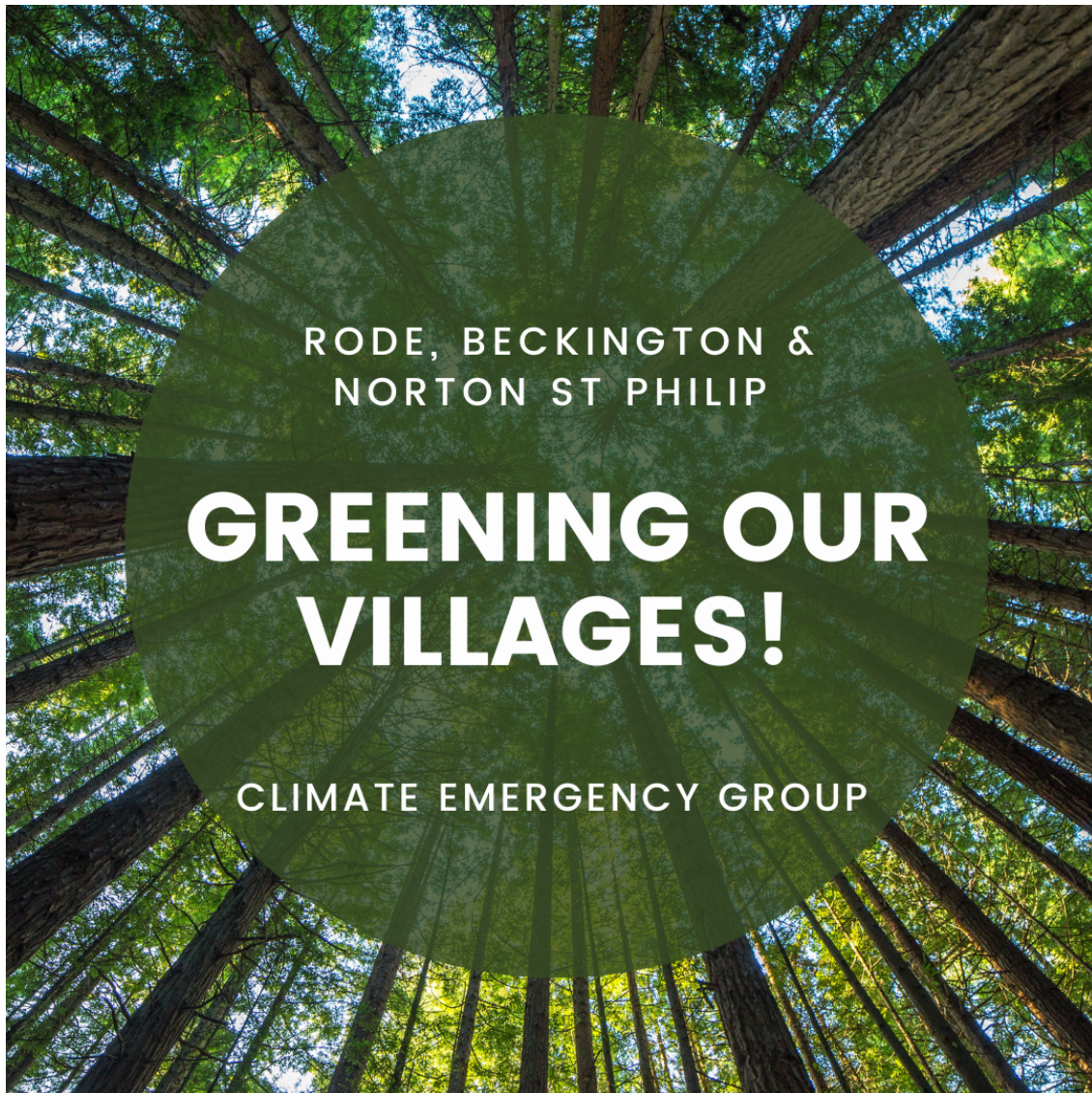


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RODE, BECKINGTON &
NORTON ST PHILIP

GREENING OUR VILLAGES!

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Welcome to the May Climate Emergency Group Newsletter

Hi everyone!

There seems to be a lot going on locally, with news of a proposal to construct a large solar farm in Rode, and Great Big Green Week rapidly approaching. Plus, we have now reached 60 subscribers to this monthly email! It would be great to get this up to 100 by the end of the year, so if you know someone who might be interested in receiving it, feel free to forward this issue. New subscribers can sign-up here:

[https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr)

[fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr](https://mailchi.mp/4b503e0ba20c/initial-sign-up?fbclid=IwAR2N42N4AEBZCnvzdJNHpu1na0KPFv4s0PZdYK7hJiwwKLm45ojMwGr)
uF20

Proposed Solar Farm in Rode

A company called Low Carbon is proposing to develop a solar farm on land in Rode. The farm is intended to generate just under 50 megawatts of electricity (equivalent to powering around 16,000 homes). The farm will cover around 170 acres of land (the land in question is shown on the map below). The proposal is subject to receipt of planning permission, and Low Carbon has just commenced a consultation exercise, which will include a webinar, a drop-in event in Rode Memorial Hall, leaflets and feedback forms delivered to all local residents, a project website (<https://www.bluebellwoodsolarfarm.co.uk>), and a dedicated project email for queries. Initial details are as follows:

Webinar, followed by a Questions and Answers session

When: Wednesday, 10 May 2023

Location: Zoom, pre-registration is required, visit the project website for further information

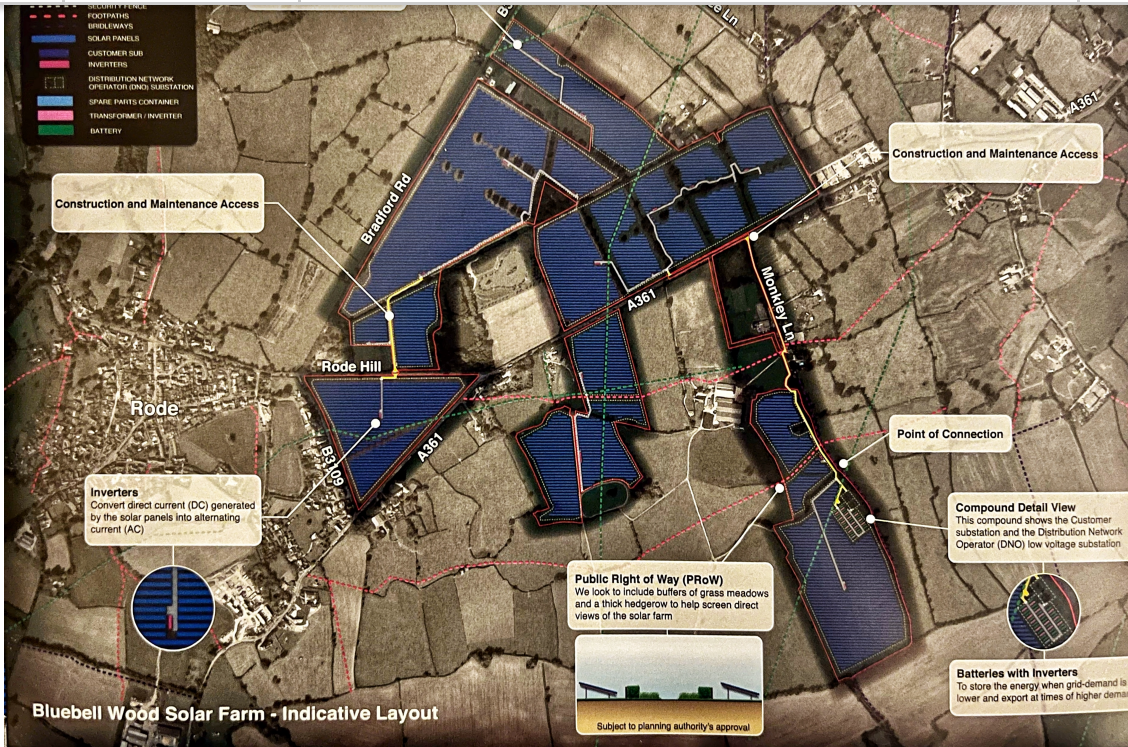
Time: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Village Hall drop-in event

When: Wednesday, 17 May 2023

Location: Rode Memorial Hall, High St, Rode, Frome, BA11 6PB

Time: 2:30pm - 7:30pm



"Dr Bike" will be popping up all over Frome between March and September offering free cycling support! They are running various events which have been made possible thanks to National Lottery funding. Dr Bike will be running bike safety checks, classes on how to maintain and look after your bike, cycle confidence classes and friendly group rides. More info here: <https://www.fromebikeproject.org/what-we-do/events/>



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

Frome Town Council has just published the full list of local events. A hard copy brochure is available in numerous locations around the town, and you can download it here:

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Great-Big-Green-Week-2023-Programme.pdf>

The details include four events in our local villages:

Green Open Doors

Sunday 18th June [2pm - 5pm]

Various locations in Rode, Beckington, Norton St Philip and surrounding villages

Visit around a dozen homes and businesses to see at first hand environmental initiatives in action (heat pumps, solar PV, Tesla batteries, insulation, electric vehicles, water recycling...). Speak to the owners and hear about the pros and cons. Maps showing all locations available in advance from Rode General Store

Tour of Tellisford Mill

Sunday 18th June (various times)

Tellisford Mill, Tellisford BA2 7RL

Guided tour of a micro-hydro plant, generating electricity from the River Frome. Visit this fascinating location and discover how the Mill was restored to become a power station - hear more about the history of the Mill, learn about the restoration project, and see at first hand how energy is generated today. The tours are free but numbers are limited and tickets must be obtained in advance from [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search for "Tellisford Mill")

Veggie Week!

12th - 18th June

Participating pubs in Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip

Pubs in Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip will be serving up extra vegetarian and vegan delights during Great Big Green Week. An excellent opportunity to try a few new, planet-friendly dishes in some of the best village pubs around. Full details from the participating venues: Cross Keys, Rode; The Mill at Rode; The Foresters, Beckington; The Woolpack, Beckington; The Full Moon at Rudge.

How do we tackle the Climate Emergency?

Saturday 17th June [2pm - 5pm]

Rode Memorial Hall, High Street, Rode BA11 6PB

A series of talks from different speakers setting out ways in which we can tackle the Climate Emergency, from individual action to community initiatives. For further details, including the individual talks and speakers, see [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search for "Climate Emergency, Rode").

More information in the June Newsletter.



No Mow May

It's that time of year when the lawnmowers emerge from sheds and garages around the country. However, that early cut is definitely NOT rewarding for wildlife - in particular bees and other pollinators which are critical to food production (around a third of all the crops we eat rely on invertebrates for pollination). These creatures rely almost entirely on wildflowers to survive. However, in the UK we have lost over 97% of species-rich flower meadows since the 1930s. So, ignoring your mower over the month of May will provide a much-needed boost for wildlife throughout the summer....whilst private gardens cannot substitute ancient wild meadows, we can do a huge amount on a small scale to reverse critical habitat loss.

And the good news is we can do this with little or no effort, saving energy (and money) in the process....because one of the best ways to encourage wildflowers in the garden is simply to forget the lawnmower and just let your grass grow! Leave a patch of lawn to its own devices during spring and summer, and the chances are that at least some wildflowers will appear in your new mini-meadow. Not only will it attract wildlife into your garden, but it will look lovely too - a powerful reminder that we should value what's left and support all efforts to restore wildflower meadows.

Ideally, try to resist cutting until at least the middle of July - or even into early September if you can. This gives the wildflowers a chance to complete their cycle of growing, flowering and setting seed. The exact timing of the first cut depends on the year and the weather, but a later cut will help species like knapweed and orchids to spread, while earlier cuts can help control competitive species, such as common hogweed. If you get more invasive plants like nettle

And here's some more encouragement to let nature take its course:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/26/chelsea-flower-show-wild-weeds-vital-plants-soil-insects-birds>

Bus Walks

Combining a good walk with a short bus journey!



With the Bus Recovery Grant confirmed, extra services between Frome, the villages, and Bath, and the continuation of the £2 single fare (at least until 30th June), now is the time to get out walking and bussing this Spring!

Make the most of the £2 single fare offer!

The £2 single fare offer on local buses continues at least until 30th June, which provides a great excuse to combine a short bus ride with a decent walk. If you need some inspiration, follow the link below for details of three walks starting or finishing with a bus journey from Beckington, Rode or Norton St Philip.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nKisfPD7XfmFqt1vU6aUkpb4d4XFNiSWF/view?fbclid=IwAR24NN79Cm5AZ7PnZ_fPXKDbmqLtOa_Xtz-KJezH3n9VSc2mwFi_UGCLi4&pli=1



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