



# Annual Report 2013/14



## A message from David Howard, Chair

In the last year, Stretton Climate Care has been tested. It would have been so easy to have surrendered to frustration, as the “greenest government ever” vanished in a puff of shale gas, as the Green Deal mutated into a Green Fog of impenetrable complication, and as the cancer of economic growth resumed its destructive march.

Fortunately, we are made of sterner stuff. We hold to our belief in the inescapable need for a truly sustainable future. We continue to “do good in small measures” with our Home Energy Checks – our core activity -, our advice sessions, and by disseminating information. We help people. And all



the time our campaigning continues; we may be a small organisation in a small community, but our voice is heard.

If that all sounds challenging, it is also enjoyable. Learning to live within the earth’s resources opens new opportunities, rekindles forgotten pastimes, and revives simple pleasures.

When you are surrounded by a strong team, even if you have chosen the difficult path, the journey becomes even more worthwhile.

Thank you to our members, our volunteers and our trustees. Your work and your support make Stretton Climate Care what it is.

### **Our Mission Statement:**

To advance environmental protection and improvement by reducing the carbon footprint of the local area.

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To raise awareness of issues concerning climate change and the need for action
- To promote a culture of climate care through reducing energy consumption, encouraging the generation of local renewable energy, and advancing a more sustainable lifestyle;
- To support local people in reducing emissions, and eliminating fuel poverty
- To provide a free home energy survey service
- To assist households and others to implement any recommendations on energy saving measures by giving them suitable and impartial advice and introducing them to appropriate agencies and suppliers
- To train a team of volunteers in surveying techniques, and energy saving and reduction technologies
- To run an education and training programme to promote a local culture of climate care
- To inform the community of national and local policy, and to influence debate
- To work with other agencies and local groups: a) to bring about a reduction in carbon emissions b) to address fuel poverty c) to promote a sustainable life style;
- To campaign on issues in support of the above aims and objectives.

# Review: April 2013 to March 2014-Our Key Activities

- ◆ We welcomed the return of author Mark Lynas who made a presentation based on his latest book in which he advocates the development of nuclear power and GM crops as the only viable means of meeting the world's needs
- ◆ Held the sixth annual Duck Races at Carding Mill Valley with increased participation and additional themed ducks
- ◆ Published and widely distributed our newsletter on 2 occasions, and maintained a lively website, twitter feed and frequent articles in Stretton Focus
- ◆ Made representations on the government's encouragement of fracking and advised that we did not support the releasing of further fossil fuel resources which would contribute to increased climate change. We also made strong representations about the Transparency of Lobbying Bill which originally threatened to prevent our campaigning on energy and climate change issues.
- ◆ We set up arrangements to work with Marches Energy Agency to encourage the take up of funding to improve the energy efficiency of houses through the Energy Company Obligation by local households. However these arrangements fell through because of the lack of funding made available to the scheme following representations made to the government by major energy companies.
- ◆ We made representations to government on the revised arrangements for the Energy Company Obligation and proposed that the arrangements be simplified and adequate funds be made available for the schemes which are publicised. We also advocated that making public funds available for major energy companies to spend to support people in fuel poverty was a mistaken approach as such funds should be administered through a public body.
- ◆ Our AGM was followed by presentations and discussions on electric vehicles and electric vehicle charge points. We announced our intention to secure the installation of a charging point in the town centre car park and coordinated a partnership with Midcounties Cooperative, Church Stretton Town Council and Shropshire Council to achieve that ambition. We also organised an electric car show at Church Stretton School.
- ◆ Supported initiatives to assist households in fuel poverty and in particular arranged for free boilers and secondary glazing to be installed for qualifying households
- ◆ Provided advice to many households on energy efficiency issues through our Household Energy Check (14 completed) and through articles in Stretton Focus, by telephone and email and through a special campaign in Stretton Farm Road
- ◆ Progressed our special project in the Battlefield area encouraging the three similar streets to compete to reduce their energy use.



David Howard with Mark Lynas



Mark Lynas and the audience



Duck Race in progress



Electric cars on show



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
STRETTON CLIMATE CARE

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2014  
Charity no (if any) 1123211

Set out on pages

1 & 2  
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's  
statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below.~~)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Name: LAURENCE DAVID NEWBROOK

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body (if  
any):

Dip Chartered Institute of Bankers

Address:

The Bank House  
Longhills Road,  
CHURCH STRETTON SY6 6DS



Charity Name <b>Stretton Climate Care</b>	No (if any) 1123211
--	------------------------

**CC16a**

## Receipts and payments accounts

<b>For the period from</b>	Period start date 1st April 2013	<b>To</b>	Period end date 31st March 2014
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------	------------------------------------

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	375			375	335
Donations & Fees	441			441	2,645
Local Fund Raising (gross)	296			296	369
Grants					465
Bank Interest	10			10	9
Referrals	400			400	840
Sale of Books					40
					-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>1,522</b>			<b>1,522</b>	<b>4,703</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Electric Bike sale					250
					-
<b>Sub total</b>					<b>250</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,522</b>			<b>1,522</b>	<b>4,953</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Project Worker					
Printing, Postage & Stationery	316			316	544
Accommodation & Rentals	54			54	56
Local Fund Raising	75			75	
Goods & Equipment	385			385	106
Publicity	90			90	720
Insurance	178			178	174
Other costs & Fees	285			285	546
					-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,381</b>			<b>1,381</b>	<b>2,146</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,381</b>			<b>1,381</b>	<b>2,146</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>141</b>			<b>141</b>	<b>2,807</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>17,506</b>	<b>1,850</b>		<b>19,356</b>	<b>16,549</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>17,647</b>	<b>1,850</b>		<b>19,497</b>	<b>19,356</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	HSBC Current Account			
	HSBC Deposit Account			
	<b>Total cash funds</b>		-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		Agreement	OK
			<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Computer Equipment ,Screen etc	Gen Capital		
	Display Boards	Gen Capital		
	Exhibition Equipment	Gen Capital		
	Energy Meters	Gen Capital		
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>C D George</i>	Christopher George		8 May 2014
	<i>M J Hymas</i>	Michael Hymas		8 May 2014

# Stretton Climate Care: Organisation and other Facts

## Finance

We have not been able to gain as much income as previous years as the schemes which we hoped to gain commission on were not able to proceed. We managed our expenditure accordingly so that we continued to slightly grow our balance during the year. However we did committ some £3000 towards the installation of an electric vehicle charge point and this will reduce our balance in the following year unless we are successful in gaining some additional income. It is the policy of Stretton Climate Care to operate as far as possible with a financial reserve equivalent to at least 9 months of our annual expenditure, and we comfortably exceeded that. The Committee receives a Report analysing expenditure and income at each of its meetings and controls expenditure accordingly.

## Charity Name and Number and address

Stretton Climate Care registered charity number 1123211 is an unincorporated association governed by a Constitution adopted by the Steering Group on 21 August 2007 and amended at Special General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 and at the Annual General Meeting on 15th October 2008.

**Address:** Yeld House, 3 Yeld Bank, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6EZ  
email: [info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk)

## Summary of Charitable Objects

for the benefit of the public in the Church Stretton area:

- a) the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment
- b) education about use of energy to reduce or eliminate carbon dioxide emissions
- c) the relief of fuel poverty by promoting the efficient use of energy

## Public Benefit

The Trustees of Stretton Climate Care have had regard to providing public benefit in delivering our services in accordance with advice from the Charity Commission. In particular our main service is to assess and advise on the carbon footprint and energy use of households and provide advice where appropriate on reducing this. This service is provided free of charge to any household in the community and we do our best to give priority to households in fuel poverty. This is in line with our Charitable objects which provide public benefit. We provide subsidiary activities and services, such as environmental films that are either free or subject to a small charge to cover costs. Other activities such as the duck race are intended to attract additional households to our service and although there is small charge for entry, our household advice service is free. Our activities also generate opportunities to advance education about conserving, protecting and improving the environment.

## Trustees

The current Trustees are Michael Bourke, Alison Bradley (Membership Secretary), David Howard (Chair), Chris George (Treasurer), Jon Cooke (Publicity Officer), Mike Hymas (Secretary), Jamie Wrench (Vice Chair and Web Manager) Jane Wrench and Margaret Wright. Our Trustees are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting which is held in Autumn each year.

## Other Information

We are dependent upon our dedicated and enthusiastic Volunteers who undertake all the functions of the organisation. There are no employees. We have joined the national Low Carbon Communities Network and the Green Shropshire Exchange Network of environmental groups in Shropshire. We have carried out a comprehensive audit of risks and taken steps to minimise any significant identified risks.

## Structure of Stretton Climate Care

The Executive Committee is made up of Trustees and makes the key decisions for the organisation. It has delegated many of its responsibilities to the General Management Committee. All Trustees are members of both Committees. In practice, not all Trustees attend every meeting of the General Management Committee.

**Our Volunteers** are an essential element of our organisation. Without them we could not deliver our services. So here we list the names of those who are not Trustees who made Stretton Climate Care effective during the year:

Noel & Suzanne Beatty Wally Blake, Brian Bradley, Isabel Carter, Richard Clements, Ann Cooke, Pat Gregory, Mike Haigh, Trish Howard, David Jandrell, Wendy Lee, John Lloyd, Julie Mellors, Valerie Morris, Ken Smith, Bob Welch, Ken White plus many other occasional volunteers who make our services happen

**We are very grateful for their actions, support and dedication.**



## Our Supporters and Funders

- ◆ We are very grateful to the numerous individuals and bodies who helped achieve our work, especially our volunteers, funders and donors.
- ◆ Some funds arose from commission received from referrals to carefully selected companies, in respect of insulation and solar PV
- ◆ We also received funds and/or support from a number of companies and organisations, including Acorn Café, Acton Scott Historic Farm Museum, Agilent Technologies, Ambercouch, The Bucks Head Hotel, Burway Books, Chocolate Haven, Church Stretton School, Mid-counties Cooperative, Entertaining Elephants, Jemima's Kitchen at Victoria House, Kaboodle, Kate Johnson and The National Trust. We also received donations from a large number of individuals.



**We are grateful to all these bodies and people for their support**



www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk  
email: [info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk](mailto:info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk)  
tel: 0752 849 3181