



Transition Kings Cliffe

For Environment and Community

Annual General Meeting of Transition Kings Cliffe

Ex-Servicemen's Club, 7.30pm, Tuesday 26th Sept 2023

Apologies David Bedding, Isabelle Garret, Steve Glen, Ben Coulthard,
Jeanne

Agenda

1. **CHAIR'S REPORT ON TKC ACTIVITIES 2022/23**
Noted and agreed
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022/23**
Noted and agreed
3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023/24**
April Chair
Kate ViceChair
Mike Treasurer
Anna Secretary
4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
Next AGM Sept 2024
May need to review constitution for next AGM – Anna to send out by email

26/09/2023

Anna Stockley – Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGM Tuesday 26th September, 7.30pm in the Club

Compiled by Kate from group summaries.

It feels like the group has been thriving through 2022-2023. There is an awful lot of uncertainty in this world of ours and energy crises and cost of living have focused governments and people alike on alternative sources of energy and on using energy less and more efficiently. More and more people are focused on at least some of the many ways we can step more lightly on the earth. This year we have tried to engage people more in several ways. Wildplaces activity continues to achieve a great deal, thanks to Charles and his merry band of volunteers. Other existing projects are also thriving, and we have new volunteers helping. We have a new Energy and Cost of Living group that will hopefully achieve great things over the coming years.

In terms of fund-raising events, we held our usual Christmas Fair in December 2022, successful as ever. We also introduced a new event, namely our Green Gardening talks in July 2023. This was project managed by Kate but most of the rest of the core team tipped in to make it a very successful event enjoyed by all. Doing something new reinvigorated the group after many years of running the Christmas Fair and all that entails. We even managed to get new Kings Cliffe resident Nick Bailey (of Gardeners World fame) to present one of the talks.

We also have some new core group volunteers this year, which has been much appreciated! So welcome and thank you to Isabelle Garnett, Steve Glen, and Allan Wall. Detail about each of the individual projects/events is summarised here. If you would like more information, or to get involved, please contact us via our [website](#), on [facebook](#), or email info@transitionkingscliffe.org.uk.

TRANSPORT GROUP

BikeFix - The free/donation bike fix service provided on the first Saturday of each month continued this year. Our objective is to help keep people riding their bikes by ensuring the bikes are safe and roadworthy. We provide advice as well as basic services. We are unsure of when BikeFix started but probably in about 2010 on the grass next to Oak Lane before Sovereign Grange was built.

By 2012, we had sold enough bikes (well over 100) to afford to send one of us on a Cytech mechanic course. In those days we worked throughout winter but low attendance in the cold months meant we changed to working from spring to late autumn. This year we started in April and our last session of the year will be in October. We now have four mechanics, with Steve Elsey having joined us this year. Four mechanics means that we can deal with more bikes each Saturday and we have a great range of skills.

Despite four mechanics we have been busy every day we have been open, often working past our 12h00 closing time. We worked on about 5 to 6 bikes each Saturday or about 35 to 40+ bikes this year. Our donation tin has £165 in it. As usual, we will restock our bike spares using this money and add the balance to the TKC coffers.

After an initial period in which we sold second hand bikes, we stopped selling them for several years because there was no space to store the bikes. That problem has now been solved and once again we are selling second hand bikes and used spare parts.

FOOD GROUP

Community Orchard – We continue our monthly work parties with a small but steady bunch of volunteers. We continue to keep mowing to a minimum (minimum number of cuts over minimum area, at maximum cut height) This year the crop has been poor, but that's been the case with top fruit throughout the village. This is the first summer that we have not needed to water the trees. We are also now mulching the trees with grass cuttings in summer and compost in winter. The trees are well fed! We started the year with the new barrow which has proven very useful. Thank you to the core group for those funds, and thank you also for the cherry tree netting (not used this year due to no cherries on the trees)

Allotments – Mini allotments are all in use. New sign put up on gate, thank you Charles. Not much use of communal area this year - to be discussed. Some issues around upkeep, also to be discussed. The group needs to pull down old sheds and fix the remaining ones.

WILDPLACES

Wildplaces continues to be our most active group, mainly due to Charles's sterling efforts in organising work parties, applying for grants, and doing a lot of hard physical graft himself. Kings Cliffe continues to benefit greatly from volunteer work undertaken by Wildplaces, which for the most part has been recognised by the community. This year work parties have worked with the seasons: Autumn – clearance of Maltings Green and parts of the railway path; Winter – various activities in Millenium Wood; Spring – various clearance jobs and an attempt at adder tracking; Summer – a mammoth haymaking effort with over 100 hours logged.

A more detailed account of activities is given in [Appendix 1 – Wildplaces 2022-23](#).

FINANCES

Two major events were held in the year; the Christmas Fair which improved on last year's take at £760, and the very successful Green Gardening event which packed out the upper community room at KCA and netted us nearly £1000.

On the expenditure side, our enhanced online presence has necessitated greater expenditure which has been easily offset by the ability to publicise our presence and attract participants in events.

Wildplaces, the allotments and the orchard continue to require funds and yet again no grant funding was forthcoming. Nevertheless TKC has maintained a healthy bank balance, being just under £300 up on last year's closing balance.

A full report on finances is given separately in [Appendix 2 - TKC Annual Accounts 2022-23](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

Facebook – Our FB page now has 643 members, and is very active with posts from the core group about all things TKC, including wildplaces/biodiversity, environmental /climate change progress/issues, and event promotion. Not to mention other members in the group, who are especially engaged when it comes to wildlife and biodiversity. Whilst there are

plenty of challenges ahead, we do try and keep the FB page upbeat with positive information and stories about what individuals/organisations can and have done to combat climate change. As a direct result of wildplaces activity there has been a significant increase in TKC members posting some fantastic photographs of local flora and fauna.

Website – Thanks to Kate and Charles (Wildplaces) for keeping this up to date, and to Mark for technical support.

<https://www.transitionkingscliffe.org.uk/> remains a very useful reference point for information about our projects that rarely changes. A great introduction for people interested in joining or supporting our group, as well as people moving into the village. It does however need a bit of a refresh, for example to include new events and energy pages. Kate and Mark will be looking at this over the next year.

Email Addresses – Mark is in the process of sorting out our group and individual email addresses. We now have a working GDPR-compliant Members email group, where every person therein is signed up via the website. We're currently at approximately 50 subscribers, many of whom we enlisted as a result of the Green Gardening event.

Gazette – Throughout this period Anna has taken over from Charles in compiling our monthly gazette article as part of her role as secretary, with input from the rest of the core group.

EVENTS/TRADE

Christmas Fair – The ever-popular Christmas Fair took place in December 2022, and was a great success raising £760 for the group. We used the marquee again, as well as the Village Hall and Underground, and as a result were able to accommodate 35 stallholders. That is a record! However, we have concluded that the effort put into this event may not be worth what we get out of it (or perhaps we just need a break from it!). The Christmas Fair needs someone with the right skills and availability to project manage it from start to finish, and we haven't had that person for the last 3 years.

Consequently, we decided not to run it ourselves this year and put it out to tender, either for a different group to raise funds or someone who is willing to do it to raise funds for TKC. It is an important community event so we felt it was worth seeing if there was any interest.

We are fortunate that Maryanne Tank has come forward to run the 2023 Christmas Fair, and even more fortunate that she's happy to raise funds for

TKC. This assumes that Maryanne has enough support from us, especially the weekend of the fair.

Green Gardening Event – Early in 2023 we tasked ourselves with the job of brainstorming ideas for an alternative fund-raising event. We came up with the idea of charging people to attend a series of talks with refreshments. The topic we agreed on was Green Gardening, i.e. gardening in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. The event was project managed by Kate but involved most of the core group, especially on the day. We had three speakers:

- An Introduction to No-Dig Gardening with Kirk
- Building Creature Comforts with Charles Tomalin
- A Talk on the Wild Side with Nick Bailey

Several people kindly made cakes and sausage rolls, which were well received washed down with a cuppa or glass of Pimms.

The event completely sold out and ticket sales, refreshments, a raffle, & houses for various creatures raised close to £1000 for the coffers. It was interesting, informative, and very much in line with the aims of our group, not to mention good fun. It raised more funds with less effort than the Christmas Fair. Consequently, we're hoping to run another series of talks next year, assuming we can think up some more topics! Thank you to all involved.

ENERGY & COST OF LIVING

We held one meeting early in the year to discuss ideas, attended by Steve, Rob, Mike & Allen.

- Solar panels and grants.
- Energy company schemes to generate local energy
- Case studies (such as impact of installing PV or Smart Meters).
- WWF app to see the real-time / forecast sources of electricity generation (such as coal, gas, wind etc) to pick low CF times to run appliances and charge cars.
- Lobbying.
- Infrared camera (to spot heat leakage points around the house exterior)

Other ideas arising have been:

- Coppicing as a sustainable fuel source for woodburners
- Discounted PV installations via a large group purchase schemes (I'm in contact with Transition Oundle about this to find out more)
- Grants for hot water heat pumps (eg for hot water to taps rather than taking on whole house heating)
- PVs on public buildings selling to the grid
- Tips and tricks in the Gazette

Nothing tangible has been forthcoming this year, but as the colder weather begins, interest in the cost of energy will no doubt become important and hopefully we can move forward on a couple of initiatives or at least make the village aware of options, grants, and tips for saving energy.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITY

There has been no specific activity relating directly to climate change this year. We have talked about running more Climate Cafes, so hopefully that will happen during the year ahead.

It should be noted though, that almost everything we do is ultimately about combating climate change and protecting our planet. From encouraging biodiversity to educating people to encouraging people to grow their own and use their cars less.

We still have plenty of work to do, especially around convincing our community that every individual/group can do something no matter how small. Lots of imperfect eco warriors rather than a few perfect ones!

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all involved in TKC for your help and work over the year.

APPENDIX 1 - WILDPLACES 2022/23

Workparties

Autumn 2022 was taken up with the usual clearance of Maltings Green, and various scrub/bramble clearance jobs on the railway path. We also removed a lot of the brambles from KC Meadow to allow Craig Baxter to graze it with his Hebridean sheep.

Winter took us into Millennium Wood, for some scrub clearance along the main butterfly rides, and creation of a new glade with a wood pile for insects, mammals, and reptiles. We took on scrub clearance around the trees along the back of the village field and removed some of the tubes, where trees have grown sufficiently.

Most of the railway path signage was refurbished with new paintwork, and repairs to the sign on Kingsmead were completed.

In spring we had a third attempt at adder tracking, with the assistance of Nigel Hand – the leading UK specialist on adders. Unfortunately, the timing was too early and our snakes had not sloughed their skins before the booked dates for Nigel. However, we learned a lot from him as he spent two days with us advising on habitats and behaviour. As a result, Ian Froggatt our lead on the adder project, has now compiled a 'field guide' of our adders, to assist in future recognition and monitoring.

We also cleared the Maltings Green pond and rough grass areas again for the summer, and cleared further scrub along the hedge line at the back of the village field, to assist with adder movements and protection.

Our haymaking in the late summer was ultimately successful, with over 100 volunteer hours logged, and all areas cut and cleared – including the railway path to Park St bridge which we did not have time for in 2022.

Meadow Bridge

All the attempts to save Meadow Bridge (Parish Council, Community group) eventually came to nothing. James Perks – the new estates director from F&A George – agreed to demolish the bridge and use the bricks to create a ramp entrance into KC Meadow, along with an appropriate kissing gate. This work is now underway with the bridge itself coming down on 13th September.

After this we intend to work to re-open the path.

Village Field Hedge

Over the summer in 2023 we applied for a grant from the Woodland Trust to plant a hedge across the village field as a demarcation and to provide a bio-corridor link between Millennium Wood and the railway line.

After three months of discussion the Parish Council did agree but made stipulations about the future management which we felt were unacceptable – mainly around containing the height and width of the hedge.

This project was therefore abandoned for this year.

Other Groups

With support from *ARG UK* we installed an information board for reptiles and amphibians on Kingsmead, at no cost to TKC.

The first phase of the *Rockingham Forest Vision* project is progressing well, and Wildplaces were involved in supporting a day of talks and site visits to promote parish nature recovery plans.

Following recommendations from Nigel Hand about the adders, after discussions with *North Northants Council* we have secured the installation of an electric fence on Kings Cliffe Meadow, to keep the sheep away from the northern boundary where the adders emerge there in spring. The fence will only be in place from January each year until grazing ends in May.

Members

We had a number of new volunteers this year both from the village and further afield. The current email list is running at 85 opted-in subscribers.

We had two new DofE volunteers this year, who both completed their tasks for their bronze level volunteer attainments.

Assets, costs and income

Around £250 was donated to TKC in support of the Railway Path in spring, by the Nene Valley runners after their 10/20k cross country event. Approx £100 was raised for TKC funds from birdbox and hedgehog house sales at the green gardening event

Further scythes and rakes were procured, using Wildplaces own funds, and the power scythe required some repairs which will be covered by TKC. At the time of this report we have not yet received the invoice, but likely to be £1-200.

The Rockingham Forest Vision project is offering grants of £2-6000, which we are applying for before end September 2023. Any monies to be spent before August 2024. An application for around £6000 is being prepared to cover more permanent path and adder signage, tree information boards for Millennium Wood, as well as new surveying refugia, adder tracking tags and consultancy in Spring 2024. We also hope to design and install an information board on the site of Meadow Bridge.

Appendix 2 - TKC Annual Accounts 2022-23

Income

Donations	£251
Christmas Fair	£760
GG Event	£966

Expenditure

Wildplaces, allotments, orchard	£782
Website and email	£371

Summary for the year

Opening balance 1/9/2022 £5583.62
Closing balance 1/9/2023 £5827.61

Two major events were held in the year; the Christmas Fair which improved on last year's take at £760, and the very successful Green Gardening event which packed out the upper community room at KCA and netted us nearly £1000.

On the expenditure side, our enhanced online presence has necessitated greater expenditure which has been easily offset by the ability to publicise our presence and attract participants in events.

Wildplaces, the allotments and the orchard continue to require funds and yet again no grant funding was forthcoming. Nevertheless TKC has maintained a healthy bank balance, being just under £300 up on last year's closing balance.

Mike Henchy, Treasurer
11/9/2023

Transition King's Cliffe

Regular Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Present: April Sotomayor, Kate Moss, Mike Henchy, Charles Tomalin, Mike Ayres, Allan Wall, George Smid, Lesley Lindsay, Jenny Smith

Apologies: Steve Glen, Isabelle Garrett, Ben Coulthard

Reports / Actions / Updates



<p>1. <u>Food Group</u></p>	
<p><u>Mini Allotments</u></p> <p>Interaction with PC regarding plots – Top mini plots to be handed back to PC for management</p> <p>Communal area discussion – agreed for TKC to pay for communal area and then to use it more. Plan to meet there to make a list of what needs doing, make a work party plan and spend some money getting it up to scratch.</p>	<p>Anna to email PC</p> <p>Anna</p>
<p><u>Community Orchard</u> going well, workparties every 1st sat of the month 1-3pm</p>	<p>Kirk</p>
<p>2. <u>Transport Group</u></p>	
<p><u>Bikefix</u> last one Oct 7th 10-12</p> <p>Mike to put on fb beforehand</p> <p><u>KCA</u> Bike racks fixed to rotten wood so not functioning. Kate to suggest another site... prioritise cycles over cars in front of cafe. Also is the disabled parking fit for purpose?</p>	<p>Mike Ant Kirk</p> <p>Kate</p>
<p>3. <u>Environmental Strategy</u></p>	
<p><u>Strategy</u> Focussing on connections and impact to the <u>local community</u> with respect to environmental, climate, waste, biodiversity, and associated issues.</p> <p><u>Climate Cafe</u> Plan for Autumn, tie in with cost of living and Thermal camera. Needs a clear message. Contact new manager to make a date – see below.</p> <p><u>Ripple Energy</u></p>	<p>All</p> <p>Anna</p> <p>April to find out more</p>

<p>Promote as cost of living and reducing carbon footprint. April to get more info about how transition could aid this and then potentially we could do a KCA Sat morning climate cafe to publicise?</p> <p><u>Thermal camera</u> We have purchased a thermal camera, to offer it to members of the community for assessing areas of heat loss from houses. Has been used well by TKC members, to be put out to community .</p> <p>Could advertise the easy win of loft insulation, and EPC – April’s post to be re-published.</p> <p><u>Greenway plans</u> – Steve to get an update on cyclerroute to Stamford. No new news</p> <p><u>Local Energy Group</u> - Potential plans for another Home energy Event with Bob Gamble as a case study for solar and batteries – Autumn. Steve to take the lead on this?</p> <p>Solar Group purchase Scheme NNC – Steve to find out more</p> <p><u>Green Gardening Afternoon</u></p> <p>Date: 23rd July</p> <p>Sell out succes!!</p>	<p>Rob/Anna</p> <p>April</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>All Well done!</p>
<p>4. <u>Wildplaces</u></p>	
<p><i>Active work since last meeting</i> July was taken up with the garden talks, and also wildlife walks for the community. Only six takers this year, but it does make it easier to talk to everyone!! August is always haymaking month. The power scythe was leaking oil, and the need to repair it could have been a big issue, but with a lot of adhoc help the village field is cut and largely raked off (as of 22/8/23). The public scything weekend was well attended with 12 individuals turning out, with 57 hours logged on site. Visitors came from Huddersfield, Langtoft and Oakham. All the cut and clear was completed by 5 th September, with over 100 volunteer hours logged. September workparty was to clear the Maltings Green pond and stream as usual. Low turnout, but a relatively easy task for those who attended. The Reptile and Amphibian information board has now been installed on Kingsmead.</p>	<p>Charles</p> <p>Artist or community group to make something out of bricks?</p>

Parish Council

I was able to address the PC at the July meeting, and gained consent in principle for putting in the hedge on the village field this autumn. Not all councillors were in favour, and I have been told that we will need to agree to certain 'conditions' before we start work. I have not received these conditions. After the September meeting, which was well attended by Wildplaces/TKC supporters, the PC did send their stipulations. These included a requirement to contain the hedge to 3m high by 2m wide, which we felt were not appropriate for a wildlife corridor. We have therefore withdrawn the request and cancelled the Woodland Trust grant application.

I have also contacted the PC regarding management of the village field as well as the common. In both cases we would prefer to see the hay removed from site after cutting. This generally does occur on the Village Field, but to date has never happened on The Common. I have suggested an alternative for The Common might be to fence it and have it grazed along with KC meadow next door. I have yet to receive a reply on these issues.

Meadow Bridge

We have confirmation that the landowner, F&A George, now intends to demolish the bridge in September. I met with James Perks – their estates director – along with the Wildlife Trust and the contractor to address logistics. The Wildlife Trust are happy with access being made over KC Meadow at this time of year, and NNC who own the site are also content with the arrangements. James has offered to use some of the bricks

to create an access ramp up the southern side of the cutting to create an entrance into KC Meadow where the bridge currently meets up, and to install a kissing gate there as well – at their own cost. Other bricks may be used to improve the footpath in the cutting at that point where it regularly floods in winter.

Update – the bridge was knocked down in September and I am now meeting the landowner regarding best approach to reopening the path.

KC Meadow

As well as the obvious impact of works for the bridge, we have now also gained permission to install an electric fence across KC Meadow to protect the adder emergence zone in Spring from the sheep which are on that site until May. This fence

will be removed from May to December to allow the autumn grazing to access the whole site, but will be reinstated from January to May each year. It will be solar powered, and NNC have agreed to fully fund it !

Planning

<p>We held a planning meeting in July to look at the Autumn/Winter schedule.</p> <p>Key activities could include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Restoration and reopening of the railway path after the demolition of Meadow Bridge. . Planting the hedge on the Village Field . Installation of the electric fence in KC Meadow . Maltings Green tidy up after the summer growth. . Clearance of the cricket field viewpoint, and treatment of stumps to prevent regrowth . Other railway path clearance . Additional glade creation in Millennium Wood . Coppicing works in Millennium Wood <p><i>Kingsmead</i></p> <p>I am in discussion with NNC about removing or penetrating the adder fence on Kingsmead. Not only is this fence restrictive to the movement of adders and other reptiles, but is also a significant threat to them when the site floods. The business units (also owned by NNC) are also at risk from flooding while the fence is in place.</p> <p><i>Grants</i></p> <p>We have been invited to apply for a one-off grant of between £2,000 and £6,000, from the Rockingham Forest Vision project (monies from Heritage Lottery Fund). The grant is primarily for activities which align with the first phase of RFV objectives –</p> <p>community engagement and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>An application for £5,920 was submitted in mid September to include the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Permanent signage on the railway path . Permanent ‘Adder Country’ signage . A photo/information board installed at the Meadow Bridge site after demolition to mark the spot and inform the public – to be taken by Isabelle Garnett. . A further round of consultancy and adder radio tracking from Nigel Hand . Replacement reptile refugia . Tree ID signs/trail for Millennium Wood. 	
<p>5. <u>Finance</u></p>	
<p>Annual fee for insurance due, have renewed (Zurich)</p> <p>Action – all to think of an ambitious project to spend £2000 ish without too much effort but with big local impact!</p> <p>Solar powered pump for allotments – we could fund or match fund but have allotmenters project manage. Mark : if portable pump then could be used for the Pytchell too?</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>Money for school to use – prize for student idea?</p> <p>Underground similar plan – how to be greener, ideas from children, money from TKC</p> <p>Solar panels – difficult to find site – Church? Jenny to ask</p> <p>Paying for guest speakers in the future, educational budget</p> <p>Pop up TKC info banner – agreed to spend for this now (200-300) as will be useful. Isabelle to plan please?</p> <p>Church food bank? Unsure if this meets TKC aims, and difficult to target donations</p> <p>Chef event to cook climate friendly meals?</p> <p>Refill food event – for backburner</p> <p>Study the current carbon footprint and then improve – phd student? Discussed and decided too difficult and too much focus on where we are, we want to fund action now.</p>	<p>Isabelle</p>
<p>6. <u>Communications</u></p>	
<p><u>Membership Engagement</u></p> <p>website and facebook page ticking over, continue</p> <p>Mark in attendance to update on TKC email address issue</p> <p>Anna decided not to use an @transition email, please continue to use gmail.</p> <p>Email account still in Dave’s name but DD is coming out of TKC account. Mark to take Dave’s name off.</p> <p>Put members@ into bcc, put own email into To section to avoid</p> <p>We want to collect photos of all TKC events – please send to Mark@transitionkingscliffe.</p>	<p>all</p> <p>Anna, Mark</p> <p>April</p>
<p>7. <u>Xmas Fair</u></p>	
<p>Maryanne Tank to organise this year, with support</p>	<p>Kate to contact and</p>

Sun 3 rd December 11-4pm.	say we can help...?
8. <u>Any Other Business</u>	
<p>April has been in contact with a woman who makes media videos, do we want to get her to do some promotion? Raise awareness, find volunteers etc? Decided not a priority currently.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next version of the footpath map could be an A3 format to show more details and points of interest, and space for more information about TKC. Anna can produce a hand-drawn map as well!! Charles to organise C/F</p>	<p>Charles</p> <p>Anna</p>
<p>Tree planting next to roads around the village verges PC has passed on my enquiry to Highways. Charles will ask his rockingham forest vision contact about this</p> <p>Tree planting at KCA – Simon F met with Rob Stockley to make a plan for where to put Queens canopy trees, plan for planting this winter.</p> <p>Anna to train to be a Tree Warden.</p> <p>Discussion re how to have a positive relationship with the PC. Charles to speak to Jeanne about biodiversity within the Parish.</p>	Anna
<p><u>Next meeting date</u> Christmas Fair helpers meeting? Tuesday 21st November? And to focus on which project to spend resources on.</p> <p>If Steve would like to organise an event focusing on cost of living and carbon footprints – there was talk of a solar panel installation in the village as a showcase? – then to get in touch with the group via email and organise a meeting sooner.</p>	<p>Anna to book</p> <p>Steve</p>
11 th November – Social at Anna's or Allan's - TBC	Anna

Anna Stockley 26/09/2023