



Could this be our last Christmas to enjoy 'The Shire'?



Current view



Proposed view

German-owned JBM Solar's proposed **plans for a 287-acre power station** and battery storage facilities in Roundhill Wood, Inkberrow, threaten to destroy our beautiful and picturesque landscape that inspired J.R.R. Tolkien's, 'The Shire'.

If the developers get their way, this year could mark the **last Christmas** for us all to enjoy Tolkien's only remaining literary landscape.

Once gone, these landscapes will be lost to future generations forever.

Join thousands of other local people, to save our countryside!

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More and more local people are standing up for the Worcestershire countryside



More and more people across Worcestershire are backing our campaign to 'Save the Shire'

Posters are going up across Worcestershire as thousands of local people say 'NO' to the huge solar power station planned in our local community.

The fight is being led by the Roundhill Wood Solar Farm (RWSF) opposition group, with support from Stock & Bradley, Feckenham, Kington & Dormston and Inkberrow parish councils and local MP Rachel Maclean. In addition, more than a thousand local people have sent objections about the industrialisation of our countryside in Worcestershire to Wychavon and Redditch Councils.

“As we approach 2024, more and more people are backing our campaign as they weigh up the arguments,” says Phil Coathup, chairman of RWSF.

RWSF has submitted a near 100-page document setting out its concerns including: visual impact, noise and vibration, traffic congestion and loss of biodiversity.

“We fully support renewable energy, but this is the wrong location for a development of this scale and it is destroying our literary heritage”, he said.



Our campaign makes national news headlines



BBC News 29th October 2023



The Daily Mail 25th May 2023

Our campaign to **Save the Shire** has been featured in **The Daily Mail** and **BBC News**.

BBC News picked up on the concerns of fire chiefs about the “*very real*” risk of exploding batteries while The Daily Mail highlighted our campaign to save Tolkien’s last remaining literary landscape.

Adrian Elliott, Assistant Chief Fire Officer at Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, said that such explosions are “*becoming more common*.”

With **Inkberrow Primary School** less than two miles from the site, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service have raised major concerns with the council. These fires are difficult to put out and either result in toxic smoke over a wide area or large volumes of polluted water permanently damaging land and local streams.

In his submission published on the Wychavon Council website, Mr Elliott said: “*If we were to let it burn, there would be a **significant impact** on the surrounding communities which would all be significantly impacted from the vapour / smoke plume for at least 24 - 48 hours.*”

Latest figures have revealed that there have been a number of fires at similar sites across the world.

Phil Coathup, RWSF chairman, said: “Residents have a right to know what JBM’s plans would be in the event of a fire. Would local residents and Inkberrow Primary School be evacuated? Would people be forced to leave their home and for how long? How far away would toxic fumes be expected to impact people?”

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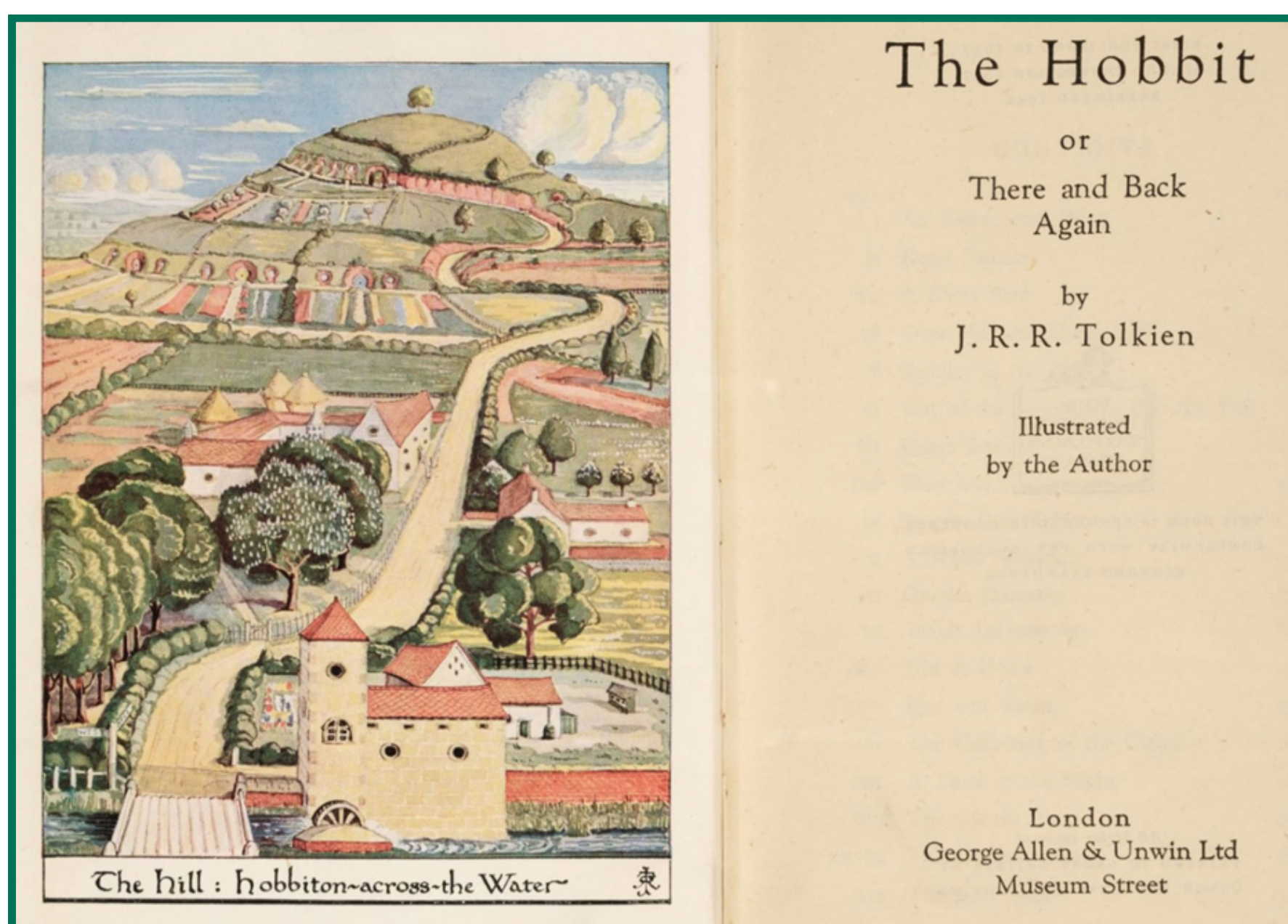
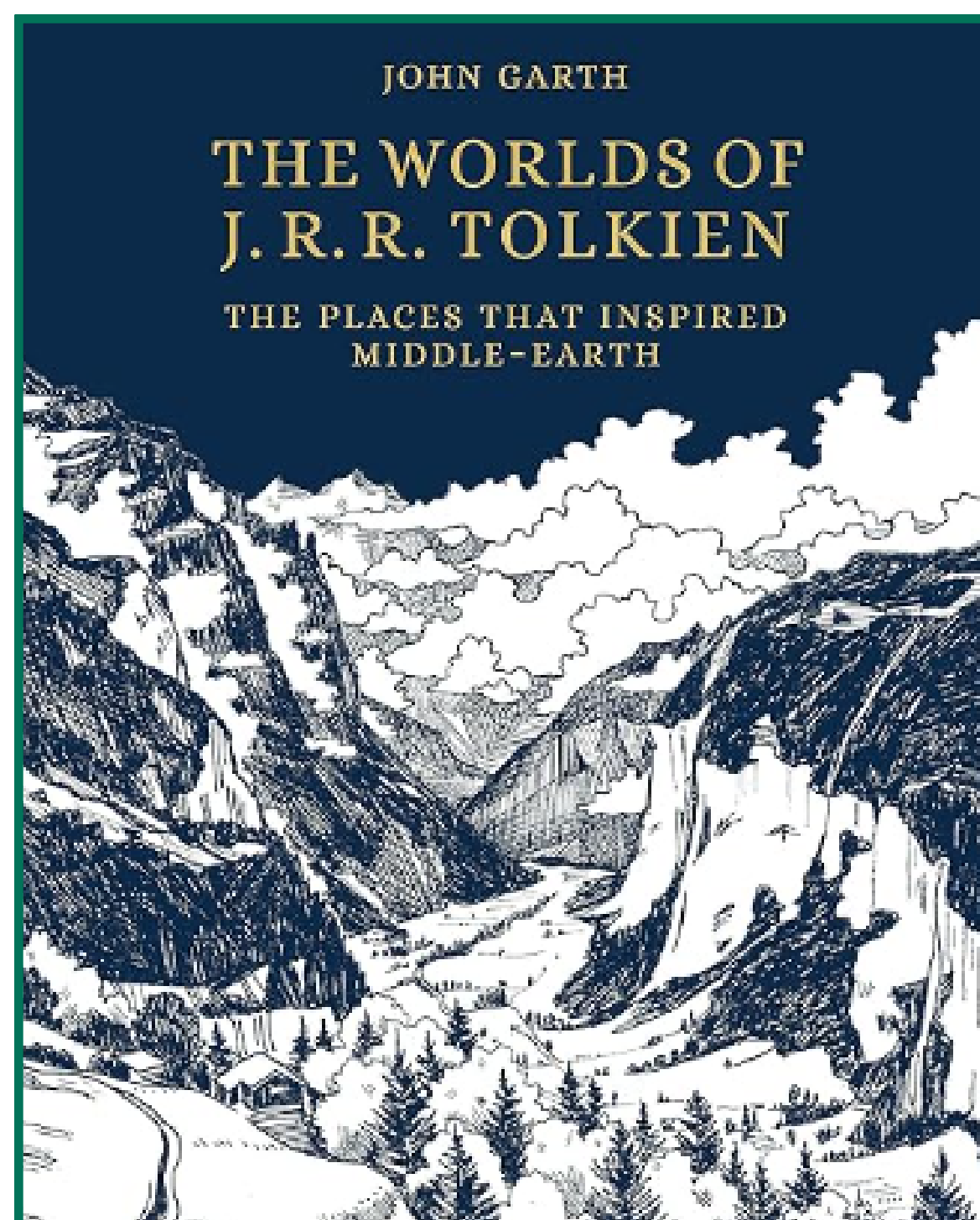
The group is hoping to hold two events to celebrate the Tolkien connection in the area.

Everyone is welcome.

Please share this newsletter with your friends.

Spring 2024

- We have hopes to hold a **screening** of one of the famous Lord of the Rings films.
- Potential **talk with special guest John Garth**, author of the award winning 'Tolkien and the Great War', and the recently published 'The Words of J.R.R Tolkien - the places that inspired Middle Earth.'



Tolkien's painting of the view from Bag End Farm of 'The Shire' in the first edition of *The Hobbit* (1937)

To keep up to date with our events, sign up to our campaign below:

