

August 2022

Dear Member

Ecology News – Summer 2022

It gives me enormous pleasure to introduce your latest issue of *Ecology News*, my first as your new Chief Executive. I've been in post since June following Paul Ellis' stepping down and, so far, I have been getting to know the Society and how we serve you as our members. You can find out more about me on page 3. My focus and energies will be dedicated to three guiding principles:

1. To make things easier and better for members
2. To make Ecology a great place to work for the Ecology Team
3. To make a lasting positive contribution to the future of our planet

I feel very fortunate to have inherited the stewardship of Ecology at such a pivotal point, and I want to thank Paul and the rest of team for their unstinting work in driving awareness and action on changing finance and agitating for a better world.

As we look forward to the next phase of Ecology's story, building on the rich history of our founders and former colleagues, I am keen to understand what you want from your Society. To that end, I would like to hear from members directly:

- In the autumn, I'm planning to host a series of member events and I very much look forward to meeting with members in person and sharing more on my vision for Ecology's future (details to be shared soon).
- I would love to hear any thoughts, concerns, or hopes for the future of Ecology directly from members. Feel free to contact me by email at ceo@ecology.co.uk. I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing ideas on how we can amplify our voice collectively.

As I write, temperatures in the UK are soaring, giving pause for thought on the consequences of inaction on climate change. We are powered by our members and stronger than the sum of all our parts as a collective, so thank you for your ongoing support - you are fundamental to us continuing to 'challenge the norm'.

Continued...

What's in this issue of Ecology News?

In this edition, we focus on the urgent requirement to transform the energy needs of our homes to get to net-zero and highlight how Ecology is calling for a national retrofit strategy. We also look at our recent enhancements to our C-Change discounts.

You'll find highlights from this year's AGM hosted at the Mildmay Club in London, which Ecology is backing with a loan to support essential repairs and the refurbishment of its two rental flats to help secure the future of this iconic venue (pages 2 and 3).

As our sustainable lending grows, so does our positive impact on people and the environment. We include updates on our most recent lending (pages 4 and 5), from affordable community and self-build projects in Scotland, to a co-housing build in Bristol, which I had the pleasure of visiting in July. We also update on the renovation of former coastguard cottages in Cornwall providing affordable homes for local families.

You can also find out what the Ecology Team have been up to, from participating in the annual Solstice Saunter run, to our gardener Pippa's brand-new book featuring photos of the Ecology garden (pages 7 and 8).

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Ecology News* and I wish you a pleasant summer.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gareth Griffiths".

Gareth Griffiths
Chief Executive