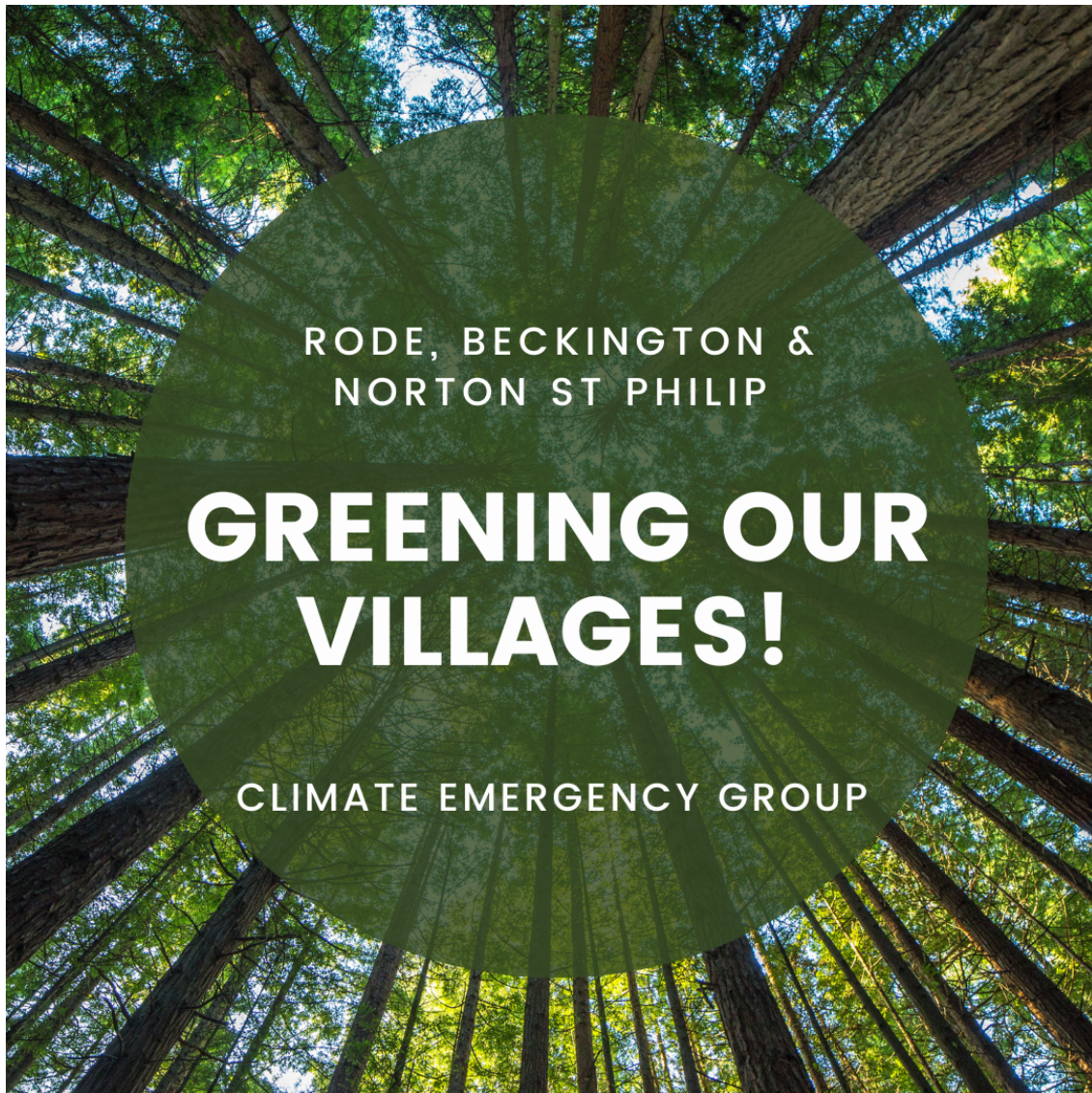


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Welcome to the July Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Hi everyone! And a special welcome to new subscribers....I very much hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. If not - feel free to let me have some feedback!

I hesitate to start with politics, but possibly the most important single thing we can do for the climate in July is to vote in the upcoming by-election (on 20th July). Frome Town Council is holding hustings at the Cheese & Grain on Sunday afternoon, July 16th - with the opportunity to better understand where candidates stand on the climate emergency. Full details here:

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/hustings-for-somerton-and-frome-by-election/>

someone who might be interested in joining us, feel free to forward this issue. New subscribers can sign-up here:

<https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr uF20>

Jim

jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

Proposed Solar Farm in Rode

The planning application for the proposed new Solar Farm in Rode is due to be submitted very soon. A number of local residents have stated that they are having difficulty deciding whether the proposal is a good or bad thing...trying to weigh the potential impact on farmland and visual amenity with the desire to see more low carbon energy production.

The article below, although nearly a year old, has lots of information which may be helpful:

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-is-solar-power-a-threat-to-uk-farmland/>

CPRE is championing the use of rooftops as the solution to developing solar capacity. They highlight that meeting national solar energy targets through ground-mounted schemes alone could require between 0.9-1.4% of the land in England, covering as much as 1,800 square kilometres/ 180,000 hectares of our countryside – an area larger than the size of Greater London (157,000ha). Their report can be read here:

[https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Rooftop-Revolution-Report.pdf?](https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Rooftop-Revolution-Report.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=2023_rooftop_renewables_petition&utm_content=2023+Rooftop+renewables+petition+A)

[utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=2023_rooftop_renewables_petition&utm_content=2023+Rooftop+renewables+petition+A](https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Rooftop-Revolution-Report.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=2023_rooftop_renewables_petition&utm_content=2023+Rooftop+renewables+petition+A)



Just in case you didn't know, July is dedicated to raising awareness about plastic waste and discovering practical solutions to reducing our use of plastic. Sign up to this campaign to get simple tips and tricks to help reduce your plastic footprint. Head to plasticfreejuly.org and follow on social media for more inspiration throughout the entire month of July!



Great Big Green Week

Last month we held a number of events as part of Great Big Green Week, the UK-wide celebration of community action to tackle climate change. This included:

- A series of talks in Rode Memorial Hall on Saturday 17th June,
- A repeat of the "Green Open Doors" event held that we first held last year,
- Guided visits to Tellisford Mill,
- A focus on our local pubs and the great "veggie" options they provide,
- Plus the Scouts' fantastic Litter Pick.

The three excellent presentations in Rode Memorial Hall were well attended (around 40 visitors at peak), and the talks elicited lots of audience interaction, which was great to see. The "headline" speaker was Sarah Dyke (Lead Member for Environment & Climate Change on Somerset Council) who provided a comprehensive overview of all the actions that Somerset Council is taking to address the climate emergency. We also hosted a talk from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (on the practical steps to take to make your home warmer, more energy-efficient (and therefore cheaper to heat), and less carbon-intensive. Then Terry Pinto (an "Eco-Architect" based in Frome) provided a fascinating look at a whole range of local projects, show-casing low carbon housing.

reduction in greenhouse gases (as a good proportion of the litter collected can be recycled).

The guided visits to Tellisford Mill were once more very popular, with all three tours being "sold out". The feedback from attendees was very positive, with a high level of support for the expansion of hydro power in the UK. The Mill at Tellisford produces around 280 MWh of electricity per annum, and there are a number of potential new hydro sites being investigated locally (eg: at Clifford Farm, Beckington).

Finally, a big "Thank You" to all those who took part – whether that was hosting your property for visitors, helping at Rode Memorial Hall, delivering leaflets, litter-picking, attending the events yourself, or simply choosing a "veggie" option at the pub instead of meat...

If you missed the talks in Rode Memorial Hall, and would like a copy of any of the presentations, drop me a line at jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com

BART
Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

RIVER BLITZ

RiverBlitz

Sunday 9th July 2023

Calling all Citizen Scientists! Get involved with BART by coming along to take water samples of your beloved local waterways helping the Trust to continue working to enhance & protect our beautiful rivers, lakes & streams



Register for your free testing kit at:
bristolavonriverstrust.org/riverblitz/register

Join us on Sunday 9th July (10am - 2pm) at
Trowbridge Park Pond, BA14 7EH to collect
your kit & find out more about our work!



Avon
Wildlife Trust

theBigGive



BRISTOL
WATER



Triodos Bank

RiverBlitz!

The annual *Bristol Avon RiverBlitz* is returning on the 7th -14th of July. After seven successful years, hopefully enthusiastic citizen scientists will sign up in record numbers to help gather important data on the health of rivers and streams across the Avon catchment. By collecting and collating this snapshot

priority sites in need of further investigation.

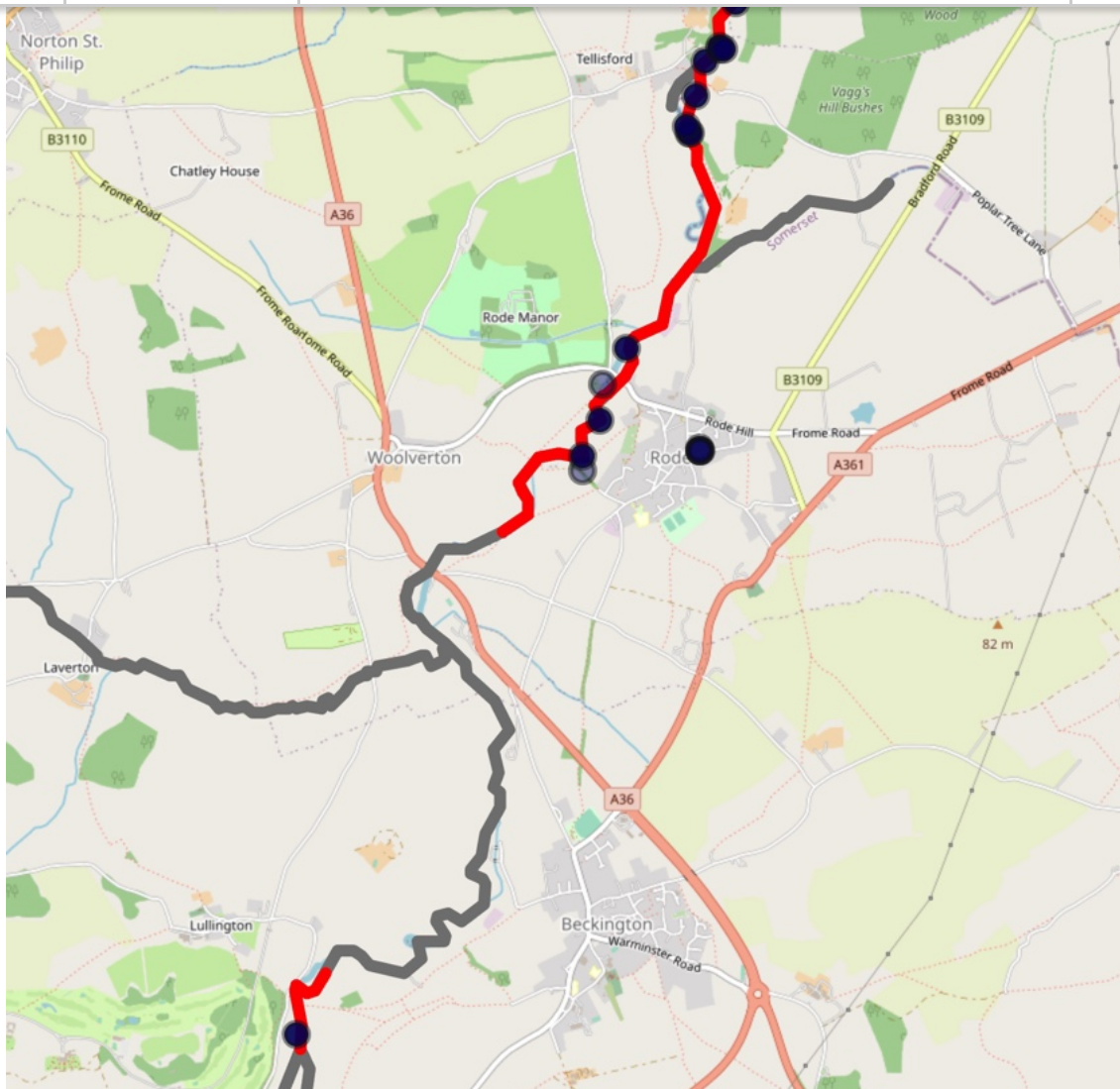
Volunteers will collect water samples from their local river and test nitrate and phosphate levels with easy-to-use water testing kits. This will provide a snapshot of water quality at that particular time and place. Once samples are collected, the data will be uploaded to BART's online visualisation tool. Data from across the catchment is then verified and the results can be viewed on the open access platform, which you can explore to view the past seven year's data: <https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/riverblitz/>

Nitrate and phosphate are important nutrients in rivers, however in excessive quantities they cause problems for wildlife. Excess nutrients cause algae to thrive, sometimes developing into mats blocking sunshine reaching the riverbed. When algae decomposes, it depletes oxygen in the water. Lower oxygen levels and nutrient imbalance means some plants and animals cannot survive whilst other, less desirable, species may dominate. Monitoring the levels of phosphate and nitrate in our rivers is therefore essential to the management and conservation of our waterways.

Unfortunately, past RiverBlitzes have recorded HIGH levels of phosphates and nitrates in the River Frome around Beckington, Rode and Tellisford (see map below, showing the stretches of river in RED where high levels of nutrients have been recorded).

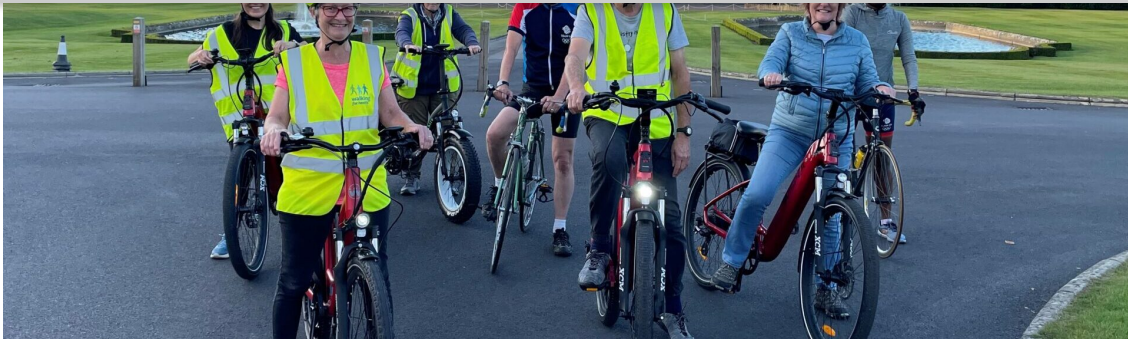
If you are interested in getting involved, you can sign up for free to become a [RiverBlitz citizen scientist here](#). Make sure to sign up ASAP in order to receive your free easy-to-use monitoring kit in the post, which includes everything you need to complete a successful BART *RiverBlitz* survey. Alternatively, you can attend one of BART's in person *RiverBlitz* events where you can talk to the friendly BART team and collect a water testing kit.....the closest event is at Trowbridge Park Pond on Sunday 9th July (10am - 2pm).

bristolavonriverstrust.org/riverblitz/register



CPRE has just launched their annual photography competition, with this year's theme being "Somerset: Wild at heart". To enter, with the chance of winning £100, follow the link below:

<https://www.cpresomerset.org.uk/get-involved/somerset-wild-at-heart-our-2023-photo-competition/>



Get back into cycling with a free ebike trial...

Frome Town Council's "Cycle Together" scheme is aimed at people who can ride a bike already but would like to increase their confidence when cycling on the road.

Participants of the scheme borrow an electric bike (ebike) for four weeks and attend six hours of guided group rides during the hire period. The loan comes with a lock, lights, helmet, panniers and high vis. The loan and classes are completely free, funded by the National Lottery. You can also take part in the guided group rides using your own ebike.

The objectives of the scheme are to support participants to feel more confident, to cycle more often and encourage people to include cycling in their everyday journeys therefore increasing activity levels and general wellbeing, whilst reducing carbon emissions and congestion.

To find out more, follow this link:

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/sustainability-and-resilience/green-and-healthy-futures-programme/cycle-together/>

Frome's Action on Climate & Biodiversity

If you're keen to learn more about local green initiatives, Frome Town Council is holding an event on 19th July – see details below:

FROME'S ACTION ON CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY • 6.30-9PM
FROME FOOTBALL CLUB



In 2019 Frome declared a climate emergency and held public events to create a town climate action plan.

Come and find out how we are doing as a community, the projects that are already happening and how we can accelerate our progress to becoming a greener, healthier and more resilient town.



Free light supper from 6:30pm
Let us know you're coming:
bit.ly/climate-supper



FrOme
TOWN COUNCIL



CORONATION GARDENS
For food & nature

The Coronation Gardens initiative aims to get people using their gardens* (or window boxes) to grow their own food and encourage nature. (*including school or workplace gardens). It's really aimed at those who are new to

to encouraging nature into their gardens. But the website is full of useful info, even for seasoned gardeners. Worth checking out....

<https://mycoronationgarden.org/>

Potential disruption to recycling services

Pay discussions between Suez (Somerset Council's waste collections contractor) and the Unite union appear to have stalled, and as a result Unite staff intend to take industrial action, starting on Wednesday 12 July. **The planned strike would cover three days each week, Wednesday to Friday, during the four weeks from 12 July to 4 August.** On the other days of the week staff taking action would not work overtime or be involved in catch-up collections, for example on Saturdays.

Somerset Council and Suez plan to prioritise three-weekly refuse collections, but cannot guarantee that all these collections will take place on time. They state that recycling collections would be affected to a greater extent (as crews are redeployed to support refuse collections). SC has warned that the scheduling of the industrial action means some residents could go multiple weeks without recycling collections. Precise details of any disruption will be posted on the Somerset Council website.



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