

WATLINGTON CLIMATE ACTION

Helping Watlington become climate neutral

WHO WE ARE

Watlington Climate Action Newsletter September 2020

Welcome to the new slimline version of the newsletter - everything is still here, but instead of a lengthy email, you'll see a summary here and be able to click through to additional content on our new website.

In this issue:

- Website Launch!
- Nature Festival
- The Blame Game - how to answer climate critics
- Improve biodiversity in your garden with a bug hotel
- Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- Play Carbon City

Dates for your Diary

- The Nature Festival starts this month - read more below and see the website for full details!
- Plastic Free Watlington meeting 21st September 7pm - see below for details

Brand New Website



We are delighted to announce that having been successfully awarded funding from the SODC Counsellor Grant, we have finally been able to have a WCAG website built!

The website will be the “go to” place for information about our projects and upcoming events. More than anything this is a website for YOU, helping bring you the information you need to live more sustainably in Watlington.

The site will include a list of recycle points in the town, tips on how to reduce your carbon footprint, and how you can get involved with projects to help make Watlington more climate friendly. You’ll also be able to read our regular blogs which you will be able to comment on and respond to.

Thank you to Satnam Bains, who has now become our IT and Social Media Coordinator, and Andrea Smith and Jules Bishop for pulling this together. Photography has been provided by Nicola Schafer and thank you also to everyone who helped write the text. If you have any suggestions for useful content, or would like to contribute a blog post please email us and let us know!

The site is now LIVE!!!, so head to watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk and take a look!

[Click here to see our new website!](#)

Watlington Nature Festival



Remember how good it felt to be allowed to take that first walk in the countryside when we went into lockdown? The abundance of mouth-watering local food on offer when a trip to the supermarket was not a risk worth taking? Or simply getting back on your bike and enjoying the Chiltern cycle trails. These, and many other experiences we used to take for granted, were the inspiration for the Watlington Nature Festival, which is taking place this autumn.

The Watlington Climate Action Group wanted to hold on to that feeling and never take the world around us for granted again. A festival struck us as the perfect way to achieve this, but one with a difference as social distancing is now the norm and because now we need to draw on local talent and resources more than ever.

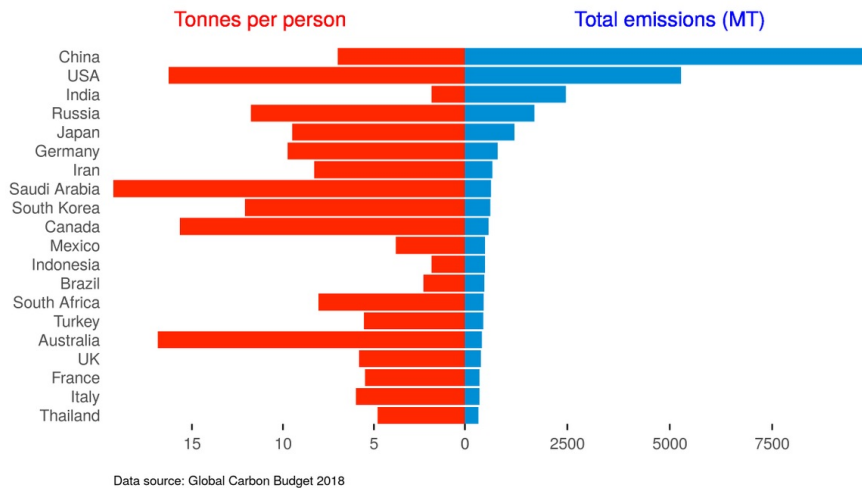
The festival is also a natural progression from the lively Eco Fair run last year by the Icknield Community College and with whom some activities will be run.

Apple pressing, a local and vegan food trail, art and well being workshops, children's "Stick Workshop" and a Bushcraft workshop, an archeological walk, and a trail of Watlington's watercourses are amongst the activities on offer.

[Click here for more information on the Nature Festival](#)

The Blame Game

Carbon dioxide emissions in the world's major economies in 2017



In trying to get people to understand the seriousness of the Climate Emergency, one common objection to taking action on the Climate Emergency is, "Why should we? Look at China / America / India - they are the ones that need to be taking action".

How do we answer this frequent objection to taking any action? See our blog for the full article.

Plastic Free Watlington

The problem of plastics, especially single use plastics, has not gone away and some are particularly hard to recycle, especially where composite materials are involved.

Whilst moving away from single use plastic is the best option, it can be hard to avoid, so if you do end up with some plastic packaging, remember that bread bags, food pouches (such as Ella's kitchen baby food), wine corks, and crisp, snack and nut bags can all be taken to the collection bins at the Parish Council office for recycling. Please leave on the bench outside the backdoor of the office.

The Plastic Free Watlington Team are planning to meet on 21st September at 7 pm - if you'd like to join us and help Watlington on it's plastic free journey please get in touch at plasticfreewatlington@gmail.com for the zoom details or just to register your interest.

[Click here to see the Plastic Free section of our website](#)

Green Plan

Gardens have been identified as a major resource that we have here in Watlington to help sequester carbon and improve biodiversity. Thank you to Iain Naismith and Eliza Naismith for the next in their series of how to make a difference in your own garden space



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

[and more information on the Green Plan here](#)

Climate and Ecological Emergency

This bill calls on the government for:

- the UK to make and enact a serious plan. This means dealing with our real fair share of emissions so that we don't go over critical global rises in temperature

- our entire carbon footprint be taken into account (in the UK and overseas)
- the protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising the damage we cause through the goods we consume
- those in power not to depend on technology to save the day, which is used as an excuse to carry on polluting as usual
- ordinary people to have a real say on the way forward in a citizens' assembly with bite

You can print out the attached poster and display in your window to show support, write to your MP, and find out more by clicking the link here

[Find out more and support the bill here](#)

Carbon City Game

Consider supporting this kickstarter project - a collaborative deck-building game, in which players develop a sustainable city. All profits from this Kickstarter will be used to print additional sets of Carbon City Zero: World Edition, which will be donated to schools and charitable organisations. A great way about learning about the challenges of managing the Climate Emergency, and having fun at the same time!

[Get your copy of the game](#)

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