

Welcome to October's Update from Climate Action Stokesley & Villages

Supporting local action for a sustainable, greener and more resilient Stokesley & surrounding villages



October's here with darker nights and colder days so a good time to cosy up and keep warm. Read on for a spicy warm apple drink recipe and an opportunity to pick up a draught excluder to keep out the cold for free. Also if you've got any unwanted cosy items (coats, blankets etc) we can help you ensure they can be

reused by people in need. You can have a seasonal wardrobe refresh at the Stokesley Clothes Swap, take part in the 'Halloween Switch' fancy dress give & take, pick up a patchwork kit to start a new hobby at the Repair (Reuse & Recreate) Cafe or get outside for a breath of fresh autumnal air and blow away the cobwebs with our Nature group's Nature Trail around Cod Beck reservoir.

Thank you for reading this free monthly Update on all things climate, nature and more - both local and further afield which we send out to our mailing list of nearly 550 and also share on our Facebook page (909 members).

We appreciate all the support people give us whether it is through undertaking actions highlighted in the Update or helping with one or more of our many activities and events. One person we would like to thank in particular is Bridget Holmstrom who has stood down from the steering group for personal reasons. Bridget has played a key role in the development of CASaV and whilst we will miss her input to the steering group we're pleased that she will still be involved with our Nature group.

Diary 1: CASaV & local (details below)

Tuesday 20/10 19.30-21.00 Whole group meeting, Stokesley Community Library

Saturday 3/10 14.00-16.00 Stokesley Autumn Clothes Swap event, Stokesley School

Friday 9/10 19.30-21.00 People's Emergency Briefing film screening & discussion, Osmotherley Village Hall

Saturday 10/10 Repair Cafe (plus Reuse & Recreate to keep warm) Stokesley Community Library

Saturday 10/10 - Saturday 31/10 'Halloween Switch' - give & take Halloween fancy dress outfits at Stokesley Community Library & Great Ayton Discovery Centre

Monday 12/10 17.00 - 19.00 Repair & Rewear (formerly the Mending Circle) Stokesley Town Hall

Tuesday 13/10 13.30 - 15.30 Yatton House Community Garden Working Party with Brighten Up Great Ayton

Tuesday 13/10 19.00 Rethinking Resources group meeting by Google MeetMe

Thursday 15/10 15.00 Nature group meeting, Stokesley Community Library

Wednesday 21/10 13.30 - 15.30 Brighten Up Great Ayton Gardening Working Party at the Village Hall Garden, Great Ayton

Thursday 22/10 19.30 - 21.00 People's Emergency Briefing film screening & discussion, Hutton Rudby Community Hub

Saturday 24/10 10.30 - 14.30 Self Guided Nature Trail for all the family, Cod Beck Reservoir, Osmotherley

Tuesday 27/10 10.00 - 12.00 Reduce Reuse Recycle creative activities for all & recycling advice & guidance, Great Ayton Discovery Centre

Diary 2: Regional, National & Global (follow links)

October - November Wrap Up winter clothing collection <https://wrapupuk.org/>

Collecting boxes across the area (locations TBA via website) plus collections at the October & November Repair Cafe & CASaV whole group meetings.

Now - Sunday 4/10 Fair Trade Fortnight coop.co.uk/our-suppliers/fairtrade

Fair trade and sustainability are strongly linked by targeting the three core pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental justice. In Stokesley visit the Co-operative store to see the fair Trade display focusing on being fair to the planet and to the producers of our food. Win Fair Trade goodies by answering the FairTrade question in the FREE raffle.

Saturday 3/10 18.00 'The Power On Your Plate' talk and meal The Station Coffee & Kitchen, Stokesley youngsoulevents

An opportunity to explore the powerful connection between the food we eat, the health of the planet and the strength of our communities. A talk by Ned Gatenby, climate educator & community resilience practitioner, accompanied by a plant based meal. Info and book tickets via link above.

14/10 International E-waste day <https://weee-forum.org/iewd-about/>

Read about local initiative FURBD in the Rethinking Resources section below & use the collection point at October's Repair Cafe

15-17/10 'World's On Fire' production, the ARC, Stockton worlds-on-fire

A music, movement & drama production about what can happen when a town comes together to face global challenges such as **climate change & biodiversity loss**. Real local stories are woven together and shared by professional actors, community performers and local learning disabled performers, alongside original songs from the newly formed World's on Fire Choir and a Community Movement Chorus, to highlight Stockton as a place lit with passion, action and hope.

17/10 International Repair Day

Every October there is a celebration of the power of repair to bring communities together, reduce our impact on the planet and teach new skills. Whether you're a fixer, community organiser, tinkerer, maker, repair business, campaigner or simply a fan of repair, there are plenty of ways to join in. [RepairDay](#) has an interactive global map of events and activities where you can take part in and celebrate repair - this year in our area the map features our Repair (Reuse & Recreate) Cafe and the Repair & Rewear monthly session (see below for details).

23/10 - 1/11 North York Moors Dark Skies Fringe Festival

See Nature group section below.

Looking ahead to November - info & dates for your diary

9/11 Repair & Rewear monthly session, 17.00-19.00 Stokesley Town Hall

17/11 Whole group CASaV meeting, 19.30-21.00 Stokesley Community Library

21/11 Repair Cafe (Reuse & Recreate for Christmas) 10.00 - 12.00 Swainby Village Hall

29/11 Film screening 'All Rivers Spill Their Stories to the Sea' 16.00-20.00 The Waiting Room restaurant, Eaglescliffe [all-rivers](#)

Newsletter - events & activities

Tuesday 20/10 19.30 Whole group meeting, Stokesley Community Library



All welcome to October's whole group meeting where we will look at putting together a group response to the two consultations mentioned below. We will also discuss updates on the work & activities of our sub-groups. At our September meeting we gathered lots of ideas

for a **major event we are planning for next April**. We will be arranging a separate meeting to take forward the planning. If you would like to come to help with the planning, then please get in touch (climateactionsav@gmail.com)

CASaV membership

Following our AGM, we are now in a new membership year of 2026-27. If you would like to be a formal member of CASaV, the annual membership is £10, with a £1 membership for the unwaged. As a member you won't need to remember to bring a contribution to cover the costs of room hire for meetings and can vote at general meetings. To renew or join for the first time please complete our [membership form](#) and make a bank transfer using the details given in the form.

Have your say on the future of transport in York and North Yorkshire

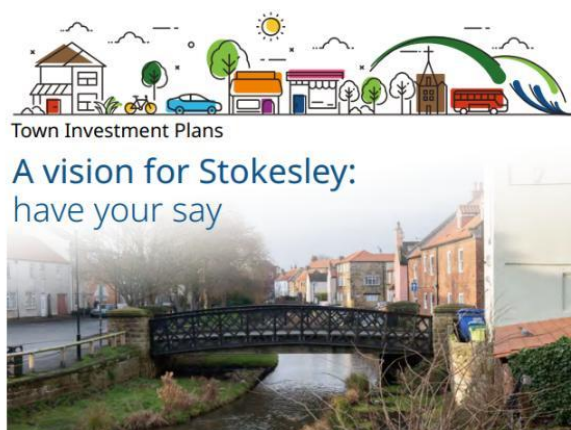


The Mayor's draft Local Transport Plan sets out a long-term vision for improving transport across York and North Yorkshire, helping people travel more easily, safely and sustainably. It will guide future transport investment and priorities across the county and will be supported by a delivery plan setting out how improvements will be made across all modes of transport, including walking, wheeling, cycling, buses, rail and roads.

Your feedback will help shape future transport improvements and support safer journeys for all. [Share your views by completing the online survey](#) or have a look at the draft plan on Friday 9/10, 10.00 - 14.00, at Stokesley Market.

You can also join an online webinar on **Wednesday 30/9 from 18.00 - 19.00** to learn more about the Mayor's draft Local Transport Plan and have your questions answered. [Register your place here.](#) **Survey closes 4 November**

Stokesley Town Investment Plan



We are developing a Town Investment Plan for Stokesley and we want to hear from you.

- What do you love about living in or visiting Stokesley?
- What would make it an even better place to live, work and explore?
- How do you see Stokesley evolving over the next 5 to 10 years?

Help us identify the biggest challenges and the most exciting opportunities to improve Stokesley, enhance the environment and create spaces and services that benefit everyone.

Join us at our drop-in events or complete our survey online at northyorks.gov.uk/TIPS

Survey closes on Monday 30 November 2026

Public community drop-in events		
Thurs 1 October 2026 3.30pm to 6.30pm Stokesley Town Hall	Fri 9 October 2026 9am to 12 noon Stokesley Town Hall	Sat 17 October 2026 10am to 12 noon Stokesley Library, Town Close

Paper copies of the survey can be collected from, and returned to, Stokesley Town Hall, Stokesley Library and Stokesley and District Community Care Association



York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and North Yorkshire Council are currently working with communities across the county to produce a series of bespoke, place-based Town Investment Plans. These Plans are being delivered in consultation with local communities to identify projects and initiatives that will meet their future needs and aspirations. In September 2026, they will be commencing work on a Town Investment Plan for Stokesley in collaboration with Stokesley Town Council. They are keen to capture your views and experiences of living and working in Stokesley as local residents, community groups, and business owners and invite you to share your suggestions for the town's future needs and priorities. To do this, there will be three public engagement events and a

survey (available online and in printed form).

The public engagement events are being held as follows:

Thursday, 1/10 at Stokesley Town Hall – 15.30 -18.30

Friday, 9/10 at Stokesley Town Hall – 9:00-12.00

Saturday, 17/10 at Stokesley Community Library – 10.00 - 12.00

The survey will be open from 1/10 to 30/11.

Paper copies of the survey can be collected from (and returned to):
Stokesley Town Council offices, Stokesley Town Hall
Stokesley Community Library, Town Close
Stokesley and District Community Care Association, Town Close

The link to the online survey will be live from 1/10.

Nearer the date visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/search> and search consultations, find out more here - [A Vision for Stokesley](#).

Getting in touch

If you are unable to join us at these events, but would like to find out more about the Stokesley Town Investment Plan, please get in touch with our Communities Team directly: Lisa Wilson - Lisa.wilson1@northyorks.gov.uk / Virginia Arrowsmith - Virginia.arrowsmith1@northyorks.gov.uk

Saturday 3/10 14.00-16.00 Stokesley Autumn Clothes Swap event, Stokesley School



Give your wardrobe an autumn refresh at this season's Stokesley Clothes Swap. Bring up to five items of clean, good quality clothing and swap for up to five new to you items. This fun, sociable event has attracted over 60 attendees

each time it has been held and hundreds of items have been swapped, saving attendees the cost of buying new, saving the planet's natural resources and preventing items going to waste. Entry costs only £2 and this includes tea and biscuits.

Please note the organisers do not accept accessories, swimwear, underwear, sleepwear, shoes, uniforms, fancy dress or bags. It is planned to hold three events each year and the dates for 2027 are currently being finalised. Check Stokesley Clothes Swap social media pages Facebook & Instagram for updates.

Friday 9/10 19.30-21.00 People's Emergency Briefing film screening & discussion, Osmotherley Village Hall (free with refreshments - please book)



Hopefully you're now aware of the People's Emergency Briefing film presented by Chris Packham? In case you haven't heard about it, this is a UK-wide public information campaign and 50-minute documentary film designed to broadcast the stark realities of the climate and nature

crisis directly to local communities followed by a community focused response discussion. Managed by the National Emergency Briefing (NEB), the initiative packages critical scientific data originally presented to 1,200 political and business leaders at Westminster in November 2025. Although hard hitting it is presented in an engaging and sometimes humorous way including contributions by Jennifer Saunders and Deborah

Meaden. Entry is free including refreshments but places are limited so please book ahead using this link: [Osmotherley Environment Group](#)

If you can't make this date, there is also a screening at Hutton Rudby on 22/10, see below.

Saturday 10/10 REpair Cafe (plus cosy up & keep warm REuse & REcreate)

Stokesley Community Library - <https://stokesley.repair>



As always, our friendly pink T-shirted volunteers will be here to fix your beloved household items - electrical appliances, toys & bikes, wooden furniture, clothing & textiles, glass & ceramics, electronic devices including laptops and phones as well as sharpening household & garden blades and specialist clock mending.

There will be yummy seasonal cakes (apple & cinnamon, date slice for example!) and warming cuppas served whilst you watch your repair being carried out and our fantastic repairers talk you through how they are fixing your item and you can learn new repair skills.

This month we have a number of REuse features:

- We will be collecting your usable quality warm winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc. for the Wrap Up campaign to be distributed to people in need in our local area.
- To celebrate e-waste day please bring us your unwanted mobile phones, laptops, tablets (even if they don't work!) to hand on to our brilliant friends FURBD who will refurbish them and make them accessible to local people who would otherwise not be able to afford electronic devices, now essential for so many living purposes (paying bills, banking, job searching, studying)
- Mindful of colder night ahead we will also be collecting your unwanted / surplus sleeping bags, sleeping mats, (clean) blankets and throws (no duvets please) to be distributed to local people who are insecurely accommodated.

In our REcreate corner we will have to give away for free:



- draught excluders made from materials which would have otherwise gone to landfill / incineration that you can personally embellish to add that personal unique touch (safe use advice provided)
- microwaveable bags you can fill with your own wheat (pearl barley works well too) and cosy covers you can personalise with chosen scents and aromas (safe use advice provided)
- patchwork squares sets so you can start / return to / continue a hearthside hobby as the nights draw in (instructions for use provided if needed)

- yarn oddments for knitting & crocheting small items or making blanket squares (instructions provided if needed)

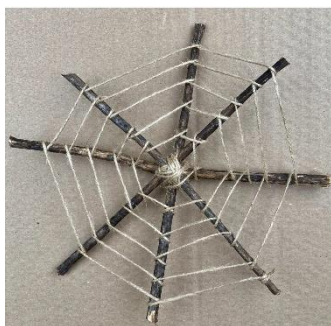
So bring the whole family to get your household items fixed plus drop off items you don't need that can be used by people who do need them and create something useful and unique. Everything is free although donations to cover costs are welcome. This is a great opportunity to meet with friendly, like minded people and learn new repair skills. New volunteers are always welcome - come along, have a cuppa and a chat or email Repair Cafe . If you are not sure come and / or bring an item to be repaired to get a feel for the Repair Cafe.

Saturday 10/10 - Saturday 31/10 'Halloween Switch' - give & take Halloween fancy dress outfits at Stokesley Community Library & Great Ayton Discovery Centre



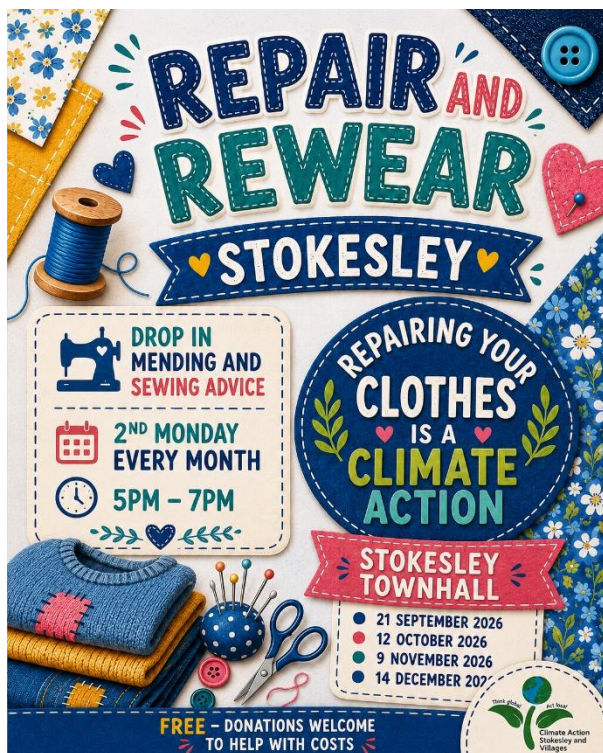
In the UK alone, Halloween costumes generate over 2,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually. This amount of plastic waste matches the weight of roughly 83 million plastic bottles. About 83% of costume materials rely on oil-based plastics like polyester, acrylic, and nylon, which do not easily biodegrade. Roughly 7 million costumes are thrown away in the UK every year, often after being worn only once.

Following last year's successful Halloween outfit and accessories 'give and take', the Halloween Switch, Helen and Kate have organised the same again this year to save you the cost of buying new, reduce carbon emissions by preventing unwanted outfits going to waste in landfill or incineration and reduce the need to use up the planet's limited resources in manufacturing new. Gather up your unwanted fancy dress and Halloween outfits and accessories and take them to the Stokesley Community Library and the Discovery Centre, Great Ayton from Saturday 10/10 and place them into the decorated collecting drawers and / or pop in to have a look through the donated items and take away what takes your fancy (one item per person please!) until Saturday 31/10.



While we're thinking of all things spooky, please don't use fake decorative spiderwebs outside because they harm wildlife and create non-biodegradable plastic pollution. The stretchy synthetic fibres trap small birds, bats and insects. Animals that get caught cannot easily break the artificial strands—unlike real spider silk—leading to broken bones, restricted blood flow, feather damage. You can still create a spooky look outside by using old white or grey cotton bedsheets ripped into thin, ragged strips and draped loosely over fences or entryways for a ghostly, textured look. Or get creative with white cotton string and sticks.

Monday 12/10 17.00 - 19.00 Repair & Rewear (formerly the Mending Circle)
Stokesley Town Hall



All are welcome to this drop in event taking place on the second Monday each month (apart for a summer break each August) where sewing advice and tuition for clothes repairing, adapting and altering takes place. The organisers, who are experienced and skilled makers and menders can also repair clothing or other textile items you bring in.

In addition Repair and Rewear organisers have teamed up with the Herriot Hospice Shop in Stokesley to repair donated clothing so it can be reworn, otherwise donated clothing in need of repair has previously gone to waste. This makes additional funds for the charity as well as saving the damaged items from disposal

and conserving resources. To date 18 items have been repaired and put on sale.

The dates for the remainder of 2026 and 2027 are: 9th November 2026, 14th December 2026, 11th January 2027, 8th February 2027, 8th March 2027, 12th April 2027, 10th May 2027, 14th June 2027, 12th July 2027 (August holiday), 13th September 2027, 11th October 2027, 8th November 2027, 13th December 2027.

Tuesday 13/10 13.30 - 15.30 Yatton House Community Garden Working Party
(Brighten Up Great Ayton / BUG)



The main tasks this month will be weeding, picking fruit and veg. Remember to bring a bag if you would like a share of the produce. Just turn up and join in on the day and enjoy time in a beautiful garden.

Great Ayton Village Hall Garden, High Street, Great Ayton

There will be an additional BUG working party to tidy up the Village Hall garden on **Wednesday 21/10 from 1:30- 3:30pm**. Please turn up and join in!

NB Sunday 18/10 10.00 - 14.30 Apple pressing, Faceby - apologies, no spaces left.

All slots for our popular October apple pressing have now been filled, thank you for your interest.

Thursday 22/10 19.30 - 21.00 People's Emergency Briefing film screening & discussion, Hutton Rudby Community Hub, Methodist Church Hall



Another chance to see this film locally which has received widespread praise for its powerful yet accessible message and reviewers note it delivers a sobering and emotionally charged call to action. As with other recent screenings it will be followed by a reflective discussion during which attendees can think about how they can take individual

and collective action in their own villages and neighbourhoods to help address climate breakdown.

Suitable for 16+, entry is free and includes refreshments but booking is essential via this link <https://casav.uk/hrtickets>

Mike, who is organising this screening, would be grateful for a few volunteers to help with some small tasks including welcoming attendees and serving refreshments - please contact [Mike](#) or call 07802 931965.

Saturday 24/10 10.30 - 14.30 Self Guided Nature Trail for all the family, Cod Beck Reservoir



The Nature Group have organised a fun self guided Nature Trail around Cod Beck Réservoir on Saturday October 24th starting from the main car park and open from 10.30-2.30.

This family friendly event introduces visitors to the rich wildlife around Cod Beck and is ideal for a half term activity but is also suitable for all ages.

Come and see the beautiful autumn colours in all their glory and catch sight of the migrating and wintering birdlife including Greylag geese, Wigeon, Snipe, and Redshank. Extra observant trail walkers might catch glimpses of Red Kite and Sparrowhawks.

Thanks to the Nature group for organising this great event.

Tuesday 27/10 10.00 - 12.00 Reduce Reuse Recycle creative activities for all & recycling advice & guidance



For Green Library Week, Great Ayton Discovery Centre, together with North Yorkshire Recycling Officers, is providing a free fun crafting session where you can make eco bookmarks and decorate Halloween themed seed planters.

Also you can get useful guidance on recycling and reducing waste at their specialist information stall.

Please contact the centre for more information.

Recent events

Bilsdale Show



At the end of August CASaV volunteers were delighted to be invited again to have an information stall at this popular agricultural show. It was inspiring to see the new show category for farmers and landowners of Environmental Impact and fascinating to see all the projects and initiatives that are being delivered locally.

We had a lot of interest in our stall, interacting with over 700 people - chatting about recycling and actively litter picking, demonstrating the range of nutritious pulses that can be grown

locally, playing the bean bag recycling game and making insect hotels to protect pollinators over winter.

Big thanks to the several volunteers who staffed the stall - setting up at early light, litter picking, interacting with the show goers and packing away at the end. One of our volunteers also celebrated several prize winning entries in the show tent - well done Anne!

Fruitful Forage



At the beginning of September Robert and Jane kindly opened their Osmotherley garden to all to come and gather the season's harvest. Dozens of eager foragers came to pick hazelnuts, apples of every description, raspberries, grapes and blackberries. Jane demonstrated apple pressing and Robert offered cider tasting. Finally everyone gathered to eat a sumptuous array of autumnal baked treats including chocolate and hazelnut cake and linden biscuits with bramble icing. Funds were raised for humanitarian relief overseas.

Apple pressing



Late in September we held the first of our two apple pressing days at Faceby, organised by Caryn. All pressing slots were quickly booked up and dozens of attendees brought hundreds of kilos of apples to be turned into the freshest, most local tasty apple juice possible. Juicing is one of the most popular ways of preserving your fruit harvest with nothing going to waste - even the squeezed apple pulp provided a tasty treat for the pigs of a local farmer.

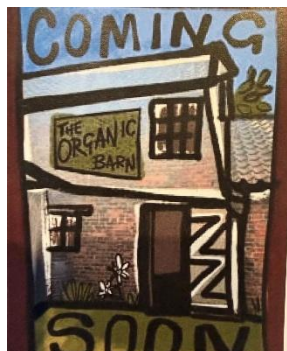
Thank you to Craig for providing the venue.

News, campaigns & subgroup updates

Local eco business of the month

In our area we have a number of businesses which help address climate breakdown and biodiversity loss. This month we introduce:

The Organic Barn @ Potto Grange



This new business is opening this month, providing local weekly collection of fully organic fruit and vegetable boxes including lots of local produce. The contents of the boxes will change from week to week, depending on what is available and looking particularly good. They'll update interested customers with exactly what is in each box when they send out a weekly email, so you can choose what suits you. The owners are working towards making the farm shop a convenient one-stop shop for your everyday necessities. Wherever possible, they aim to stock products that are plastic-free, eco-friendly and refillable. This will include cleaning materials, helping to make sustainable choices easier. The aspiration is that the farm shop will become a place where you can pop in, pick up your fresh produce and household essentials for the week, discover something new and perhaps stay for a little browse and a chat.

For more details or to join their mailing list please contact marian@pottogrango.co.uk

If you know a local business which has great environmental values please contact kategibbon@casav.uk to have it featured.

Ideas & news from the groups: Rethinking Resources (Not the Time to Waste) including Repair (Reuse & Recreate) Cafe

<https://casav.uk/rr>

This subgroup focuses on Rethinking Resources: rethinking & reducing consumption; repairing, repurposing and recycling materials that might otherwise go to landfill or incineration. Please join us at this month's zoom meeting on Tuesday 13/10 19.00 - 20.30: contact email simongibbon for a Google MeetMe link

E-waste problem and some solutions

International E-Waste Day
Fast tech: don't bin it, bring it!



14 OCTOBER 2026

Every year on 14 October, the world marks International E-Waste Day: a global initiative launched by the WEEE Forum to raise awareness about the growing challenge of

electronic waste and to inspire action. For its 9th edition, International E-Waste Day 2026 turns the spotlight on Fast Tech: the small and inexpensive electronic products that have become part of everyday life.

What is fast tech?

Fast Tech describes the expanding universe of low-cost electrical and electronic items that consumers purchase, often on impulse, and discard without a second thought. Think earphones bought at the airport, fancy charging cables, USB adapters, LED string lights, mini fans, single use vapes, toys and other type of gadgets.

The term draws a deliberate parallel with fast fashion. Just as disposable clothing culture reshaped how people think about garments, a comparable shift has taken place with small electronics. The result is a large and growing volume of items that exit everyday use each year, the vast majority of which are never properly collected or recycled.

What can I do?

Recognise: every small device with a plug, cable or a battery, no matter how little or inexpensive, is e-waste at the end of its life and requires proper treatment. Do not chuck it in the general bin.

Return: bring fast tech items to official collection points, in-store take-back locations, or dedicated e-waste drop-off sites.

Spotlight on FURBD



FURBD is a digital inclusion charity and non-profit organisation based in Middlesbrough that refurbishes unwanted technology to help people in need. They accept old or unwanted tech devices from individuals and businesses. They securely wipe all data using certified systems, fully test, clean, and repair the equipment in-house. Refurbished devices are given out to people who lack access to technology. Furbd works through a network of local partners—including charities, community groups, NHS trusts, and local authorities—who identify and support individuals and families in need.

If you have a laptop, tablet or phone you no longer need, you can bring it along to this month's Repair Cafe and we will pass it on to FURBD so they can recondition it and keep technology in use.

More info here <https://www.furbd.org.uk/>

Ideas & news from the groups: Nature Group

This subgroup focuses on discovering more about and supporting biodiversity and our living environment. Face to face meeting Thursday 15/10 15.00 at Stokesley Community Library, Stokesley.

North York Moors Dark Skies Fringe Festival 23 October - 1 November 2026



The North York Moors National Park is a stargazer's paradise, with some of the best dark skies in the country. It's all about discovering, learning and enjoying

the dark and the stars you can see as a result. As an International Dark Sky Reserve, designated by DarkSky, the North York Moors is one of the best places in the world to appreciate what's above. More info about this month's Dark Skies Fringe Festival:

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/things-to-do/stargazing-and-dark-skies/festivals-events-and-activities>

Ideas & news from the groups: Food Group

This subgroup focuses on food & its impact on climate change - from growing your own and eating seasonally to reducing food going to waste. Meetings held bimonthly on zoom, next meeting online will be Thursday 19th November 19.00 please contact [Wendy Smith](#) for more information and a link to join.

Recipe of the month: Mulled apple juice



If you have fresh apple juice from pressing at one of our apple pressing sessions you have the makings of this warming seasonal treat:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/warm_apple_punch_17914

Foodshare - nightly food redistribution



Foodshare is a joint initiative by the Food and Waste groups and is organised by Jenny. EVERY evening at 9pm a volunteer collects surplus food from the Ayton Coop and Premier supermarket and both Stokesley Coops and takes it to various distribution centres (often in Middlesbrough) such as Nitelight (for homeless) for use/distribution to those in need. This is fresh food such as fruit, veg and bread, NOT tins and dried food that are needed by Food Banks.

Our group collects 40-60 kilos of food every day with a value of approx £250, worth £78,000 every year.

What can I do now? Jenny is always keen to recruit more volunteers to support the foodshare so if you feel this is something with which you could help, please contact Jenny here [Jenny Earle](#).

Growing your own - good for you and the planet



Growing your own not only benefits you physically, it's also good for your mental health too, read more here [why-gardening-is-good-for-your-mental-health](#)

Wendy's gardening tips of the month are:

Now is the time to squirrel away fruit and veg for the winter. Many apples are fine on a shelf, unwrapped, in a cool frost free place until next March. Likewise winter squash and pumpkins. Beetroot can be stored in a sack like potatoes. Parsnips are best left in the ground until needed.

What to grow now - Whilst the earth is cooling down but still has some warmth it's not too late to plant overwintering crops. These include spring cabbages, winter lettuce (like Arctic King), perpetual spinach, and winter-hardy brassicas. There is still time for fast greens to grow to eat over the next few months such as salad rocket, mizuna, mustard greens, and lamb's lettuce for quick autumn and winter harvests. Get autumn-planting onion sets (like Shakespeare) and garlic cloves into the ground for an early summer crop next year.

Ideas & news from the groups: Energy

This subgroup focuses on using sustainable energy sources & energy saving in the home

Plug-In Solar Panels for your home now available!



Plug-in solar panels have now become legally available for UK households to buy and use starting from 27/8 this year, following a major government law change. High-street retailers and major chains are preparing to stock the systems, which allow flat owners and renters to generate electricity via a standard three-pin wall socket. Systems are

legally limited to a maximum peak output of 800 watts per home to prevent household wiring from overheating. Government and industry estimates show a typical 800W kit could save households roughly £70 to £110 a year on electricity bills. Major high-street names and suppliers—such as Lidl, Iceland, and EcoFlow—have been in active discussions or planning to bring compliant kits to the market. Users must still submit a quick notification to their local District Network Operator (DNO) under the G98 code before plugging them in. Safety information here: [plug-in-solar-panels-for-uk-homes/](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plug-in-solar-panels-for-uk-homes)

Ideas & news from the groups: Environment & Climate Osmotherley (ECO) Group



Environment Climate Osmotherley (ECO) meets regularly and holds events which raise awareness and address local environmental issues such as becoming a Dark Skies Village and increasing local biodiversity.

Contact [Becci Wright](#) for more information

Signing off

If you have any content, news or any event / activity you would like promoting on next month's **(November's)** update please email [Kate Gibbon](#) **no later than Sunday 18/10**

Hope to see you at all our October events

NB next Whole Group meeting Tuesday 20/10 19.30 at Stokesley Community Library

Kate Gibbon, on behalf of the Climate Action Stokesley and Villages Steering Group
Steering group: