

Hello from Councillor Sarah Dyke

Welcome to our latest edition filled with exciting green news, which is hugely reflective of our recently published Environment Action Plan for 2022/23, link found below.

Look out for our new 'For the community' section in this month's edition, as well as a list of where we need more Parish Environment Champions to help deliver our Environment Strategy within our communities- [please get in touch](#) if you would like to volunteer.

Aside from that, read on for your monthly dose of green news, events, grants and tips!

Best eco wishes from Sarah x



SSDC Green News

Environment Action Plan 2022/23 now live!

Our Environment Action plan for 2022/23 is now live on both our [South Somerset Environment website](#), and the [SSDC website](#).

This plan has been developed in response to our Environment Strategy that was adopted in October 2019 which sets out to mitigate the effects of climate change and continue our 10% year on year reduction of carbon emissions.

The goal is to reach net-zero carbon by 2030, and our new

Thermal Imaging Camera Trial summary report

Last winter we trialled the Thermal Imaging camera loan scheme. 13 parishes used the cameras to look at their homes and identify where heat was escaping.

We are reviewing their responses to a survey on the trial, and will be following up to see where home energy efficiency improvements may have been made since the thermal imaging cameras were trialled.

The team will also be looking at how this scheme can be rolled out

action plan will help towards us getting there!

[Visit our website](#) to find out more, and download the plan.

across a wider area next winter, with updates to follow. Until then, thermal imaging cameras can be used in the warmer months for helping with ecology surveys e.g. bats and nocturnal wildlife. Get in touch and book one [here!](#)



Join us in our 26th year of entry into South West In Bloom!

Yeovil in Bloom was initiated in 1996, and has since been managed and funded by Yeovil Town Council.

The Town's annual entry into the Britain in Bloom South West competition involves contributions from local businesses, schools, residents, Yeovil Country Park and a number of It's Your Neighbourhood (IYNs) community groups.

The displays are designed and maintained by South Somerset District Council under the direction of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group.

We will be assessed by the Chairman of South West in Bloom on Wednesday 27 July so keep your eyes peeled for all the gorgeous displays coming over the next month!

To read the full article and find out more [click here.](#)

In the Community

Montacute Carnival

The Countryside Rangers from SSDC were joined by their family and friends to take part in this year's Montacute Carnival.

The theme for the float was '**Wildlife of Ham Hill**' and costumes included a snail, badger, rabbit, dormouse, beetle, bee, fox, hedgehog, glow worm, deer, butterfly and the biggest pigeon you have ever seen!

The float was designed by ranger Sophie Middleditch, and depicted the wildflower meadows at Ham Hill. The team were delighted to win first prize for their efforts and are already planning the theme for next year!



Results of the No-Mow Conservation Scheme

A local resident's recent enquiry and offer of support has led to a colony of rare bee orchids flourishing near Stoke-sub-Hamdon!

Two colonies of rare bee orchids that were highlighted as being at risk due to proposed verge cutting on the A356 near Stoke-sub-Hamdon have now been protected following a request from a local resident. SSDC are required to maintain these verges for the County Council's Highways team with up to 11 cuttings a year, however we have recently adopted a policy of active conservation management for verges that are considered appropriate for biodiversity improvements. This means that for many areas we will be reducing our cuttings to 4 times a year, including at this site, to allow species to flower and set seed over the summer months! Visit our [website](#) to read more!

We hope you agree that the photos are a testament to the benefits that reduced mowing can bring for nature.

If you would like to have a similar impact and know of a site that might need help, please get in touch [here](#).



For the Community



Asda Green Token Fund - Vote for Yeovil Country Park!

The Friends of Yeovil Country Park are in the running for up to £500 from Asda's Green Token fund. They are one of the chosen charities who could receive money towards providing children's or community group activities at Yeovil Country

Park. Every vote counts, so please [click here](#) to give your support. It only takes a few seconds. Thank you!

Final call out for Retrofit Plans

Discounted Retrofit Assessments are still available but be quick to not miss out; **these must be booked by 30 June!**



They are available as part of the Somerset Retrofit Accelerator Project, to home owners happy to share their retrofit journey with others, and are available until stocks last.

In return for the discounted price for these retrofit plans, you must agree to undertake an additional online survey before and after your plan has been completed and agree to your information being shared with the Somerset Retrofit Accelerator project team for evaluation purposes - this may include an interview by phone or an invitation to take part in a focus group or case study.

6-12 months after your plan has been completed a follow up survey will be undertaken to find out what changes you may have made to your property due to your retrofit plan. [Click here](#) to apply.



EV charging station goes LIVE!

We are pleased to announce that the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station installed in Marketfield carpark, Chard, is now ready to use!

These have dual charging points which are powered by wind generated mains electricity and can deliver enough electricity for up to 88 miles of travel in one hour, ideal for both shorter stops, such as leisure and shopping trips, and regular charges by residents with EVs. Using them is simple! You can either download the

ScottishPower app, where you can store your payment details, or there are contactless card readers on the machines!

We apologise for the delay as we know many of you have been very keen to see more EV chargers around South Somerset... but the good news is more will be installed by the end of the year across South Somerset Council car parks!

[Click here](#) to find out more about our EV charging strategy.

Parish Environment Champions

We are committed to working together to make a difference

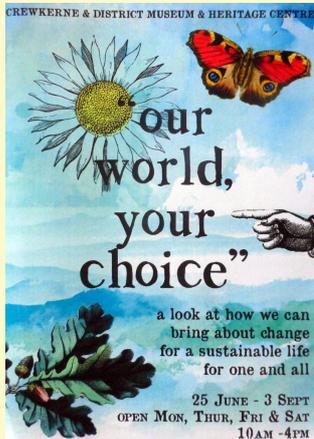
A reminder that we are always looking to expand our Parish Environment Champion network; we currently have volunteers in over 60 parishes, but we are still missing representation from a number of areas across the district!



If you would like to support your area with sharing news and environmental initiatives and help deliver SSDC'S Environment Strategy, then [click here](#).

Future Environment Events

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



"Our World, Your Choice" special exhibition (25 June - 3 September) - Crewkerne and District Museum

The exhibition addresses the issues of climate change and provides insight into how we can bring about change for a sustainable life, looking at how we lived in the past during and after WWII, and how that could relate to today.

Grant funding from Arts Council England and South West Museum Development, has enabled the museum to offer low cost workshops to the public to help engage them in activities that relate to climate change. Discovering the use of wool in history and trying out the processing methods; creating pictures from recyclable materials, paint and print; creating something from found materials and learning about lime mortar repairs are all part of the range of workshops offered. Each will have a hands-on theme. Registration at the museum or via the [website](#) is essential.

Visits to the exhibition from groups – schools, adult and youth groups are welcome by arrangement. For more information, [contact them here](#).

Somerset Climate Action Network's PARISH SUPPORT WEBINAR (Tuesday 5th July, 7.30pm - 9pm) - Online



Join Somerset CAN for their free webinar on July 5 at 7.30pm to provide support to all those parishes which have either declared or formally recognised the Climate Emergency and to those that are thinking of taking this step. It will be a chance to share your experiences and learn what works and what doesn't as well as to understand how best to engage with your community on this topic.

Please feel free to share this with your parish council and/or other parishioners who may be interested to get involved in Climate Action in your area. You can register to join [here](#).

Grow For Good Forum (6 July, 7:30-9:30pm)- Virtual

Recent events have highlighted the important role that community growing



projects can play in promoting health and wellbeing and protecting our environment. Whether you're involved with a community allotment, therapeutic garden, or any other initiative, come along to network and share ideas with others. You can [book your place here](#).

Somerset Green Open Homes Webinar- Retrofitting webinar: Mendip (7 July, 7-9pm)- Virtual

Join the second in a series of Somerset Green Open homes events. In this live webinar, meet two households in the Mendip area. They will be sharing experiences so far on their retrofitting journey. Measures that will be discussed include cavity wall and loft insulation, secondary glazing, air source heat pumps, solar hot water and solar photovoltaic panels. [Sign up here](#).



If you missed the first webinar which looked at two households in South Somerset, watch it [here](#).



Wilder Open Garden (10 July, 2-5pm), Fairview (The Pigpen), Over Stratton, TA13 5LB

Join TWiG (Trees and Wildlife Group, South Petherton) for tea, cake and wildlife talks at this Open Garden event in aid of Somerset Wildlife Trust. There will be plant sales, teas and cakes, wildlife talks, herbaceous beds, edibles, wildlife areas and kids activities. For more details, including location, visit our website [here](#).

The Somerset Food Trail (15-24 July)- Various Events

The Somerset Food Trail Festival is a farm-to-fork showcase of the farms, landscapes, people, and places behind Somerset's most flavourful and nature-friendly food. This 10-day Food Trail Festival sees farmers, growers and food producers open their doors to the public at set times between Friday 15 and Sunday 24 July. Click [here](#) for more details.





ECO-FAIR YEOVIL
BE THE CHANGE

