

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2025–26

September 2025 – July 2026  
42 weeks of community climate action

Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes, BN7 2LU  
[lewesclimatehub.org](http://lewesclimatehub.org) | [info@lewesclimatehub.org](mailto:info@lewesclimatehub.org)



# About Lewes Climate Hub

Lewes Climate Hub is a civic resilience platform and network of community groups based at Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes BN7 2LU. We are open to the public Wednesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm, and exist to educate, empower and connect our community in response to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

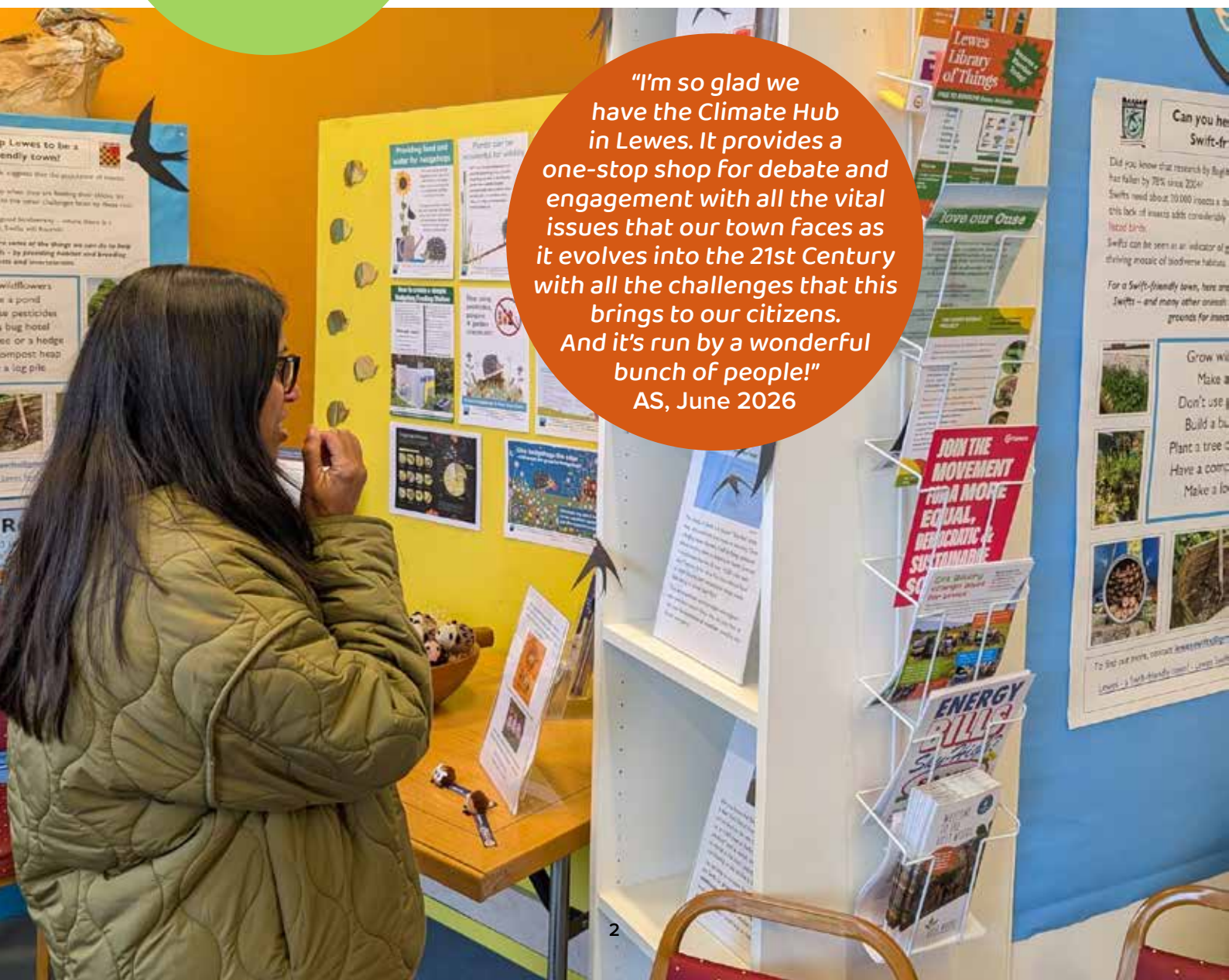
We support climate action, biodiversity recovery, food resilience, retrofit and home decarbonisation, democratic engagement, youth empowerment and community wellbeing across Lewes District — delivered almost entirely through volunteer effort.

In our fourth year of operation, we deepened our programme, grew our partner network to 51 community organisations, expanded our paid team, and cemented our role as a trusted, non-partisan civic space. This review covers 42 weeks of public opening from September 2025 to July 2026.

**Newsletter  
subscribers:  
1,900+**

**Visitor  
Numbers  
(so far):  
1,796**

*"I'm so glad we have the Climate Hub in Lewes. It provides a one-stop shop for debate and engagement with all the vital issues that our town faces as it evolves into the 21st Century with all the challenges that this brings to our citizens. And it's run by a wonderful bunch of people!"*  
AS, June 2026



# Year at a Glance

Partner groups  
in our network

51

Lewes Floods 25th  
Anniversary – visits  
to events

1,200+

Themed  
community  
seasons

9

Stitch &  
Mend repair  
sessions

9+

Total food  
diverted from waste  
(since launch)

936kg+

Partner group  
collaborations  
featured / promoted

60+

Public  
talks, panels  
& Q&As

35+

Weeks of  
public opening

42

Community  
Fridge sessions

50+

Film  
screenings &  
discussions

8+

Total annual  
volunteer hours  
(estimated)

2,700+

Workshops &  
practical skills  
sessions

30+

Climate  
Eco Cafés

9+

# Nine Themed Seasons 2025–26

## September 2025: Heritage Open Days & Hub Reopening

Following the summer break, Lewes Climate Hub reopened its doors on Wednesday 17 September 2025 for another full season of public programming. The month marked the arrival of three new partner groups: People's Park for Nature, The Makers Directory and Green United — three very different but equally inspiring Lewes-based initiatives. A woodland animals craft workshop led by local artist Danoush Lachman welcomed the autumn season. Elsewhere, volunteers joined the Great UK WaterBlitz for the River Ouse, and community protests continued to push for action to halt the Rosebank oil field development.



Each season runs for several weeks, combining exhibitions, talks, workshops and interactive elements to allow residents to explore complex climate and community issues in depth. In 2025–26 we delivered nine themed seasons.

## 1: Food Season: Nourishing Our Community

### October 2025 • part of Good Food East Sussex month

- Apple pressing using local produce from Ringmer Community Orchard and the local community
- Oyster mushroom growing workshops
- Community food panel with Lewes District Food Partnership, local farmers and the Landport Community Café
- Presentation from the Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature & Food Systems at Lewes District Council
- Spotlight on local food insecurity from the Lewes District Food Partnership Pinch Points Project team
- Panel talk filmed and published on YouTube: 'How do we build local food resilience?' — with food policy expert Ronald Ranta, LDC's Emily O'Brien and Ashurst Organics' Collette Haynes

### Other events

- NEW: Talking Rubbish monthly drop-in with Neil Peters, LDC Community & Recycling Engagement Officer, launched
- NEW: Family Swap Shop with Meredith Brooklyn launched (fortnightly) — baby & children's clothing, toys, books

## 2: Floods 25th Anniversary

### November 2025 • in partnership with Lewes Town Council, Friends of Lewes, Love Our Ouse, Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

- Flagship day of events at Lewes Town Hall (1 November) — talks, Lewes Floods Exhibition, Wishworks puppet show, Public Meeting with flood experts. More than 1,200 visits to events across Lewes for the 25th Anniversary.
- Fitzjohns Community Food, Malling Food Bank and Lewes Community Fridge raised over £1,000 for Lewes community food initiatives at the Town Hall events
- Flood resilience sessions at the Hub (8 & 15 November) with Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust: rain-garden planters, surface water run-off, smart water butts

### 3: Christmas at the Hub

**November – December 2025**

- Christmas Crafting with Rustic Tim and Michael — wooden reindeer and snowmen for all ages (22 November)
- Christmas cards designed by Dinah Morgan and Lynda Durrant sold at the Hub (Wed–Sat, £2 each or 6 for £10) and at Lewes Late Night Shopping (4 December). All proceeds to Hub activities
- Furniture Now! Festive Pop-Up (6 December) — affordable pre-loved treasures, badge-making and crafting for the charity's 30th anniversary
- Christmas open Hub with festive food and drink, (13 December) — festive music from young musicians from Starfish and Angels with Attitude community choir, with Christmas cards and seasonal refreshments, nearly 200 visitors!

#### Other events

- Launch of the Lewes Active Peace Group (8 December) — a new inter-faith, non-faith community initiative exploring peace and countering divisive narratives

### 4: 10 New Year's Resolutions to Help Save the Planet

**January 2026 • 14 January- early February**

- Exhibition of 10 personal actions considered to make a real difference on climate change and nature recovery
- Resolution Tree — visitors shared their own ideas for change in 2026
- Coat of Hopes hosted at the Hub (28–31 January) before it continued its pilgrimage to the Isle of Wight and Land's End (more details on Page 8)

#### Other events

- Greenpeace plaque unveiled at Temple House, Lewes High Street by James MacCleary MP, marking Lewes as the former headquarters of Greenpeace International (1982–1989)
- Seedy Saturday stall at Lewes Town Hall (7 February)
- Job advertisements for Social Media Lead and Saturday Hub Helpers — both roles filled by February 2026

### 5: Earth in the Balance — Planetary Boundaries

**February-March 2026**

- Talk: 'Planetary Boundaries: Are We Crossing the Line?' with Bruce Phillips of the Planetary Boundaries Science Lab, Potsdam Institute (12 February). Published on YouTube (1hr 16 mins)
- Planetary Boundaries: 'How Are We Measuring Up?' Talks and facilitated discussion with sustainability consultant Sam Jenner and researcher Scott Donaldson (14 February)
- Film & Lunch: 'Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet' — David Attenborough and Johan Rockström; with homemade soup and facilitated discussion (21 February)
- Talk: 'The Financial Cost of Crossing Planetary Boundaries' with biodiversity & finance research fellow Dougal Fleming (28 February)

#### Other events

- Active Hope 'Work That Reconnects' workshop with facilitator Jas Tribe (14 February)
- Over 100 people attended a Heart Art event at the Hub, making welcome messages for refugees arriving in Crowborough — hosted with Lewes Stand Up To Racism and Lewes Refugee Support Group
- Lewes Climate Hub became an official Bra Bank collection point for Against Breast Cancer charity



## 6: National Emergency Briefing

March-April 2026

- National Emergency Briefing: The Westminster Presentations — five 12-minute expert presentations from the landmark NEB event screened and discussed (7 March). Speakers: Prof Nathalie Seddon (Nature), Prof Paul Behrens (Food), Prof Hugh Montgomery (Health), Lt Gen Richard Nugee (National Security), Prof Tim Lenton (Tipping Points)
- Talk: 'How Ready Is Lewes for Climate Change?' — Matthew Bird, independent consultant, presented findings from a year-long engagement with employers, community groups and heritage site managers (26 March)
- Climate Action! Film Festival: 'The People's Emergency Briefing' — sold-out screening at Depot Cinema, co-hosted by Lewes Climate Hub and Seaford Environmental Alliance, followed by panel discussion with local councillors, leaders and community representatives. Additional screenings were co-promoted across Sussex. (9 April).

### Other events

- Equinox Day — Live music from Starfish Studios young musicians and poetry with Ruth Lawrence (21 March)
- Active Hope 'Work That Reconnects' workshop with Jas Tribe (14 March)
- Together Alliance demonstration, London — Hub supported community engagement to the march against the far right (28 March)
- Great Big Lewes Litter Pick — Organised by Litter Free Lewes as part of the Great British Spring Clean (29 March)

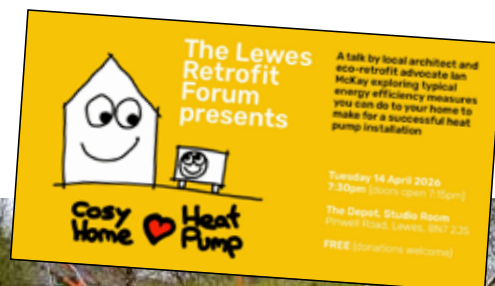
## 7: Defending Democracy

April 2026 • part of the year-long Festival of Democracy across Lewes

- Battle of Lewes: England's first fight for democracy? — Jon Gunson on the 1264 Battle, with Jeff Southgate of the Swords of Albion demonstrating period armour and weapons (11 April)
- Lewes Refugee Support Group stall and information day at the Hub (18 April)
- An update on Local Government Reorganisation in Sussex with Richard Freeman of Sussex and the City, and Paul Wafer, Richard Darton-Moore and others from progressive think tank Compass (25 April)
- East Sussex County Council Elections: How candidates measure up on climate and nature commitments (2 May)

### Other events

- City Nature Challenge walk at Landport Bottom (25 April) with Jan Knowlson, SDNP
- Climate & Social Justice Book Club — open meeting (15 April): a new regular Hub session launched
- Lewes Retrofit Forum at Depot Cinema: 'Making Your Home Heat-Pump Ready' with Ian McKay (14 April)



## 8: A Month of Nature Recovery

May 2026 • 9–30 May a season of events organised and hosted by Lewes Swift Supporters

### Supporters

Celebrating Swifts (9 May): Swift Parade from Linklater Pavilion, Swift exhibition, badge-making, and illustrated talk 'Keep the Skies Screaming!' by Edward Mayer (ticketed, £5). David Attenborough's 100th birthday celebrated

- Hedgehog Day (16 May): woodcraft hedgehogs with Rustic Tim (£1), and talk by Trevor Weeks of ESWRAS on hedgehog conservation challenges
- Wildflower Lewes (23 May): ideas for filling Lewes with wildflowers and encouraging bees and butterflies, with Lesley Healey
- People's Park for Nature (30 May): connecting people, sharing land, restoring the wild — with Dylan Walker
- Lewes Nature Mosaic on display throughout May

### Other events

- NEW: Birth Collective Nurture Hub drop-in launched (Tuesdays from May) — informal family support, play resources, community connection
- Climate & Social Justice Book Club: 'How to Defeat the Far Right' by Nick Lowles (27 May)



## 9: Paths into Nature, Festival of Democracy and more

June–July 2026 Nature & Biodiversity

- Paths into Nature (6 June): maps, walks and cycle routes in and around Lewes for all ages and abilities; talk on creating a Lewes-to-Uckfield Greenway with Nigel Greenwood of So Sussex, Let's Get Moving display from Cycle Lewes
- Lewes Tree Festival Launch at the Hub (13 June): celebrating Lewes as one of only two 'Arboretum Towns' in the UK; woodcraft flowers with Rustic Tim
- Lewes Urban Arboretum Tree Festival (13–21 June) — guided walks throughout Lewes

### Action at home

- Repair Share Eco Fair (20 June, Lewes Town Hall) — co-organised by Lewes Repair Café and Lewes Library of Things: a full day of repairing, sharing and reducing waste, Lewes Climate Hub promoted and had a stall
- Lewes Retrofit Forum: 'Cold Home – Hot Tips' with Rob Whitehead of Net Zero House Ltd (9 July)

### Democracy

- SDNP Local Plan Coffee Morning (10 June): planning expert Andrew Simpson explained the South Downs National Park Local Plan and how to respond before the 23 June deadline
- Talk: Defending the Right to Protest (18 June) — Stuart Chadwick of Greenpeace on restrictions in the Crime and Policing Bill
- Banner-making for the Festival of Democracy (27 June) — artists and makers creating banners for the procession
- Lewes Festival of Democracy procession (4 July) — in partnership with Thomas Paine: Legacy and Lewes Town Council; celebrating the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence and Lewes's connection to Thomas Paine



# Special Events & Public Programming

Beyond the themed seasons, we programme one-off public events bringing expert voices and community convening to Lewes on climate, nature, democracy and social justice.

## Food Fight — Paperback Launch with Stuart Gillespie

**Tuesday 21 April 2026, Caccia & Tails, 176 High Street, Lewes.** A Lewes Climate Hub event at which author Stuart Gillespie discussed his book *Food Fight*, exposing a global food system in the grip of a handful of powerful players prioritising profit at any cost. Gillespie, a veteran of 40 years at the frontline of global food policy, set out how a food system that nourishes everyone could be built.

## The Fight for the Night Sky

**Thursday 14 May 2026, Lewes Climate Hub.** Dr Robert Massey, Director of the Royal Astronomical Society, explained how the sixfold increase in satellites since 2020 — with up to 1 million projected by the mid-2030s — is threatening our night skies, astronomical research and the broader natural environment.

## Tunbridge Wells Climate and Nature Fair

Invited by Tunbridge Wells Climate Action Network, Juliet Oxborrow, a co-director of Lewes Climate Hub, participated in a series of panels and public assemblies exploring if Tunbridge Wells could set up its own climate hub, extending Lewes Climate Hub's expertise to the wider regional climate action community.

*"Outstanding help and collaboration!! Thank you so much Lewes Climate Hub."*  
Gary Janks, on behalf of TW CAN CIC

## Coat of Hopes

Instigated by Lewes-based artist Barbara Keal, the Coat of Hopes is a collaborative community art project carrying sewn-patch hopes from communities across the UK. The coat arrived in Lewes on 4 January for a community welcome and was hosted at the Hub from 28–31 January before continuing its pilgrimage to the Isle of Wight and Land's End.



## Making Your Home Heat-pump Ready

**Tuesday 14 April, Depot Cinema, Lewes.** A Lewes Retrofit Forum talk. Local architect and eco-retrofit advocate Ian McKay explored the typical energy efficiency measures to take in your home for a successful heat pump installation. The *Lewes Home Retrofit Guide*, a 54 page book (joint project with Lewes Climate Hub, Nevill 2030 and Deeper Green) was updated and reprinted by Lewes Climate Hub in 2026, also available free on the Hub website.

## Lewes Floods 25th Anniversary

**31-October-8 November 2025, Lewes Town Hall.** The centrepiece of Season 2: three days of events delivered in collaboration with Lewes Town Council, Friends of Lewes, Love Our Ouse and Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust, attracting more than 1,200 visits. The programme included a day for flood professionals and local decision-makers; the Lewes Floods Exhibition; a Public Meeting with flood experts; a Lewes Floods Public Survey; and a day at the Climate Hub looking at home flood adaptation and mitigation. Over £1,000 was raised for local food initiatives. An official report assessing the themes for flood action that came out of the three days, with recommendations, is being written by a Lewes Climate Hub director.



# Regular Partner-Run Sessions at the Hub

The Hub space is used regularly by partner groups to deliver sessions we co-organise and promote, expanding the support available to local residents throughout the week.



## **Stitch & Mend**

Third Friday monthly

Lewes Repair Café's team of sewists repair garments including zips. Free drop-in, donations welcome.



## **LDC Waste & Recycling — 'Talking Rubbish'**

First Thursday monthly

Neil Peters, LDC Community & Recycling Engagement Officer, answers questions on household waste and recycling. Free food waste caddies and liners available.



## **Birth Collective: Nurture Hub**

Weekly (Tuesdays from May 2026)

Informal drop-in for families with babies and young children. Community support, play resources, tea and coffee.



## **Family Swap Shop**

Was fortnightly (Fridays) finishing in February 2026

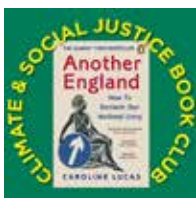
Hosted by Meredith Brooklyn. Baby & children's clothing, maternity wear, toys, books and small family equipment. Free — donate items on the day.



## **Climate Eco Café**

Second Wednesday monthly

Facilitated by Jack Broadley and Guy Gladstone of the Climate Psychology Alliance. Safe, supportive space for eco-anxiety and emotional resilience. Free.



## **Climate & Social Justice Book Club**

Monthly (launched April 2026)

Community-led reading group exploring climate and social justice. Open to all. Free, donations for refreshments welcome.



## **Lewes Retrofit Forum**

Regular meetings

Hosted with OVESCO. Talks and networking on heat pumps, energy efficiency, open eco-home tours and home decarbonisation.



## **Citizens Advice: Advice & Digital Drop-in**

Monthly (from June 2026)

NEW. Free advice on benefits, housing, debt and employment, plus digital help and free mobile data packages — Advice+Digital outreach service.

# Civic Engagement & Democracy

Lewes Climate Hub believes that climate action cannot be separated from democratic participation. We create regular, accessible opportunities for residents and community groups to engage directly with elected representatives and public services.



## MP Forums with James MacCleary

We hold bi-monthly meetings with our local MP, James MacCleary, to which our partner groups are invited. These sessions create a direct and accessible channel for community organisations to question their elected representative on climate, nature and social justice. Meetings held during this period included October 2025 (covering nature, climate, peace campaigning) and February 2026 (climate and environmental action). Both meetings were written up and published on the Hub website.

## Constituency Surgeries at the Hub

James MacCleary MP has held two constituency surgeries at the Hub — making the Hub a trusted, neutral space for the community to access democratic support.

## Citizens Advice — Advice+Digital (New, June 2026)

From 15 June 2026 we launched a new partnership with the Advice+Digital outreach service of the local Citizens Advice Bureau. This monthly drop-in brings frontline welfare advice, housing support, debt guidance and digital inclusion directly into the Hub. It connects climate and community resilience with practical everyday support, and we hope to make it a permanent regular fixture.



## Official Welcome Space during Winter

Lewes Climate Hub is listed on the Lewes District Council Welcome Space directory. Welcome Spaces are safe, warm, non-judgemental spaces where local people can:

- Sit and be warm
- Study or work on your laptops (with access to Wi-fi)
- Have a hot drink
- Be with company
- Access advice OR information / signposting to advice on debt, bills, benefits and food

*What an amazing collective!!  
Brilliant talks, and a warm  
welcoming space!*  
WM, April 2026

## Broader Civic Participation

The Hub also facilitated community engagement with:

- South Downs National Park Local Plan consultation — coffee morning (10 June) with planning expert Andrew Simpson
- Local Government Reorganisation — information and consultation events throughout the year with councillors, progressive political think tank Compass and LGR discussion platform Sussex and the City.
- East Sussex County Council elections: candidates' climate credentials display (2 May, ahead of 7 May elections)
- Together Alliance demonstration against the far right, London (28 March)
- Air quality plan responses and Climate & Nature Bill advocacy
- Lewes Active Peace Group — launched at the Hub in December 2025; new inter-faith, non-faith community initiative
- Anti-racism solidarity events: SUTR Heart Art session (100+ participants), Love Music Hate Racism gig
- Rights of Nature: River Ouse Charter gained further council backing (Hamsey Parish Council, December)
- Promoting public consultations on local planning and other issues and national campaigns through the monthly online newsletter

# Community Fridge & Food Resilience

Sessions  
this year  
**50+**

The Lewes Community Fridge, open every Saturday 10.30am–12pm at the Town Hall, is one of the Hub's most tangible contributions to community resilience — tackling both food waste and cost-of-living pressures.

The Community Fridge is embedded in a broader food resilience programme including our Food Season, partnerships with Lewes District Food Partnership, Landport Community Garden, Ringmer Community Orchard and Greencuisine Trust, and connections to Fitzjohns Community Food and Malling Food Bank.

Supported by Lewes Town Council.



Money raised  
for community  
food initiatives at  
the Floods events  
**£1,000+**

Total food  
diverted from  
waste (since  
launch)  
**936kg+**

## Artistic Response to the Climate Emergency

Art, craft and creativity are woven into the fabric of what we do at Lewes Climate Hub. We believe that artistic expression opens doors that facts and figures sometimes cannot — building emotional connection to the natural world and to each other. During 2025–26 this took several forms: a woodland animals craft workshop with local artist Danoush Lachman, poetry, live music and seasonal celebration marked our Spring Equinox Day. We hosted the Coat of Hopes — a remarkable travelling community art project stitched with people's climate hopes from across the UK — and supported banner-making for the Lewes Festival of Democracy. Starfish Studios young musicians and the Angels with Attitude community choir brought music to our Christmas and community celebrations, while a Songs of Freedom songwriting competition invited people of all ages to express what democracy and a liveable future mean to them.



# Engaging Families and young people

Lewes Climate Hub is for the whole community — including its youngest members. We actively design our programme to welcome families and create entry points for children and young people into climate and nature themes. Hands-on craft runs through our seasons: families have made wooden wildlife with woodland craft expert Rustic Tim (hedgehogs, reindeer, snowmen and flowers), crafted Swift badges, built bug hotels and created wildflower art. The Wishworks puppet show at our Lewes Floods 25th Anniversary events brought the story of flood resilience to life for younger visitors, and live music from Starfish Studios young musicians has featured at seasonal community gatherings. The Birth Collective's Nurture Hub — launched at the Hub in May 2026 — extends this welcome to families with babies and toddlers. Through our partner group Green United, Lewes's primary and secondary schools are represented in our network, and we promote NatureLinks — the Railway Land Wildlife Trust's youth action programme to our network.



## Growing Our Team

The Hub expanded its paid team in early 2026 to support growing demand and reduce pressure on core volunteers.

### New Roles Recruited — February 2026

- Social Media Lead (7 hours per week) — leading weekly output across Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and YouTube, including post and video creation and audience growth.
- Saturday Hub Helpers (bank of paid helpers) — supporting public-facing Hub operations on Saturdays, liaising with the public and event guests, and improving weekend resilience.

These posts were advertised in the January 2026 newsletter and filled in February. They complement the existing part-time Coordinator role and free up core volunteers to focus on strategic and community-building activities.

### Social Media Standout Statistics since Recruitment:

**Facebook Views** (The number of times that our content was played or displayed. Content includes reels, posts and stories)

+300%

February to May  
12,784 → 51,745

**Instagram Accounts Reached**  
+590%

February to April  
642 → 4,434

**LinkedIn Engagement Rate**

14.6%

April

Well above the average industry  
2–5% benchmark

Facebook  
views

**+300%**

Instagram  
accounts  
reached

**+590%**

LinkedIn  
engagement  
rate

**14.6%**

# Volunteer & Staffing Overview

Almost everything delivered by Lewes Climate Hub is made possible by volunteer effort. The Hub model — skilled volunteer leadership supported by a small amount of paid coordination — delivers exceptional value and genuine community ownership.

## Core Management Team

Six core volunteer managers, including all directors of the CIC, provide strategic direction and operational delivery across all activities, contributing approximately 42 hours per week — 1,764 hours per year (over 42 operating weeks). Functions include content creation, event planning, monthly newsletter production, graphic design, website management, biodiversity expertise, HR, partner group coordination, finance, accounts and fundraising.

## Hub Volunteer Helpers

Opening hours are staffed entirely by volunteers: one per day, four hours per shift, four days per week — 16 hours per week, 672 hours per year. The pool includes four regular weekly helpers and eight reserve helpers who also support major events, leaflet distribution and street engagement.

## Student & Graduate Volunteers

Approximately three students per year contribute 30–40 hours each (≈105 hours/year) on project placements. Projects have included flood event report collation, transport survey analysis and community engagement research. In 2025 we hosted a French exchange student from our twin town of Blois (12 hours).

## Partner Group Volunteers

Around 10–12 events per year involve partner group volunteers working within the Hub, contributing an estimated 180 hours per year of additional community volunteer time.

## Paid Staff

A part-time Coordinator works 12 hours per week over 42 operating weeks (504 paid hours/year), covering Hub operations, partner liaison, administration, marketing, event logistics and team support. From February 2026, a Social Media Lead (6-7 hours/week) and a bank of Saturday Hub Helpers join the paid team, expanding capacity and improving Hub resilience.

### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

| Role                                 | Annual Hours | Notes                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Core Management Volunteers           | 1,764        | 6 volunteers × 42 hrs/wk × 42 wks         |
| Hub Opening Volunteers               | 672          | 1 volunteer/day × 4 hrs × 4 days × 42 wks |
| Partner Group Volunteers             | ~180         | ~10–12 events/year at the Hub             |
| Student & Graduate Volunteers        | ~117         | ~3 students × 30–40 hrs each              |
| TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS                | ~2,733       | Community-powered delivery                |
| Paid Coordinator                     | 504          | 12 hrs/wk × 42 wks                        |
| Social Media Lead (from Feb 2026)    | ~125         | 5 hrs/wk × 25 wks                         |
| Saturday Hub Helpers (from Feb 2026) | variable     | Bank of paid helpers                      |

Lewes Climate Hub delivers over 2,700 hours of volunteer time annually, demonstrating exceptional community ownership and outstanding value for funders and supporters.

# Partnerships & Community Network

Lewes Climate Hub is built on partnership. Our network of 51 local community and volunteer organisations covers climate, nature, food, transport, democratic engagement, health and social justice — promoted through our monthly newsletter (circulation 1,900+), Hub displays and co-programming.

All our partner groups are profiled on our website here:  
<https://lewesclimatehub.org/partner-groups>

## New Partners Welcomed This Year

- **Pells Pool** — Britain's oldest continuously operating public outdoor swimming pool (welcomed April 2026)
- **Lewes Birth Collective** — holistic support for pregnancy, birth, postnatal and early parenting (welcomed April 2026)
- **People's Park for Nature** — network of green and blue spaces in the Lower Ouse Valley (welcomed September 2025)
- **The Makers Directory** — free hyper-local online directory of Sussex artists and makers (welcomed September 2025)
- **Green United** — youth climate group representing all Lewes primary and secondary schools (welcomed September 2025)
- **Diversity Lewes** — anti-racism, community cohesion and cultural events (joined February 2026)

The 2025–26 year has confirmed the Hub's role as more than an event space. We are a civic resilience platform — connecting residents, community groups, elected representatives and public services around climate, biodiversity, democracy and wellbeing.

**51**  
partner groups  
across Lewes  
District

**Multiple**  
partner groups  
hold regular  
sessions at the  
Hub

**Partner**  
reps invited to  
bi-monthly  
MP forums

**Monthly**  
newsletter  
promotes all  
partner activities  
to **~1,900**  
subscribers

**60+** partner  
group collaborations  
featured or promoted  
during the year

# Looking Ahead: 2026–2027

## Programme Priorities

- Climate adaptation and resilience – helping to enact the recommendations of the Lewes Floods 25th Anniversary Report, continuing to partner with councils on community engagement and preparedness, using the People’s Emergency Briefing film as a public engagement tool for action
- Food & Farming season (October 2026) — local farms (local & seasonal eating), regenerative food, food as medicine, food security
- OVESCO: Electric Revolution season (November 2026) — decarbonisation, decentralisation and community energy
- ‘More Trees for Sussex’ season with Laughton Greenwood (November 2026) — ancient woodland, tree planting and biodiversity partnerships
- Continued Repair & Reuse programme, building on the Repair Share Eco Fair and Stitch & Mend
- Deeper retrofit and energy advice delivery
- Promoting youth climate leadership, including through partner groups Green United and NatureLinks
- More events that encourage artistic responses (art, poetry, music, literature) to the climate and biodiversity crisis

## Operational Priorities

- Secure long-term funding stability
- Welcome new partner groups
- Include more events where people are encouraged to engage with the climate and biodiversity crisis through artistic expression such as painting, literature, poetry, song
- Embed the Citizens Advice Advice+Digital partnership as a regular monthly session
- Strengthen flood resilience education ahead of winter
- Increase community engagement with the SDNP Local Plan and Sussex local government reorganisation

# Our governance structure

Lewes Climate Hub is a community interest company (CIC) incorporated in October 2021. Our registered directors are:

**Jane Carpenter** (25 October 2021) – Strategy and Finance

**Juliet Oxborrow** (16 October 2022) – Strategy and Marketing

**Dinah Morgan** (2 August 2022) – Strategy and Community Engagement

Other members of the core management team are: Charlotte Wilson (Hub co-ordinator), Lynda Durrant (design director), Audrey Jarvis (strategy and nature and environmental programming) and Ann Link (energy retrofit).

The management team attend a weekly meeting to agree short to medium-term planning and Hub programming.

Regular events and surveys are used to engage with the Hub’s partner groups and other stakeholders, with a dedicated GoogleGroup for all partner groups to communicate with the Hub and each other.

Alongside the annual review, ad-hoc reporting is also provided to funders as required.



*Image: Audrey Jarvis - with apologies as she's not in the team photo!*

## The Valuing Community Mapper

This ‘value intelligence report’ attempts to put a monetary value on the ‘invisible value’ of engaging communities and nature. It is not yet an exact science (still in beta version) but looks from a number of lenses to find outcomes that do have a measurable value to funders, local authorities and decision makers so they can understand the worth to the wider community of a project such as ours – Lewes Climate Hub!



[View with QR](#)  
[or click here](#)

Thank you to every volunteer, partner group, funders and visitors who made our 2025–26 programming possible.

