



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Museum of Bath at Work - 5pm, 16 May 2025

Present - Trustees:

Mel Clarke - Chair John Leach - Treasurer Sue Poole - Secretary Natalie Bennett	Mandy Lake Grace Wiltshire Apologies: Carmen Jones
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Members attending:

Alex Bell Stuart Burroughs Steve Clarke Anne French Marjorie Gibbon Barbara Gordon Justine Glynn Nick Hales Caitlin Lorenza Emily Malik	Lin Patterson Sonia Ryan Pete Sanderson Dave Searby Sally Searby Antony Simpson Ryan Spencer Kevin Stephens Claire Stuart Cllr Sarah Warren
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Additional attendees:

Breda Kingston Maike Albus Sara Grimes Mark Radley Betty Suchar Wendy Rachael Wells (Coordinator)	The Right Worshipful Mayor Cllr Michelle O'Doherty Cllr Ruth Malloy
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1. Welcome

Mel Clarke, Chair of Climate Hub welcomed The Right Worshipful Mayor, Councillor Michelle O'Doherty to our second AGM and thanked her for attending. She also thanked Stuart Burroughs and the Museum of Bath at Work for once again hosting our AGM, and welcomed Climate Hub members and other attendees.

2. Chair's Report

Mel Clarke presented her report to the AGM, which meets our annual responsibility as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to have our members and supporters oversee the operations and finances of Climate Hub BANES.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support during the past year which has seen Climate Hub achieve so much together, none of which would have been possible without the

incredible dedication of our volunteers, staff, and supporters who have been the heart and soul of everything we do.

Mel introduced and thanked the trustees for their hard work, commitment and creativity, and highlighted some of the key ways in which Climate Hub had strengthened its role as a hub for climate and nature action in the region. Key events and activities included:

- Participation in the Bath College Sustainability Fair
- Hosting a stall at the Festival of Nature on Milsom Street
- Engagement with new students at the Bath Spa University Welcome Event
- Secondhand September Clothes Swap at The Grapes
- Representing the Hub at the Peasedown St John Green Day
- Supporting the Peace & Climate Justice Event
- Hosting regular Climate Cafés
- Monthly Craftivism Sessions
- Delivering a Climate Fresk Workshop for volunteers
- Coordinating Compassionate Communication Training led by Elia De Matteis

These initiatives helped raise awareness, build local networks, and engage diverse audiences in climate and environmental action.

Mel also highlighted 2 major milestones during the year:

Firstly, the employment of our first paid team member, Rachael Wells, with the generous support of the PAR Trust, in July 2024. This marked a significant step in our organisational development. Rachael had brought valuable skills, helping us to:

- Develop our vision and strategic goals
- Strengthen relationships with partner organisations
- Manage social media and digital communications
- Support the redevelopment of our website

Secondly, opening the Climate Hub at Bath Bus Station In November 2024. Thanks were due to First Bus who welcomed us and facilitated the use of the space, and in particular we are grateful to Thomas Hughes and all the staff at the Bus Station. This launch was supported by grants from Awards for All and Bath & West Community Energy , which enabled us to decorate, plant, and equip the space appropriately. In addition, we are grateful to Quartet Community Foundation who arranged pro-bono legal assistance to negotiate a Tenancy At Will agreement. The Hub was featured on the BBC and is now regularly open from Tuesday to Saturday, offering a consistent and welcoming presence in the city centre for climate and nature conversations, community events, and information sharing.

Mel highlighted how Rachael has supported our campaigning work, making a huge impact, and helping us to establish this public-facing one-stop-shop for climate and nature actions.

Campaigns have included:

- Small Changes, Big Differences – with monthly themes encouraging everyday climate actions
- Sustainable Fashion Week – highlighting the impact of fast fashion and promoting alternatives
- Veganuary – sharing resources and recipes to promote plant-based choices
- Greener Christmas – offering low-impact, festive ideas
- Mend It May – focusing on repair culture and waste reduction These campaigns have broadened our reach, strengthened community partnerships, and inspired collective action on a local scale.
- International Women's Day - inviting our community to nominate local women taking big steps to support nature and climate action. We celebrate and honour these people making such a difference.

In summary April 2024 to March 2025 has been a year of growth, connections, and exciting milestones. We are very grateful to our supporters, members, volunteers, funders and partners, without whose support this would not have been possible.

Lin Patterson proposed and Dave Searby seconded that we accept the Chair's report of the year. This was confirmed by a show of hands from members.

3. Financial Report

John Leach, Treasurer for Climate Hub presented the accounts for the year April 2024 to March 2025 for Members consideration. These showed an income of £10,816 against expenditure of £21,651. However, funds stood at £50,65 at the end of the year, thanks to donations and grants received in the previous year. The principal costs in the year was commencing paying for Rachael's position, in addition to costs incurred in fitting out Hub premises at the old ticket office.

It will be important in the coming year to focus on fundraising and income generation.

The full Annual Accounts were available in hard copy for members.
There were no questions for the Treasurer.

Sarah Warren proposed and Maike Albus seconded that we accept the Treasurer's Report. This was confirmed by a show of hands by members.

4. Plans for the future

Grace and Rachael also acknowledged our volunteers who are core to all our work and also First Bus for the use of the bus station space. They highlighted that we would be collecting ideas for our future strategy after the formal close of the AGM through an 'ideas board', and we would also be seeking feedback from partners and members to understand gaps that we could help to fill.

Volunteering opportunities
We will be looking to:

- extend volunteer roles in the future to include for example, to engage with early years education, young people or with adults in particular areas
- To widen roles to outreach, talks, stalls and workshops to enable us to attend more of the events we are invited to.
- widen our pool of volunteers to include different demographics, such as young volunteers and will be working with partner organisations to make this happen.
- We would also like to invite a young person (over 18) to join our Trustees.

Our aim is to reach wider communities and to work with groups such as refugees and neurodivergent groups and to generally increase our reach into the wider area of Bath and North East Somerset. As funds permit we will look to expand staffing opportunities.

It is already and will be important for us to measure the input of what we are doing through our social media, the imminent website, figures of those physically in the actual Climate Hub and the numbers we reach through public engagement.

We want to make sure that the Climate Hub is easy to access by the community and that we respond to local challenges and meet local needs.

We are looking forward to beginning many more conversations regarding the climate and nature in the year ahead with your help.

5. Minutes of the AGM held on 11 May 2024

The minutes of the AGM held at the Museum of Bath at Work on 11 May 2024 were shared with members, and Sue Poole, the Secretary invited members present at last year's AGM to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

Lin Patterson proposed and Grace Wiltshire seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on this date. This was confirmed by a show of hands from members.

6. Election of Trustees

The Secretary reminded members that the constitution of Climate Hub requires one third of trustees to stand down at each AGM subsequent to the first AGM at which all trustees stood down. Additionally, any trustees appointed during the year were required to stand down at the AGM in order to give members the opportunity to determine whether they should be elected as trustees and complete their term of office.

Sue Poole and Mandy Lake stood down from the Board to meet the requirement for one third of Trustees (or the nearest number) to stand down and Grace Wiltshire also stood down as she had been appointed during the year by the trustees. All expressed their willingness to put themselves forward for immediate re-election.

Marjorie Gibbon proposed and Breda Kingston seconded that Sue Poole, Mandy Lake and Grace Wiltshire be re-elected as trustees. Members accepted by a show of hands and the following people were reelected as trustees:

**Sue Poole
Mandy Lake**

Grace Wiltshire.

Mel Clarke invited anyone interested in becoming a trustee to speak to her or one of the other trustees. The Board was especially keen to hear from younger people who might be interested in becoming a trustee.

7. Question and Answer session

Members raised a number of areas of interest and questions including:

- Suggestion that we support the request that the council make a positive response to the recent 'Ocean' film which highlighted the impact on the marine environment to practices such as 'bottom dredging' for farming scallops and other fish
- The Hub could also include the book (by David Attenborough) in the library
- The potential for the Hub to input into the Food strategy - led by council's public health team with scope for voluntary and community sector involvement
- Any support and advice to encourage community members to add tubs of plants flowers to their local areas
- Opportunities for members to get involved in developing strategy
- Value of having ambassadors in areas across BaNES if its possible to find out about gaps in terms of support and advice
- Support for regular craftivism sessions at the Hub

8. Thank you and Close of AGM

Mel Clarke thanked everyone for being part of the Hub and for attending our second AGM and Stuart and the Museum of Bath at Work for hosting. Everyone was welcomed to stay for refreshments and networking.