



Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the year ending 31.03.24

Contents	Page(s)
Steering Group report	3-13
Statement of financial activities	14-15

Steering Group report

Steering Group Members

Name	Position	Dates
Sarah Wiltshire	Co-ordinator	Current
Ian Orton	Secretary	Current
Paul Cochrane	Treasurer and Transport Lead	Current
Vacant	Assistant Treasurer	Current
Ray Hill	Membership Secretary	Current
Barry White	Member and Communications Lead	Current
Melanie Fryer	Member and Food Lead	Current
Andrew Pease	Member and Biodiversity Lead	Current
Energy Group	Energy Lead (shared)	Current
Richard Boothman	Member	Current
Elizabeth Smith	Member	Current
Keith Waterson	Internal Auditor	Current

Registered address at 31.03.24:

Lower Moss Cottage, Keasden, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8EU

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

Insurers

Zurich for Public Liability and Employer's Liability (covering volunteers)

Website

Impress – ACE is registered with Impress for press regulation

Structure, governance and management

Action on Climate Emergency, Settle and Area, (ACE) has a Steering Group, elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Steering Groups consists of:

- Co-ordinator;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer;
- Assistant Treasurer;
- Membership Secretary; and
- Up to 10 ordinary members.

The Steering Group has the power to:

- co-opt additional members for specific tasks;
- set up working groups

as required.

The Steering Group meets (in person or via video conferencing) at least 8 times each year. Each meeting runs to an agenda and notes are made of key actions.

The Steering Group makes sure that ACE:

- works to its constitutional objectives and methods, including financial management;
- undertakes forward planning; and
- runs regular events to involve its members.

There are role descriptions for the Officer roles. To make sure the organisation has the skills to implement and develop its work, the Steering Group keeps a skills audit of its members.

ACE has 5 themed groups:

- Biodiversity;
- Energy;
- Food;
- Transport; and
- Communications.

ACE is a membership organisation with members encouraged to participate in one or more themed groups to match their specific interests. Each themed group has a lead member who reports regularly to the Steering Group about the group's activities.

Two members' meetings are held each year, one being the AGM. The Steering Group reports to each of these meetings. ACE also has a number of supporters interested in our work, some of whom also go onto becoming members, though encouraged this is not a requisite for getting involved with ACE.

Membership is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the objects of ACE, whatever their age, upon payment of an annual membership fee. Recommended levels of membership fee and any concessions are put forward by the Steering Group to the AGM where they are agreed by the membership. As at 31.3.24, there were:

75 members, comprising
74 individual members; and
1 organisational member).

ACE has safeguarding and photography statements, a privacy policy and a complaints procedure in place. All current statements and policies are reviewed annually at April's Steering Group or as soon as practical after the start of the new reporting year.

The organisation's objects

Extract from the constitution:

- a) ACE is a community campaign group covering Settle and Area.
- b) ACE is action-orientated to campaign on the Climate and Ecological Emergency and on making a just transition to a sustainable net zero carbon community.
- c) To campaign on the Climate and Ecological Emergency, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

- d) To promote education and awareness on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Principal activities of ACE (1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024)

Green Cafes, presentations, displays and exhibitions and AGM

12 Green Cafes have been run over the year, with 25 or more people regularly attending and as many as 40 for some of our speaker events.

Cafes are an opportunity for members and supporters to meet for refreshments and to talk about topical issues related to the climate emergency. Members are encouraged to share their experiences and learn more about a range of issues.

Some of these events included presentations, often related to initiatives that we can take or that are already underway. Specific presentations and discussions were as follows:

May – members participated in Greenpeace’s [‘Big Plastic Count’](#). This gathered data to show how much single use plastic we are all using. The output from the count was a call for the government to cut this by 50% by 2025.

June – our [‘Great Big Green Week’](#) feature was a presentation about the importance of soil health from Martyna Krol. Martyna took us through some facts about soil, what makes it alive and abundant and how soil can help us to grow more nutritious food; along with how to adapt our gardening to help protect the soil from extreme weather caused by climate change.

September – ‘On Track to Cut Carbon’ was the subject of Pete Myers’ talk, following our AGM. Pete is Chair of Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company and he spoke about the often conflicting local and national expectations of ‘our’ railway, and the added challenges of the network’s transition to a low carbon future.

November – coinciding with the start of COP28 we heard from David Howlett about the work of the UN’s Climate Champions Team. He outlined that the Climate Champions are focusing on three key areas: ‘Race to Zero’, ‘Race to Resilience’ and ‘Roof Over Our Heads’. You can find out more about this critical work at

<https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/un-climate-change-high-level-champions/>

This session was also a featured event in the Yorkshire Festival of Story.

December – to mark the end of COP28 we participated in a national show of solidarity with [‘The Climate Coalition’](#), publishing an article in the Craven Herald. We also held a review of our activities with member feedback. We will aim to implement members’ suggestions during 2024.

January 2024 – Climate Justice: “What it is and Why it Matters” was the focus of a talk by Izzie McIntosh of [‘Global Justice Now’](#).

Exhibitions and stalls

Our climate emergency information boards were moved from their original location at The Folly to Settle Area Swimming Pool in February 2023. They remained on display for the rest of the year.

We held stalls at a 'Settle Churches Together' event on 18th April and Craven Badger Group's 30th anniversary event on 2nd September.

Organisational development and effectiveness

Steering Group member Elizabeth Smith led the development of a new [website](#) with the aim of making it more outward facing. Thanks to Elizabeth, the ACE website now has a range of resources; details of our themed group activities; forthcoming events; and key campaigns. Elizabeth has also revised our recruitment leaflet.

We began using the online platform '[Plinth](#)' in December 2023. This is a free service that enables us to manage our activities more effectively, for example our membership scheme.

We started a communications review in March 2024, with work identified to take forward during the rest of 2024, including the potential participation in a '[Media Trust](#)' training course if our application is successful.

The Steering Group has, periodically, discussed the need to involve more young people. This prompted Steering Group member Richard Boothman to attend online events led by Yorkshire Rewilding Network and Transition Together. Using information from these events and additional research, Richard led a discussion at a Steering Group meeting in January 2024 and it was agreed that the group needs to slightly rework what we do to appeal to more young people. The Steering Group discussed some ideas and these will be further developed over time.

Joint working

- (i) **Settle Town Council (STC) Climate and Biodiversity Sub Committee** – STC declared a climate emergency and adopted a climate change and biodiversity policy in March 2021. ACE and others with an interest in promoting this work have been co-opted onto the sub-committee to assist in the development and delivery of the carbon reduction 'Action Plan'. Since the 2022/3 ACE Annual Report the sub-committee has met on two occasions in June and September 2023. The sub-committee comprises five STC councillors and is chaired by Cllr Barry White. Other members include the North Yorkshire Council's Climate Officer, Fiona Protheroe, ACE representative, Ray Hill, Philip Taylor from St John's Methodist Church Eco Group, Robert Bellfield and Beryl James, both former STC councillors. The Council's Clerk also attends. Ray Hill has attended all meetings.

The sub-committee is not a decision-making group, but makes recommendations to the Recreation and Environment Committee of STC for

their consideration. Discussions focus on progress and opportunities to progress the Council's 'Table of Actions' to reduce its own carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity. Unfortunately, both the June and September 2023 meetings were inquorate (at least three councillors have to attend – only two did on both occasions). No meetings have been held so far in 2024. In view of this the future organisation of the sub-committee will be reviewed by the Council's Recreation and Environment Committee in the second half of 2024 and the outcome will be reported in next year's ACE annual report.

- (ii) **North Yorkshire Council (NYC)** – came into being on 1st April 2023, replacing North Yorkshire County Council and the seven district councils, including Craven District Council. ACE representatives meet regularly with senior officers and members as part of North Yorkshire Climate Coalition and have contributed to feedback on the draft Climate Change Delivery Pathway. This implements the Climate Change Strategy passed by NYC in Summer 2023. The Pathway is due to be confirmed in Spring 2024.
- (iii) **North Yorkshire Climate Coalition** – we have continued to be active within this group. Sarah Wiltshire is ACE's representative in the Coalition. In addition to meetings with senior officers and members of NYC where we have led on feedback to the draft local transport plan, we have participated in the steering group to strengthen the Coalition's work and preparations for the Mayoral election in May 2024.
- (iv) **Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust** – has continued to provide ACE with a thermal imaging camera on long term loan. Members who have used the camera report it to be very useful in identifying heat loss from their homes and determining their next steps towards insulating them. Quarterly monitoring reports are provided.
- (v) **Fossil Free North Yorkshire** - as reported to the last AGM we continue to work with Fossil Free North Yorkshire. This is part of an English network which campaigns for the divestment of local authority pension funds from fossil fuel companies and reinvestment in green and sustainable projects that will benefit the region. To achieve this, members of the group attend meetings of the North Yorkshire Council Pension Fund Committee and lobby members.
- (vi) **Settle Victoria Hall's Invigorate Project** – following a talk from Ann Harding of Settle Victoria Hall at our March 2023 Green Café, ACE intends to support this project's upcycling and other initiatives as they come to fruition in the new financial year.
- (vii) **Settle Methodists' Eco Group** – we participated in their 'Let's Talk Business' in September, giving our energy group an opportunity to raise awareness about our ambitions to generate more energy locally.
- (viii) **Other groups** – ACE also continues to work with ROOTS (Respect Our Old Trees Settle), Churches Together, COBRA (local emergency response group) and Friends of the Dales.

THEMED GROUPS

Biodiversity (lead Andrew Pease)

We have had a varied year with the following notable events.

We started the year with a talk by Andrew Pease and RSPB employee and ACE member Kate Jennings on the subject of biodiversity loss and what we can do to address it locally, including [‘Easy Wins for Wildlife’](#).

Our outdoor activities included continuing to plant trees at our regular site at Kelco Woods, Giggleswick and a tree guard removal session near Langcliffe. We are always keen to assist at local sites and welcome new opportunities as we hear about them.

We were pleased to continue our partnership working with [‘Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust’](#) – with a tree planting session on a sunny Spring day in the hills above Mearbeck; and with the [‘River Ribble Trust’](#) with a riverfly survey event in Settle. We are exploring the possibility of further opportunities for survey work in the future.

Energy (Energy Group members)

The substantive work of this last year has been setting up an Energy Local Club with support from [‘Energy Local CIC’](#), covering the substation area of Settle, Giggleswick and Langcliffe. You can view our page on Energy Local’s website [here](#).

We have:

- Undertaken a two-day training course from Energy Local CIC to help with setting up an Energy Local Club

- Recruited the first directors of the club from whom a chair, treasurer and secretary have been drawn

- Secured funding from Northern Power Grid for and appointed a short term paid freelance adviser to work with the directors in the club’s set-up

- Recruited a small number of initial members (as either consumers, generators or both)

- Worked with community partners such as Settle Swimming Pool, Catholic, Methodist and Parish Churches to recruit a generator and consumer member with a three-phase power circuit

- Spoken with other local community owners of large roofs e.g. the rugby and cricket clubs

- Introduced solar panel installers to provide quotes for solar panel installations. Energy Local CIC have also modelled potential generation for Settle Swimming Pool and St Mary & St Michael Catholic Church

Commissioned an online [rooftop solar survey](#) and convened a meeting for the author, Tom Nicholls of Lancaster University Knowledge Business Exchange Centre, to present his findings to stimulate additional generators for the Club

Conducted an exercise to demonstrate the potential for small scale neighbourhood bulk purchasing

Been exploring ways to balance solar production during times of low output, through small scale water and wind generation schemes. We have had initial discussions with landowners and North Yorkshire Council's planning department about a location for siting a wind turbine(s). As a result of positive feedback, funding for a feasibility study (through North Yorkshire Council's Shared Prosperity Fund) and its implementation will be pursued in the second half of 2024

Publicised the Club through attendance at the Methodist Church's 'Let's Talk Local' event in September 2023, an information session in October 2023 and articles for the Settle Community News

Attended various community energy related webinars to keep abreast of developments

With key members of the group becoming Club directors, a review of the role and potential future work of the group was started in March 2024.

Sandy Tod stepped down as lead for the group in May 2023, whilst remaining an active member. Our thanks and appreciation go to Sandy for his knowledge, ambition and persistence without which our progress would have been considerably less.

Food (lead Melanie Fryer)

The group continued to be busy with Fairtrade activities. In April 2023 we commenced work on making a "Fairtrade Man" to go in Settle Flowerpot Festival. He was put on display wearing hand knitted trousers and a jumper in Fairtrade colours with his tray of Fairtrade goods.

In July 2023 we applied for and were successful in obtaining Fairtrade community status for Settle from the ['Fairtrade Foundation'](#). In September Melanie was invited to a Yorkshire Fairtrade event to do a presentation on how we had achieved Fairtrade status in a relatively short time.

In August we held a celebratory Fairtrade Coffee Morning with Fairtrade goods on sale. This was enjoyed by all those who attended. In September a member of the Food Group ran a Fairtrade tombola at the Settle Scouts troop fundraising day. ACE donated many of the prizes.

Another focus for the Food Group was to work on Settle becoming a Plastic Free Community. A steering group was set up and regular meetings have been held to plan and organise activities.

This scheme is administered by ['Surfers Against Sewage'](#). The requirements are to have written support from 10 community groups, 3 businesses and a written

resolution from Settle Town Council. Awareness raising and publicity is also a category.

We have sent emails and written letters to many of the above and gained support from the Town Council. For publicity we had a stall at the Fairtrade Coffee Morning (August), a church event called 'Let's Talk Local' (September) and an event in Grassington (September). In December we made a public display with a Plastic Free Christmas Tree.

In addition to this work we have made contact with Network Rail as we would like to have a water refill/dispenser at Settle Station and have made enquiries, through Settle Town Council, about installing a water fountain in the market square.

In March 2024 members were encouraged to sign up to the second Big Plastic Count run by Greenpeace to highlight how much plastic is being thrown away and what is happening to it.

Transport (lead Paul Cochrane)

The ACE Transport Group has continued to meet on-line on the second Thursday of each month this year. We typically discuss reports on the services on the Settle Carlisle Railway, chat about Dales Bus buses, and share the news about public and local transport in the district. For example, we have followed the rail developments at Horton Quarry closely, and were delighted to hear of the plans for the Yorkshire Dales Explorer train service that gives Settle a direct train to Manchester on Saturdays. We are fortunate to have John Carey in the group, stalwart of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line.

These may be a convivial and informal gatherings, but we look to engage and lobby for better public transport and active travel where ever we can. This year we participated individually and collectively in the national consultation about ticket office closures and the local consultation on a New Local Transport Plan for North Yorkshire Council [NYC]. In preparation, Paul Cochrane and Ray Hill attended a conference organised by the Low Traffic Future Alliance in York. ACE's response to the NYC Transport Survey, *Let's Talk Transport* led us to be invited to an on-line meeting as a 'stakeholder' in the plan. The election of a mayor has delayed the publication of the Local Transport Plan, but we are hopeful that as a stakeholder, the group will be invited to a special briefing about the plan later this year.

More locally, members have highlighted the poor visibility of buses from inside the Helwith Bridge bus shelter, surveyed the relative costs of charging an electric vehicle in the area, reported speed concerns and road speed anomalies, succeeding in getting a road sign installed warning motorists of the narrowness of the one-way (for some!) ginnel from High Hill Grove and Duke Street, and pressed for the repair of the cycle stands ACE had championed in Ashfield Carpark.

The provision of a bus shelter on Settle Market Place remains top-of our to-do list. Our vision is that this should be more than a shelter for people waiting for a bus, residents and visitors without access to a car need more than that. ACE has argued that this should be a mini 'Mobility Hub', that offers:

- Information boards about public transport connections to popular destinations
- Real-time bus information
- Directions to the train station
- Directions to car and bicycle charging points
- Directions to the public toilets
- Community Noticeboard / Information Point, as well as access information to the Town's heritage and attractions.

We stressed the need for this shelter at our stakeholder meeting with NYC transport planners, and hope that the new plan includes it or, at least, provides the strategic arguments of why Settle should have one without any further delay.

It's been a busy year and I hope that members still find the meetings informative and empowering. If public transport matters to you, or you wish to see more people participate in active travel - cycling and walking - please get in touch and join us.

Communications (lead Barry White)

We have continued to consolidate our communications work with frequent coverage mainly in the Craven Herald and the bi-monthly Settle and District Community News - Alastair Cook (Editor) and his team (Barry Foster and Ian Gray) retired at the end of 2023. Alastair has sat in the editor's chair for the last 16 and half years and overseen the production of 93 issues. A 'thank you' gathering was held on 1 February 2024. We wish Alastair, Barry and Ian the best for their futures.

In May 2023 we produced a new recruitment and promotion leaflet which reflected much of the campaigning work of ACE and our working groups.

We also planned with North Yorkshire Climate Coalition a joint intervention in the election for a mayor for York and North Yorkshire on 2 May. In the 2022 county council elections to the new shadow authority, we contacted all candidates standing in the 'ward' covering our area, and published the replies on our web site, but for this election it was agreed that an approach by the Coalition would (and did) make a great impact.

Earlier this year the Steering Group started a review of our communications which continues, and a number of proposals were considered at the March 2023 meeting. These included a review of the redesigned web site mentioned above. It was agreed: greater prominence should be given to the work of our themed groups; more images needed for the picture library; updates on the web site needed to be reflected in our Facebook postings <https://www.facebook.com/groups/470650267077822>; making effective use of the Craven Herald web site; improving our communications with other local groups e.g. Friends of the Settle Carlisle Railway.

It was accepted that we could make better use of social media and we will investigate getting involved with Settle Chat. However, due to limitations on our time it was not currently possible to extend our intervention much wider than at present (Facebook and X – formerly Twitter).

Our accounts on Facebook and Twitter continue to be active with regular postings about our activities to both. As our Facebook presence is as a Group, there are

regular posts from group members. Our Twitter account has a feed from our web site blog and postings about our events and retweets of interest from other accounts.

It was agreed that we should have a banner with the slogan 'Stop Climate Breakdown – Start Building a Green Future for the Dales'. The Steering Group was commissioning a design at the time of this report. It was also agreed to update and reprint our ACE leaflet to cover forthcoming elections, local and national.

Campaigns and consultations

- We launched a Fairtrade 90kg Rice Challenge to run during 2024. This will support subsistence farmers in Malawi. The sum that has to be reached will fund a year's secondary school education for a member of a farmer's family.
- We made a response to North Yorkshire Council's draft climate change strategy.
- We met with NYC officers to discuss the draft Local Transport Plan from a Settle perspective.
- Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty - ACE endorsed the drawing up of a treaty in January 2024, alongside many other civil society groups.

Thank yous

We are very grateful for the support that we have received from the following organisations:

Green Cafe venues: members of Settle Methodist & Settle Catholic Churches.

Settle Community and Business Hub – for use of their Zoom account and for hosting our videos on their YouTube channel.

Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust – for the long-term loan of a thermal imaging camera.

Settle Community News – Alastair Cooke and colleagues for publishing our regular climate action articles. Alastair and some other colleagues retired at the end of December 2023, after many News productions and we wish them well in their retirement.

Settle Area Swimming Pool – for hosting our climate emergency exhibition.

Settle Rotary – for use of their display boards.

ACE Annual Accounts to 31.03.24 (internally audited)

ACE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 01.04.23 - 31.03.24

	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
INCOME			
Membership subscriptions		1,340.00	1,311.00
Donations included in membership payments	(1)	150.50	141.00
Donations at meetings and events etc.		400.03	476.35
Other donations	(2)	620.00	0.00
TOTAL		2,510.53	1,928.35
EXPENDITURE			
Room hire/hosting		445.00	270.00
Refreshments for meetings		0.00	0.00
Website design, hosting, security, maintenance etc.	(3)	200.00	37.50
Stationery, paper, laminating pouches, banners etc	(4)	383.98	0.00
Themed Group expenses	(5)	171.80	353.91
Other campaigning expenses	(6)	228.00	780.00
Expenses, travel etc		31.00	7.56
Bank charges		72.37	72.00
Insurance/Impress (website publishing regulator) etc		299.64	284.19
Exceptional Expenses		0.00	154.00
TOTAL		1,831.79	1,959.16
ACCOUNT SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		678.74	(30.81)
Total funds brought forward		1,147.92	1,178.73
Total funds carried forward		1,826.66	1,147.92

Settle Energy Local Club (Restricted Fund) [SELC]	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
Income	(7)	£7,255.00	-
Expenditure		£2,297.00	-
BALANCE		£4,958.00	-

ACE BALANCE SHEET AT 31.03.24

	Notes	31.03.24	31.03.23
		£	£
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		0.00	0.00
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and prepayments		0.00	0.00
Cash		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		6,784.66	1,647.92
Total Current Assets		6,784.66	1,647.92
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and accruals	(2)	0.00	500.00
Total net assets		6,784.66	1147.92
<u>Funds</u>			
Funds brought forward		1,147.92	1,178.73
I & E (ACE)		678.74	-30.81
I & E (SELC)		4,958.00	
Total funds		6,784.66	1,147.92

Notes to the Accounts

- (1) Overpayment of membership subscriptions are treated as donations.
- (2) Includes 2022-3 loan made donation in 2023-4.
- (3) The content of the ACE is maintained by volunteers. This figure includes training on new platform. Technical support provided by Mark Dale, Mixed Solutions.
- (4) Includes picture library costs for images used on display boards and leaflets.
- (5) Themed Group expenses in 2023-4 were: Biodiversity, £0; Energy, £30; Food £96.65; and Transport, £41.15.
- (6) Includes Survey Monkey Subscription for Smart Meter Survey
- (7) Comprising a grant from Northern Power Grid and restricted donations.