



# Lincoln's Climate Emergency Centre Newsletter No.18

## December 2023



### Our November activities

November was a busy month and we had various well-attended and interesting activities at Mint Lane:



### Greening Lincoln: 4th November

Ania inspired us all with her and her neighbours' success in turning a litter-strewn, derelict plot on Dunkirk Road into a delightful pocket garden. It cost nothing as people brought their own tools and donated plants, and has been great in bringing local people together and talking about their neighbourhood.

We are compiling information for residents who wish to similarly transform their local area. As a first step we are asking people to let us know about any unloved and unused land, however small, and grass verges in their neighbourhood, so we can map suitable sites for planting.

A further Greening Lincoln Drop-In is planned for 6th January. Do come along to share your ideas and let's get guerilla gardening!

### Free Native Trees

Small bare-rooted saplings – oak, birch, alder, hazel, hawthorn and walnut – can be planted between now and next March. Order your free trees from Rosemary at [earthlincs@gmail.com](mailto:earthlincs@gmail.com) or text her on 07809 290399

### Mint Lane Saturday 2–4pm 'Drop-In' Events December 2023/January 2024

2nd Dec.	Festive Crafts workshop
9th Dec.	EarthLincs AGM & Social*
16th Dec.	Climate Café with Rachel
23rd Dec.	<i>Closed for holiday period</i>
30th Dec.	<i>Closed for holiday period</i>
6th Jan. 2024	Greening Lincoln Working Group
13th Jan.	Tool Library Consultation & Review
20th Jan.	Climate Café with Rachel t.b.c.
27th Jan.	t.b.c.

\* Join us from 2pm on 9th for a seasonal celebration with tea/coffee, hot spiced mixed berry punch (non alcoholic) and tasty treats. Snacks to share will be welcome.



We held another well-attended Climate Café, run by Rachel on 18th November.

If you would like to join us for our next Café (20th January) at 2.00pm please register your interest by emailing: [theclimateimps@gmail.com](mailto:theclimateimps@gmail.com)



## Oil Drilling at Biscathorpe

XR Lincoln hosted a Community Assembly on 25th November, where we posed the question 'What should we do about further Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction in Lincolnshire?'



We focused on the recent planning permission for oil drilling at Biscathorpe in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area.

Members of the SOS Biscathorpe campaign group briefed us on the

history of the Biscathorpe site and what legal action could be taken to prevent the drilling going ahead. A follow-up meeting will decide the way forward.

If we are to be successful in preventing drilling at Biscathorpe, it is essential that we form a small but dedicated team with time, energy and skills. We are hoping to recruit people with an interest in fundraising, social media, publicity and research. Interested? Please contact us via SOS Biscathorpe Facebook page or email:

[SOSbiscathorpe@gmail.com](mailto:SOSbiscathorpe@gmail.com)

## Government U-turn on green policies

The King's Speech, delivered on 7th of November contained crushing news for those of us concerned for the environment.

After stating a focus on 'safeguarding the health and security of the British people for generations to come' came an illogical statement: 'This Bill will support the future licensing of new oil and gas fields, helping the country to transition to net zero by 2050...'

Rishi Sunak had already stated in July that he hopes to extract as much oil and gas from the North Sea as possible, No 10 has said, as it announced 100-plus new drilling licences in a 'maxing out' policy that environmental groups said would obliterate the UK's climate commitments.

Rishi Sunak has been watering down Britain's commitments on tackling climate change since taking office. In one of his biggest policy changes in September, Sunak confirmed the UK would push back the deadline for selling new petrol and diesel cars and the phasing out of gas boilers, prompting furious condemnation from the automobile and energy industries.

This net zero U-turn was met with despair by climate scientists and environmental groups who

said it would cost consumers more in the long run and threaten the UK's global leadership on the issue.

As usual, profits and politics come before 'generations to come' and the government is not taking seriously its own declaration of 'environment and climate emergency', announced in May 2019.



## United Nations

### Comments from Secretary-General of the UN

*New figures show that this September, Antarctic sea ice was 1.5 million square kilometres smaller than the average for the time of year – an area roughly equal to the combined size of Portugal, Spain, France and Germany and this year, Antarctic sea ice hit an all-time low. That matters for us all. What happens in Antarctica doesn't stay in Antarctica, we live in an interconnected world.*

*Melting sea ice means rising seas. And that directly endangers lives and livelihoods in coastal communities across the globe. Floods and saltwater intrusion imperil crops and drinking water – threatening food and water security. Homes are no longer insurable.*

*Coastal cities and entire small islands risk being lost to the seas. And vital natural systems are at risk of being disrupted. The movement of waters around Antarctica distributes heat, nutrients and carbon around the world, helping to regulate our climate and regional weather patterns. But that system is slowing as the Southern Ocean grows warmer and less dense. Further slowdown – or entire breakdown – would spell catastrophe.*

*The cause of all this destruction is clear: The fossil fuel pollution coating the Earth and heating the planet. Without changing course, we're heading towards a calamitous three-degree Celsius temperature rise by the end of the century. Sea surface temperatures are already at record highs.*

*If we continue as we are, and I strongly hope we will not, the Greenland and West Antarctica ice sheets will cross a deadly tipping point.*

*This alone would ultimately push up sea levels by around ten meters. We are trapped in a deadly cycle. Ice reflects the sun's rays. As it vanishes, more heat is absorbed into the Earth's atmosphere. That means more heating, which means more storms, floods, fires and droughts across the globe. And more melting. Which means, with less ice, even more heating.*

*At COP28, which starts later this week, leaders must break this cycle. The solutions are well known.*



*Leaders must act to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, protect people from climate chaos, and end the fossil fuel age. We need a global commitment to triple renewables, double energy efficiency, and bring clean power to all, by 2030.*

*We need a clear and credible commitment to phase out fossil fuels on a timeframe that aligns with the 1.5 degree limit.*

*And we need climate justice – setting the world up for a huge increase in investment in adaptation and loss and damage to protect people from climate extremes. Antarctica is crying out for action.*

*I salute the thousands of researchers – in Antarctica and around the world – expanding our understanding of the changes taking place on the continent.*

*They are testament to human ingenuity and the immense benefits of international collaboration. Leaders must not let the hopes of people around the world for a sustainable planet melt away.*

***They must make COP28 count.'***

**António Guterres**

UN headquarters, 27 November 2023

## COP 28

COP 28, the United Nations Climate Conference is underway now in Dubai and will run until the 12th December. It's the time of year when all the world governments come together and work out the best way to address the Climate Crisis. Well that's the theory, in practice the conference will start with inspirational speeches, calls to Act Now, and then governments appear to work out how little they can do, and yet still claim to be taking Climate Change seriously. Perhaps that's a cynical view, but the omens for this year's conference aren't great. The president of the COP 28 talks is the chief executive of the state-owned oil company, Sultan al-Jaber, and there have been reports of the UAE planning to use the presidency to broker some oil and gas deals. But let's be optimistic and hope that the conference can make some real progress.

As UN's top climate official, Simon Stiell, has stated, it's time for leaders to 'stop dawdling and start doing' on carbon emission cuts, as rapidly rising temperatures this year have put everyone on the frontline of disaster. This year is the hottest on record, and perilously close to the threshold of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels that countries have agreed to hold to. Temperatures are now heading for a 'hellish' 3°C increase, unless urgent and drastic action is taken, but greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise.

**On every day of the conference until 12th December a vigil will be held at Speakers Corner in Lincoln, reminding passers by of how important COP28 is for our planet and future generations. So please join the vigil if you can and let's hold our leaders to account.**



## Other local Events and Activities



### Mint Lane 'Thrift Fashion Thursdays'

Starting 7th December, Mint Lane Hub will be holding regular 'Thrift Fashion' events where anyone can donate and buy pre-loved clothing at bargain prices. All proceeds will go to the Mint Lane Café.

The first two events are planned for 10am–12noon on Thursdays 7th & 14th December.

### Tool Library Project

**Please fill in and return our short survey, included with this newsletter, to help to progress this initiative. We hope to get it off the ground and provide this new service in 2024!**

### Want to Find Out More about EarthLincs?

[earthlincs@gmail.com](mailto:earthlincs@gmail.com)

or find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/181394503851074](https://www.facebook.com/groups/181394503851074)

**The EarthLincs Team**



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