



Sid Valley Environmental News



Introduction to this edition of Sid Valley Environmental News, a newsletter pulling together everybody who is interested in our biodiversity, environment and green matters. Compiled by Denise Bickley, STC and EDDC councillor and chair of the Plastic Warriors, and member of the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group. If you have anything you wish to share, please email denisebickley@hotmail.com



SAVE foodhub

We work with local shops & producers to collect food that would otherwise be wasted and distribute it in our local community using the Olio app and by request. Since we started in August 2020 we have listed 4951 items of food that would otherwise have gone to waste. Over 120 people have helped in our mission. The environmental impact of this is great, eg around 1.3m litres of water was used in making the food that we have saved from being wasted, let alone the food miles involved in transporting it to Sidmouth. We've also recently started

working with the people at **In My Back Yard** such as Laura at **Bulstone Springs** to help re-distribute any surplus food they may have. In this way we are working with local producers as well as with larger organisations.

We have an amazing team of committed volunteers who should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved, so thanks to; Clare, Christine, Debbie, Kay, Joan, Lynn, Rachel, Mukie, June and Steven who help out either from their homes or from the Dissenters Chapel. We have a committed group of members who collect food regularly so thanks also to them.

We are always happy to have extra help and details about becoming a member or a volunteer can be found [here](#).

Sid Valley Biodiversity Group (SVBG) are a group who have started up since lockdown began. By using existing data, commissioning surveys, piggybacking on national campaigns and by working with other groups, they are proving to be invaluable in their knowledge with the aim of increasing biodiversity in the area. They have just marked their first anniversary is upon us and there is plenty to be involved in - help always needed. The newly revamped website is at sidvalleybiodiversity.org.uk or visit the [Facebook group](#) for more details.

Photograph: Angie Carney, Knapp Orchard



Repair Café

The lovely **Sidmouth Repair Café** volunteers can't wait to be back in action!

We'll be flinging our doors open again at Sidmouth Youth Centre in Manstone just as soon as restrictions allow fixers to repair things alongside visitors again, and our café can re-open with a warm welcome, cake and a cuppa. Also dependent upon insurance cover, we're hoping to recommence in September, but keep an eye on our Facebook page for latest information: [facebook.com/sidmouthrepaircafe/](#)

Prospective fixers can contact **Dave Rafferty** on **07977 064498** or **Angie Carney** on **07889 755777**

Issue #1 July 21

Diary dates - why not get involved:

Sunday 18/7 (This Sunday)

Climate Conversations including talk and book signing with Helen Scales. Lots of activities for all 11-4, The Ham

Early July

Save Foodhub reopening, Twyford House, Coburg Road 9.00-11.30, volunteers needed savefoodhub.org.uk

16/7, 30/7, 13/8, 27/8, 10/9, 24/9

Sidmouth Arboretum Guided Tree Walks - Byes Route (see p2) info@sidmoutharboretum.org.uk

23/7, 6/8, 20/8, 3/9, 17/9

Sidmouth Arboretum Guided Tree Walks - Bickwell Route (see p2) info@sidmoutharboretum.org.uk

September

Repair Cafe resumes (to be confirmed) (facebook.com/sidmouthrepaircafe)

October 16th

Reaching Net Zero in the Sid Valley (Science Festival - see p3) sidmouthsciencefestival.org

Next edition October 2021

A focus on what is being done, and what we can all do, for biodiversity in the Sid Valley - including farmers, land owners, gardeners, children and businesses.

Please email contributions to denisebickley@hotmail.com by 25th August



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All Saints' Climate Change Group

We are a small group who have been meeting for some time planning a programme to engage the membership of All Saints with the Climate Change agenda when COVID restrictions are finally lifted.

While we have been waiting we have rolled out a number of articles in our church magazine and provided a weekly 'Climate Change Top Tip' for our church newsletter. We have also undertaken an Energy Audit of our church buildings and site, and are engaged in a significant programme of actions to move it towards net carbon zero by or before the Church of England target date of 2030.

The programme will seek to

- develop people's understanding of the nature, scale and urgency

of the crisis

- offer some theological reflection from a Christian perspective
- facilitate a series of talks, seminars and group work to stimulate discussion and response
- encourage church members to take action as a matter of urgency to change their lifestyles in order to contribute to sustainable development
- seek to work with others in the local community and beyond to promote understanding and responsive action
- encourage political engagement as and where that is helpful and appropriate

If you would like to know more and perhaps participate please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Thomson, the Chair beagle67@btinternet.com, or David Lewis, the Minutes Secretary davenwend@gmail.com



At the time of writing this we are sorting out our programme of beach cleans for the rest of the year. We have only just been allowed to start doing full clean ups again - but we have kept busy doing individual adopt-a-spot clean ups. If you would like to get involved, either in a full beach clean or in keeping our town and surrounds clear, join in on **Facebook** or visit the website at sidmouthplasticwarriors.org



Want to know anything about waste and recycling in East Devon? To improve the teamwork between Suez, EDDC and us the public, a new website/Facebook page/Twitter account has been launched. Ask questions and they will be answered! Visit eastdevonwaste.info



Sidmouth Arboretum

Please see the diary dates

for our popular guided tree walks, in association with Sidmouth Museum (SVA). Each walk is a gentle two hour stroll through parks and public gardens and along quiet roads. You will be led by one of the Arboretum's volunteers around some of the most interesting and impressive trees in the town. Walks depart from the Museum at 10.30 each Friday from 25th June through to the end of September.



Sidmouth Town Council have agreed to join

Exmouth in their project *Our Place, Our Planet*. We will be populating our own site soon. Check out Exmouth's at ourplaceourplanet.org If you want to help, or have your business or your organisation featured on the site, email denisebickley@hotmail.com





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Sidmouth Science Festival Exciting Curiosity

Reaching Net Zero in the Sid Valley

As the threat of global climate change grows, there is increasing action to limit its impact. The UK Government has committed to reaching Net Zero by 2050, and Devon County Council has responded with the Devon Carbon Plan. Here in the Sid Valley, many organisations have been promoting the need for a more sustainable lifestyle. The approach of the global conference on climate change in Glasgow in December highlights the importance of this to everyone.

On Saturday October 16th, as part of Sidmouth

Science Festival, Sidmouth Parish Church will host "reaching Net Zero in the Sid Valley", subject to any COVID restrictions in force at the time. During the day (11am - 5pm) there will be a "marketplace" in the church for Sid Valley organisations (both voluntary and commercial) promoting sustainability.

Then in the evening (7pm - 9pm) there will be a public meeting, starting with a brief update on the science from world leading climate scientist Dame Julia Slingo.

Then County Councillor Stuart Hughes will speak on the Devon Carbon Plan and it's implications for the Sid Valley, followed by

a series of short talks by people who have adopted low carbon technologies describing their experiences - including electric bike, solar panels, air source heat pump. There will also be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Keep an eye on Sidmouth Science Festival's website for further information regarding this year's lineup, and for lots of other resources for all things science and environment, including the exciting regular upcoming Cafe Scientifique presentations.

sidmouthsciencefestival.org



Friends of the Byes

Friends of the Byes is a local volunteer group, set up 10 years ago, bringing biodiversity, an educational platform for learning and improved usage to this much loved parkland in our town. The area we look after stretches from the Toll gate to Lymebourne and we run regular weekly sessions on Saturday mornings, 10-12.

To find out more or learn how to get involved, ring Kati on **07817 041239** or email us on fortbsidmouth@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/friendsofthebyes](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthebyes)



Sidmouth Library News

- The Library Nature Table is back out in the library - pop in and have a look
- An Energy Audit has been undertaken for our building and business and we will use it to plan a way forward within the newly formed Devon Libraries Environmental Group
- Our Summer Reading Challenge has a theme of 'Wild World Heroes'

