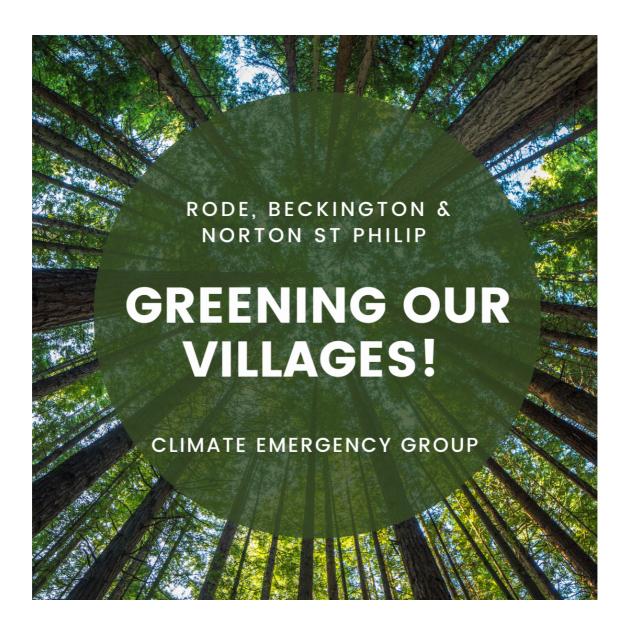
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## Welcome to the April Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Hi everyone,

I'm writing this one week after the publication by the IPCC of the final part of its massive report on the climate crisis. In response, the UN secretary general, António Guterres, said: "This report is a clarion call to massively fast-track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every timeframe. Our world needs climate action on all fronts: everything, everywhere, all at once."

In the face of such a damning (and, frankly, rather terrifying) statement it can seem rather overwhelming....how can anything we do here, in north east Somerset, make any difference? I guess one obvious response is that, if we

One possible response you may have been contemplating is getting involved in some form of protest or civil disobedience. If so, then read on - we have an event for you! And, in fact, even if you are firmly against such action, I'm sure you'll find the event worthwhile - see below.

Meanwhile, there are countless small steps that we can take in our daily lives which WILL make a difference....hopefully this newsletter can provide some information which helps!

Jim

# CLIMATE CHANGE & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

TALK & DISCUSSION led by DI BLIGH

- SUMMARY OF THE LATEST CLIMATE SCIENCE
- A BRIEF HISTORY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
- WHAT IS JUST STOP OIL TRYING TO ACHIEVE?
- WHAT'S DI DOING, AND WHY?
- Q&A AND DISCUSSION





# **RODE MEMORIAL HALL** WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 7.30PM

THE EVENT IS FREE: REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

A reminder that the talk by Di Bligh on "Climate Change and Civil Disobedience" is on **Wednesday evening**, **5th April (7.30pm)**. It will be a fascinating opportunity to hear some of Di's personal stories of civil disobedience - and better understand why she takes the action she does. It also provides the chance to question Di, and reflect on how far we would go, personally, to try to effect change.

It promises to be a fascinating evening - come along, and bring your friends and neighbours! And if you can't make it personally, please spread the word

civil disobedience....



#### The Big One!

If you're ready to dip your toe in the water, and thinking about taking part in some form of protest, then **The Big One** could be for you. It's a four day (21 - 24 April) series of events in London, organised by Extinction Rebellion, but involving many other groups - including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, CAFOD, War on Want and many others.

Even if you are hesitant, it may be worth taking the train or coach to London that weekend, watch the protests, speak to some of the people involved....you may find it's not for you, or you may be inspired to get involved!

More info here: https://extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one/

#### **Share Action**

If civil disobedience isn't your thing, there are obviously plenty of other ways to campaign for change. For some time now I've been involved with Share Action, a UK charity which seeks to use the power of shareholders and investors to influence corporate behaviour. One of their current campaigns seeks to influence Glencore to cease coal mining, and properly explain how its activities align with the Paris Climate Agreement (for which the company has declared its support). Members of Share Action bought small numbers of Glencore shares to gain the right to attend their AGM and put resolutions to the company. By becoming a member of Share Action you have the opportunity to get involved in future campaigns focussed on tackling climate change.



#### ShareAction @ShareAction · 1d

We wanted you to hear from the people holding Glencore to account.

Why did they take a stand? And what does the resolution mean to them?

Jim McAuliffe is an accountant and leads his village's climate emergency group. Here's why he co-filed 🚺

#### #nonewfossilfuels #activism









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As highlighted last month, we have more buses! Not just for Rode, but Beckington and Norton St Philip too. In Rode every household will have received an updated hard-copy bus timetable which shows the additional D2 frequencies which will operate from Sunday 2nd April (and these will also serve Beckington and Norton St Philip).

In addition, for Beckington residents there are further improvements, with a new D2X service which will run directly to Bath along the A36 (and to Frome in the opposite direction).

Full details can be found here:

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

The additional services are operating with government support, so there is always a risk that - if and when the support is withdrawn - the services will be discontinued if they can't generate a return for First Bus. As ever, it's a case of "use it or lose it". But the further good news in the short term is that the £2 single fare offer continues at least until 30th June - so now is a great time to make the most of the best public transport in our villages for a very long time.



### Low carbon retrofitting

#### Taking a whole house approach



The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) recently gave a talk on "Low Carbon Retrofitting" to the Freshford & Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group (FLHEG). We're looking to run the talk in one of our villages this summer....but in the meantime the slides are available here (with lots of links to further resources):

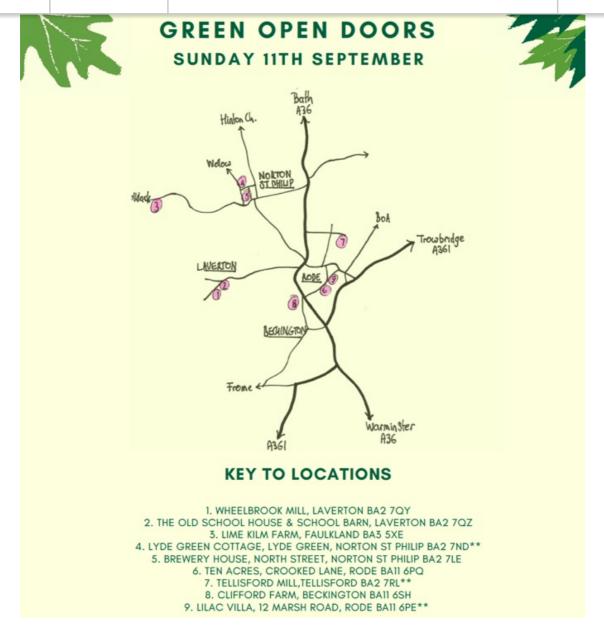
 $https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PxTI3L00C0Ur80DZtfc5XKGqi\_BCvGdR/edit\#slide=id.p1\\$ 



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

The Climate Emergency Group is busy planning a range of events and activities to celebrate Great Big Green Week. Full details will be in the May newsletter. And if you'd like to join the organising committee, or have an idea for an event/activity, please drop me a line at: jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

We're particularly keen to hear from householders who would like to take part in the Green Open Doors event - see below.



#### **Green Open Doors**

Last September, as part of the Big Green Weekend in Rode and neighbouring villages, we held a "Green Open Doors" event (with nine properties taking part - see above). The idea was similar to the "Open Gardens" concept, with householders opening up their properties to visitors – but in this case it wasn't about green fingers, but rather green technologies! Everything from heat pumps to solar panels and even e-bikes were featured.

The objective of the event was to inspire those thinking of taking the next steps in reducing the carbon footprint of their home. Householders who had already taken the plunge were on hand to show off the technology, explain the pros and cons, and answer questions.

The event was a great success, and we're therefore planning to run something similar this year, to coincide with the national "Great Big Green Week" which

At this stage we're looking for people who would be willing to open their doors for a few hours and showcase environmental technology, or changes they have made to their property to reduce its carbon footprint. This could include heat pumps, retrofit work, solar panels, water recycling, etc. Or – perhaps you've purchased an electric vehicle or e-bike and are happy to share your experience.

We are tentatively planning to run the event on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – but there may be some flexibility if this date isn't possible for everyone.

If you are interested in being part of the event, and inspiring more people to start their journey to a less carbon intensive home, or – if you know someone who may be interested - then please get in contact: email me on jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

#### Street-lighting in Rode

Rode Parish Council has undertaken a consultation with a view to switching off around 40% of the street lights in the village (between midnight and 5.30am). The objective is to reduce energy use, improve the environment for nocturnal wildlife, and save money. The initial results from the consultation show a very significant majority of villagers in favour, which is good news. The newsletter will keep you posted....



Finally - on the very topical issue of energy prices....should you fix your tariff? The Martin Lewis Podcast discusses this point in its latest edition (available on the iPlayer). The answer, by the way, is "probably not (yet)".



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