



## New MP joins summer picnic on 'The Shire'

Chris Bloore, the new MP for Redditch, joined us at this month's family summer picnic on 'The Shire'.

The weather was bright and dry as we welcomed people from across the region, including a relative of The Savage family who used to live at Bag End. This was the name given to the home of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins in The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

Phil Coathup, the event organiser, said:

"It was the first time some of those at the picnic had experienced this beautiful part of the Worcestershire countryside.

"As one of author J.R.R Tolkien's last remaining literary landscapes, it was here that he drew his inspiration for the fictional Middle-earth region which he called 'The Shire', so vividly described in The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings.

"We made it clear to the new MP that we are not against renewable energy, but this is the wrong location for an industrial scale power station."

Carly Tinkler, a local landscape expert, answered questions about the natural and cultural history of the surroundings. She talked about how skylarks, buzzards and other wildlife are often seen in the area.

"Our picturesque picnic spot on 'The Shire' was overlooking Bag End, a beautiful part of Worcestershire".

Local residents say, "It would be such a shame that we could lose this forever if developers of a huge 287-acre power station planned for the area get the go-ahead".



*Our landscape expert Carly Tinkler with Chris Bloore MP at our summer picnic*



*People came from across the region to join our summer picnic on 'The Shire'*



*A bright and dry day for celebrating 'The Shire' and its beauty*



## Rooftop solar has the potential to alleviate pressure on the British countryside

Within the days of taking office, Ed Miliband, the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero gave the green light for three of the biggest solar farms in the country, Gate Burton Energy Park in Lincolnshire, Sunnica Energy Farm on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border and Mallard Pass Solar Farm on the border between Lincolnshire and Rutland, losing over 6000 acres of British countryside.

The Government has recently committed to “unleash a UK rooftop revolution”, but we need your help to show that the British public support rooftop solar being prioritised over destroying the countryside unnecessarily.

Over 5,000 people have backed the Roofs First campaign to date, pioneering a simple message to MP’s: put the solar panels we need on the abundant roof space we have before green space.

Phil Coathup, RWSF chairman, said that ‘Roofs First’ is part of the campaign fighting against the Roundhill Wood scheme:

“We support renewable energy and are promoting a Roofs First approach.

“Over half of the UK’s solar energy needs could be met by putting solar panels on the south-facing roofs of car parks, warehouses, public buildings, and our homes.

“While rooftop solar may not be able to deliver all the required solar energy, there are parts of the countryside which are just not suitable and should be protected. Roundhill Wood, the author Tolkien’s last remaining literary landscape, is one of those places.

“We’ve already highlighted our concerns to Chris Bloore, the new Redditch MP, and we hope he’ll back the local community and make it clear to Ministers that ours is a unique situation.”

Help us save the British countryside by writing to your MP:

<https://roofsfirst.savetheshire.co.uk/>



## Tolkien fans gather for Oxonmoot 24

All fans of Tolkien are invited to Oxonmoot 2024. The annual event is hosted by The Tolkien Society and brings together over 500 Tolkien fans, scholars, students and Society members from across the world.

The Oxonmoot programme includes talks, quizzes, lectures, workshops, the Oxonmoot Art Show, crafting, performances, papers, discussions, entertainments, slideshows, costuming, gaming and celebrating. The event will finish as always with a visit to Tolkien’s grave on Sunday afternoon, known as Enyalië (“Remembrance”).

It takes place from 29th August – 1st September 2024 and can be attended in person or online.

You can find out more here: <https://www.tolkiensociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2024/>



Members of the Tolkien Society, Oxonmoot 1979