

Tideswell & District Environment Group

Annual Report 2020 - 2021



TDEG Plant and Seed Swap – Tideswell Kitchen Garden (May 2021)

This is Tideswell & District Environment Group's (TDEG) second annual report, covering the period June 2020- June 2021. There is some `official` information in here, but this is mainly a celebration of the activities of the group over the last twelve months, and a thank you to everyone who has contributed to our activities and supported us over the year.

The aim of the Tideswell & District Environment Group is to share information and work together to improve the local and global environment

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1. Thank You

This has been a challenging year, with the Covid 19 restrictions affecting all our lives. But we feel we have continued to make real progress in our local communities through our five project groups. The following section provides an overview of some of the successes from each of our project groups.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us during the past year, whether just by attending our events or by getting involved in our activities. We would like to particularly thank those people who have contributed to our Committee meetings, and to the activities of each project group.

We have also received significant financial support and encouragement from various agencies, and we would like to thank them all for their support. Derbyshire Dales District Council (via Cllr Neil Buttle) has provided funds to enable us to hold our meetings and cover general expenses, and we are pleased to have welcomed Neil at many of our meetings; his continuing support is much appreciated.

We have worked closely with other organisations, including Tideswell Parish Council, and the Tideswell & District Sports Association, as well as a wide range of other environmental groups in Derbyshire. We hope to continue this level of partnership working and collaboration in the future.

We still need new members – your enthusiasm and support keep us going. If you would like to join us, just click on our web site - <https://tdeg.org.uk/join-us/> and sign up to as many of our project groups as you wish.

If you would like to contact us about any of the projects in this report, or with any comments or requests for information, just email us at: info@tdeg.org.uk .

2. TDEG Project Group Successes

With nearly 130 members on our mailing list and over 170 people following us on our Facebook page, we are encouraged by how many local people are interested and engaged in our activities.

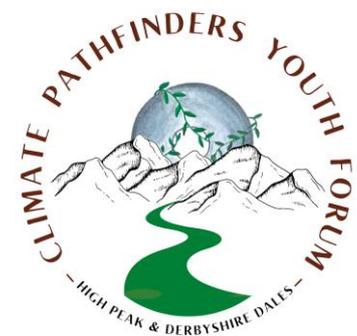
We are particularly pleased to have received lots of coverage in our local Village Voice, as this has helped us to share information and promote our activities. We hope our new web site is helping to reach more people and encourage more involvement from everyone.

Our project groups have had many successes this year. Here are some highlights from each of our project groups:

Climate Action Group

The Climate Action Group has increased interest from local people, with 21 members now signed up to this project group. They have also:

- Established the Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum - a group for the youth voice in our region. Members come from across the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak area, supported by adults from local climate groups, and are aged 11 years and upwards. There has been a huge amount of work to enable this positive step - a big thank you to everyone who has contributed and given so generously of their time. Biggest thank you to the young people themselves for stepping up to shape their future world. You can email the Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum here - yf@tdeg.org.uk
- Established good links with other climate groups in the area, including: Friends of the Earth Climate Action Network; Derbyshire Climate Coalition; Derbyshire Dales Climate Hub; Hope Valley Climate Action; Buxton Transition; High Peak Green Network.
- Connected with local decision makers, including Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, local Parish Councils, and the Peak District National Park Authority.
- Increased its shared knowledge of carbon literacy (thanks to Bill Purvis). We have been part of bids to roll out an insulation project in Tideswell and area (unsuccessful as yet, but still ongoing).
- Hosted an excellent meeting with Matt Watson on the University of Sheffield Sustainability Strategy, and Travel Demand Reduction approaches.
- Established a new Sustainable Food Network to make it easier for people to make choices which reduce the environmental impact of food in the Tideswell & District area. You can view the Sustainable Food Network map here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/tideswell-sustainable-food-network/>.
- Assisted with the maintenance of trees in the Tideswell Community Orchard.



CAG members at the Community Orchard

Ethical Consumer Group

The Ethical Consumer group has revisited its principles, aims and objectives, and now has an increased membership. Due to Covid restrictions, our plans have been restricted, but we have managed to:

- Meet on Zoom, share our concerns around ethical consumerism, our desires for future activities and our own good practices.
- Keep abreast of ethical consumerism matters through reading and discussing reports in the *Ethical Consumer* magazine
- Begin to develop plans for learning more about the journey of the food we eat; supporting a fairer deal for all in the supply chain; finding ways to support or pressure businesses into cutting the use of plastic packaging and single use plastic; cutting our food waste and helping others to do the same.

Our plan last year to hold a used clothes swap/sale had to be put on hold but we hope that, once restrictions are fully lifted, we will be able to go ahead with this initiative.

Please see separate reports from our two most successful projects this year – the Buying for Good Club and the Seed Swap.

Buying for Good Club

We have established a buying group to source a wide range of products that are organic, largely plant-based, and ethically produced.

We source orders from Lembas in Sheffield (an independent vegetarian and vegan, employee-owned wholesaler) and members can club together to bulk buy and split the orders.

We would love to have more members, including more local traders. More information is available here: <https://tdeg.org.uk/tidza-buying-for-good-club/> or you can email: bfgclub@tdeg.org.uk.

We have plans to extend our ethical consumer projects during this next year to include a pop-up repair café and more exciting initiatives.



Seed Swap Group



We have established a seed and plant swap to encourage environmentally friendly gardening, growing your own food, and sharing what we already have within Tideswell with one another. Our newsletters share environmentally friendly gardening information. The swap has received 167 packets of seeds and has distributed 40 of them within Tideswell. Seeds have also been donated to the local school. Sign up for the Seed Swap Group here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/tideswell-district-seed-swap/>.

The first Plant Swap stall went ahead at the beginning of May, and had a great turn out, with lots of generous plant donations which all found a new home. We had donations of vegetables, fruits, houseplants, annual and perennial flowers – so there was something for everyone. We hope this will be an annual event.

Litter Picking Group

Our Litter Picking Group has been greatly affected by the Covid restrictions during 2020-21. For many months, we have not been able to meet up in groups. However, some people have continued to venture out, on their own or in family groups, and litter picking has continued.

We had a great turnout and wonderful weather for the TDEG contribution to the Great British September Clean (postponed from the usual Spring Clean) on Sunday 13 September 2020. Two separate groups tackled litter left along roads and green spaces around Litton and Tideswell.

On 13 June 2021, we will be joining this year's Great British Spring Clean 'million mile mission', by litter picking in our local area, and working together to keep our villages safe and tidy. We are also delighted that we will be joined on that day by members of the Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum.



*Our Litton team are all geared-up
(with help from a four-legged friend)*



The Tideswell team raring to go!

Recycling Group

The Recycling Group has also been affected by the Covid regulations. Additional 'pop-up' recycling activities (such as for crisp packets and IT equipment) have not been considered appropriate during this time, due to health and safety restrictions. However, the Recycling Group continues to be involved in the dissemination of information about recycling to the community via The Village Voice and through the TDEG Facebook posts.

Wildlife Group

With over 60 members now on its mailing list, the Wildlife Group has been celebrating our local wildlife, and encouraging more wildlife to return to the area. Specific activities have included:

- Establishing “Going Wild” – a project to help create a connected network of green spaces for wildlife right across our area – a new “community nature reserve” for Tideswell and the surrounding area. You can read more about the project and sign up here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/going-wild/> .
- Providing advice to Tideswell Parish Council on the maintenance of their roadside verges and other green spaces for wildflowers and other wildlife. This included an excellent evening with the 1st Tideswell Cubs, who produced posters explaining the benefits of unmown grass to help nature’s recovery.
- Working in partnership with Tideswell & District Community Association and Tideswell & District Sports Association, to encourage wildlife and help more people to enjoy nature at the Tideswell community park.

Poster by Josie (1st Tideswell Cubs)



- At our last Wildlife Group meeting, we had an excellent presentation from the Foolow Wildwood team. This is an inspirational community project hoping to establish new woodland and wildflower meadows on land at Brosterfield. You can donate to the project or dedicate a tree here - <https://www.foolowwildwoodproject.org/donate-now> .
- Working in partnership with other local environment groups, we have contributed to the Peak District National Park Authority’s Local Plan review, developed our own comments about ways of enhancing biodiversity through the planning process, and also expressed concern about several local planning applications which affected our local landscape and wildlife.
- Working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation, we have established a new butterfly survey group to monitor changes in butterfly diversity and abundance in Tideswell Dale (following ash dieback operations in the dale this spring).
- We continue to record wildlife sightings within five miles of Tideswell, with over 220 species of plants, birds, animals, insects and fungi, seen during 2020. A quarterly blog celebrates all your sightings.



*Green fritillary butterfly
(Alison Rooke)*



*Cubs and the `bee game`
(Helena Dowling)*



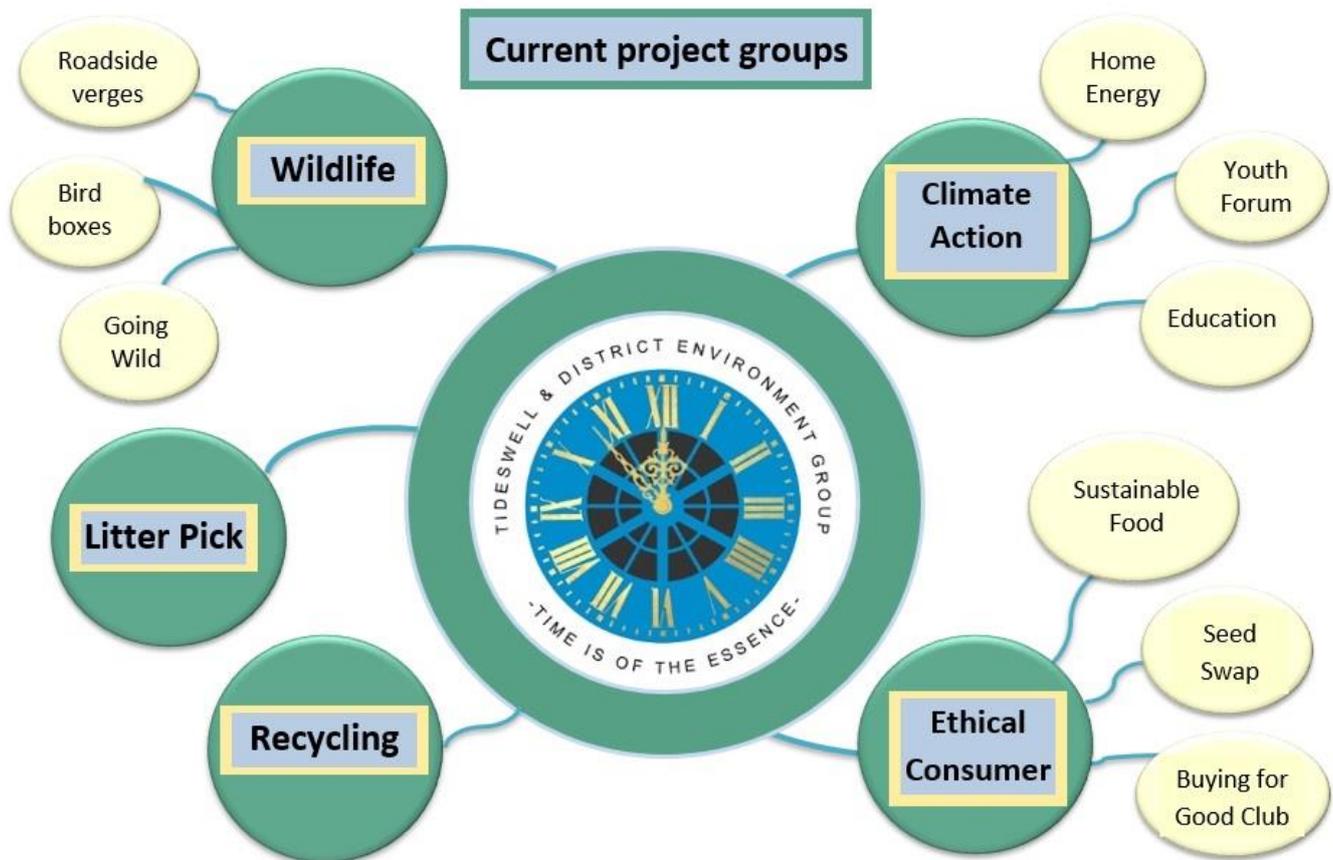
*New `No Mow` area along
Whitecross Road (Lynn Crowe)*

3. How We Work

This has been a challenging year for everyone due to the coronavirus restrictions and it has been difficult to meet up in person and to undertake many of our usual activities. But we have met on Zoom, and there have been several `walk and talk` meetings, and we have carried on trying to make a difference to local and global environmental issues.

After only two years, Tideswell & District Environment Group (TDEG) has five active project groups and 128 members. You can find out more about our activities on our web site - <https://tdeg.org.uk/> .

This model shows how are project groups, and their various subgroups, are organised, with our members at the centre of all our work.



Under the TDEG umbrella, different project groups have been created depending on the interests of our members. We would be pleased to have new project groups - so if you are keen to lead on a particular issue, just get in touch with us, and we will see if other TDEG members are also interested.

We have a very simple structure. We do have a formal constitution and honorary officers, mainly to qualify for certain grants and to set up a bank account. Our honorary officers are elected at our Annual General Meeting in June. We also have an informal Committee (previously known as the Steering Group), made up of anyone who wishes to get more involved in the planning and managing of our activities. All our signed-up members are notified of the names of our honorary officers and our Committee members.

The TDEG Committee has met four times during 2020-21. We always need new, enthusiastic members. So if you are interested in becoming a member of our Committee, please contact us at info@tdeg.org.uk.

As well as our separate project group meetings and our Committee meetings, we have also held five general meetings, open to all. At these meetings we have had some excellent speakers, followed by group discussions, helping us to learn more about these issues and share ideas for making a difference. The notes and presentations from all of these meetings can be found on our web site (<https://tdeg.org.uk/tdeg-general-meeting-reports/>).

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| 24 June 2020 | TDEG Annual General Meeting – with Ruth Strange, from the Ethical Consumer magazine on “ <i>The environmental impact of the fashion industry</i> ”. |
| 23 September 2020 | TDEG General Meeting – with Kate Harrison, from Ashton Hayes ‘Going Carbon Neutral’ community group, on “ <i>The secrets of success</i> ”. |
| 9 December 2020 | TDEG General meeting – with Dave Savage, from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, on “ <i>Helping Nature to Recover</i> ”. |
| 24 February 2021 | TDEG General meeting – Focusing on the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill - “ <i>The Climate and Ecological Emergency – What are our local decision makers doing?</i> ” |
| 21 April 2021 | TDEG General meeting – with Ruth Strange, from the Ethical Consumer magazine, on “ <i>Food for thought: how to buy food that is good for you and good for the planet</i> ” |

As well as learning more about environmental issues through these excellent presentations, TDEG has its own Facebook group page, where anyone can post information or tips, or share photos to celebrate our activities and our local environment. This is the link for our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/394196491236274/>.

If you would like to contact us about any of the projects in this report, or with any comments or requests for information, just email us at: info@tdeg.org.uk .

4. Financial Accounts 2020 - 21

Tideswell & District Environment Group - Accounts (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)

Income and Expenditure by Fund																																																														
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TDEG remain financially viable going forward and significant funding has been secured over the past year through various grants to enable our project groups to cover the costs of all activities.