



Lincoln's Climate Emergency Centre

Newsletter No.28

February 2025

Mint Lane Saturday EarthLincs Events 2–4pm

1 February	closed
8 February	Climate Circle with Rachael
15 February	Book Sale Bring & Buy
22 February	closed
1 March	closed – we will be at 'Facing the Storm' conference*
8 March	Climate Circle with Rachael
15 March	Imogen Wilde – Ecology talk
2 March	New Year declutter – Bring & Buy
29 March	closed

Facing the Storm: Living in a Different Future*

On 1st March 2025 we will be at this conference at Bridge Church, Portland Street, Lincoln LN5 7NN.

The Keynote speaker will be Roy Searle (Northumbria Community).

The day will include a series of Panel Discussions dealing with the impacts of the current crises on People, Politics and Places. These will be led by Sian Wade (Network Coordinator of Transform Lincoln and Community Initiatives Lead at Bridge Church), Chris Burke (City Councillor and member of St. Peter and St. Paul Roman Catholic Church), and Canon Alan Robson (Agricultural Chaplain for Lincolnshire Methodist District).

Tickets: <https://facingthestorm.eventbrite.co.uk>

January at EarthLincs

We began the New Year with a successful Bring & Buy sale on 4th January. This proved popular with both those who were able to have a 'declutter' and those who walked away with a bargain. It was also a social event with friendly chat over a cuppa. We are planning a similar event on 22nd March and don't forget you can bring and sell your more expensive items for just a 10% donation to EarthLincs

Our 'Wilding' film show on January 18th was probably our best-attended event so far. We needed to bring in more chairs!

Based on the bestselling book by Isabella Tree, *Wilding* tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. The young couple dares to place the fate of their farm in the hands of nature. Their determination and hard work was impressive and at times, very moving. Following the film there was a fascinating interview with Isabella Tree. We had great feedback from the audience so hope to put on similar events in future.

Last Saturday's sewing workshop was also a success. We made (and printed) a number of useful tote bags which put some 'preloved' cotton curtains to good use as well as refreshing people's rusty sewing skills... We also repaired a garment with 'visible' repairs. It was great fun and we made new friends!



Lottie with her new bag!

Support the campaign to save Lincolnshire Wolds

National Landscape from oil drilling

SOS Biscathorpe is a group of local volunteers who are campaigning to prevent oil drilling going ahead in the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (previous designation: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) which is home to a precious chalk stream; there are only 200 of these fragile ecosystems in the world.

Lincolnshire County Council's decision to refuse permission for oil drilling was overturned by the Planning Inspector in 2023. However, thanks to generous supporters, SOS Biscathorpe were able to raise enough funding to bring together a brilliant legal team to challenge the Inspector's decision at the High Court last summer, and won! So, the Inspector's decision was quashed.

Unfortunately, it's not over. The planning application will now be 're-determined' on Appeal by another Inspector. Previously, the climate impact of Scope 3 emissions (from burning the oil) was deemed inadmissible by the Planning system, but due to a recent Supreme Court ruling, these emissions must now be taken into account. As the test case for this approach, Biscathorpe could set an important planning precedent for future oil and gas development in the UK.

The International Energy Agency has stated that there can be no new fossil fuel development if the world is to stay within safe limits of global heating and meet the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

Once again, we need to raise funds for legal & expert fees to fight the Appeal. Our lawyers continue to work for a fraction of their normal fees and every penny raised will go towards the ongoing costs of the campaign.

Pesticides

There is growing concern in the UK, and internationally, about the use of pesticides to control 'weeds' in public and private spaces, particularly in urban areas.

The herbicide most widely used is glyphosate, sold as *Roundup*. There is some debate about just how toxic it is, and how specifically it can be applied; the evidence is very strong, however, that it affects not just the target plants, but also surrounding plants, soil organisms and aquatic life as a result of runoff. It also has serious implications for human health.

There are of course many non-toxic methods of control, including manual removal, strimming, burning, etc., but many cash-strapped councils reject these as being too labour intensive, i.e. expensive. The simplest and cheapest solution, of course, is to leave them alone: stop calling them weeds and accept them for what they are – wild flowers.

There are many groups campaigning to urge councils to ban the use of glyphosate and other chemical controls, notably *PAN (Pesticide Action Network)*

<https://www.pan-uk.org/>

Please support our campaign to protect the Lincolnshire Wolds and ensure a healthy, liveable planet for future generations.

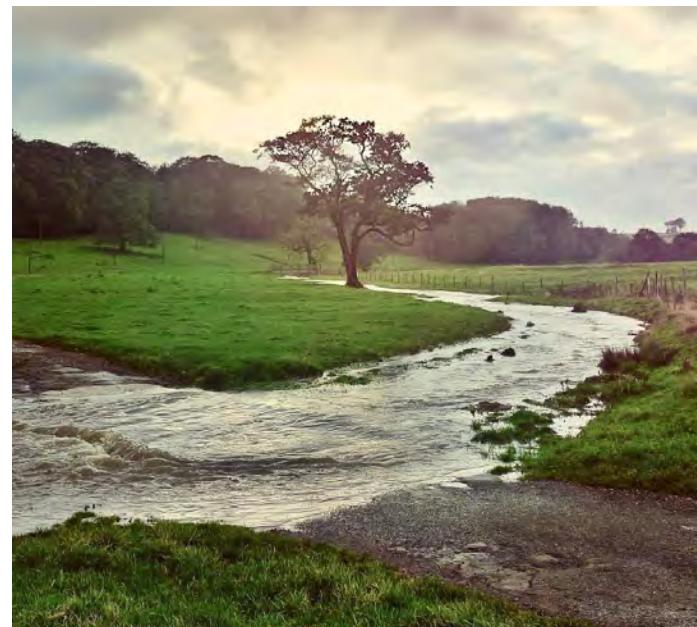
[add QR code, Facebook and gofundme logos from flier]

If you wish to comment on this Appeal, send your email to VE.RT@planninginspectorate.gov.uk marked for the attention of Andy Lumber, Regional Manager for Planning Appeals – East, South East, & (some of) London.

Quote: APPEAL REFERENCE:

APP/Q2500/W/22/3296831

The deadline is 12 February 2025.



and *Pesticide Collaboration*. To date, over fifty councils have either imposed bans on herbicides or have committed to phase them out within a few years. *Garden Organic* are urging the government to also ban the use of herbicide in urban areas.

France is well ahead of the curve: pesticides have been banned since 2017 in all towns and cities, and since 2019 in private gardens.

I have been in communication with City of Lincoln Council, urging them to ban the use of herbicides in parks and allotments and on roadside verges, but have come up against the cost argument.

I would urge EarthLincs supporters to consult one of the above campaign groups, and ask their local councils to consider banning, or at least phasing out, the use of herbicides.

Geoff Jones

Visit our website!

use this url or scan the QR code

www.earthlincs.co.uk



What Can I Do in 2025?

As we look forward to 2025 it is difficult not to feel frustrated, angry and scared as we are still well off track in creating a sustainable future for our Planet. CO2 levels continue to rise and global temperatures set a new record in 2024 passing the 1.5C level for the first time. The recent flooding in the UK and wildfires in the USA illustrate the devastating effects our changing climate is having on our Planet and the Election of Donald Trump as President of the USA, a climate change denier, with his call to 'Drill Baby Drill', is not good news.

However there is reason for hope, "The world now invests almost twice as much in clean energy as it does in fossil fuel, almost everywhere, solar and wind are now the cheapest sources of new electricity - and the fastest growing in history," (UN Sec General). Across the globe communities are coming together to act on climate. During 2024 in South Korea young people successfully sued the government for weak climate policies and in Switzerland there was a similar victory this time for a group of older Swiss women. Communities are adapting and becoming more resilient to Climate Change, from developing drought resistant crops, restoring degraded land, installing early warning systems and planting trees. If you use the Ecosia search engine, <https://www.ecosia.org/>, you have helped plant 13 million trees across the globe in 2024. There are plenty more ideas for actions you can take at <https://takethejump.org/> including changes to what you eat, how you travel and how much you consume.

One of the most impactful actions you can take is through your finances. You can move your bank account to an ethical bank. If you have a private pension the chances are your money will be invested in fossil fuel companies. The is also the case for the government workplace pension scheme NEST, but in both cases you can move your money to fossil free funds which will continue to give you a good

return on your investments. The Local government pension scheme in Lincolnshire currently invests around £90 million in fossil fuels and only a few members have ever raised the issue of fossil fuel investment with the County Council who administer the fund! If you would like to find out more and join the campaign to persuade the Lincolnshire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels get in contact with the campaign group at

lincsdivest@gmail.com. For more information on the impact of moving your money, check out Money Movers or type in this link: <https://shorturl.at/NgN2i>

We are still heading in the wrong direction but every decision you make and action you take will make a difference. Action is the antidote to Despair, so take action today!

Tim Grigg

It's Tree Planting Time!

Free bare-rooted tree saplings – most native species available. For details contact Rosemary: Tel: 07809290399 or email: roselizrob@gmail.com



Want to Find Out More about EarthLincs?

earthlincs@gmail.com
follow us on FaceBook
(scan the QR code)
and via our website:
www.earthlincs.co.uk



If you would like to join the local Lincoln Extinction Rebellion group, please contact lincoln@extinctionrebellion.uk for more information



Other local Events and Activities



Mint Lane Wellbeing Hub

For further information about Mint Lane events please contact Mint Lane Wellbeing Hub on 07778 705979 or visit our website:

<https://involvelincoln.org.uk/mint-lane-wellbeing-hub>

Jumble Sale

The next Jumble Sale at Dunholme Village Hall is on Saturday 8th February, 1pm. You can bring any items along to the hall on the morning of the sale. All proceeds go to local charities.



Instagram:
Follow us on [@earth_lincs](https://www.instagram.com/earth_lincs)

