



Watlington Climate Action Newsletter November 2020

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

In this issue:

- Our AGM - Celebrating our first year!
- The Nature Festival - Highlights
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- Our new Plastic Free Champion - The Lovely Stuff
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- What's in a Hedge - Watch the video and get inspired!
- Celebrate our beautiful British trees
- Housefire - The Album

Dates for your Diary

- 18th November 8pm What can we recycle and where does it go?



Recycling Talk - Check out our new Events Page for all the details! Your chance to get all your recycling questions answered! Click [here](#) for details and register for your FREE ticket!

Recycling Event

AGM

Our first year as a CAG and we looked back at what we have achieved. I'm so proud of our group for everything it has managed to do in this very challenging year. Click below to see the recording of the meeting and the accompanying slides - the first section of the recording is the presentation of what we have done in our first year - worth a look.

What a Year!

Conflict and Climate

On Remembrance Sunday, Watlington Climate Action Group will be laying a wreath for the first time - although we are not yet sure of the precise arrangements due to the new Lockdown.

It is important to us, as a community organisation, to pay our respects to the sacrifices made by Watlington residents, as well as to reflect on the damage wrought by conflicts around the world.

The changes we are seeing as a result of the Climate Emergency are already leading to increased conflicts globally, and this is likely to escalate as the impact of higher temperatures and more extreme weather come to bear. Pressure on resources such as water and food are likely to lead to increased migration, conflict, and war.

The picture isn't straightforward, with many different causes for any given conflict. However, a study published last year by Nature found that climate change has the effect of making conflict more likely to occur. According to the study "as risks grow under future climate change, many more potential climate-conflict linkages become relevant."

This Remembrance Day, we will be remembering, and reflecting on how our actions today might influence the likelihood of conflict in the future, whilst acknowledging that togetherness is likely to be the path to a more harmonious future.

Nature Festival

October was brightened considerably thanks to all the events that were run as part of the Nature Festival. The brain child of Sophie Nelson, the Nature Festival was inspired by the feeling of reconnecting with Nature that many people experienced as a result of the first Lockdown in March. Now that we are heading back into Lockdown for at least the next month, let's try and remember to take solace in, connect with, and hopefully try and protect our natural environment. Huge thanks to Sophie and all the volunteers that helped pull this series of events together.



Bottle Decorating Workshop

Great fun upcycling bottles - hopefully they can be used in our local refill store!



Walking Trails

Thanks to Jen Skene for this fun trail in town and James Fotherby for his interesting Watercourses Trail



Hedgehog Workshop

Awareness was raised of the plight of hedgehogs - one of the victims of loss of biodiversity, habitats, road use, and climate change

To learn more about the Hedgehog Workshop check out this debut blog from Eleanor Short

[Hedgehog Workshop blog](#)

[More on how to save Hedgehogs here](#)

The well being workshop was so successful, that we ran an extra one! Thank you to Frances Ackland -Snow for this one, which even made it into the Henley Standard

Advertising: (01491) 419419

www.henleystandard.co.uk

Henley Standard, Friday, Oct



Healthy outdoors: artist and nature lover Frances Ackland-Snow and 13-year-old Laura Venters, from Pyrton, painting in The Paddock in Watlington

Artist stages outdoor painting session for youngsters

AN event exploring the connection between health, art and nature was held in Watlington.

Artist Frances Ackland-Snow held the hour-long Wellbeing Workshop for young people in The Paddock. Spaces for the free event were limited to five due to current covid-19 restrictions.

The session began with meditation before the young people spent time painting.

Mrs Ackland-Snow said: "I really believe in the power of the healing process of art and anyone can access that. We all have creative parts in our mind and can access that in the right environment and I

feel being in nature can really aid that process.

"It's how I work when I paint in nature and I wanted to share that experience. I'm incredibly passionate about the mental health of young people at the moment and anxieties around covid.

"This was about forgetting the craziness of the world at the moment and being with each other and being at one with yourself. It was also about creating a safe atmosphere for young people to feel like there isn't any pressure.

"They felt it was really relaxing and doing art was just a very freeing and accepting atmosphere."



Feeling good: Natalie Allen, 21, from Watlington, and Ellen Macrae, 18, from Cuxham

Thank you to Alex Wooster for his interesting blog on the Viking Silver and Chiltern Chalk organised in conjunction with the Chilterns Conservation Board



[Viking Silver and Chilterns Chalk](#)

And to download James Fotherby's fascinating Watercourses Trail click below and find out about natural history and local history...

[Watercourses Trail](#)

Plastic Free Watlington

Congratulations to Nicola Challis, of That Lovely Stuff for being awarded Plastic

Free Champion status!



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

Green Plan

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

[Wildlife gardening in Winter](#)



The Hedgerow Project team has been learning about species identification - on your country walks this Autumn take a closer look - what can you see? Check out the short video here! We'd like to inspire as many people as possible to appreciate and value the hedges around us, which we quite often take for granted but are actually critical for biodiversity, and an important way we can sequester carbon. So please enjoy and share away!

What's in a Hedge? [Click here to watch](#)

Virtual Repair Cafe

We're still looking for people who are good at mending things to help with our Virtual Repair Cafe. Initially we'll just be looking for some "Tips" that we can publish. There are also opportunities to get more involved in helping develop this concept. Have you got any expertise to share on:

Leather items
Ceramic items
Glass items
Metal items
Toys in hard materials
Cuddly toys
Basket wear items
Upholstery
Joinery
Or anything else?

If so, please get in touch at watlingtonclimateaction@gmail.com



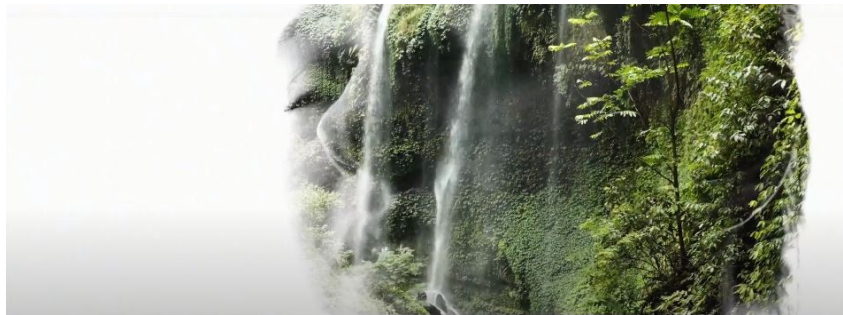
Celebrate our beautiful British trees!

Last year for National Tree Week we worked with Babylon Plants to supply trees to Watlington residents. About 30 trees were planted in the parish as a result, ranging from Silver Birch, to twisted Hazel, Scots Pine and Cordon fruit trees, Spindle and more.

This year we are not planning a specific event but would like to encourage anyone who has some space in their garden or land to consider planting trees. It is important to plant trees now to sink carbon for the future and help the climate crisis. National Tree Week is running from 28th November – 6th December.

If you are aware of any land which might be available for tree planting, please get in touch. Land the size of a tennis court could be planted as a “mini forest” or a larger area could be planted formally or using rewilding techniques

Housefire



Metta Theatre is an incredibly innovative and talented independent theatre company. They have developed a moving musical about the climate crisis, which they now can't take to the stage due to Covid19. But they HAVE released the album!

Listen, enjoy, and share away - it's a great way of getting the message out there, and the "Miles and Miles" track is so haunting...

[Listen here](#)

Watlington Climate Action Group



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