



Climate Action Stokesley and Villages

Annual report

July 2025 – June 2026

www.climateactionstokesleyandvillages.org

www.facebook.com/groups/climateactionstokesleyandvillages

We aim to help the communities in Stokesley and the surrounding villages to take action on the interlinked crises of climate, food security, biodiversity, pollution and inequality by supporting and developing local initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, adapt to the changing climate, increase biodiversity and reduce pollution in an equitable way. (Aim amended July 2025)

Climate Action Stokesley and Villages is out and about around the area, acting locally and thinking globally for example: running Repair Cafes; collecting surplus food to re-distribute; improving areas for nature and lobbying politicians. Explore our themes of [Energy](#), [Nature](#), [Food](#), [Transport](#), [Rethinking Resources](#) and [Zero Carbon](#) or look at our wide range of [leaflets](#) which give you tips for tackling climate change in practical and hopefully fun and inspiring ways.

During 2025-26 the group has held public meetings monthly with frequent meetings also being held by the Food, Nature and Re-thinking Resources sub-groups. At last year's AGM we agreed to increase our membership fee. We have 22 formal members plus a wider group involved in our wide range of activities.

During the year we have:

Publicity

- Updated our [website](#), which had 5,000 visitors: an increase of a 1,000 last year.
- Sent a monthly Update to our mailing list has stayed fairly static at over 550. The monthly Update provides diary listings of local and national events and causes to participate in as well as functioning as an online magazine with articles on seasonal gardening & eating, local zero waste businesses, low carbon holidays, upcycling & waste reduction ideas.
- Run an active [Facebook group](#) which has increased to over 850 followers from 670 last year.
- Increased our range of easy to read leaflets covering over 10 different aspects of how individuals can take action on climate change and biodiversity loss which have been popular at our events.
- Written a variety of press releases and provided copy for a monthly Climate Column for the Darlington and Stockton Times which we have now done for over 4 years.

Campaigning/educating on the climate and nature emergencies

- Written to our local MP, Rishi Sunak.
- Written to and met with local Councillors.
- Responded to letters in the Darlington and Stockton Times.
- Responded to national and regional consultations.
- Held bi-monthly talks on a range of topics.
- Organised a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film for 50 people
- Undertaken joint campaigning as part of the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition

Read about our very busy year in the following two pages.



Activities during the year

Brighten Up Great Ayton

The Brighten Up Great Ayton (BUG) group work with Great Ayton Parish Council to help realise the vision outlined in the village [Plan for Pollinators](#). In March 2026, the Brighten Up Great Ayton group became a sub-group of CASaV. The group looks after various areas of planting around the village, runs a monthly working party in Yatton House Community Garden, maintains the Bug Trail and works with the Parish Council to manage the Floodplain Meadow. This year's walk around the Floodplain Meadow attracted 30 people to learn about identifying birds from their song.



Energy

We continue to look for opportunities with Northern Power Grid funding and the Energy Hub and are looking to set up a project using thermal imaging cameras to help residents identify heat loss in their homes, and we are eager to get solar panels installed on the roofs of our local schools.

Food group

The amazing Food Share volunteers have collected and distributed the surplus food from our 3 local Coop and the Premier supermarket every night of the year except Christmas. The food goes to a variety of organisations including Nitelight cic, and Genesis. There are 14 volunteers, mostly members of Stokesley churches, which means that we usually only have to collect once a fortnight. More volunteers are always welcome.

The group continue the upkeep of a bus stop garden and seed bank.

Nature group

Himalayan Balsam management on the Upper Leven and tributaries

The Nature group has started a project to manage balsam on the Leven and tributaries. The reasons for managing balsam are firstly because the balsam outcompetes native plants for space, light, moisture and nutrients. Rapid growth early in the season leads to dense, tall stands of Himalayan balsam that crowd out other plants and reduce species diversity. Secondly balsam often colonises the banks of rivers, streams and ditches. Its shallow roots and annual growth habit do little to stabilise the soil along banks, leading to habitat alteration and degradation. We aim to survey the river to locate balsam stands and then work to manage where possible.



We held a training session on the Leven near Great Ayton, which 9 people attended. The session was led by Kennedy Page, INNS volunteer co-ordinator from the Tees Rivers Trust.

Upper Cod Beck Project

The Nature group with the **Osmotherley Environment Group** (a CASaV sub-group) has established the Upper Cod Beck Project. We have organised butterfly, botanical and bird surveys and hope to have bat surveys done towards the end of summer. It has become clear that Cod Beck reservoir and surrounding environment is an important centre of frogs, toads and newts. We hope to persuade the North York Moors National Park, National Trust, Yorkshire Water to recognise importance of the Upper Cod Beck Reservoir to both biodiversity and a popular leisure destination for many people.

The project has received a small grant from Yorkshire Water and we will be able to buy some surveying and monitoring equipment and also run some events over the summer holidays including a bat walk. We also hope to better engage with the public through information signage and some nature discovery trails.

Rethinking resources group

- Twelve **Repair Cafes** were held in 25/26: 750 items were assessed; we repaired 79% and provided advice for another 11%. <https://casav.uk/repaircafe>
- The **Reuse & Recreate Corner** has been a great success at our repair cafes. People swapped items they no longer need, focusing on themes from travel to gardening and used waste materials to craft items ranging from garden decorations to soap savers.



- Many textiles have been mended and sewing skills have improved at the **Monthly Mending Circles** held at Stokesley Town Hall on the second Monday evening of the month.
- Three **Clothes Swaps** have been held giving many people "new to them clothes", making a dent in the fast fashion waste mountain. <https://casav.uk/clotheswap>



- CASaV had stalls at two local **agricultural festivals** where we managed recycling for the shows and talked to people about their environmental and nature actions and hopes.
- Monthly **Rethinking Resources Zoom meetings** have tackled a wide range of topics, including the introduction of new simpler recycling in North Yorkshire, extended producer responsibility, food waste, the circular economy and zero plastics. - <https://casav.uk/rr>
- A member of Rethinking Resources attended the **Parliamentary meeting on the Repair Declaration at Westminster**, speaking to MPs & ministers about the importance of repair
- A number of **upcycling crafting sessions & workshops** were run in schools & libraries throughout the year giving hands on experience in repurposing materials & preventing waste
- Members of the group have met to **repurpose waste yarn** into blankets for the homeless, twiddle muffs for patients with dementia & cosy hats for premature babies

Transport

CASaV continue to work with local councillors from Great Ayton and Stokesley Councils and officers from North Yorkshire Council on a 20mph zone in Great Ayton. The use of section 106 funds earmarked for the Endeavour Way is ongoing. We are also pushing for the installation of EV charging points in Stokesley and Great Ayton.

Interpretation boards were installed to highlight the management of Great Ayton Station's Butterfly Conservation Trust 'Wild Space'.