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Dear Greening Supporters,

We have a particularly eclectic selection of news and events for you this month!

Our March **Green Drinks** explores a topic that many of us once thought was science fiction but is now knocking at the door; the **Promise and Peril of AI**. We are delighted to welcome Calum Chase, a well-known writer and expert in the field, as speaker on this rather scary but important subject.

Next, we shine the spotlight on our **Climate Cafe**. This wonderful group has been running for 4 years. In their article below they tell us how it all works, and what they can offer those with climate concerns.

Create a Buzz! is a brand new project in which we can hopefully engage the whole community! The idea is to encourage pollinators by planting a riot of sunflowers throughout Steyning, Bramber and Beeding. Find out how you can join in below.

And finally, a wonderful new blog; **Making Space for Nature**, written by our Biodiversity Leader, Ronnie Reed, is launching today. See where you can follow the blog below.

Dates for our **regular activities, what's coming up next month** and news from other organisations are listed below.

Best wishes,

Geoff & Vicci, Co-Chairs, Greening Steyning

Green Drinks



AI: Friend or Foe?

The promise and perils of Artificial Intelligence for ourselves and the planet

With Calum Chase; writer, speaker and leading voice in the field of AI ethics and futures

At the Steyning Centre
Wed 25th March
Doors & bar open at 7.30pm
Talk begins at 7.45pm



For Green Drinks in March we are taking a dramatically different tack; we're delving into the promise and perils of Artificial Intelligence. Our speaker is Calum Chase, a well known author and leading voice in the field of AI ethics, who just happens to live in Steyning. He'll be helping us get our head around this daunting but hugely important topic. You can read more about the subject [here](#).

It's on Wednesday 25th March at the Steyning Centre. As usual the doors and bar open at 7.30pm – talk starts at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £5 (*free for students*) Click below to book!

[Get Tickets](#)

About Calum Chace

Calum Chase is a well-known writer and speaker on artificial intelligence. He is author of "Surviving AI: the Promise and Perils of Artificial Intelligence" as well as several science fiction novels. A former journalist, he lives in Steyning for part of the year. He is co-host of The London Futurist podcast and co-founder of Conscium, a start-up company specialising in AI safety.

Our Climate Café



What is the Climate Café for?’ ‘ Saturdays are precious!!’

And yet many, probably most of us, are carrying around worry about the state of the world and there doesn't often seem time, or perhaps 'permission', to discuss what's on our hearts.

Coming to the **Climate Cafe** gives us a space to share our concerns, frustrations or sense of confusion about how the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity is affecting our world. It's a space to share ideas for what we can do, sharing information and activities that we've been up to, or have heard about, that are making a difference.

This year Greening Steyning have adopted the theme of Resilience - and the Climate Café is a place where we can encourage one another to keep on doing the things we are already doing in the face of the crisis, hear about positive things that are happening locally, nationally and globally, because it's not all doom and gloom. Maybe pick up ideas about events we might want to join and generally support one another.

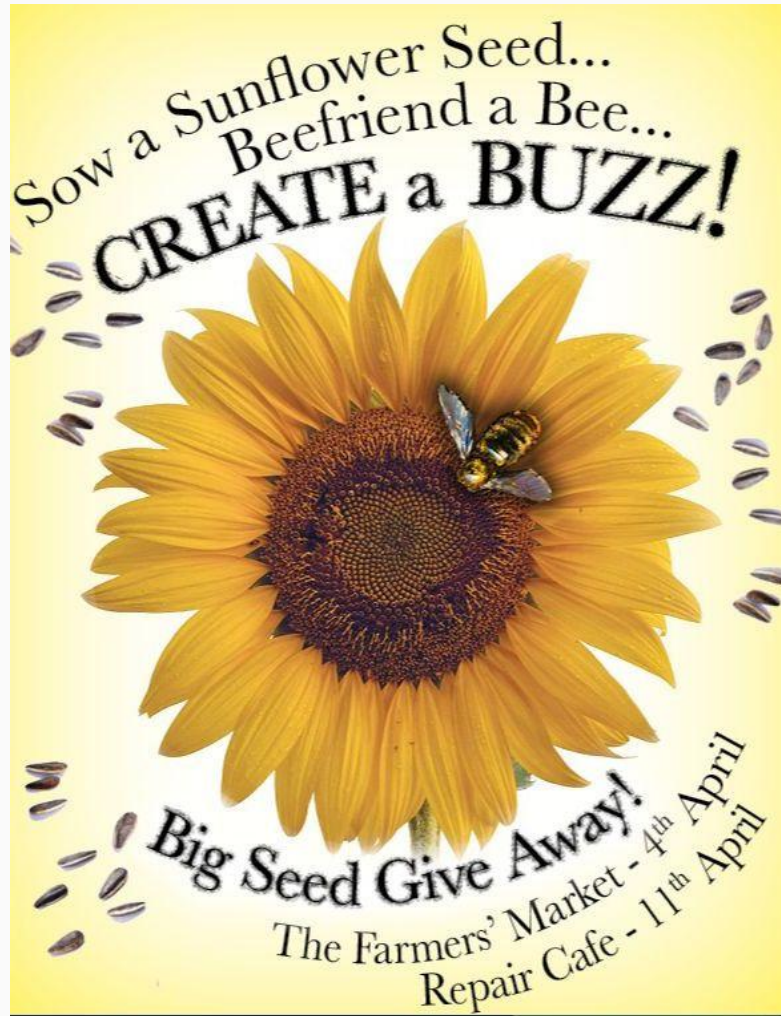
The Café has been running now for 4 years. There is no pressure to attend every meeting. People might decide to only come once to get a sense if its something they would want to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome. We do encourage people to come to the start of the meeting but we also understand that this might not be possible for some people. Over the years our numbers have varied. Our age group has ranged from late teens to 80+

Although it's not a formal meeting, we try to make it a meeting of friends, it is loosely facilitated by one of our team. We encourage a warm atmosphere, where everyone who wants to can have a say knowing that they will be listened to and their views respected. It is a space where people, usually of like mind, can get to know one another and become friends.

**10.30am to 12noon on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Castle Inn
Bramber.**

The Castle Inn kindly gives us their front room to ourselves in exchange for a coffee (pastries are also available with a rumour of cake too...)

Big Seed Give Away!



Create A Buzz!

The Biodiversity Group are ready to launch a new project that we want everyone to join in with. Our aim is to raise people's awareness of the importance of pollinators; like bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, and hoverflies, which pollinate the plants on which we rely; without whom many species of plants and animals would not be able to survive. And without them our supermarket trolleys would be very empty.

The problem is that pollinators are in serious trouble; their numbers are declining dramatically. Urban development and intensive farming have destroyed their habitats. The loss of flower rich meadows and pesticide use have taken their toll and now pollinators are facing climate change.

They need space to survive; gardens full of flowers they can feed from, wildflower rich areas to live in, a pesticide free environment. They need our help and support.

On the **4th April** we have a stall at **Steypning's Farmer's Market** and on the **11th April**, we will be at **the Repair Café** in Beeding where there will be lots of information about pollinators, their decline, our reliance on them and suggestions about how we can help to reverse this situation.

'Create a Buzz' is focusing on bees, but all pollinators are important.

We will be giving away Sunflower seeds for people to sow to attract the bees.

We want to encourage groups and organisations to become involved with the sunflower planting - schools, youth groups, children's nurseries, allotment holders, the parish councils.

Imagine lots of sunflowers on display around our three villages and lots of bees feeding from them!

Come along, grab a packet of Sunflower seeds, and find out how you can make a difference!

Making Space for Nature Blog



Many of you already know our Biodiversity Action Group leader Ronnie Reed. Her life revolves around a smallholding on the outskirts of Steyning where she grew up as a child. There is space for lots of vegetables, sheep, ducks and chickens and, importantly for Ronnie, wildlife. In a fast moving, technological world, she strives to keep things simple and rooted in the natural world surrounding her. And this is something she feels should be shared.

Her new blog is launching this month. It explores our relationship with nature and the many ways in which the climate crisis is having its impact. Lyrical and thought-provoking without shying away from the big issues at stake, we know you'll enjoy hearing Ronnie's carefully crafted thoughts.

We'll be publishing it regularly on our website and also on Substack.

[Read the Blog on Greening Steyning Website](#)

[Subscribe to the Blog on Substack](#)

News from other Organisations



Transition Town Worthing

Spring Fair

Seed Swap, Sow & Grow

Saturday 14th March 2026, 10.30am-3pm

-  **Seeds & Plants to swap or buy:** vegetables, herbs & flowers
-  **Local products:** e.g. dried flowers, soaps, honey, beeswax, jams, chutney, willow baskets, seaweed fertiliser, arts, crafts & more!
-  **Community stalls,** all ages, including climate & nature action, sustainable food, composting
-  **11.30am Inspirational talk with Q&A:** Challenges facing growers today (Dr Steve Millam, Chichester College)
-  **From 12 noon:** Wood-fired pizza slices in the garden
-  **Afternoon talks tbc**
-  **Hot drinks, savoury snacks & cakes**



**Maybridge Keystone Centre,
Raleigh Way, Worthing
BN12 6JD**

Free entry, donations welcome
Bus stop, trains & on-street parking nearby

www.ttworthing.org

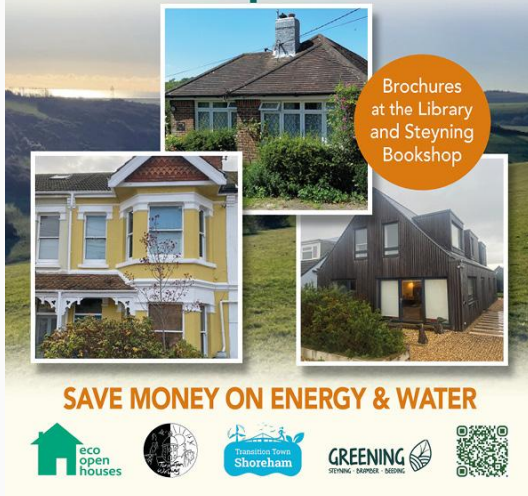


Coming Up Next Month

Eco Open Houses, Gardens & More...

A collaboration between **Transition Towns
Worthing & Shoreham** and **Greening Steyning**

7-19 April 2026



Have you wondered about making eco improvements at home... How much hassle is involved, and will it really save money? Our forthcoming Eco Open House Day will help answer these questions.

This year we're joining forces with Transition Towns Shoreham and Worthing so there will be an even wider selection of properties to view - from house boats to town houses and brand new builds. You'll be able to speak to the homeowners, see the eco-measures up close and find out what prompted them to make these changes, what challenges they faced, and how it's worked out.

Collect a brochure with details of all the houses, plus fringe events, from Steyning Library or Steyning Bookshop.

You can also find details and a pdf of the brochure on the Greening Steyning website; www.greeningsteyning.org/EOH

Our Regular Events

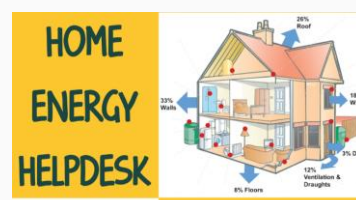
Weekly - BN44 Community Fridge is open Monday evening (6-7pm) and Thursday morning (10-11am). Find out the latest on what's available each day on their [Facebook group](#).



Sat 14 March - Repair Cafe - Beeding & Bramber Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm. For household repairs including electricals, bike repairs & tune-ups, tool sharpening. Tea and cake at the cafe. No need to book in advance. To ask if an item is suitable for repair, email repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org



Sat 14 March - Home Energy Helpdesk - at the Repair Cafe, 2pm - 4pm. Come along and find about how you can make your home cosier, save on bills, or use clean energy. [Book a spot online](#) or just turn up on the day.



Sat 28 March - Climate Cafe at the Castle - Great coffee and a warm, inclusive space to share friendship and support, for those with concerns about the climate crisis. Drop in for a chat - we can meet the future impact of climate change sustainably together. [More details here](#)



GREENING

STEYNING · BRAMBER · BEEDING



A Final Note - please help to share our news with others in the local area. If you know a friend who isn't on our mailing list yet, you could forward this email to them so they can sign up too. Thank you!

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

[Volunteer with Greening Steyning](#)



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