

# Tideswell & District Environment Group

## Annual Report 2021 - 2022



*Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting behind Litton School (Inside Out Photography, March 2022)*

**This is Tideswell & District Environment Group's (TDEG) third annual report, covering the period June 2021- June 2022. 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 another challenging year, with the Covid 19 restrictions still affecting all our lives. But we feel we have continued to make real progress in our local communities through our five project groups. A sixth project group – the Cycling Group – has just been established. 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 particularly like to thank those people who have contributed to our committee meetings, and to the activities of each project group.

We would also like to include a special mention here about one of our Honorary Officers. Claire McKenzie was our Communications Officer, project lead for the Ethical Consumer Group, and one of the founding members of TDEG. Sadly, Claire died after a short illness in February – tragically cutting short a hugely fulfilled life. Claire was involved with many local schools and community groups, and devoted to her loving family. We miss her expertise, her enthusiasm and her smile.

We have worked closely with many organisations this year, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Tideswell Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, 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 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 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](mailto:info@tdeg.org.uk) .

## 2. TDEG Project Group Successes

With nearly 150 members on our mailing list and over 230 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 web site (<https://tdeg.org.uk/>) continues to reach more people and encourage more involvement from everyone.

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

### Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting Project

One of our major initiatives in 2022 has been the Queen's Jubilee tree planting project – a shared initiative for all TDEG. We joined the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting project – created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "*Plant a Tree for the Jubilee*".

We started out intending to plant 400 trees or hedgerow shrubs – one for every young person under 16 years old in our area. But with the help of our partners, we have already exceeded that total. On our special planting day on 20 March, we planted over 600 trees and hedgerow shrubs around Tideswell, Litton, Wheston, Wormhill, and elsewhere around our district.

The trees were provided by the Peak District National Park Authority, and we received lots of assistance from our other partners – the Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum, 1st Tideswell Scouts, Litton School, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Tideswell Parish Council and other local groups. Over forty local families and landowners were involved in planting trees in local fields, gardens, school and church grounds. It was an exciting and rewarding day. Our thanks to everyone involved.



We would like to identify more sites for further tree planting later in the year. We hope that local groups, landowners, local councils and businesses, will support our aims. We have already received a generous offer of funding from a local business – Sladen Consulting (based in Hathersage) – which will allow us to plant more trees this autumn. So do get in touch with us if you have any ideas for further tree or hedgerow planting sites.

## A New Cycling Group

We are delighted that one of our members has proposed the creation of a new project group focused on cycling for all. TDEG's new Cycling Group (<https://tdeg.org.uk/cycling/>) aims to promote and support cycling locally, and has already developed the following ideas:

- Offer bicycle health checks/basic repair services via TDEG's Repair Café (a cycle repair expert will be available at the June and July Repair Café events).
- Establish a network of local cycling enthusiasts and experts, who can be consulted for route ideas and equipment advice.
- Make a community bicycle repair kit available to Tideswell residents and visitors in a central village location, for free use by anyone in need (*coming soon, thanks to a Tideswell Parish Council endorsed grant from the village's former COVID-19 support group, Tideswell Cares*).
- Develop connections with other related groups and national organisations such as Cycling UK, to raise awareness about wider initiatives locally and voice our community's ideas and concerns more broadly.
- Consult all our local residents to find out if there any other initiatives which would make it easier for you and your family to enjoy cycling?

If you are interested in joining this new project group, you can visit the TDEG Join Us page (<https://tdeg.org.uk/join-us/>) and select the Cycling Group option there, or if you are already a TDEG member, just email us at [info@tdeg.org.uk](mailto:info@tdeg.org.uk) and we will add you to the Cycling Group mailing list.

## Climate Action Group

- We have organised a series of events to explore renewable energy use in the home, including hearing from local decision makers and businesses.
- We have developed an information source summarising our research in this area. This is shared here <https://tdeg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CAG-Home-Energy-Links-amended.pdf> .
- We continue to seek meetings with Sarah Dines MP to push for an improved government energy policy for local communities. District councils need secure long-term funding to help those in fuel poverty as well as supporting effective home insulation. We also wish to explore the training provided locally for the many skills required to achieve successful retrofits.
- The CAG has joined the Wider Energy Group hosted by Hope Valley Climate Action. We work together on home energy transition finding solutions to the challenges in our local area.
- We have also joined with all other climate action groups within the Peak District National Park to create Peak Climate. We meet bi-monthly with the PDNPA Chair and Board Member for climate. We select the focus and are busy engaging with land management and planning for renewable energy.

The Climate Action Group also supports the Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum. They have been busy taking positive actions for the environment as well as reaching the decision makers. Their highlights include:

- Monitoring biodiversity in Deep Dale.
- Seeing first-hand the impacts of rewilding on a local farm and learning about the successful changes in their farming practices.
- Creating four bug hotels in Derbyshire community orchards.
- Helping to plan and implement the Tideswell Queen's Jubilee tree planting.
- Meeting with Robert Langan MP for a lively question/ answer session.
- Invited to be the guest speakers at a national Green Jobs conference for Friends of the Earth.
- Explored the damage of the Fast Fashion industry, making pledges to consider ethical choices in clothing purchase and disposal.



## Ethical Consumer Group

Our much-missed friend, Claire McKenzie, continued to lead the Ethical Consumer Group until her illness prevented further involvement early in 2022. We are pleased that Julia has stepped forward to lead this group for the time being. However, we are looking for a new project leader for this very active group in the future. Please get in touch if you would like to learn more.

- One of Claire's great successes this year was the **`Swap Don't Shop`** event at the St. John's Institute in Tideswell in November. People were able to donate their pre-loved clothes and toys in exchange for tokens, and then swap their tokens for new clothes.

We also made significant donations to several local charities at the end of the event. Wins all around! Our thanks to everyone involved.



- Our new **Repair Café** will be opening to the public on Saturday 21 May at the new Community Hall on Church Lane in Tideswell, and then on the third Saturday of the month thereafter (except in August and December). The aim of the Café is to encourage more people to repair broken household items rather than replacing them with new. This will help save the planet's resources, reduce the number of items going to landfill sites, and help people save money.

You will be able to bring the following items along to the Repair Café: small electrical appliances; clothing and home furnishings (for repairs, not alterations); toys; and small furniture items. This list will expand if more people join the group of Repair Café volunteer repairers. We hope that bicycle repairs will be available later in the summer. There is no charge made for repairs. Donations are encouraged to help with the running costs. The Repair Café has a social side too – serving coffee, tea and home-made cakes.



- The **Tidza Buying for Good Club** goes from strength to strength and is now the most successful start-up group with Lembas in Sheffield. Lembas is a vegetarian and vegan wholesaler and cash and carry, which is employee owned and has been established for over 25 years. The BfG Club is placing an order every six weeks. Members use a WhatsApp group to organise bulk purchases to be split on delivery. One of our local traders has joined the group so far.

For more information see our page on the TDEG website: <https://tdeg.org.uk/tidza-buying-for-good-club/> . To join please email [bfqclub@tdeg.org.uk](mailto:bfqclub@tdeg.org.uk) .

- Our **Plant and Seed Swap** group have also had a very successful year. You can join the group's mailing list to receive information about the seeds which they currently have available, or donate your own spare seeds, here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/tideswell-district-seed-swap/> . The group also hosted another successful Plant Swap on Sunday 24 April, which proved as popular as ever. People were able to donate any spare plants, garden perennials, vegetable seedlings or house plants, and also take away anything which they needed.

## Litter Picking Group

Our Litter Picking Group was greatly affected by the Covid restrictions during 2021. For many months, we were not able to meet up in groups. However, some people continued to venture out, on their own or in family groups, and litter picking has continued.

Finally – in January and April 2022 – we were allowed to organise two litter picking events. The second event was selected to coincide with the national Great British Spring Clean (organised by Keep Britain Tidy). Many thanks to everyone who came along.

We are also delighted that we have a new litter pick organiser, Laura. Our thanks to Steve and Suzanne who have been so enthusiastic in organising previous events and so careful in obtaining all the appropriate equipment and necessary risk assessments.



## 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 70 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:

- Last summer, the Wildlife Group ran a short programme of walks and activities for everyone, including a bat walk, a bug hunt and a walk to explore Swift nest sites and learn more about these amazing birds.

This summer we will be organising more walks and activities so that more people can share in the wonderful wildlife in our local area. Keep an eye on our web page (<https://tdeg.org.uk/wildlife/>) and our Facebook group for more information.



*Bug hunting at the Community Orchard*



- We have joined a new initiative with other groups in the Hope Valley and Buxton area to attract more owls and kestrels to our area – the Owl-Kestrel Connect project. This project aims to provide free owl and kestrel nest boxes to local farmers in a corridor from Hathersage to Buxton.
- The pilot roadside verges project begun in spring 2021 – working with Tideswell Parish Council to improve these areas for wildflowers and other wildlife - has proven successful. A final report was provided to the Parish Council, highlighting some of the plant and butterfly species recorded in the unmown verges. We are delighted that the Parish Council has decided to continue with the new mowing regime for a further year.

*Roadside verge on Whitecross Road – mown edges with lovely wildflowers for the bees and other insects in the central area.*

- Our “Going Wild” project continues – around twenty local gardens have signed up to help create a connected network of green spaces for wildlife across our area. You can read more about the project and sign up here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/going-wild/> .
- Working in partnership with other local environment groups, we have contributed to the Peak District National Park Authority’s Development 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, our TDEG butterfly survey group has continued to monitor changes in butterfly diversity and abundance in Tideswell Dale (following ash dieback operations in the dale last spring).
- We continue to record wildlife sightings within five miles of Tideswell, to celebrate the wonderful wildlife in our local area. Over 170 species of plants, birds, animals, insects and fungi, were recorded during 2021. A quarterly blog celebrates all your sightings – you can post your own sightings and read more about your sightings here - <https://tdeg.org.uk/wildlife/>.



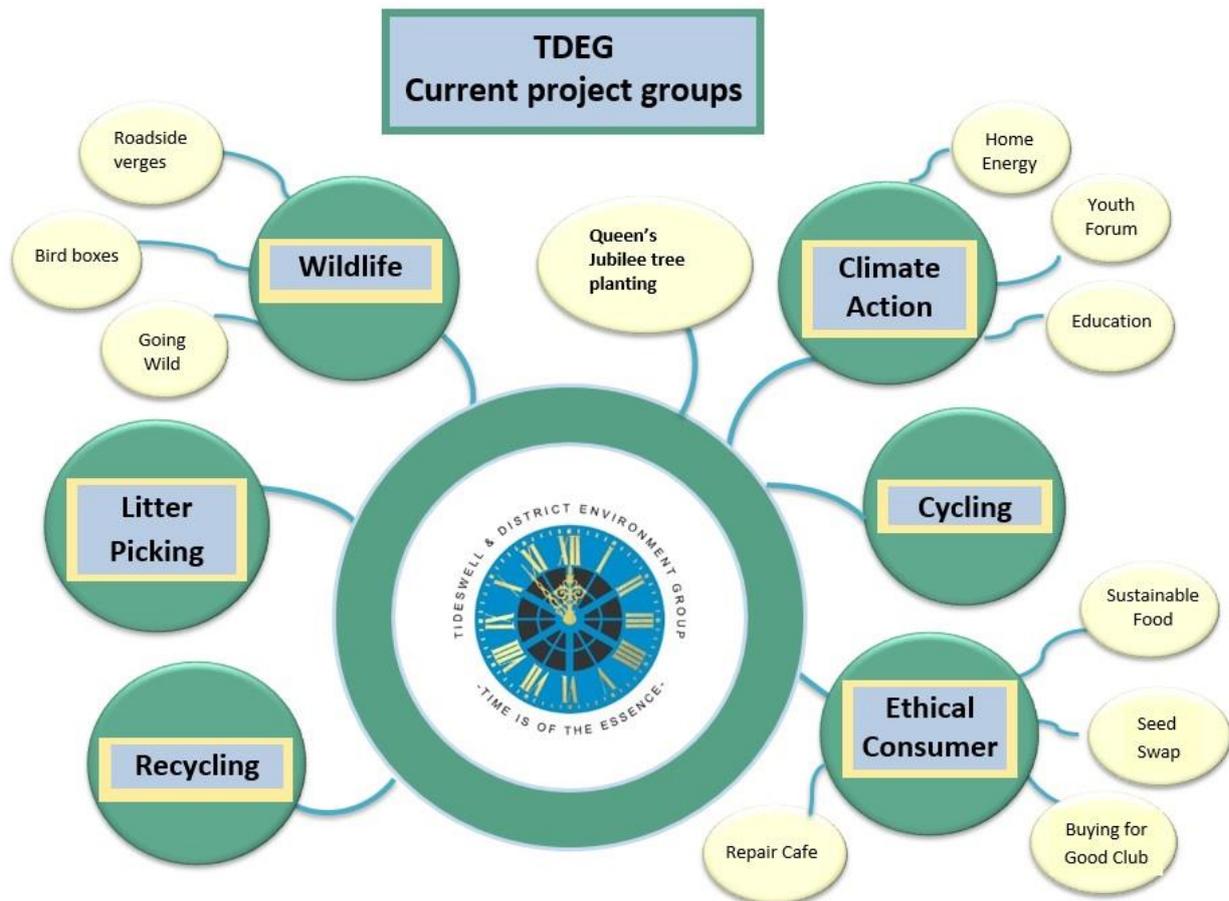
*Great Spotted Woodpecker - seen by Phil Riley at Litton Slack in March*

### 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 three years, Tideswell & District Environment Group (TDEG) now has six active project groups and 170 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. The honorary officers during 2021-22 were:

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Chair -               | Lynn    |
| Secretary -           | Deborah |
| Treasurer -           | Laura   |
| Communications lead - | Claire  |

We also have an informal Committee, made up of anyone who wishes to get more involved in supporting our activities. Committee members during 2021-22 were:

Lynn	Sheelagh	Claire	Deborah
Steve	Josie	Andrea	Bill
Julia	Suzanne	Rob	Laura B
Sue	Helen	Adam	Laura S

The TDEG Committee has met four times during 2021-22. 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](mailto:info@tdeg.org.uk).

As well as our separate project group meetings and our Committee meetings, we have also held four 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/>).

30 June 2021	TDEG Annual General Meeting – with a presentation from our own Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum.
22 September 2021	TDEG General Meeting – Andy Shelton, from Plastic Free Chesterfield, gave a talk on Zoom about how his community is progressing towards removing the use of single-use plastic.
24 November 2021	TDEG General meeting – Kate Lemon (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) talked about the reintroduction of Beavers to Derbyshire.
2 March 2022	TDEG General meeting - The Renewable Energy Enterprise gave a presentation on Zoom focusing on renewable energy options at home.

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](mailto:info@tdeg.org.uk) .

## 4. Financial Accounts 2021 - 2022

### Tideswell & District Environment Group - Accounts (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)

End of year summary April 2021 - 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	
Roll over from 2021-2022	509.28
Income	3486.9
Outgoings	-909.07
<b>Total (bank + cash)</b>	<b>3087.11</b>

There has been further income and expenditure since April, particularly expenditure related to the new Repair Café and a new grant application for the Cycling Group. These accounts will be provided in the Annual Report 2023.

General Funds (unrestricted) -

unrestricted	
General	
(from member donations)	
	£
Brought fwd	317.66
<u>Income</u>	
Contributions	
Cash donations paid in (clothes swap)	136.31
DWT talk donations	55.59
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Hall Hire	(27.00)
Speakers' exp	(30.00)
Clothes swap hall hire (cash)	(50.00)
NSPCC safeguarding	(25.00)
Food festival stall	(15.00)
EC magazine	(26.95)
Balance	335.61
	=====

Project Group budgets (restricted due to the terms of grant applications) – on next page

## Project Group budgets (restricted – due to the terms of grant applications)

restricted Youth Forum Zoom		unrestricted Sustainable Food Group		restricted Tidza Buying for Good Club		restricted Birder Feeders	
(from Buxton Lions)		(from DDDC Local Project Fund 3)		(from BfG membership fees)		(from Twell Parish Council and )	
	£		£		£		£
Brought fwd	95.92	Brought fwd	85.70	Brought fwd	10.00		
<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>	
FoE	50.00		-	Membership fees	65.00	T'well Parish Council	300.00
DDDC local projects fund for zoom	50						
<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
NSPCC safeguarding	(50.00)	Printer paper	(15.69)		-	6 feeders and seed	(229.44)
Zoom license	-143.88	Ink cartridges	(23.99)				
Balance	2.04	Balance	46.02	Balance	75.00	Balance	70.56
	=====		=====		=====		=====
Grant application for: Dedicated Zoom licence (2nd year)		Grant application for: Food Group initiatives £100		Grant application for: Installing communal bird feeders			

restricted TDEG Leaflets		restricted Repair Cafe + zoom licence		restricted Jubilee Trees	
(from TDCA)		(from DDDC Local Project Fund and TDCA)		from sladen consulting	
	£		£		£
<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>	
TDCA	100.00	DDDC local projects fund - £50 zoom lice	400.00	Donation from Sladen Consulting	500.00
		TDCA	400.00		
		DD CVS grant	800.00		
		Tideswell parish council	500.00		
<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Stickers	(44.00)	Membership to repair cafe	(42.12)		0.00
leaflets	(56.00)				
Balance	0.00	Balance	2,057.88	Balance	500.00
	=====		=====		=====
Grant application for: Installing communal bird feeders		Grant application for: TDEG Zoom licence + repair cafe, zoom licence put in CPF		Donation to be spent on tree project, discuss if to use funds elsewhere	

We are delighted that TDEG remains financially viable going forward. Significant funding has been secured over the past year through various grants to enable our project groups to cover the costs of all activities. We would like to thank all the individuals and organisations, who have supported us over the last year.