

# Transition Ashtead

Newsletter 2024



We are a small local organisation, affiliated to the Transition Network that aims to promote greater sustainability in our lives.

## What we do

**Articles** - We publish an article in every issue of the Local Pages about making our lives more sustainable and happier! Last year we published articles on: reducing our plastic use, taking part in the circular economy, electric bikes and scooters, Men's Sheds, reducing our food waste, and about making our homes more energy efficient and cosier.

**Kid's Club Garden** - We maintain a small garden with children from the After School Club, which uses the Youth Club, in Ashtead, where we show them how to plant, grow and harvest vegetables and fruit. However, quite a bit of time can be spent hunting for worms and other minibeasts!

**Volunteers needed!** We would love to have more people to help do any of these activities. See end for contact details

## Blue Hearts, Biodiversity and B-Lines!



You will have seen wooden Blue Hearts popping up in verges and open spaces around the village. These designate a No-Mow zone, so that Surrey County Council's cutting contractors will not mow until the final autumn cut. This scheme is part of a national initiative to create more wildflower areas and increase the number of invertebrates on which birds and other species depend. You can apply to SCC using their website and search for the Blue Campaign.

Verges can be managed in different way, for example as a wildflower meadow – Leaving the grass and wildflowers to grow and see what comes up. To maintain a wildflower meadow which is nutrient-poor, removal of the cuttings is needed in autumn.

**Bee-Lines of continuous wildflower habitats** are being created across the UK by connecting newly-created habitats with existing ones. These are invertebrate 'super-highways' enabling species to migrate, expand their gene pool and thrive. In Ashtead we have added our own Blue Hearts verges to the B-Lines GIS, produced by Buglife. <https://www.buglife.org.uk/>

## How to obtain a Blue Heart

We now have some more hand-painted Blue Hearts, which will be available for £8 and we will be selling them at the talk on 28th February in APMH and afterwards. The wooden hearts have been beautifully crafted by Dorking Men's Shed. You can contact us via our email [transitionashtead23@gmail.com](mailto:transitionashtead23@gmail.com) or follow us on Ashtead Blue Hearts Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087883401776> - Request no-mow status from Surrey County Council, by searching for the Blue Campaign and submitting your details.

### Forthcoming events for 2024

#### Wednesday 28th February 8pm in APMH

**How can we build a more sustainable community here?** Come and find out! Phil Neale from Epsom Repair Cafe and David Tobitt from Dorking Men's Shed will speak about how groups can support the community and create sustainable solutions. Doors will open at 7.45 pm, entry is free but donations towards the hire of the room are welcome.



#### Saturday 15th June 2—4 pm APMH

#### The Ashtead Swopshop

Sort your house and swop your stuff! You are invited to bring items which are no longer wanted but working and in very good condition (toys, clothes, electrical goods, CDs, DVDs, computer games etc) and exchange them for other items. Donation £1 .

**Sept/October** – Date to be announced - proposed talk from **Ecofurb** about helping us to make our homes carbon-zero. Website <https://www.ecofurb.com/>

### Other initiatives

**Plastic-Free Initiatives** *Plastic-free July* is a global movement to highlight how we can each reduce our plastic use and therefore waste. Link <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/about-us/>



**The Big Plastic Count** 11th to 17th March to raise awareness of the problem. Fun for all the family! <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

**Surrey Climate Commission** - is an independent body playing a key role in supporting and guiding the transition of the county towards a carbon neutral future through collaboration with other organisations. It Includes the Surrey Energy Partnership. Their current projects are retrofitting housing and renewable Energy <https://www.surreyclimate.org.uk/>

Follow Transition Ashtead on FB <https://www.facebook.com/groups/97699089705> or

**Our webpage** - <https://www.ashteadresidents.org.uk/transition-ashtead/>

or get in touch with us via [transitionashtead23@gmail.com](mailto:transitionashtead23@gmail.com)