

ZCH January 2024 Newsletter



Help to make our Mission Possible!

Thanks to the support and involvement of our members and volunteers, we achieved so much in 2023. We encouraged thousands of children (and their grown ups!) to leave their cars at home and [Walk to School](#), worked with the Harrogate Bus Company to relaunch [Car Free Fridays](#), held successful [Retrofitting](#) events and trained [Retrofit Coordinators](#), hosted events for school leaders, launched a [Sustainability Advisory Board](#) for local businesses and much more...

With [2023 declared as the hottest year on record](#) and a general election on the horizon, it's more important than ever that we continue to raise awareness of the realities of the climate crisis, engage with local businesses, decision makers and politicians and support our community to achieve a cleaner, healthier and more equitable quality of life.

As a ZCH Member you can help us to continue our mission to make Harrogate and the surrounding area a leading carbon neutral, sustainable district. Read on to find out more...

ZCH News...

Join us on our journey

Member support is invaluable - it helps us fund resources and essential training for our Trustees and Volunteers. For a minimum contribution of £12 for individual annual membership (concessions available), you will receive an invitation to our AGM, monthly newsletter, impact updates, member offers, networking and social events, and have your say on our key priorities. If you would like to join us, please click [here](#). Existing members will receive a polite renewal request this month.



Supporting businesses in sustainability

Our new advisory forum has attracted an encouraging level of interest from the local business community and we are running a taster session in April. If you would like to know more and register your business, click [here](#).



Helping village halls reduce energy bills

ZCH has reached out to 27 Parish Councils and village hall committees across the Harrogate area to share information about energy saving measures, from simple DIY improvements to comprehensive retrofit planning. If you think your local village hall might benefit from this, including finding out about grant schemes, please [get in touch](#).



Harrogate Spring Water development

ZCH is actively engaging with Danone to gain a better understanding of the proposed expansion plans, in particular the impact on carbon capture from the loss of valuable woodland. We will keep you updated.

If you would like to get involved in Save Rotary Wood's campaign, you can find out more [here](#).



Volunteering opportunities in Comms!

Do you have experience in communications - press releases, social media, website management, organising events? If you are able to donate some of your time to helping ZCH, please [get in touch](#) - we would love to hear from you!



Tree Planting Day 🌱 Thursday 22nd February

[Harrogate Rotary Club](#) will be planting 350 trees/bushes at Lee Mires Farm, near Sawley on 22nd February and welcome lots of volunteer support. Please [get in touch](#) if you can help! A further 600 trees are to be planted near Lofthouse on **1st & 2nd March** (to be confirmed). Check our [Facebook page](#) for more details.



FREE tour for ZCH Members at Harlow Carr

As part of RHS Garden Harlow Carr's community engagement work, ZCH Members are invited to a free group visit on a weekday (dates to be confirmed). Wheelchairs & mobility scooters are available and where possible, staff will give talks. If you would like to take advantage of this fantastic offer, [get in touch!](#) Not yet a member? Join [here](#).



Energy Efficiency & Retrofit

Harrogate & Former District
Home Efficiency Survey 2024



Take part in our Home Efficiency Survey 2024

As part of ZCH's [Retrofit Programme](#), residents across the Harrogate area are invited to take part in our home energy efficiency survey. We're keen to hear what residents know about retrofit and what work has been done or is planned to make homes more efficient and reduce bills. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.



North Yorkshire Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)

HUG2 is available to improve efficiency and reduce energy bills for homeowners and private renters. The grant helps to pay for insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and smart heating controls, and is available for homes without mains gas central heating, an annual household income of less than £31,000 or receiving income-related benefits. To check eligibility, click [here](#).

News from North Yorkshire Council

Help shape the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

There's still time to [complete the survey](#) which closes on 12th February. ZCH is drafting a full response which will be publicly available. The UK has very nature depleted land and sea scapes, and this negatively impacts our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Without nature recovery, the climate crisis will not be resolved. We urge our readers and supporters to have a say!



Other News...

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 26-28th January

RSPB reports that 38 millions birds have been lost from UK skies in the last 60 years, and Song Thrushes are down by 80% since the survey began in 1979. Sign up [here](#) to join this year's biggest garden wildlife survey.



Free Trees from Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust are giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Click [here](#) to find out more and apply.



Volunteer Days at Walled Garden

[Living Potential](#) is looking for volunteers to help restore its Walled Garden. From digging and sowing to helping with admin, individual and corporate volunteers can [register](#) for dates in February & March (10am-4pm, lunch & refreshments included!).



People, Planet, Pint - Thursday 8th February

Hosted by Paul Haslam, the next Harrogate Sustainability Meetup is on Thursday 8th February at Cold Bath Brewing Co, 46 King's Road, HG1 5JW. Reserve your spot [here](#).



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