



NEWSLETTER

A round up of activities of Ludlow 21 friends and family groups

Ludlow 21 is the principal independent voice for local sustainability, with very active groups that focus on fairtrade, energy, transport, education, food, swifts and more! As we were established in 1998 to promote sustainable living in the Ludlow area, we are very excited about the opportunity that Ludlow could continue to push to become a more resilient community as a result of Covid-19.

The nation's lock down has made our country a very different place to live, we hope that people have had time to reflect and consider what behavioural changes they could make for themselves and their community so that we are stronger, with a healthier attitude to consumption and lifestyle.

Our objectives are based on the outcomes of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 which produced many outcomes, one of which was an action plan for the 21st century, this action plan was relevant to all whether globally, nationally or locally by organisations in every area in which human impacts on the environment. It is still relevant today in our quest to achieve global sustainable development. Therefore we continue in accordance with our strap line 'local initiatives' for a 'sustainable future' and encourage you to get involved or support in some way the many activities that Ludlow 21 undertake. All groups listed below are actively seeking new members, please feel free to make contact with us.

We are a not for profit company limited by guarantee who has a membership which is a very valuable part of organisation and income! We value your contribution by joining Ludlow 21 and by supporting us through our activities. For information on how to become a member please contact our membership secretary Clare Currant. clarecurrant@phonecoop.coop

Tish Dockerty - Chair Ludlow 21



**LUDLOW
GREEN FESTIVAL**
THE REGION'S BIG GREEN EVENT

Sadly we made the decision to cancel July's Green Festival. We had met many times and got excited about many themes and activities for the day in advance of lock down. We shall log everything and hopefully return to the planning table to make 2021's even more substantial and worthwhile.

Tish Dockerty: tish.dockerty@tdky.co.uk 07985 218727



LUDLOW 21
LOCAL INITIATIVES
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

EDUCATION

Leadership of the Ludlow's Valentine Day Student March was the most public outcome of the work of the Education Group this year. Although the march and subsequent gathering in Castle Square attracted more non-students than actual students, it represented a significant step in what we hope will be the beginnings of a closer relationship with local students. It was a privilege to work alongside a group of highly committed and motivated students in planning the event.

We are also determined to involve local students in our present focus of creating the Educational chapter for the Ludlow Climate Action Plan. The pandemic emergency presents enormous challenges for us, but it also provides us with an opportunity to reevaluate how we live our lives, particularly when we are faced with an existential threat. The Education Group are determined to play a pivotal role in this transition period as we adapt to a new normal.

Contact: Ian Urry on 01547 540879 idurry@hotmail.co.uk



LUDLOW 21
LOCAL INITIATIVES
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

TRANSPORT and CAR CLUB

Our objective is to help people to access the places they need to go, conveniently and sustainably, whether on foot or on wheels and we have ongoing projects for pedestrians, cyclists, bus and train users and car drivers.

Pedestrians: We have proposed changes to several out of date finger posts and identified a source for their manufacture which the Town Council have approved and agreed to fund. Installation is awaited. We have also proposed a major repair programme for the box drains in the town centre, most of which are no longer functional.

Bikes: We have secured Shropshire Council agreement for 10 new cycle racks in the town centre and have plans for further installations outside the centre over the next 5-10 years. We are also pursuing various options to introduce a bike hire scheme (preferably with electric versions) into the town.

Buses: Following the successful campaign to have a bus shelter installed in Corve Street, we are delighted that the Town Council has now agreed to a continual installation programme of bus shelters all over the town. We have produced a bus timetable leaflet with maps which has proved extremely popular with both bus companies and the public.

Trains: proposals for major improvements at the railway station are currently on hold because of the Covid-19 shutdown but we have agreement for a key meeting of TfW and all interested parties in Ludlow to make progress on implementing our proposals relating to accessibility and safety.

Cars: We are delighted that our pressure on Shropshire Council to get EV charging stations installed in Ludlow has started to bear fruit with a single station now operational in the Galdeford car park. We are continuing to press for more, especially in the Park and Ride.

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| | <p>We obtained lottery finding for our Car Club which has enabled us to replace our ageing Fiestas in Shrewsbury and Ludlow with Yaris hybrids which are proving very popular. By the end of 2021 all the petrol and diesel cars in our fleet will have been replaced by either hybrid or electric versions. The Car Club is a key component in our attempt to reduce the number of cars in Ludlow.</p> <p>Our priorities for 2020/21 are subject to change because of Covid 19 but we hope to make substantial progress on all the above and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business case for a fit-for-purpose Park and Ride • The introduction of electric buses for our town services. • Better facilities for pedestrians – especially major pavement repair • Progress towards a more car free town centre. <p>Contact: Denise Thompson sunniva.dt@btinternet.com 01584 875017.</p> |
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|  | <p>The Incredible Edible group had a successful seed swap back in February regardless to it being on the same weekend as Storm Dennis. Since lock down, member Noel Lambert has organised a no contact seed and plant swap, publicised through mainly social media. The wheelbarrow has been positioned on Castle view terrace and goes once a week to the Local to Ludlow ‘pop up’ shop. To date Noel estimates that there’s been over 80 swaps and almost £300 in donations made alone. Noel has also given growing advice to all those that have asked for it, we seem to helping a new generation of growers!</p> <p>The Incredible Edible group had a ‘Save Shropshire Verges’ meeting with Janet Cobb just before lock down, as a result we have contacted Shrophire Council regarding three areas of interest, including Eco Park verge near entrance, Parys Road, Corner verges of Fishmore Park. Councillor Boddington offered to do a digital map to demarcate the areas and Janet has suggested a simple botany survey in the first instance, followed by sowing of yellow rattle seed to suppress grass, then followed by intentional planting of species or strewing from local meadows to spread seed that would thrive naturally. Polly Bolton has done an initial botany survey of the eco park area. The group are now busy collecting native wild flower seed for sowing later in the year, once a mowing routine has been agreed with Shropshire Council.</p> <p>The group have also used some of their donation money to buy 2 new apple trees to be planted at the end of Glencoe Close (yet to happen due to lock down) and they have also commissioned a wooden tag from a local craftsperson for the labelling of all the fruit trees to date. The tags will be written on with pyrographic pen by local scout group, again when things start to resume.</p> <p>The group have been having virtual social evenings every month on the first Monday – the next one is 6th July. We also have a Whats App group which anyone is able to join if you want to get involved. If you’d like to join us just email IncredibleEdibleLudlow@outlook.com or find the link on our facebook page.</p> |
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ENERGY

The energy group is making progress looking at a zero-carbon Ludlow.

The Neen Sollars hydro group (of which L21 is a shareholder) has started to deliver generation to the grid, but was affected by the floods early in 2020. We are taking this opportunity to upgrade the control system to allow more effective remote monitoring and control.

The present emergency offers an opportunity to think about the basics of a zero-carbon economy and we hope that all levels of government can act on this. For Ludlow, the major challenges are replacement of gas heating system, the designed-in (or not) thermal efficiency of the housing stock and reduction of vehicle usage. If we consider Ludlow to include its supporting hinterland, then energy usage there is mainly agricultural. This sector is making progress, but clearly there is a long way to go.

Ludlow 21 is working with 'shareenergy' to investigate the economics of ground-sourced heat pumps, initially for 'off-grid' small communities. The finances of this kind of approach are critically dependent on the current 'Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, which finishes in March 2021 (at present). It is not clear what form its replacement will take; the present situation means that a very strong case would have to be made – perhaps as an element of restarting the economy?

It is worth thinking about the possibility of this technology being used in the historic core of Ludlow, where significant installation of new utilities is difficult.

Contact: Chris Deaves c_deaves@compuserve.com



The new town signs, showing our status as a Fairtrade Town have now been erected – I hope you've noticed them if you have driven into Ludlow from the A49. If not – look out for them!

Our annual Study Day for Schools took place on 25th February. Four schools took part: Ludlow Primary, St Laurence's, Bishop Hooper and Bucknell. This included over 200 pupils.

Our keynote speaker was Robin Roth, from Traidcraft.

5 local producers/retailers led workshop sessions: Appleteme, Shropshire salumi, La jewellery, Oxfam and Myriad. We are very grateful for them giving up their time to help.

Our conference 'Our food: the cost to the earth and its people' was held on 29th February.

Over 100 people attended the conference, and the feedback was extremely positive. One guest commented that "the day was absolutely tremendous, it changed the way I will think about the world for ever," while another said that "the speakers were inspiring and the whole day was beautifully organised."

The conference was followed by a private meeting between the speakers and

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| | <p>leaders from nineteen local organisations to discuss what practical steps can be taken to move this agenda forward in Ludlow.</p> <p>Robin Roth said it had been great to be a part of the event, adding: “Ludlow has been a real trailblazer when it comes to food. It matters that local farmers get a chance to showcase their best in class and it matters that businesses and citizens care. Good food is not a given nowadays, but well produced, organic, local food where the farmers are paid correctly and fairly is important beyond words.”</p> <p>Shane Holland said, “This conference further cements Ludlow’s claim to be the most Fair town in the U.K. - to see all areas of the community and come together to discuss issues, but more importantly concrete actions, should be a template for every area in the U.K.”</p> <p>As mentioned above, the conference was followed by a closed session attended by over 30 leaders of organisations in Ludlow. A really constructive discussion ensued, with lots of ideas for the future.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Covid 19 has interrupted our ability to follow up from this, but it is hoped that in time the following Fairtrade actions will be pursued: ‘Twinning’ with a Fairtrade cooperative We are actively looking into this possibility and discussing it with the wider Ludlow community via the Ludlow Food Network, so that it can a truly ‘Ludlow’ project, not just one that is ‘owned’ by the Fairtrade group.</p> <p>Chocolate trail We are looking at the possibility of adding a chocolate trail (Fairtrade of course!) to the ever popular sausage and beer trails at the Ludlow Food Festival.</p> <p>There were also a lot of other ideas which are not specifically to do with fairtrade and which also will hopefully be acted on in due course through the Ludlow Food Network.</p> <p>Contact : Jenny Hume jenny.m.hume@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Ludlow Swifts GROUP</p> | <p>Ludlow Swift Group was set up in 2011 and continues to raise awareness about Swifts throughout the town. They are a wonderful part of the summer scene here but numbers have now dropped by over 50% in 20 years. A number of Swift boxes were put up last year and some more have already gone up this year - mainly on residential properties but do have a look for the boxes on Homecare. However we are aware of nest sites that have been lost and we would like to work more closely with residents to ensure the retention of natural sites where possible.</p> <p>We continue to comment on Planning Applications and ask for Swift provision where appropriate but would very much welcome support from all Ludlow21 members here - any comments from residents to ask for better environmental and improved biodiversity features are welcomed by Shropshire Council.</p> |

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| | <p>Swifts have arrived relatively early this year probably the good weather meant an easier migration trip. Please DO continue to send your swift nest site records to ludlowswiftgroup@gmail.com - this is important information that we need to be able to monitor our Swift population. If you want to know more about the group or become involved with our work please get in touch.</p> <p>Peta Sams ludlowswiftgroup@gmail.com</p> |
|  | <p>We began the year with a new website www.localtoludlow.org.uk that lists all our regular stallholders and with promotional material that cites us as 'Shropshire's Friendliest Farmers Market.'</p> <p>Initially with lockdown both the Local Produce Market and the cafe/shop had to close, but Tish soon came up with an acceptable plan to open the shop safely, with family members in the shop and customers served from the door. The 'pop-up' shop has run weekly with considerable success enabling many local producers to continue to sell their products. Social Media has been invaluable in promoting the pop up shop and delivery services offered by many of our stallholders.</p> <p>We are now pressing the Town Council to re-open the market in line with new guidelines. Most of our small local food shops and producers have risen magnificently to the challenge by organising home deliveries or safe shopping, and I just hope they will get their reward with continuing customer loyalty.</p> <p>This emergency has demonstrated the value of local food production for flexibility, quality and food security. The challenge for our organisation will be to build on this greater awareness.</p> <p>Tish Dockerty: tish.dockerty@tdky.co.uk 07985 218727</p> |