

## **Countdown to CoP Interest Group Speakers at Summer School 2023**

### **Paul Allen Knowledge and Outreach Coordinator at CAT**

Having trained as an electrical and electronic engineer, Paul has worked with renewable energy technologies for over 30 years. He has led the ground-breaking [Zero Carbon Britain](#) research at CAT for 15 years, liaising directly with Government, business and the public sector.

### **Dr Judith Thornton**

Judith works at the [Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University](#). She has an interest in plants as building materials, and the carbon impact of materials more generally. She has previously worked at the Centre for Alternative Technology managing their water and sewage systems.

### **Isaac Beevor Climate Emergency UK**

Isaac is one of a small number of staff at [Climate Emergency UK](#). This organisation was set up in response to the climate emergency declarations that councils started making from the end of 2018. All UK councils' written Climate Action Plans have been assessed and scored, creating the Council Climate Plan Scorecards. Isaac started working and campaigning in local climate policy in Vancouver, managing volunteers and working on campaigns to support Vancouver's low-emission buildings policy and introducing an annual measuring and reporting system across the city.

### **John Baxter u3a Subject Advisor for Climate Change and Environment**

John has a PhD and BSc in Physics. His working life was spent in IT. He states that he is not a climate scientist although he is well read in the subject. He is not by temperament an activist or campaigner. <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/climate-change/welcome>

### **Sam Ward Climate Cymru Manager**

Sam has been involved in a series of social enterprises, environmental initiatives, charities, community events and environmental advocacy campaigns. He co-founded [Biodiversity Alliance](#), a charity in Uganda. Now based back home in Wales, Sam spends all his working hours running [Climate Cymru](#), a collaborative network which was formed in the run up to CoP26.

### **Brenda Ainsley Co-leader of the u3a Countdown to CoP Interest Group**

Since 2020 Brenda has been active as a trained [Climate Reality](#) Leader and meets regularly with other Leaders. She belongs to a range of climate-related groups and is active in several of them. She is a regular contributor to 'Third Age Matters' and works closely with members of the National Office team to raise the profile of Climate and Environmental matters within the u3a.

### **Grant Peisley**

**Director, Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG)** - which translates as '*Rural Energy Developments*'

Grant is a social entrepreneur and sustainable communities consultant based in NW Wales. He is a founding director of [DEG](#), an award-winning social enterprise supporting community-led action on energy efficiency, renewable generation and local economy. One of DEG's projects is 'GwyrddNi', a community-based, community-led climate action movement that brings people together in five areas of Gwynedd to discuss, share and act locally to tackle climate change.

### **Antony Turner**

Antony is a co-founder of [Real World Visuals](#), a company that turns carbon data and stories into engaging images, films and web-tools. He believes that a core reason for human society's indifference to the climate challenge is that greenhouse gases are invisible. He has lectured at major universities, given a TEDx talk, and worked with a wide range of public and private sector organisations.

### **John Cantor**

John Cantor is an engineer who has worked on heat pumps for over 40 years. He has a website with lots of down to earth information - <https://heatpumps.co.uk/> For fun he plays the trumpet and builds interesting and useful types of bike.

### **Organising team:**

#### **Eleanor Brooks**

**Co-leader of the u3a Countdown to CoP Interest Group**

Ellie comes from Dover. Her main subject as a student, alongside teacher training, was Environmental Studies and she has a life-long commitment to walking lightly over the earth. In her career as a primary headteacher she was able to share her passion for the environment with her pupils.

#### **Ann MacGarry**

Ann MacGarry worked as an education officer at the Centre for Alternative Technology from 1989 to 2017. In that role she ran workshops, produced resources and did hundreds of guided tours. Before that she taught Design & Technology in London. Ann has participated for many years in a local car-share scheme.

#### **Nick Ward**

**Coordinator of Ruthin u3a Sustainable Living Group**

After a career involved in environmental consultancy and latterly promoting green jobs at the Welsh Government, Nick is doing his best in retirement to 'spread the word' through groups like u3a. He is fortunate to have the necessary resources to invest in solar panels, a ground-source heat pump, an EV, lots of tree and hedge planting and wildflower meadow creation.

#### **Jenny Wilson**

**Chair of Croydon u3a & Vice Chair of London Region u3a**

Jenny has promoted interest in the climate agenda within her u3a, and also at the Chairs of London u3as meetings this year where she has given climate talks to promote interest and action within u3as. Croydon u3a has a section of the website devoted to climate matters:

<https://u3acroydon.weebly.com/>