



Ludlow Repair Café

Ludlow Repair Café was set up at the end of 2016 and has been going from strength to strength since then. It meets quarterly at the end of January, April, July and October but between events an At-Home service operates with repairers taking items at their homes. The repair record varies as some items really have reached the end of their useful life, but over the course of a 12 month period, the average success rate hovers around 50%. With the exception of TVs, which have a built-in obsolescence, and kettles, the repair team will have a go at anything! To enhance the Repair Café offer, themed workshops will be introduced with the first one being on sewing.

Di Lyle



INCREDIBLE EDIBLE LUDLOW Incredible Edible Ludlow

The group continues to work towards making edibles accessible in public spaces, engaging with other community groups and sharing resources and skills to help people grow their own food.

The Ludlow Food Network, of which this group was an active member, no longer meets. However members of the group maintain links with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

Members of the group have pruned the fruit trees on Station Drive and refurbished the tree name tags. In May we ran a session with the Beaver scouts to tidy and replant the small garden at the Scout hut and pot up some seeds for the children to take home.

In February we ran a well-attended apple tree grafting workshop where participants learned how to graft their own trees. Some of these were added to the group's stock for planting in public spaces, and some were taken home by participants in exchange for a small donation to cover costs. Thanks to Nick and Kerry for hosting, to Wade Muggleton for running the workshop and sharing his skills, and to Chris Evans for help in sourcing the rootstocks.

In February we ran our seed swap which has become a fixture on the calendar, again hosted by Ludlow Library. This was well attended and resulted in lots of swaps and conversations. We followed this up with a seed and seedling swap in April, also at Ludlow Library and similarly well attended.

We had hoped to run a produce / harvest swap this autumn but plans didn't quite come together – this is something we may look at again next year. In the coming year we are also hoping to work with Ludlow Town Council again to plant more fruit trees in public spaces around the town.

Megan Blackmore



Ludlow Fairtrade Town Group Annual Report May 2023 – March 2024

The Steering Group met seven times during the year to March 24. There have been some ongoing challenges because of family commitments/ a shortage of robust health among members and their families.

We have been supported by Ludlow 21, The Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Ludlow Town Council and have had and continue to have a dedicated councillor present at our meetings.

Achievements have included:

- 1) Work with some schools in Ludlow and beyond and it is hoped further input will be possible during the current year.
- 2) A successful Fair Trade presence at our stall on the Green Festival 2023 when slow fashion and the role of fair trade was highlighted and the need to stop the exploitation of garment workers with a focus on overseas suppliers.
- 3) The Fairtrade Town flower bed outside the castle was refurbished thanks to grants from Ludlow Town Council and Ludlow 21.
- 4) Renewal of our Fairtrade Town status by the Fairtrade Foundation for a further three years.
- 5) Pre Christmas stall at Local Producers Market to promote how climate change is impacting on the ability of producers in the global south to continue to grow basic take for granted commodities such as coffee and cocoa.
- 6) A successful Big Brew event in the spring to raise money for Transform Trade.

While the report concentrates on a year ago, we need to mention our latest achievement, namely a new Fairtrade Shopping Guide listing where to find Fairtrade/fair trade goods in Ludlow. The Guide is now being distributed to contributing local businesses, community places and churches in and around Ludlow and will also appear on our website.

Liz Taylor



Ludlow 21 Sustainable Transport Group

Our Group's vision is to help people access the places they need to go to, conveniently and sustainably whether on foot or on wheels.

Walking and Cycling: This year we have commented on Shropshire Council's Local Walking and Cycling Plan (LCWIP) for Ludlow which has now been approved by our Town Council. Once implemented, this should result in far less unnecessary through traffic (especially petrol and diesel vehicles) which damage roads and pavements and cause noise and air pollution. Our town centre should become a more relaxed environment for commerce and social activities because pedestrians and cyclists will have priority.

Trains: The excellent relationship we have with Transport for Wales and Network Rail is resulting in a major transformation of Ludlow station with Ticket machines, Floodlights, CCTV cameras and barriers on the forecourt to prevent unsafe parking. The lift and steps being constructed on Platform 1 will enable passengers with heavy luggage and/or walking impediments to access Platform 2 with greater ease. Making our station more attractive is another priority and we are soon to have several new planters on both platforms.

Buses: Our campaign for more bus shelters has, again, resulted in our Town Council agreeing to continue the programme of one additional shelter a year for the foreseeable future. The Ludlow bus map and timetable is also being subsidised by our Council for

another print run to ensure that the information accurately reflects the changing bus schedules.

Cars: We are delighted that Co-Wheels continues to operate a club in Ludlow which shows that there is a ready pool of residents willing to car share. Car sharing reduces carbon, particle and noise pollution and is a cost effective option for car drivers.

EV Charging Points: Shropshire Council are continuing to provide EV charging points in key areas of the town. This year they will be installed in Sandpits Avenue and Charlton Rise.

20MPH: our pressure on Shropshire Council to implement a blanket 20mph limit on all our residential roads has become even more relevant with the introduction of the LCWIP and so we hope for a change in attitude from our County Council.

Denise Thompson



The Ludlow 21 Energy group is working on several threads:

- Can Ludlow become a zero-carbon town?
- How can we do this?
- How much is under our control?

Our approach:

- What is the 'energy quality' of the housing stock in Ludlow?
- How can this be improved?
- How much carbon-free energy can Ludlow create for itself?

How can we reduce household bills?

- How does a local energy scheme work?
- Can it be made large enough?
- What are the barriers?
- Is a wholly renewable solution possible?

Our approach:

- What are Ofgem's rules?
- How does NGED (Western Power) operate?
- How is investment managed?
- How can the community benefit in general?

What does the election result mean?

- Planning for wind has already been changed.
- Proposals for GB Energy as a funding engine.

What do you think should happen next?

- More local control?
- Make grid infrastructure free to use?
- Create regional community energy schemes?
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Contact energy@ludlow21.org.uk

Chris Deaves