

Annual Report from Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group. 2024 – 2025

The PCEAG has continued to pursue various projects this past year.

1. Community Garden.

This was established on the Cricketers meadow site with the help of volunteers and advice/assistance from Will Griffiths a local carpenter. Monthly work parties have continued throughout the growing season with local volunteers. We hope that the coming year will see more community involvement.

A great deal of the produce this past year was donated to the Pontesbury Food Bank and to 2 community meals organised by St Georges Church with funding from Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

Cordon fruit trees were added to the garden during the winter.

We still have funding in the bank to cover the coming years compost top up and other necessary items. An event was held in September to raise funds as well as local awareness of the community garden, in conjunction with the apple pressers, which was well attended in spite of the pouring rain.

2. Group Structure.

We now have Public Liability and Employer's Liability insurance to cover events including work parties for the garden. This is at a cost of around £200 per annum.

3. Hedges and Verges.

Mowing by Shropshire Highways did not happen as expected this last year.

In the summer yellow rattle was present on at least 2 of the verge sites chosen having been sown earlier in the year by PCEAG volunteers and by Cllr Doug Jones. Doug also did most of the mowing and risings removal himself after a not very successful cut by contractors. A meeting later in the year determined that PPC and MPC will hire contractors to do the mowing in March and late summer 2025. More seed and young native plants will be planted/sown shortly on the verge strips.

Work parties to clear the hedgerows of thick weeds and nettles took place at the end of summer on Cricketers meadow site. This work needs to continue until the

plants are bigger and stronger but unfortunately, we do not have enough volunteers from the community to do this efficiently.

4. Project with Marches Energy Agency

MEA have offered support with training, events and publicity for community climate groups. After discussions it was decided to hold a "Climate Fresk" in Pontesbury in March 2025. This is an event designed to engage people in the community on the problems that the climate emergency is causing and will cause in the future for all of us, and what we can do about it in our own lives, and in our communities. MEA and PPC are funding the event which will be held at the Pavilion on March 17th 1.30 to 4.30pm. We hope to engage some younger people in the event, using social media outreach.

5. Events.

Events this year include a Spring growing event linked to the garden project, an autumn / harvest event featuring pressed fruit juices and pizza, a post -Christmas present swap and the Climate Fresk to be held shortly. The first garden work party of 2025 will be held on February 23rd.

Liz Knowles Feb 2025