

Ludlow 21 AGM 2016

Reports from Chair and Directors

CHAIR'S REPORT:

This year the Board has met on 7 occasions, 3 times in 2015 and 4 times in 2016.

It has been a very busy year with a number of new initiatives, most importantly, the establishment of **VISION21** and its 4 major subgroups – Renewable Energy, the Climate Friendly Diet/Incredible Edible projects, the 3 Rs and Transport. All of these have worked hard with a number of exciting projects up and running all fully reported on our website. Plans are advancing to establish a Schools and Education Vision Group which will be led by Ian Urry. This is important because it will be that generation who will really experience the impacts of climate change this century.

We have also been instrumental at initiating a new community led approach to making Ludlow more sustainable with two LUDLOW 2040 public meetings in April and May. As a result, a new 'People's Alliance' (the actual name is to be confirmed later) will be launched this summer to involve all the communities in Ludlow and surrounding areas. Ludlow 21 will be an important player in this because of our focus on environmental sustainability but we will be only one of a number of community groups involved. This is, potentially, the most ambitious long term programme Ludlow has ever undertaken. It will be very challenging but the potential benefits, in terms of making Ludlow more self sustaining and resilient, are immense and I urge all our members to support it.

Most of you will know that we changed our Green Drinks venue to the Blue Boar last autumn. This has proved to be a very popular venue and Kim Holroyd has been able to put on a series of events in the Sitting Room to coincide with Green Drinks evenings. If you haven't been able to get to one evening this year, do try soon. It is a great social get together as well as an opportunity to meet up and exchange ideas and views with Board members. The timing remains unchanged – 7.30pm onwards on 21st of each month.

The 2015 Green Festival was very successful but, again, most people attending it were visitors. As a result of that, we have gained LTC approval for moving the date for the 2017 Green Festival to July 9th. We hope that this will enable us to both attract, and involve, more local people and especially the schools.

This year's Green Festival, which will be held on Sunday, August 28th, is being organised by a new Committee, under the leadership of Erica Garner and with the continued services of Eliz-anne Williams as the co-ordinator. It promises to be another really exciting event so do, please, support it. The end of Festival party at the Brewery on the evening of 28th will be an opportunity to put on your dancing shoes, with three great bands booked to perform. So book tickets early!

We have continued with all our regular events – especially the twice monthly food market which goes from strength to strength, Swiftwatch and our cycling events. Other notable activities this year included:

- Fairtrade Big Breakfast and Fairtrade Fortnight
- A special Ludlow Local Market at the Brewery on 1st May
- Welcome the Swifts week in mid May

- Electric Vehicle Day at the Brewery in January

We are also delighted to have got our website up and working again, thanks to help from Chris Deaves (although there is much work still to be done) and to have kick started our quarterly newsletters which are a way of alerting members to upcoming events and providing feedback on those which have already taken place.

We have made financial contributions to several local concerns, became shareholders in the Ludlow Hydro and made donations to the town's Christmas lights Fund and the Fringe Festival. We also gave a Christmas hamper to the Feathers Hotel who have been wonderful in allowing us free use of their facilities for meetings over the course of the year.

We were delighted that two of our past Chairmen, David Currant and Roger Furniss were honoured with Civic Awards at the Mayor Making ceremony this year. The awards were extremely well deserved and reflect the major contribution that they have both made to furthering the environmental agenda through Ludlow 21.

2016/17 will be a challenging but exciting year. Already in the pipeline is the adoption of Pride of Place, a new collaborative relationship with Grow Cook Learn at Craven Arms and the launch of a 'Ludlow 21 Youth Section'. As always, we would like to have more members of the Board to take a busy programme forwards and continue to make Ludlow 21 a respected and important group in the town. So if you are interested in joining, then do put your name forwards.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board, the Green Festival Committee, the various **VISION21** groups and you, our members, for your support over the year without which my job would not have been possible. I am sorry that, for personal reasons, I am unable to continue as a Board member and must step down as the Chair but will continue to support all the work that Ludlow 21 does in the years ahead.

Denise Thompson June 2016

DIRECTORS' AND ACTION GROUP REPORTS:

Ludlow 21 Food and Farming Group

The big event of 2015 was the 15th anniversary of the Local Produce Market in July. We celebrated with a tea party in Castle Square for customers, attended by the Mayor, and an evening event for producers at Ludlow Brewery. We were delighted to welcome not only current stallholders but many old friends with shared food, drink and dancing to a ceilidh band.

The twice-monthly market continues to run under the energetic management of Tish Dockerty, who also produces our quality newsletter 'Rhubarb' featuring producers. Looking back over the fifteen years we feel we have played a significant part in the much wider availability of local produce in all sorts of outlets, although it makes it harder for our market to remain distinctive.

We continue to offer Local to Ludlow labelling to shops, restaurants and B&Bs and the green (and occasionally red) bags are steady sellers. My thanks to the members of the Food and Farming group who keep all these activities going and to Gillian Mortimer for coping with the financial side.

Kate Norman

Ludlow FairtradeTown Report Ludlow 21 AGM 2016



Ludlow Fairtrade Town Steering Group has six members. Additional volunteers help man events and activities. More volunteer help is always welcome.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 carried the slogan 'Sit down for Breakfast, Stand up for Farmers'. Big Breakfasts were held in venues in town. Courtesy of the Fairtrade Foundation, a producer from a Fairtrade Co-operative in Kerela, India visited Ludlow and gave an inspiring talk on

her work and issues facing Fairtrade producers.

During the past year, the group has continued the link with the Town Council. A grant has been awarded from The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund for the redesign and restocking of the Fairtrade flower bed near the Castle. The Town Council has worked to replant the bed and will continue to maintain it.

The task of updating the Fairtrade Directory was undertaken during the autumn and winter. The new version is now ready to be put on Ludlow21 website

We have continued a range of established regular activities throughout the year, including the Traidcraft Christmas and Spring Fairs and a monthly stall on the Local Produce Market. Links are continuing to be made with schools and college, community and youth groups, and churches.

Jenny Hume is replacing Liz Taylor as Chair of Ludlow Fairtrade Town.

Liz Taylor

Ludlow21 VISION21 Transport Group Annual Report 2015/16

Since its launch in September 2015, the Transport Group has met on 8 occasions and has made good progress on the 5 transport areas we are concerned with (trains, buses, cars, bikes and walking).

We developed a vision to guide all our work which is to help Ludlow become a successful, zero carbon, zero air pollution, people friendly town with a transport system which meets all our needs whilst reducing our dependence on private cars.

We have focussed on four main projects:

- Introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the town
- Installing bus shelters at exposed and busy bus stops
- Improving the safety and appearance of the train station
- Installing at least one electric car charging station in the town.

But we are also doing survey work on footpaths, looking at how to improve facilities for cyclists and planning to adopt our train station.

Most of our work is long term but we have had some early wins in helping to get Shropshire Council to agree to create a pedestrian walkway past the train station and to mark out the pedestrian crossing there more clearly. We have also gained Town Council agreement to the erection of a bus shelter in Corve Street and we are now obtaining costings for a preferred design.

We are very pleased that the Council have nominated Cllr Jim Smithers to act as the main liaison between the Council and our group and delighted to have both Les Lumsdon and John Whitelegg as our advisers and whose combined experience and knowledge is proving invaluable in our work.

Denise Thompson

In Vision 21 – Renewable Energy Group

We combine knowledge to prove that ...

- Our experience of having energy efficient schemes and
- Introduction of several renewable energy schemes in different technologies around Ludlow does work

Good points

Ludlow Hydro Co-operative – running successfully since 20 April, the Archimedes Screw is a success.

St Laurence's Church – CO2 to 20% by 2030, by combination of solar PV, biomass boiler and lighting

At Bromfield Sand & Gravel, a new solar PV scheme - given planning permission & is now operational

Mid

Shortlisted by Shropshire Council but heard nothing.

Looked at electric charging points for cars; can see local ones at <https://zap-map.com/live>

Biogas – Lutra are refining biogas generated from AD & running vans on it (ahead of market)

AD – GSX sending food waste to Lutra, but Veolia have scuppered our plans to collect it

Bad

Renewable energies summer course unfortunately did not get take-up

A bid to GSX was surprisingly turned down (was very disappointing, because it was a good opportunity to display green/blue plaques publically to highlight Ludlow's Vision 21 process)

Solar PV is now very unlikely on the library

The Government

Once the current government got in by themselves, they cut the feed-in-tariffs & wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, heat pumps & hydraulic power became not particularly attractive.

Also, potential BREXIT (Britain leaving) from EU; EU trends [solar, wind, tidal, AD, heat] versus UK trends [fracking, drilling, nuclear]. Can discuss / debate this and TTIP between now and 23 June.

Plans

Refinement of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for rentals and sales

Eco-Schools – Energy the core basis, plus transport, waste, water, litter, school grounds, global, citizenship, healthy living and biodiversity.

Energy diaries (by Lightfoot) show promise

A South Shropshire based h.Energy type scheme in either Feb/Mar or Sep/Oct

Alan Stewart, Renewable Energy Group, Vision 21

Climate Friendly Diet Vision Group

Vision Statement: A CLIMATE FRIENDLY DIET FOR ALL

Background

A "Food" vision group was formed last autumn when the other Ludlow 21 vision groups were forming. It became known as "The Climate Friendly Diet" vision group. Although food and food production is an immense topic with many facets, it quickly became evident that three issues should be addressed immediately. They were:

- 1) social justice,
- 2) increasing our self-sufficiency, and
- 3) informing the public as to how diet can improve personal health and confront climate change.

Ludlow 21 already has a FAIRTRADE group so in consultation with their members we decided to have social justice addressed primarily by them. However, the CFD group will support and promote their initiatives.

"Incredible Edibles" was adopted to tackle self-sufficiency as it's a well known programme that encourages individuals and communities to start growing more of their own food. And, fortunately, some funding was almost immediately available to get it started. This arm of the vision group has been very active and evidence of their initial work can be seen along Station Drive. As this is a large project and operates as an independent sub-group, Tish will explain more later.

The next part is about informing the public about how a plant-based diet can improve not only personal health but also address issues of climate change. We have called it a plant-based diet as how, when, and by what degree individuals change is their choice. Some may begin by reducing meat gradually while others may decide on total and immediate conversion. And although food production and food consumption is a global issue we believe our solutions should reflect our local situation.

What have we done to inform the public?

- 1) we visited the U3A Food & Farming group to deliver a talk. They have invited us back for a follow-up talk next year. The talk is available to other groups,
- 2) we hosted 3 films in a series called: **Climate Change: Bite Back**. **Cowspiracy** described the environmental devastation caused by meat and dairy industries, **Forks Over Knives** the health benefits of a plant-based diet, and **Vegucated** followed three meat eaters as they adopted a vegan diet for 6 weeks,
- 3) we have a small film library so individuals or groups can borrow these and other environmental films,
- 4) we have started a **Veggie/Vegan Shared Supper Club** to support those wanting to reduce meat and dairy and adopt a plant-based diet. Foods can be sampled, recipes exchanged, and information shared in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.
- 5) Ludlow's Food Festival is planning to show the above 3 films at The Assembly Rooms in the autumn.

What do we still need to do?

- 1) continue educating ourselves and the public,

2) identify and prioritize other food related issues in order to set goals to reach our vision by 2040.

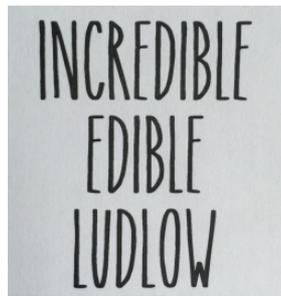
What do we want for 2040?

- 1) a sustainable Ludlow that grows and produces to its maximum local capacity, consumes food to maintain health, and eliminates over consumption,
- 2) resilience where we anticipate future challenges and prepare for them,
- 3) food security,
- 4) consume an entirely organic plant-based diet.

In summary, we would have adopted a diet designed to enhance personal and planet health.

The Climate Friendly Diet vision group recognizes that these initiatives are only the beginning of a monumental task and would welcome support.

Kim Holroyd



Ludlow has an opportunity to become an orchard of plenty for the many by introducing edible trees, bushes and plants into its landscape. A small group people or 'Incredible Edibles' (maybe the core or possibly the pips or seeds) have started occupying green empty spaces with sapling trees that will bear fruit, popular with all walks of life. These include apples, pears, damsons, cherries, plums and jostaberries. These will be free from pesticides and available to be picked by anyone. The aim is to add other edibles to these with home grown fruit and vegetables, constantly encouraging people to sow their own, plant it out and harvest it later. The ultimate aim is to inspire others to grow their own, become more aware of where their food comes from, become more resilient in their access to food, learn about their food heritage and become less reliant on supermarket produce that is often sold out of season, not grown for flavour but appearance and long term storage qualities.

The initial plan is to create a nucleus of growing around the Station Drive, including the Scout Hut, Station Drive Surgery, Smithfield car park and the end of Glencoe Terrace and extending to include the entrance to Ludlow Brewery. The decision to start on Station drive is that it has high footfall with young and old from all parts of Ludlow, as well as visitors and out of town residents. This will be complemented by fruit bushes that will be planted in public parks including Wheeler Road and the Linney Play area.

Progress to date:

- The planting of 3 apple trees and 1 pear at the Ludlow Scout Hut and the sowing of seeds and strawberry plants with Ludlow Beaver group;
- The planting of 2 apple trees and 1 jostaberry 1 cherry and 1 Plum at Station Road Surgery;
- The planting of 4 apple trees at the end of Glencoe Terrace;
- The planting of 2 jostaberries at Ludlow Infant School driveway;
- The planting of 1 apple and 1 cherry on land on Sandpits Avenue;
- A facebook page 'Incredible Edible Ludlow' to help publicise activities and progress and get more people interested and involved
<https://www.facebook.com/Edibleludlow/>

Town Council planting:

- The planting of 10 blackcurrant plants, 10 gooseberry plants, 10 raspberry plants, 4 apple trees, 4 pear trees at Linney Riverside Park;
- The planting of 8 blackcurrant plants, 8 gooseberry plants, 10 raspberry plants, 4 apple trees, 4 pear trees at Wheeler Road Playing Field;

Work to be done:

- Raised beds to be put in using old tyres at Ludlow Scot Hut including planting out of seedlings;

- Further planning and costing for Ludlow Brewery garden space – basic clearance& planting of hops;
- Utilise an app OLIO that tells people when free fruit/veg/food is available;
- Public launch in October at Ludlow Brewery with speaker from Incredible Edible Todmorden;
- Continued planting and harvesting involving wider audience/swaps/workshops/work day sessions;

Tish Dockerty

3Rs Vision Group

Current projects being developed:

Rubbish Diet – to run in the Sandpits area initially

Tip Share

Something like Streetbank – borrowing tools/equipment/‘stuff’ within a street, area neighbourhood instead of buying it.

A Toy Library

Cycle repair/maintenance workshops – perhaps also running courses which may lead to a offering a qualification and thus to employability or even an apprenticeship. We are working

We are working closely with the Furniture Scheme on this particular idea, both it will require some funding and resourcing which the Furniture Scheme is unable to provide (at the moment anyway) so we are appealing to the bike community for volunteers to help take this forward.

We are also looking at two more possibilities: setting up a regular Repair Cafe which could incorporate Tools Repair workshops similar to those run successfully in Clun – and having a Jumble Trail.

Achievements:

A series of summer holiday workshops run by Jessica Jackson at Rockspring Community Centre to make a model of an endangered animal out of ‘rubbish’ which will then be exhibited at the Green Festival

A pilot scheme to ‘Rent a Christmas Tree’. 50 trees will be available to rent from Rootes at the Local Produce Market, supplied by Cotswold Firs, from October/November 2016.

Diane Lyle

Ludlow Swift Group. Report for the year July 1st 2015 – July 1st 2016

As you will be aware, Ludlow Swift was set up as a result of national and international concerns about the gradual but dramatic decline of these spectacular summer migrants. Ludlow has long been the home of a thriving population of swifts. It would not be fanciful to suggest that, in its Medieval past, Ludlow was alive to the screams of clouds of swifts during those hot summers. Sadly, in the present time, the numbers have fallen dramatically.

However, all is not lost and Ludlow, compared to many towns across the UK, has a good population still. Our job is firstly to record, then to monitor and finally to increase the population. We have begun well on the first and second of these and, finally, have broken our duck in the third! It was the uptake of a swift nest box, erected in Quality Square five years ago, that hailed that success! During the year we also discovered that a house in Henley Road had swifts nesting in boxes that had been erected by a private individual. We are now frantically watching our others boxes to see if they prove acceptable as well.

The swift tower we acquired a couple of years ago is about to be erected on land close to the river and we are delighted that it will be available for occupation next year. It will have a call system and will, we hope, prove attractive to the swifts that frequent the river meadows feeding on insects.

During both last year and this, we have continued to monitor the current population and it is good to report that despite a strange opening to the season, 2016 has proved to be a good year. We have noticed sites previously unrecorded in use as well as good occupation of regular places. Of concern this year was the sale of Victory House to a private buyer. Victory House [‘The Legion’ as it is known] is an important colony in the town centre as nearly a dozen pairs nest there. It was very gratifying to receive an email last week from an environmental inspector commissioned by an architects firm asking for a consultation to carry out a swift survey. That meeting will take place very soon.

Finally, our main objective this season has been to concentrate on the important colony in the Sandpits Avenue area. This part of town has always been recognized as a stronghold for swifts but has proved difficult to survey. This year, Peter Norman and a small group of volunteers, leafleted the area explained our objectives. Then, in the week beginning June 27th a team of observers visited the area each night from 8.30 til dusk. The whole exercise was a great success despite some truly miserable weather! Not only were we able to pinpoint over a dozen nest sites as well as more possible sites in the backs of houses, but we established useful contacts with many residents and even left plans for boxes to be built and erected! Finally, we erected two boxes on the back of one property. Many thanks to all who took part and to the residents of the area.

In conclusion, we can say that the group is going from strength to strength and expanding its influence. Also, and possibly most importantly, we are helping to sustain an important group of a declining species.

Robin Pote, on behalf of Ludlow Swift Group.