

Ludlow 21 Chair's Report - Tish Dockerty 2026

I stand here and report on the activities of Ludlow 21 for another year, and what a year, a year when most aspects of life have been impacted by extremities of weather reaching record highs.

The Ludlow 21 family includes, in no particular order, the **Sustainable Transport, Fairtrade** and **Energy** groups, **Incredible Edible**, the **Green Festival** and the **Ludlow Repair Café**. We have a number of 'Friends' groups associated with us including **Shropshire Climate Action** and **Local to Ludlow CIC**.

Our groups have all produced a report available on our website of their activities in the last 12 months, please do look them up.

We also have some new and emerging groups which include a **Wellbeing Group** and a potentially a **Peace group**, more on these later.

So, what is the role of Ludlow 21? Apart from having our working groups who do take on ambitious projects, events and more. I see us as a way of making connections between individuals and groups within the community of Ludlow. Those that are members of Ludlow 21, I believe, understand the importance of a healthy community. We all benefit from being kept abreast and by making connections with **like-minded folk**. So, I implore you all to do this as part of your involvement in our network.

The year has been very much about **opening up access to Ludlow 21** with a broader regular meeting point throughout the year. So, we started with the launch of **'Tomorrow's Tuesdays'** – a new format that has replaced Green Drinks and is very much anchored on the **1st Tuesday of the month**, to help people remember when it's on and make a regular date in their calendar. These evenings start with an opportunity for sharing news from L21 groups and others in attendance and then lead on to the themed discussion which allows

for **lively insight, open discussion** and **positive thinking** that hopefully help equip us for tomorrow's world. We've had an assortment of themes, ranging from **seed saving to sustainable transport** and due for next month an enquiry into the pros and cons of AI. I think we've managed to find a **sweet spot** that makes the sessions accessible, friendly, informal but informative and **very much open to all**.

And now it's **your chance**; we are looking to programme next year's Tomorrow's Tuesdays and we would like to hear from anyone who would like to run a session or have an **idea for a speaker** or a theme that needs discussing. If you have any suggestions please do get in touch.

We have, I know, attracted some new members this year, which is great news -yes, we are a **membership** group, anyone can join! You can support us by joining Ludlow 21 – the cost being a mere £15 per person or £20 per household as an annual contribution or life membership is available at a cost of £100. Any income continues to help support the running costs of Ludlow 21 including accountancy fees, insurance and day to day consumables that help our groups operate. **Plug done**.

Other significant activities of the year include the **Ludlow Green Festival** and the showing of the **People's Emergency Briefing** film in numerous locations around the town.

This year's **Ludlow Green Festival** theme was all about building a **resilient community**, which is basically what Ludlow 21 is all about- this was far reaching in its activities involving life size game for young families and mindfulness art sessions amongst others. The festival kick started a conversation about resilience in our community with the big map of Ludlow, we need to continue

this, this evening and we will have a roundup of this to conclude the activities with some action points at the end of the evening.

We continue to strike high with footfall for this event, with many stallholders recording record attainments on the day. The Green Festival is growing in ambition and stance, we do have a working group that plan throughout the year and it must be said a few extra members would be more than welcome. For 2027 we are wanting to work more with schools in the lead up to the big day and we need more help with publicity and promotion. If you think you can help us with these aspects or others please do get in touch with either myself or Ian Urry. We think we have a theme for next year which is all about **water**, the importance of it in our lives and the importance of it to be clean and fit for purpose and I think more importantly whether we will have enough of it in future years to come..

I would also like to extend thanks to members Debbie Vivers and Kim Holroyd who organised multiple showings of **People's Emergency Briefing** film. This has now been seen by well over 100 people and has initiated much needed discussion and debate around the many discourses associated with Climate Crisis and I understand there are more showings continuing locally.

So, we must continue with our AGM – which is necessary as we do have a formal status as a **‘not for profit’ company limited by guarantee**, with a board of accountable directors. Our articles of association dictate that we have an AGM every year, we hope you don’t find this too onerous and hopefully you will find it informative and engaging.

I need to continue thank all members of the Ludlow 21 Board for their contributions and support, these include **John Daniels, Di Lyle, Megan Blakemore, Kim Holroyd, Chris Deaves**. And also all our members who put so

much effort into the groups associated with Ludlow 21, with a special mention to **Faith Claringbull** who has taken up the challenge of the Ludlow 21 Newsletter – which I think we all enjoy receiving, **Ian Urry** and his work with school educational activities and the Green Festival and **Claire Curren** who manages our membership.

As you will also hear from our treasurer that we have reasonable funds in the bank. We therefore are in a position to support relevant activity that fulfils our main aims and objectives. I am more than happy to broaden the scope of Ludlow 21 and welcome new ideas, people that may have a burning ambition to tackle an issue locally or merely hold an event. We are willing to listen.

Last but not least, there is a sizeable number of people that all give up their time, whether they are helping mend an item, email schools or plant a tree, or even write up minutes, they are all indispensable. Can we please have a spontaneous round of applause for them all.

This evening let's take a little time to celebrate and understand a bit more about other groups in Ludlow.

Addendum

Now a small introduction to those who are less familiar **with Ludlow 21** – we are a first and foremost a **community group**, focused on **environmental issues**, promoting **sustainable lifestyles**. We have now **been active for over a quarter century** with a **significant archive of achievements**.

The name Ludlow 21 stems from the **United Nations Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992** where world leaders addressed environmental protection and sustainable development. Amongst many notable aspects was an action

plan for the 21st century. 'Agenda 21' has become synonymous with the concept of sustainable development and the principle of 'Think Global, Act Local'.

We appreciate that the summit was many years ago, however we still find ourselves in a similar position where world leaders (however not all, unfortunately) are gathered in Brazil this week at COP 30 to report on and debate the progress of nations' climate plans. This all stems from the original Earth Summit in 1992.