



Watlington Climate Action Newsletter October 2020

Welcome to everything you need to know about what's going on this month for WCAG

In this issue:

- The Big Squeeze
- Nature Festival Events
- Virtual Repair Cafe
- How to prepare your wildlife garden for winter
- Clean Air Day
- Can you be a Bitesize Volunteer

Dates for your Diary

- Nature Festival - full details below for events throughout October
- 18th November 8pm What can we recycle and where does it go?

Nature Festival



The Nature Festival got off to a great start with the Big Squeeze apple pressing event at the Spire & Spoke on 27th September. This autumnal celebration carried on as buckets full of apple pulp were grabbed by Henri Rossiter and by Sandy Lane Farm to the enormous satisfaction of their pigs who certainly didn't turn up their noses to the golden grub.

The Big Squeeze Review



There are a couple of spaces left on our **Well being Workshop** on Saturday 10th October in the Paddock from 10 - 11am.

.The workshop will link nature, well-being and art and is run by Frances Ackland-Snow. Frances, who lives in Watlington, is an art teacher as well as a trained counsellor using the arts who works with young people.

Every participant will need to book a place in advance at watlingtonnaturefestival@gmail.com

Wellbeing Workshop

There are opportunities to learn more about the Watlington Hoard and Viking

fighting techniques, to Nature Walks along ancient paths...Check these walks out, which are part of the Chilterns Walking Festival:

Guided Walks

More to do during half-term!

Self guided walks:

In addition to the guided walks there are also small self-guided walks curated by our local and inspired people. Leaflets of these walks will be made available in our local shops from Saturday 24th October (or before if ready)

- **Watlington Watercourse Trail** by James Fotherby, a 22 year old who works on environmental policy & politics
- **Watlington Little Nature Spots** by Jen Skene an artist who focuses on those small but meaningful moments

Workshops for the little ones:

These are being held on Saturday 24th October (time tbc) - bookings only at Watlingtonnaturefestival@gmail.com

- **Recycled bottle decorating in the Paddock** - bring your own bottles and if you wish give a decorated one to SoSustainable for them to sell for a donation
- **Help hedgehogs** by making hedgehog signs at Chequers with Andrew Brewer and Jules Bishop

UN report on Biodiversity

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report was published last month, and while there has been some progress, the world has failed to meet a single one of the 20 targets agreed in 2010 to slow the loss in the natural world. [Read more here](#) - and let us know what you think in the comments section below!

Read the blog

Plastic Free Watlington

We had our first meeting since Lockdown, and we are starting to make progress again on this project. We are now very close to getting accredited as a Plastic Free Town. Can you help us complete the last few things? We are particularly looking for local groups to work with as Plastic Free Allies, so if you are in another group that might be interested in getting involved please contact Terry Jackson at plasticfreewatlington@gmail.com.

We'll be continuing to raise awareness on an ongoing basis and there are lots of things to get involved with - our next meeting will be in January so please get in touch if you would like to help Watlington keep its eye on the ball with regard to single use plastics!

Green Plan

Wildlife gardening in winter - Eliza Naismith and Iain Naismith's latest blog tells you what you need to know:



[Click here for the full blog article](#)



We have also started our socially distanced training sessions on how to properly survey a hedge, which teams will start doing as soon as we have permission from the landowners! This hedge survey will allow us to properly understand the state of hedges in the Parish, and form a plan as to how to make improvements that best encourage biodiversity and sequester carbon.

Clean Air Day

Last year many of us signed up to Watlington Parish Council's initiative to make a pledge to help keep Watlington's air clean, for example by driving less or making a commitment to walk or cycle locally. Of course as well as making the air cleaner, this also helps reduce carbon emissions locally and improve health and fitness! But did those pledges become long term habits? With the national Clean Air Day on the 8th October, it is the ideal opportunity to consider what could you do now to reduce air pollution through how and where you travel.

Second Hand September



Second hand September has finished, the Oxfam led initiative to encourage people to move away from fast fashion.

According to Oxfam, 13 million items of clothing end up in landfill every year in the UK, whilst the IPCC has calculated that the fashion industry produces 10% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Here in Watlington we delved into the depths of our wardrobes to find our oldest and most loved outfits!

Let us know how you did!

Virtual Repair Cafe

The Covid 19 crisis has made it too difficult to hold the regular repair café' we planned, so we have decided to go virtual until things normalise. We are asking our 'repairers' to give a few easy tips so that people can try to repair their things themselves at home.

Each month we will introduce one of our repairers in the Virtual Repair Cafe and invite you to have a go at repairing your broken stuff and extending its useful life before recycling or discarding it.

Our first repairer is Rob Field of Watlington Electronics. Check out his tips or take your broken electronics to him for repair.

Let us know what you think

Get Rob's Electronics tips!

Will you be a "bite-size" volunteer???

If you'd like to do your bit for Climate Action, there are a number of ways to get involved to fit the time you have available.

If you would like to help but only have a small amount of time available Bitesize Volunteering is for you!

This is things we need help, with which do not need a big commitment and can be matched to your interests, skills, and time available.

Perhaps you could occasionally steward at an event, design a poster, or keep track of bookings? Or if you have green fingers there will be ways to help with our Green Plan once we've developed our ideas further.

Contact us to be put on a “bitesize volunteer” list and be part of the effort to help Watlington take action on the Climate Emergency.

[Contact us here](#)

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