



Hello from Cllr Sarah Dyke, Environment Portfolio Holder,

After the sad news of Her Majesty the Queen's passing earlier this month, we wanted to reflect on the amazing environmental work Her Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family have done throughout her lifetime, most notably the creation of The Queen's Green Canopy. This initiative was created to mark the Platinum Jubilee and aims to engage every country in the Commonwealth in planting trees and preserving forests.

Much of the Royal Family have been involved in this project, as well as various other environmental initiatives and our new King has a particular interest in organic farming. It is encouraging to see that our Royal Family holds the same values as we do here at SSSDC, so read on to find out exactly what we have been up to this September!

Best eco wishes from Sarah x



SSDC Green News



Why litter bins are not always the answer- Ham Hill Country Park

The removal of litter bins at Ham Hill Country Park has been hailed a success after the amount of litter at the site fell by approximately 85% annually!

After a spate of anti-social littering at the site, we were forced to rethink how to address an ever-increasing litter problem. In June 2019, we

made the decision to remove all 14 litter bins from here, encouraging visitors to take responsibility for their own waste and asking them to take their rubbish home with them and recycle what they could.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive! To find out more and read the full case study, [click here](#).

NEW tree tunnel coming to Lufton Nursery

Our Lufton Depot in Yeovil is not only home to our fantastic [Environmental Services](#) team, but also our [plant nursery](#)!

This year, the nursery team have identified an underused tunnel and have taken the decision to adapt and modify this space to facilitate the growth of our own cell-grown tree stock.



The intention is to clear out everything currently in the tunnel and insert some raised beds that will be filled with a mixture of **peat-free compost**, sand and perlite, enabling the production of more tree stock for SSDC use and adding to our current stock of 1000 trees that will soon be ready to plant across our open spaces.

By growing the trees in-house this way, we are able to not only cut the cost of buying in young trees, but it also gives us the opportunity to grow more unusual and selective native species. This tunnel will also house native wildflower plugs, giving us a space dedicated to producing plant life that will re-wild and improve biodiversity in our open spaces, in line with the [SSDC Environment Strategy](#).

In the Community



Wildflower Seed Giveaway update

Having had 29 successful wildflower seed giveaway projects with an array of sizes and placement across South Somerset, SSDC requested each of the giveaway applicants to survey their sites prior to any site preparation. This ensured already species-rich grasslands would not be affected. The results of these surveys also interestingly showed the presence of several species of orchid on some of the sites!

Within the coming weeks all our applicants will have the opportunity to collect the seed and sow pre-emptively, ready for Spring 2023. Keep an eye out in the new year for wildflower updates!

Somerset is getting a long-term strategy to ensure its trees are fit for the future and provide a greater service to the County's ecology, landscape and people. A short survey (that should take no longer than 5 minutes) has been developed as we want to hear your views and what your vision for the future of Somerset's Tree Strategy looks like!

You can complete the survey [here](#).



CALL OUT: Community-led climate and ecological action groups

Somerset Climate Action Network is launching its new map of community-led climate and ecological action groups and organisations across Somerset as part of Great Big Green Week this week which runs from 24th September - 2nd October and is the biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and restore nature.

You can access the live map of all groups currently signed up [here](#), and if you know of a local group to you who are doing some excellent climate and ecological action work but they are not listed on our map, please do put us in touch with them by emailing somersetcan@gmail.com.

For the Community

The Somerset Green Directory is LIVE!

As part of the [Somerset Retrofit Accelerator](#) project, [this directory](#) has been put together to help you find local businesses and services to help you with your eco retrofit project.



You can use this tool to:

- Search local businesses for your retrofit project including architects, construction companies, insulation and renewable energy installers. There are currently over 90 listings!
- Learn about energy efficiency and low carbon retrofit through the [Retrofit Resources](#).
- Find out what some Somerset homeowners have already done to retrofit their homes, along with other news, in the [Retrofit Stories](#).
- [Submit your own listing](#) and join the Somerset Green Directory if you are a business working to improve the energy efficiency of Somerset's housing stock!



A community fridge is a space where anyone can share surplus food to save food waste. Environmental charity Hubbub supports community groups to set up these community fridges and create a space that

brings people together to eat, learn new skills and most importantly, stops good food from going to waste.

The Community Fridge Network redistribute about 7,200 tonnes of food annually - that's equivalent to 17 million meals! This is important not just because of all the free tasty food being shared, but also because over the course of a year across the UK network of community fridges, an estimated total of 1,625 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions are avoided.

In Somerset, there are currently community fridges set up in Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Monkton Heathfield and Wincanton. If you want to help fight food waste in your community, you can find out more information about how to get started [here](#). The Co-Op is also providing grants for setting up community fridges which you can see more details for below in our *environment grants* section.

Thermal Imaging Cameras lending scheme

Winter is setting in and with the rising cost of energy it is even more important this year to think about long-term energy saving measures.



After the successful trial of the thermal imaging camera attachments for smart phones and tablets last winter in Area East of South Somerset, we are working in partnership with the library services to enable the loan of the camera attachments for wider community use across South Somerset. This will allow residents to see where heat is escaping from their properties and make the necessary adjustments to their homes.

The scheme is due to start towards the end of October/start of November and updated details will be added to our website [here](#).

Parish Environment Champions



Local Community Network Consultation

Calling all Environment Champions! Get involved with the Local Community Network (LCN) consultation. This is **an opportunity for you to have an input into how the LCNs will work and suggest how they could continue to support you and your community in all the great work**

you are doing to act on the climate and ecological emergency. You'll be asked various questions on their geographical coverage, their purpose and what they should be called.

So what is an LCN? You'll find a full list of FAQs [here](#), and you can respond to the consultation [here](#). So let the conversation begin to include a voice for our community's needs in regards to the climate and ecological emergency!

Consultation is now open and **closes on 17th October 2022.**

South Petherton Tree and Wildlife Group (TWiG)



TWiG ran a 'wildlife gardening open day' in July, and were thrilled at the attendance.

People purchased wildlife friendly plants and made wildlife gardening pledges whilst listening to talks on the subject. Some young wildlife fans ran a children's table with activities and a beetle hunt around the garden!

The group also have several projects:

- Underway at the moment is the creation of an acre of perennial native wildflower and grass meadow for the Parish Council. A local farmer has agreed to cultivate and sow the plot with seed TWiG are buying from Emorsgate seed company (slightly more expensive, but home-grown!).
- Sowing two trial wildflower plots using seed collected from SSDC's Parish Wildflower Seed Giveaway and from a nearby meadow in Drayton (*with permission*)!
- Planting another 100 metres of hedge at the end of November with free saplings received from the [Woodland Trust](#) – you can apply too using this [form](#).
- Over winter they will be writing their plan for declaring a climate emergency in South Petherton Parish with achievable action targets!
- There are also plans to write a wildlife gardening guide for local residents.

For more information, [get in touch here](#).

Green Business



Case studies from the Carbon Reduction Grant Scheme

Find out how your business could save money and reduce its carbon emissions by visiting Somerset's [Central Hub for Businesses](#) to find out what your business can do to help tackle [climate change](#)!

The Carbon Reduction Grants for Business Scheme, jointly run by Somerset's five local authorities, was set up to help local businesses save money and reduce their carbon footprints. Two of the successful businesses in applying to the grant scheme, include:

- *Knight Electrical Switchgear Ltd, based in Donyatt Business Park near Ilminster, who successfully applied for a grant to help towards replacing the outdated fluorescent lighting in their production area, as well as old single glazed doors and windows. The new lighting is provided by energy efficient LED units, which will both save money on the amount of electricity consumed and help further reduce their carbon footprint.*
- *Little Upton Holiday Lets, Long Sutton, near Langport, used their Grant to upgrade the recycling facilities for their guests. The purchases include clearly labelled waste recycling bins for cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and tins. Guests are actively encouraged to recycle as much waste as possible and it's hoped the recycling facilities will encourage holiday makers to improve their recycling habits.*

The grant scheme is currently closed but do keep an eye out for future opportunities [here](#).

Environment Events

Check out our [events](#) page on the [South Somerset Environment Website](#) for full details:



Bat Walk- Friday 30 September, 6:30-9pm, South Petherton

Join Somerset Wildlife Trust's Yeovil & District local group for a bat walk at Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton. We will meet and talk about bats, have a bat related activity and then go and find some bats. Waterproof footwear is advisable, as well as torches. Booking is essential, please email hawkehelen@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Tinkers Bubble Open Day- Saturday 1 October, 11am-4pm

Tinkers Bubble are hosting their annual open day on Saturday 1 October. The main gathering-point will be in the sawmill/pressing shed area at the bottom of the hill near their car park (up the lane from Little Norton). You are also welcome to wander the land, but please be aware of livestock and resident's privacy. For more information about the event programme, please visit their [website](#).



FREE Rural Crafts Course- 4-7 October & 18-21 October, 10am-4pm each day, Carymoor

This course will give you a chance to learn a range of traditional Somerset rural crafts, including willow weaving, basket making, green woodworking and ceramics. It will help you to learn new skills, build confidence, and help you towards volunteering and employment opportunities, and further learning. Based at their wonderful nature reserve, the courses will be led by Carymoor's Education Manager, Karen Boswell. Places must be booked in advance, so if your interested please contact administrator@carymoor.org.uk.

SSDC Green Flag Award Webinar Knowledge share- Wednesday 12 October, 7-8pm (Virtual)

If you're interested in finding out more about the Green Flag Award scheme, we are hosting an introductory webinar for any interested parishes, towns or communities that have parks or spaces which they may like to enter for an award. To join the zoom webinar on the 12 October, [click here](#).



- Meeting ID: 876 7891 3171
- Passcode: 030338

