

JABA Winter Newsletter January - March 2022
Newsletter of the St. James' and Bartonsham
Community Association: Feb. 2022

Hi everyone, friends and residents of St. James' and Bartonsham

This is to let you know about upcoming events, to invite you to join us, and to update you on some of the issues that have caused community concern. As ever there seems a lot going on and we have been busy.

Riverpath Tidyup and Litterpick Saturday 26th February
10.30 am with HCCUG

The Community Association (JABA) and Hereford Community Cleanup Group (HCCUG) are organising a litterpick of the local area, and a tidy - up of the Victoria Bridge to Vicarage Road riverside path. There is overgrowth, branches and cuttings to be tidied and bagged up ready for the new growth, and the local area is due a litterpick. Choose your spot to pick: Bishop's Meadow, Castle Green, duck pond etc. **Meet up at Victoria Bridge from 10.30am** Bring along gloves, secateurs and loppers. Litterpicking equipment will be provided or bring your own.



Thursday March 10th 7.30pm
Focus on The Wye Part 2: Online Event



1. What is the Wyeside Project?
Steve Taylor Chair of Hereford Sea Cadets

2. How is the council responding to the Crisis of The Wye?
Clr. Jeremy Milln

Followed by brief Jaba AGM



1, THE WYESIDE PROJECT

This is our second event focussing on The Wye. Steve Taylor, Chair of Hereford Sea Cadets, will take us through this proposed millionpound investment, secured through The Stronger Towns Fund. The Wyeside project

is a significant addition to the Wye infrastructure, affecting the area between the Rugby and Rowing Clubs, The Left Bank and also Bishop's Meadow. It is planned to install pontoons, power points, lighting, new fencing, CCTV, a wider walkway and more.

This event is an opportunity to find out about this ambitious project and to comment on it before the plans are submitted to planners at the end of March.



2. Herefordshire Council's Response to The Wye Pollution

Our ward councillor Jeremy Milln, will also be telling us about Herefordshire Council's response to the Wye pollution.

3. Jaba AGM The event will be followed by a very brief AGM. We would love to welcome new people to the team. Do consider joining us. You can volunteer at the meeting or email prior to it secretary@jaba.org.uk

Zoom Link This will be an online event. Access the event by clicking on the first link below, or via the QR code on the poster (attached with this email), or access it on your phone via the numbers below. These links are also on our facebook page and website.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83557366516?pwd=S2ZKZlYrOU5MUlh1Mi9WK3BDdzVPZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 5736 6516

Passcode: 699864

One tap mobile

+443300885830,,83557366516#,,,,*699864# United Kingdom

+441314601196,,83557366516#,,,,*699864# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 835 5736 6516

Passcode: 699864

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kc19N6syud>

Himalayan Balsam Event Saturday May 14th Bishop's Meadow

Invasive Species Week 14th – 22nd May



JABA is hoping to energise wider action on the Himalayan balsam along Hereford's riverbanks this year by getting more organisations and individuals aware and involved. The AONB are declaring the week of **May 14th – 22nd Invasive Species Week** and JABA is hoping to host a balsam pulling/bashing session on Bishop's Meadow on the morning of **Saturday May 14th**. The riverbank by the gravel beaches is quite gentle and went untouched last year with vast swathes of Himalayan balsam left to seed. We hope it can be a social occasion perhaps with a picnic lunch. Hopefully many of you will come along and join us. Please spread the word and invite others. It can also be an opportunity to litterpick if preferred. Details about Himalayan balsam are available on the AONB website and our own <http://www.jaba.org.uk> site. It is hoped there will be a series of locations for balsam pulling through the week.

Focus on The Wye Part 1: The Wye in Crisis Online Event (January 26th) see www.jaba.org.uk

For those of you who missed our online event on The Wye in Crisis, it was recorded and will shortly be available on our website www.jaba.org.uk. Jaba has been focussed on the crisis of The Wye, via our facebook page, for some time now. It was heartening to hear what the various action groups, Friends Of the Upper Wye (which includes Hereford), the Wye Valley AONB and Friends Of the Lower Wye, are doing to tackle the problems devastating The Wye, both of pollution and invasive species, particularly Himalayan balsam. There are links and updates from these groups on our facebook page St. James' and Bartonsham Community Group (JABA). Jaba will continue to highlight the issue and publicise action that can be taken. Our citywide Himalayan balsam campaign is part of that.

JABA Easter Egg Hunt: Easter Monday April 18th

Following on from the very successful Easter Trail last year, the events team is organising an Easter egg hunt on the afternoon of Easter Monday. More details nearer the time but one for your diary.

Jubilee Celebration June 3rd.

How would you like to celebrate the jubilee as a community? Perhaps this is an opportunity to get together with other community groups and celebrate this significant date. Get in touch with ideas.

St. James' Church Ecohub March 6th, 13th, 16th

St James Church will be transforming a little used area of grass at the church, near the school gate, into a community eco hub. The first stage of this is building raised beds and they are looking for willing volunteers to come and help. They will be building the raised beds from railway sleepers on the 6th and 13th of March, starting at 2pm. Strong volunteers particularly are needed and if you are experienced with DIY and have a saw capable of cutting sleepers please bring this too! On the 16th at 3.15pm (after school) they will be filling the raised beds so bring containers, wheelbarrows or shovels if you have them! There are lots of exciting plans for this space so if you are interested to know more or get involved, you can email Luke from St James' at luke.aylen@spsj.org.uk. The flier, with more details, is attached with this email.

Jaba Update on Community Concerns: Harold Street pavement

The Association has been raising concerns about the lack of a pavement along Harold Street, from Bartonsham Road to Park St. with our councillor Jeremy Milln.



As this is such a heavily trafficked but narrow area, used by buses, cyclists, cars, and pedestrians, especially young children going to the nursery, JABA Chair, David Straker has written to the council on behalf of the Association expressing safety concerns. If you would also like to see a safer route along Harold St please

consider sending an email requesting a footpath to give our councillor, Jeremy Milln, a stronger voice. jeremy.milln@herefordshire.gov.uk. A copy of David's letter is on our website and noticeboard.

Articulated lorries at Cotteswold Dairy



The Association has spent considerable time raising various matters of concern with the new owners of the Dairy over the last six months. A working group headed by Jane Straker, with representatives from the JABA committee, affected parties and Cotteswold Dairy, has discussed the issues of noise and light nuisance on local residents, the danger of

heavy goods vehicles near a primary school, and the use of articulated lorries. The artic lorries come twice a day down Mill Street to the depot at Green St and go back down Green St to exit at Mill Street into Bath Street. These artic are obviously inappropriate in the narrow streets, particularly with a bus route and primary school children walking to school and back. While the vicarage Road site is now quieter, with most vehicles now parked at Green Street, the artic lorries continue in use and at times coincide with the local bus and school times. Although there is a weight limit on heavy goods vehicles in the area, unfortunately it does not apply if you have access rights as these do, and so unfortunately the problem will remain. Furthermore, although the Dairy has changed use from a dairy and bottling plant to a Depot, Herefordshire planning authorities have decided that this is

NOTa change of use and no new planning application is therefore required. So it seems that despite our best efforts we have had some success in reducing noise and heavy traffic in Vicarage Road, and in flagging up the problems, but there is little more we can do about the articulated lorries. However do continue to report any incidents to us so that these can continue to be raised with the owners of the Dairy and with Herefordshire council.

Climate Change & Composting: David and Jane Straker

“What is the connection?” you ask. Well if vegetable waste goes to landfill as it rots in anaerobic conditions it generates methane gas – one of the most powerful greenhouse gases.

Green waste composted by the Council is different. It makes good soil conditioner sold by the Council relatively inexpensively at £2 a bag. This is great to mulch plants with or to add to your vegetable patch. Because the large heaps get very hot the resulting compost is virtually weed free. If you pay for a brown bin then the contents are kept separate from general waste and composted by the Council. **If you buy green composting bags from the Council unfortunately these are not composted but collected with black bin rubbish and added to the general waste.**



If you have a little space in your garden you can make your own compost. Have a look at the Council Website. Type “purchase a compost bin from Herefordshire Council” into your search engine or click this link. <https://getcomposting.com/> The price of bins starts at £22.50. We have 2. They are great if you have limited space. We don’t find it realistic to expect to be able to dig ready-to spread compost from the little door at the bottom of the bin. Ideally when your bin is really full, turn the contents into the second bin. It is important to know that an apparently full bin will settle quite rapidly especially in warm weather so give it a day or two before

deciding it is full to capacity. By the time the second bin is really full the first bin is probably ready to use. With a bit more space in your garden you can make a couple of bins out of old pallets instead.

The council website is useful for advice on what to compost and you will be led to this if you look up purchasing a bin as above.

Time taken to compost

How long does compost take to be ready for use? How long is a piece of string?

Compost will decompose more quickly if:

It is a good mixture of different things, brown and green – if cleaning out your chickens or rabbits add this to the heap

It is not too coarse

It is damp - not wet, so we cover our heap if that is practical but if the compost has been added during a very dry spell we may water it. A dose of discretely applied human urine will speed things up.

The weather is warm.

When it is ready it will have turned brown and begun to look a bit like soil. The original ingredients will no longer be identifiable and it will have shrunk in volume. Homemade compost is ideal for adding nutrients to your garden soil ready for the next crop of vegetables. It will probably contain some weed seed so even when sieved I would not use it to grow seedlings, and to save later weeding it is best used for places where you will be turning it in to the soil and not for mulching perennial crops - plants like raspberries or roses.

If you need to move your compost on to make space for the new stuff to be added but it is still a bit “underdone” one excellent use is to dig a shallow trench under a place where you are going to grow a hungry crop like climbing beans put in a good layer of your partially decomposed compost and cover with soil.

You will most likely also have some coarse woody potential compost that would be best put through a chipper and composted in bigger and therefore hotter piles. In a large garden you can give these hedge clippings and prunings a separate heap and leave them to rot for longer. We share a brown wheelie bin with our neighbour and put such coarse material in it, saving the need to make a trip to the tip to put it in the green waste skip there. Good composting!

JabaCommunity Gardening Group: Nelson Street Car Park

Jaba members spent some time last year weeding, dead heading and planting bulbs in the gardens bordering Nelson Street car park. Watch out for daffodils coming out. It would be good to have a group who would be able to look out for this communal space and help maintain it. Do get in touch if you are interested.

JABA we do hope you will join us at one of our events and follow us on facebook and via our website. We are always in need of more people to share ideas, raise concerns and join the team. Our aim is to work for the good of the local community, to be a forum for discussion of community issues and concerns, and to be a means of bringing people together and making Bartonsham a better place to live. Everyone who is a local resident is automatically a member of Jaba. We are all volunteers and Jaba has no funding stream. If you do want to donate towards running expenses there is a paypal option on our website. Please also join our mailing list. Email: Elaine secretary@jaba.org.uk

**David (Chair) and Jane Straker, Silver Candler, Steve Franklin
(IT/website) Lauren Edwards, Elaine Underwood (Secretary) Paul
Harris (Treasurer)**

Photos:Elaine February 2022