

Dear Members & Supporters,

Welcome to 2019: the year of local elections here in Somerset, the year of Brexit decisions (or maybe a second referendum?), the year of continued campaigning for the survival of our planet as we face the biggest ever environmental crisis.

So what have I been up to in the last month? I attended the Extinction Rebellion event in Yeovil with my family and gave a speech to the assembled crowd, in spite of the wind trying to blow my notes away! I also attended my first ever anti-hunt protest in Chard on Boxing Day, which was an 'experience'! The hunt supporters were a thoroughly unpleasant bunch and the whole atmosphere was distinctly sinister!

Rob and I have been busy putting the finishing touches to a community newsletter which will be printed for distribution in our targeted area of Yeovil during January. The key focus issue is safety around our local schools: both road safety, leading on from my recent dealings with SCC about school crossings and speed limits, and the wider issue of the pollution our kids are subjected to on the school run.

I have a meeting next week with a fellow campaigning Mum, from Huish Primary School, so we can join forces and plan a strategy to take on SCC together. I have also personally contributed to a crowdfunded project to get a prototype personal pollution monitor into production this year, with a view to using it for campaigning purposes.

We are planning to have our next meeting in Ilminster, hopefully towards the end of January/beginning February, and will get back to you as soon as we have a definite date; we are intending to have a talk presented by Peter Lansdown about his trip to Tanzania and I'm waiting on available dates from him.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing some of you at the Skittles Evening on 12th January.

Dates for the diary:

The next Extinction Rebellion South Somerset Event will be the "Yeovil Rebellion Day" on Saturday 26th 11:00-14:00, meeting in Petters Way car park.

The Green House Think Tank will be holding a "Green School" weekend event on 15th-17th February at Compton Dundon. This is a residential weekend, but for those of us who live locally, they are willing to do a special rate of £100 plus meals.

Until next month.....

Best wishes

Diane Wood (PPC and Membership Secretary)