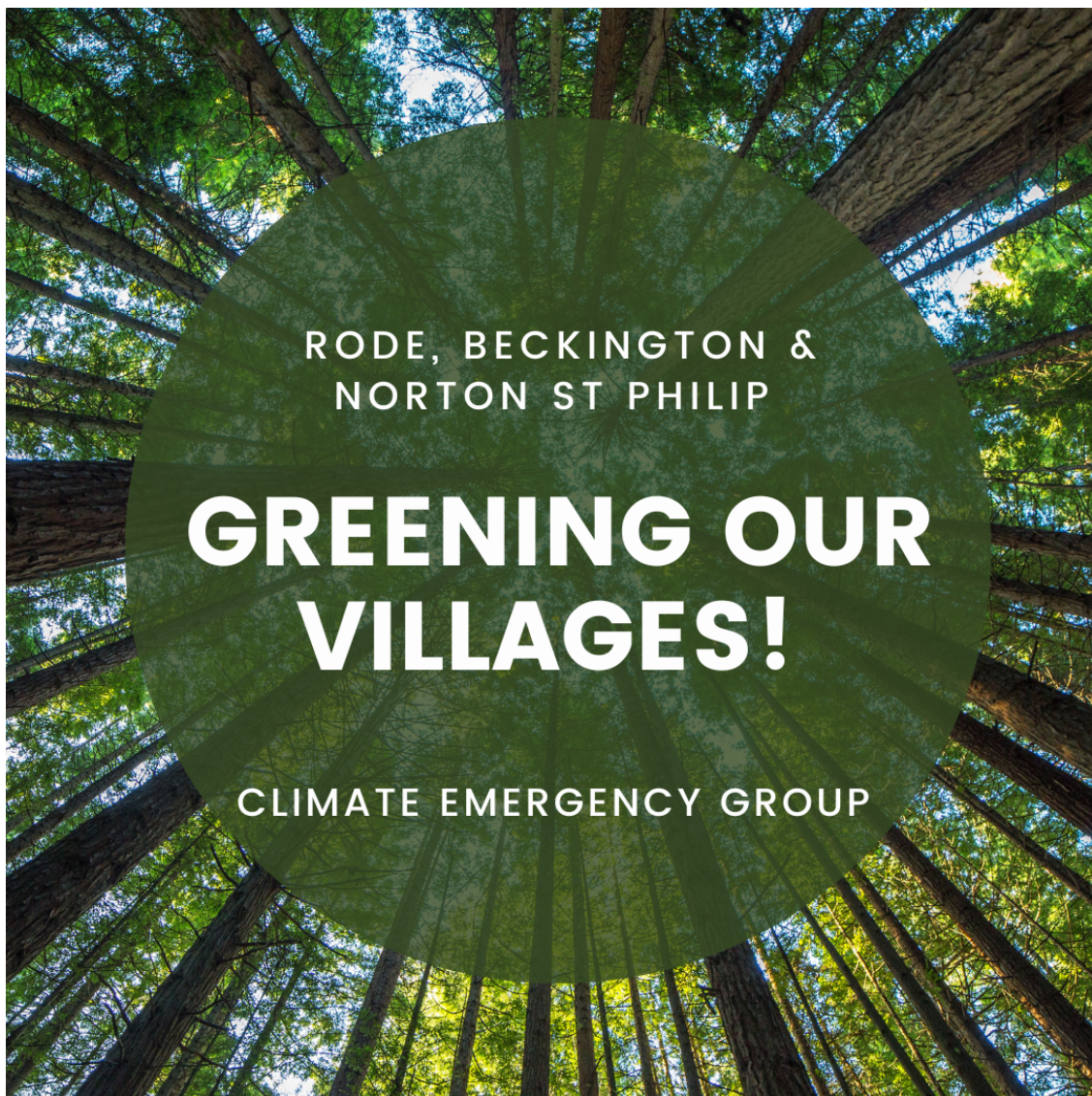


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RODE, BECKINGTON &  
NORTON ST PHILIP

# GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

## **Welcome to the March Climate Emergency Group Newsletter**

Hi everyone,

It's great to be able to start with some good news - and surprisingly it all relates to BUSES!

Firstly, the D2 Bath/Frome service....As you may have heard, the Bus Recovery Grant has been extended by a further 3 months to the end of June, and as a result the additional weekday, Saturday and Sunday D2 services are to continue beyond March, with significant enhancements to the D2 bus times.

Secondly, from 3rd April, First Bus is introducing the long-promised D2X, this means a direct and faster journey to Bath from Frome. The route goes via Beckington and then along the A36 direct to Bath. Whilst not coming through Rode and NSP, it will (a) provide more capacity on the Frome/Bath route - and

options.

Thirdly, the Government has extended its £2 single flat fare scheme to the end of June. This makes going by bus amazingly good value.

Some of the key plus-points:

- From 3rd April we will have a new early morning D2 service from Frome via the villages to Bath.
- The evening service from Frome will go via Rode allowing Rode residents for the first time in 8 years to go and have a night out in Frome by bus.
- There will be a doubling of the Sunday services to both Bath and Frome serving the villages (because there has been a big growth in the use of the Sunday services) ... so people won't have to travel by car (and then find somewhere to park) when (for example) going to the Frome Independent
- Improved bus services for people in Frome and the villages going to watch Bath rugby

All of this is good news – but...

First Bus West of England continues to face serious cost and employment challenges. It is up to the residents of Rode, NSP, Beckington (and Frome) to demonstrate that the bus services can be viable. And that means **increasing bus-usage**. No other bus operator would find it easy to provide evening and weekend services as comprehensively as First will be doing with the D2 from April.

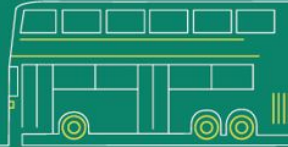
Personally I find the First Bus app incredibly useful - not only to check bus times, but to see in real time exactly where my bus is, and how many seats are available. It's worth downloading it, and trying to take the bus as much as possible over the next three months.

Jim

PS: The D2 and D2X timetables can be found here:

Until 1st April: <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/plan-journey/timetables?search=D2%3A+Bath+-+Frome>

From 2nd April: <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/plan-journey/timetables?search=D2X%3A+Bath+-+Frome&date=2023-04-02>

**Pay less to travel by bus****£2****single fare cap**from January 1  
until June 30**Great Big Green Week (10th - 18th June 2023)**

The Climate Emergency Group has started to pull together some ideas for celebrating Great Big Green Week in Rode, Norton and Beckington. If you'd like to get involved in planning the various events, or if you have an idea for an event yourself, drop me a line at [jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com)

**Food Waste Action Week (6th - 12th March)**

Reducing food waste is one the best ways to reduce our carbon footprint. It helps make the most of resources (land, water, energy, transportation), saves money, and supports the fight against climate change.

Last year more than 46,000 tonnes of food waste was collected from Somerset's kerbsides and nearly half of that was in refuse bins rather than recycling. The carbon impact of those 46,000 tonnes is estimated at more than 172,000 tonnes – the equivalent of putting more than 66,000 cars on the road for a year.

Based on sampling from 2018, more than a quarter of the contents of the

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Of that food waste:

- \* Only 28% was food waste that really couldn't be eaten (like eggshells, bones etc).
- \* 36% could have been avoided.
- \* 36% was thrown away still in its packaging(!).

Some food waste is unavoidable, but it is really important to recycle that waste. Food waste that goes in the refuse bin contributes more to our carbon footprint and is a wasted valuable resource, whereas food waste that is recycled through kerbside collections stays in Somerset and is sent to an anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater. There it is turned into electricity for homes and businesses, and nutrient-rich soil improver used on farms to help grow more food.

Everyone can request a brown kitchen caddy and a larger food waste bin. To request one for the first time or request a replacement, use the My Waste Service feature on the Somerset Waste Partnership homepage (<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk>) and choose the 'order waste boxes, bins and bags' option under "My Waste Services".

And for tips on how best to reduce food waste, check out this website:

<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>

A promotional poster for Food Waste Action Week 2023. The background is orange. At the top, the words 'WIN DON'T BIN' are written in large, bold, purple capital letters. To the left of this text are three horizontal bars made of thin purple lines. Below the main text, there are three white banners with orange text: 'FOOD WASTE', 'ACTION WEEK', and '6th - 12th March 2023'. At the bottom, the hashtag '#FoodWasteActionWeek' is written in white with a purple outline.

**WIN  
DON'T  
BIN**

**FOOD WASTE  
ACTION WEEK**

**6th - 12th March 2023**

**#FoodWasteActionWeek**

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## **Just Stop Oil - what do they do, and why?**

A number of residents of Rode, Beckington and Norton are members of movements such as Just Stop Oil. Di Bligh is one of those, and on **Wednesday 5th April** Di will be hosting a talk and discussion about the issues at the heart of the JSO movement. The talk will focus on what Di is doing and why she's doing it, and will also include a brief history of civil disobedience and outline what Just Stop Oil is trying to achieve. At the end there will be an opportunity to provide feedback, in groups and individually.

The talk is at the Rode Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The talk is free, and refreshments will be available.

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## Norton St Philip Repair Café

The popular NSP Repair Café takes place again on **Saturday 1st April (10.00 - 12.00)** in the Palaiet Hall, Church Street.

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# I'm taking part in *#NoMowMay* for nature



## "No Mow May"

Whilst we're still a couple of months from May, and the weather remains pretty chilly, it's worth planning ahead...The Plantlife website has information about the campaign to help reverse our declining biodiversity...and also sells specially selected wildflower seed mixes:

<https://nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk/>

<https://shop.plantlife.org.uk/collections/wildflower-seeds>

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## Planet Protectors!

Finally, if you're looking for a way to engage a young family member in climate-related issues, then the Friends of the Earth **Planet Protectors Pack** may be just the thing. The pack is available in return for a small donation to FoE here:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/donate/become-planet-protectors-get-your-activity-pack-today>

The pack itself contains the following:

- Bee-friendly wildflower seeds: create a buzz in your garden with special bee-friendly wildflower seeds.
- Activity handbook: 24 pages of fun activities including quizzes, nature games and much more!
- Plastic-free stickers: colourful designs that are perfect for decorating your lunchbox or creating your own planet-saving poster.
- 10 Tips to Save the World poster: see how many planet-friendly actions you can tick off together.
- Personalised membership card: nominate your family's official Planet Protector with this personalised card.
- Planet Protectors wallet: keep hold of all your cool planet-saving stuff with your own handy wallet.





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