

Stretton Climate Care Annual Report 2008/9

Stretton Climate Care



Our Mission Statement:

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

Our Aims within the local area:

- To encourage a culture of climate care
- To encourage low carbon, sustainable lifestyles
- To raise awareness of and reduce emissions of other climate change gases
- To encourage households and businesses to reduce energy consumption
- To encourage waste reduction generally and increase recycling
- To reduce fuel poverty
- To encourage local trading
- To encourage carbon offsetting by local people who cannot avoid having higher carbon lifestyles

Introduction to the Annual Report for 2008-9

This was Stretton Climate Care's first full year in operation since becoming a registered charity. We focussed on our main objective to guide and support the local community with the challenges of climate change. We strongly believe that we can put a human face on these issues and assist our neighbours and friends to overcome their apathy and feelings of powerlessness by providing friendly support, positive action and opportunities for open and honest discussion.

Over the past year we have made an effort to engage the community on many different levels. We have been creative in our approach and diverse in our scope in running activities. We are also pleased to have been able to join in with the activities of a number of other like minded organisations.

We are very grateful for the significant support we have received from a large range of bodies and individuals, particularly our volunteers without whom we would not have been able to operate successfully.

Our first Vice Chair, Geoff Hamby passed away early in 2009 after a valiantly fought illness. We miss his incisive input to our work and his positive and cheerful outlook. We are establishing a prize fund for young people in his memory from the donations we have received.

Review: April 2008 to March 2009-Our Key Achievements

We have:

- ◆ Established a weekly Drop-in Information Service. The service alternates between the Church Stretton Market Square and the Mayfair Community Centre and advised 643 people on energy and climate change issues
- ◆ Trained a team of nine volunteers (and more 4 more in training) to provide energy checks to local households and businesses
- ◆ Carried out 170 Household Energy Checks providing personalised advice on energy efficiency which has led to an estimated average of 4% reduction in carbon emissions for those households. Many made substantial savings in cash too. Decided not to engage canvassers for the present
- ◆ Carried out 6 Business Energy Checks which demonstrated how minor changes can reduce overheads and save carbon emissions
- ◆ Hosted an evening with Mark Lynas, the award winning writer and environmentalist
- ◆ Participated in School Activities week with Church Stretton Secondary School when we ran carbon footprinting classes for over 300 students
- ◆ Our membership increased to over 100 members, including 6 local businesses during the year but not everyone re-joined in October .
- ◆ The success of our first Duck Races led to an invitation from the National Trust to be included in their calendar of events
- Organised 16 events ourselves with attendance exceeding 7,251 persons including two movie nights with climate change films by Al Gore and David Attenborough, and an address at our AGM on the world wide implications of climate change by Isabel Carter, until recently co-ordinating editor of Tearfund's International publications.
- Attended and spoke at 25 events organised by other organisations with a total audience of 1,257 people. We attracted 200 people to our stand at the Food Fair with an adapted exercise bike demonstrating how much energy is need to generate electricity.
- Published our quarterly newsletter, highlighting local heroes and keeping our members and the community informed about climate change issues



Market Stall - Church Stretton,



Energy bike at Food Fair



Duck Race Registration



Electric Bike launch



Tee shirt logo competition at Church Stretton School

Further Achievements in 2008-9

- ◆ Provided comments to local government bodies on various issues including the Local Development framework, energy issues and the proposed traffic and environmental enhancements. Campaigned for new developments to be more energy efficient, for example the new Leisure Centre
- ◆ Developed an electric bike hire scheme which was launched by our eco friendly Santas just before Christmas and is managed by Central Garage. This encourages and supports sustainable tourism in our area
- ◆ Supported the successful launch of “Plastic bag free Church Stretton”
- Our Chair Jon Cooke opened his eco friendly home –equipped with solar power and hot water. The success of this 2 day event prompted an encore!
- ◆ Decided not to proceed with a locally based carbon offsetting scheme after considering all the issues raised
- ◆ Kept our carbon footprint and running costs low by reducing our travel and using electronic communications.
- ◆ Enhanced our web site and gained a high media profile in the press and on radio & featured on You Tube.

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.
- ◆ We received grant aid from a private charitable Trust which provided a firm foundation to develop our organisation. This was supplemented by grants from Shropshire Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund, the remaining funding from Nexus and Shropshire Community Fund and a Grassroots Grant administered by the Community Council of Shropshire.
- ◆ Our innovative electric bike hire scheme was grant aided by South Shropshire District Council. We are grateful for the support of Central Garage in establishing and managing this scheme.
- ◆ We also received funds and support from a number of companies and organisations, including Varian-Polymer Laboratories, Acorn Café, Acton Scott Working Farm Museum, Berrys, Bucks Head, Church Stretton School, Coop, Entertaining Elephants, The National Trust, Outdoor Depot, Rushbury School and Titanium Design. We also received donations from a large number individuals and commission from insulation companies.

We are grateful to all these bodies for their support



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector



SUPPORTING PEOPLE
ACHIEVING CHANGE





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	MARCH 31st 2009	Charity no (if any)	1123211
Set out on pages	1-2 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 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:	28th April 2009
Name:	DAVID NEWBROOK		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Diploma Chartered Institute of Bankers.		

IFR

April 2009

Note: Page 2 Provides only the Examiner's address and has not been included in this Report.



Charity Name Stretton Climate Care	No (if any) 1123211
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1st April 2008	To	Period end date 31st March 2009
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Fees	472	-	-	472	385
Donations & Fees	1,143	-	-	1,143	230
Local Fund Raising (Gross)	995	-	-	995	231
Grants	19,000	16,910	-	35,910	7,000
Bank Interest	298	-	-	298	24
Referrals	43	-	-	43	-
Electric Bike Hire	46	-	-	46	-
Refunds	105	-	-	105	-
Sub total	22,102	16,910	-	39,012	7,870
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,102	16,910	-	39,012	7,870
A3 Payments					
Project Worker	9,620	6,400	-	16,020	-
Printing , Postage & Station-	1,284	1,959	-	3,243	414
Market Stall	636	100	-	736	-
Electric Bike Project	-	3,136	-	3,136	-
Local Fund Raising	452	-	-	452	60
Goods & Equipment	960	609	-	1,569	-
Publicity	893	430	-	1,323	466
Insurance	183	-	-	183	168
Film Hire	272	-	-	272	-
Training	180	270	-	450	450
Sub total	14,480	12,904	-	27,384	1,558
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	6,676	-	6,676	2,075
Total payments	14,480	19,580	-	34,060	3,633
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,622	- 2,670	-	4,952	4,237
A5 Transfers between	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year	1,567	2,670	-	4,237	-
Cash funds this year end	9,189	-	-	9,189	4,237

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC Current Account	96	-	-
	HSBC Deposit Account	9,285	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,189	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift Aid Refunds	175	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

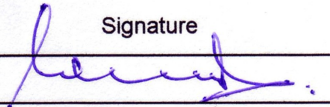
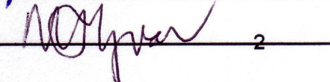
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Computer Equipment , Screen etc	General Capital Fund		-
	Display Boards	General Capital Fund		-
	Electric Bikes	Electric Bike Fund		-
	Exhibition Equipment	General Capital Fund		-
	Plug - In meters	General Capital Fund		-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Chris George	27/04/2009
	Mike Hymas	27/04/2009

Stretton Climate Care—Organisation and other Facts

Policy on Reserves

It is the policy of Stretton Climate Care to operate as far as possible with a financial reserve equivalent to 6 months of our annual expenditure, to ensure that we do not commit ourselves to expenditure in excess of levels we can sustain. We have not been able to achieve that level of reserve at all times because of the difficulties in raising funds. The Executive 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 23rd February 2008 and at the Annual General Meeting on 11th October 2008.

Address: Yeld House, 3 Yeld Bank, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6EZ
email: 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 electric bike hire is another subsidiary service which is intended to conserve the environment and a charge to cover costs of ourselves and the operator is made. Our activities also generate opportunities to advance education about conserving, protecting and improving the environment.

Trustees

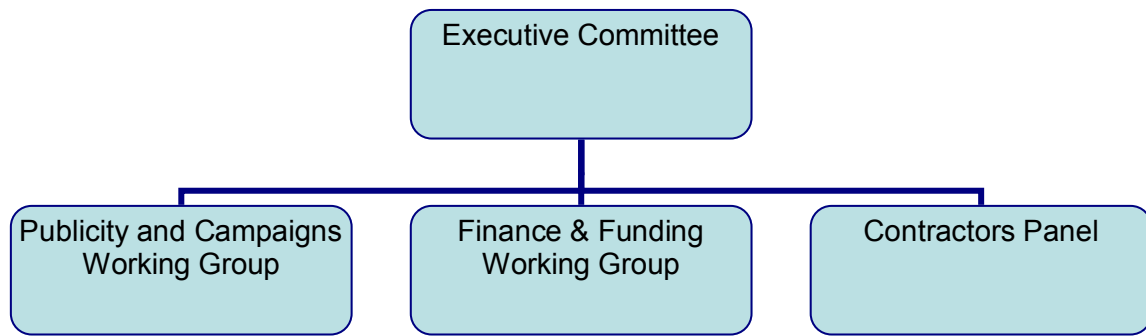
The current Trustees are Michael Bourke, Isabel Carter (Publicity Officer), Jon Cooke (Chair), Rachel Finch-Lees (Membership Secretary), Chris George (Treasurer), , Mike Hymas (Secretary), Peter Ireland, Jamie Wrench (Vice Chair and Web Manager) and Jane Wrench. Our Trustees are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting which is held in October each year. A vacancy for a Trustee remained after the AGM and an appointment of a suitable candidate will be made by the Executive Committee in due course.

Other Information

Julie Mellors has been engaged as a self employed Project Worker and also serves as a volunteer. Geoff Hamby served as a Trustee and Vice Chair until the AGM in October 2008. Derek Smith served as a Trustee until the AGM in October 2008 and as Publicity Officer and Web Manager until January 2009. There are no employees. We have joined the National Low Carbon Communities Network and the Shropshire Council liaison Group for low carbon groups in the county. We are members of the Community Council of Shropshire and have received training and grant advice from that organisation.

Structure of Stretton Climate Care

The Executive Committee is made up of Trustee and makes the key decisions for the organisation. It has delegated some of its responsibilities and is also advised by



Main Role	Main Role	Main Role
To devise, deliver and publicise projects and oversee media and member relations	Prepare and control budget, seek finance, monitor and maintain relations with funders	Advise Executive committee on contractual arrangements with companies
Membership	Membership	Membership
Suzanne Beattie, Wally Blake, Mike Bourke, Jon Cooke (Chair), Rachel Finch-Less, David Gibbons, Neil Hall, Julie Mellors, Jamie Wrench, Jane Wrench, Phil Yates	Brian Bradley, Chris George (Chair), Mike Hymas, John Lloyd	Brian Bradley, Jon Cooke (Chair), Chris George, Mike Hymas, Julie Mellors

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 make Stretton Climate Care effective:

Suzanne Beattie, Meriel Blake, Wally Blake, Alison Bradley, Brian Bradley, Richard Clements, Virginia Clements, Anne Cooke, David Gibbon, Neil Hall, Peter Ireland, Julie Mellors, Derek Smith, Pat Stokes-Smith, Phil Yates



Our Plans for 2009-10

We remain ambitious in our aim to assist our community to reduce carbon emissions and use energy more efficiently.

During 2009-10 we intend to:

- ◆ Continue to provide Home Energy Checks and give advice on cutting energy use and saving money
- ◆ Provide a drop-in Advice Service at the Market
- ◆ Promote a Green Festival at the start of July incorporating a showing of the film " The Age of Stupid" , Green Fayre in The Square on Saturday and an Eco Concert in the evening. We will send a mail shot to our area publicising our events and services
- ◆ Arrange other events including fun activities as well as talks and relevant films
- ◆ Expand our education work with young people
- ◆ Work with National Trust who will distribute a pledge card asking people to indicate their current and future environmental pledges.
- ◆ Provide Business Energy Checks and advise on energy efficiency
- ◆ Give priority support to households in fuel poverty
- ◆ Engage with government bodies on policy and other issues and developments
- ◆ Continue to seek the support of funding bodies to maintain and expand our services.
- ◆ Continue to offer our electric bikes for hire through Central Garage
- ◆ Establish links with sustainable energy installers
- ◆ Continue to encourage our community to reduce its carbon footprint

