

## **PCEAG Report to the parish council March 2024**

**Group status:** Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group now has a constitution as an unincorporated group.

Chair: Liz Knowles

Treasurer: Roy Munton

We are in the process of adopting a Health and Safety Policy and purchasing Public Liability and employers' insurance to cover future events and the use of volunteers.

**Events:** on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 we held a "Get Growing" event at the Pavilion. This was included stalls from Street Allotment Guys from Shrewsbury, a local honey producer, a master composter, Proper Good Dairy, Pontesbury gardeners information point, plus planting activities for children, seed and plant swap and teas coffees and cake. It was a lovely day and was felt to be a success, with the community planters at the Pavilion planted up by children with runner beans and salad crops. The public who dropped by were interested in our activities and several signed up for future community gardening.

**Repair Cafe:** This project, set up by Di Carrington with the help of St Georges church and Debbie Cairns is on-going bi-monthly at St Georges and is growing in popularity. Many items have been restored to good use, saving people money and the earth's resources.

**Clothes Swap:** PCEAG was asked to join FOPL in helping to run a clothes swap at the congregational hall in autumn 2023. This was a great success, with a large amount of good quality clothing donated and many people attending on the day. Good recycling.

**Road verge scheme:** Work finally started on parts of the road verge between Minsterley and Pontesbury (A488) this year. Pete Carty from RSVP arranged a contractor to close mow the areas selected, and members of PCEAG spread Yellow Rattle seed on these areas at the end of the summer. Councillor Doug Jones has been very supportive of this scheme, and Doug has paid and carried out weed control and cutting/removing on site, and liaised with contractors and Shropshire Council.

**Hedging and trees:** In January 2024 members of the group along with local volunteers planted 240 hedge whips along the fence at the back of the Hall Bank estate to complete the row begun last year. Members also assisted in planting the orchard on the same site, provided by the parish council.



**Community food gardening:** An appeal was put out by the group to find local people interested in setting up a community gardening scheme in the village. This was successful and a small group of people began to plan for this and consider a site, funding and expertise. Bill Sample has taken directorship of the scheme, produced a plan, and provides gardening expertise. Funding has been provided by Pontesbury Parish Council and a grant Save Our Shropshire (SOS), for which we are very grateful.

The site, on Cricketers Meadow green, was marked out on February 20<sup>th</sup> and on 24<sup>th</sup> February the beds were constructed on site by local carpenter Will Griffiths using up-cycled pallets assisted by members of the community, residents of Cricketers meadow and members of PCEAG. The beds have been filled with locally sourced organic compost, although more compost is required to finish the job.



The Pavilion community planters produced a fair amount of fresh produce last year and a large amount of this was donated to the Food Bank. Food produced in the community garden will also be destined for use by the community, and we are hoping that volunteers will join us in our work parties and also in using the produce. For further information on why, what and how of the scheme please contact Liz.

The community garden will have a **“grand opening”** on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> this year at our next **event**.

Many thanks to all who have supported and assisted us this year.