

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Greening Supporters,

We end the year with a festive newsletter containing ideas for having a **Greener Christmas** as well as easy-to-access information on **Home Energy Grants** to help keep your home warm and cosy.

Below, are details of our **regular events** this month. The **Community Fridge** continues throughout December, only closing its doors on the the two holiday Mondays (Xmas day and New Years day). The **Climate Cafe** and **Repair Cafe** take a break for December but will return with the usual monthly schedule in January.

Finally a taste of what's to come in 2024 with news of our January **Volunteer's Night** and the very first **Green Drinks** talk of the year.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year,

Geoff & Vicci, Co-Chairs, Greening Steyning

Green Xmas Ideas



Have yourself a greener little Christmas...

We've been sharing ideas on our [Facebook page](#) for making Christmas a little bit greener. Not easy to do when all of the major retailers pressure us to spend in excess to create the perfect Christmas day. We're pleased to say there have been some great suggestions from our members as well as followers on Facebook. Here's a quick re-cap incase you missed any;

1. Organise a secret Santa using www.drawnames.co.uk and have a spending limit for each present. Only buying a single present means you can take much more care and attention in your choice, and it leads to lots of surprises at the time of opening.
2. Agree to buy each other a gift from a local charity shop not costing more than £10.



3. A bit like Secret Santa ... buy a family member a Christmas outfit for the day (that they have to wear) and it must come from a charity shop with a spending limit. You can then donate it back to a charity after. A double winner for charity and lots of festive laughs.

4. Instead of buying decorations made from plastic and glitter, decorate your house with greenery from the garden. Dried flower heads, rose hips, evergreen shrubs, Old Man's beard... Take a little for what you need and leave the rest for wildlife.



5. Wear your Christmas jumpers! Think about the amount of heat generated by cooking Christmas dinner and turn down the central heating accordingly. Spatchcock a turkey to reduce cooking time and don't forget to put the lid on your tatties and sprouts when boiling them to save energy and reduce condensation.

6. Skip the crackers and go crackers with your left over wrapping paper, ribbon and tinsel. Before it goes in the recycling bin, have a competition for who can make the whackiest or most stylish festive hat. Saves on crackers and keeps the troops entertained while they wait for Xmas dinner!



7. Instead of buying physical things, buy tickets to a day out or play, or a voucher that promises to take someone out for dinner. It's something nice to open, always surprises them and gives you both something to look forward to.

8. Last but not least, a suggestion for a good read; Jim Bendell's book "Breaking Together".

Home Energy Help

ENERGY GRANTS CHECKLIST



Scheme	What you can get for free	Eligibility Criteria (both apply)	
		Income related	Home related
Boiler Upgrade Scheme ▶	£7500 towards heat pump	None	House needs to be well insulated
ECO4 Scheme ▶	Wide range of home energy improvements (insulation, solar, heat pump, etc.)	Receiving benefits	EPC of D or worse
Great British Insulation Scheme ▶	Free Insulation (all types)	Either receiving benefits	or in Council Tax band A to D + EPC = D or worse
Warmer Homes Scheme ▶	Up to £25k towards a wide range of home energy improvements (insulation, solar, heat pump, etc.)	Household income under £31k or receiving benefits	Not on gas grid + EPC = D or worse
For more details visit: www.greeningsteyning.org/energygrants			

Everyone loves a freebie: are you eligible for a Home Energy Grant?

Winter is upon us. Energy prices are still sky high. We all know that investing in energy saving steps to make our homes cosier and more energy efficient would make sense. But where do you find the cash to do it?

You'll be pleased to hear that there are some generous government grants available. But they all have different criteria and target audiences, and they keep changing. So finding out if you may be eligible is a bit of a maze.

To make life easier, Greening Steyning has come up with an Energy Grants Checklist which covers the four schemes currently available. It sets out the criteria and shows what you can get for free if you qualify. Understandably, most are targeted at those on lower incomes who live in the draughtiest homes. If this applies to you, or you have friends and family who might benefit, take a look at our freshly updated webpage which has all the info, and details of how

to apply. See: www.greeningsteyning.org/energygrants.

To chat further about the options, come along our next Home Energy Helpdesk at the Bramber and Beeding Village Hall with the Repair Cafe on January 13th, 2-4pm.

Other Local News



Helping to plant hedgerows for nature

Under a crisp winter sky last week, Greening Steyning's Nature Mapping group got to work with helping the Steyning for Trees team planting a hedgerow at Annington Farm.

Steyning for Trees sourced and funded the hedging plants with input from the farmer and carried out the work by way of their amazing team of volunteers. Greening Steyning were pleased to be able to lend a hand on the day. If you'd like to know more about the work of Steyning for Trees you can visit their website here. www.steyningfortrees.com

The farm at Annington had previously taken part in a hedgerow survey conducted by Greening Steyning over the summer - if you are a landowner and are interested to know the state of your own hedgerows via a free survey you can find out more and contact us by visiting this page of our website greeningsteyning.org/project/landscape-and-farming-group

Coming up in December

Weekly - BN44 Community Fridge is running it's usual schedule of Monday evening (6-7pm) and Thursday morning (10-11am) *but will be closed on Xmas Day and New Years Day*. Find out the latest on what's available each day on their [Facebook group](#).



Sat 2 Dec - Farmers Market Recycling Collection - Volunteers will be on hand to take your toothpaste tubes, cheese wrappers and other hard-to-recycle items. To find out everything we take, and what to recycle elsewhere, visit our [recycling page](#).



Mon 4 Dec - Webinar on Regenerative Agriculture - our close partners, the South East Climate Alliance, are running a free online session on regenerative agriculture, called "**How Green is my Xmas Dinner?**". There's five really interesting speakers covering different angles. Starts at 7pm. You can [book here](#).



Looking Forward to 2024



A word cloud centered around the words "Volunteering" and "Volunteer". The words are in various colors (blue, green, yellow, red) and sizes, representing different aspects of volunteering. The words include: Helping, service, socialising, training, skill, time, improve, offer, love, grateful, however, fun, support, local, positive, motivate, opportunity, social, involved, community, impact, generous, happy, feeling, build, development, hope, inspirer, forward, united, human, promote, respect, projects, difference, initiative, tender, activity, treasures, life, thank, worth, talent, quality, altruistic, available, good, and New volunteerism.

New volunteers welcome!

Doors & bar open 8pm

GREENING

STEYNING · BRAMBER · BEEDING



AGM and Volunteer Night

We like to make our AGM a fun event and also all about the people who keep Greening Steyning running - our amazing volunteers!

If you volunteer with us or are thinking about doing so, then do join us on Wednesday 31st January for drinks and discussion. There is no charge for this event but please book a ticket in advance using the link below to let us know you are coming.

[Book tickets](#)



Green Drinks Talk

Our first Green Drinks talk of the year promises to be a fascinating presentation suitable for both adults and 11-18 year olds alike. Sue Walsh will be telling us about the bird ringing work taking place in Steyning and the surrounding areas.

Catching and ringing birds to track their migration patterns is a vital part of bird conservation which benefits both birds and humans. You might be surprised to

know how much of this is taking place locally. Come along to find out more!

Beeding and Bramber Village Hall on Thursday 29th Feb at 7pm. Tickets £3 (free for 11-18 year olds).

[Book tickets](#)



A Final Note - we are keen for our news to reach interested people in the local area. If you know of a friend who isn't on our mailing list yet, would you consider forwarding this email to them to see if they'd like to sign up too? Thank you!

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

Volunteer with Greening Steyning



Copyright © 2023 Greening Steyning, All rights reserved.

Thank you for signing up to the Greening Campaign mailing list. Details of how to unsubscribe are listed below.

Our mailing address is:

Greening Steyning
c/o 2 The Plough
Charlton Street
Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3LU
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

