



## Watlington Climate Action Newsletter March 2021

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

In this issue:

- **Electric Vehicles**

- *Read Niki's blog on how she chose hers*

- **Homes & Energy**

- *Leaflets, draught excluders, and thermal imaging*

- **Green Investing**

- *Making your money work for you and the planet!*

- **Website revamp!**

- *Check out our updated site*

- **Green Plan**

- *Can you help with our Community Orchard idea?*

- **Wildlife gardening**

- *Keep an eye out for frogs, toads and newts as they start to spawn*

- **Plastic Free Watlington**

- *Orange Bakery becomes a Plastic Free Champion*
- *Microplastics in our streams and rivers*

- **Nature Activity**

- *Learn how to make a daffodil like the one in our header pic*

- **Recipe for March**

- *Garlicky Kale Pesto*

## Dates for your Diary

- 22nd March 8 pm **Committee Meeting** Despite the name, you don't have to be on the committee - if you'd like to get more involved behind

- the scenes you are very welcome to come along!
- 14th April 7.45 for 8 pm **Electric Vehicles Talk**

Please register on our Events page for either of these events to get the zoom details

[Click here for our Events page](#)

## Homes & Energy



Check out the latest update on the Homes & Energy project, covering thermal imaging, leaflet drops and draught excluders! Find out a full update (and what the above photograph is) by reading the full update

[Full update here](#)

## Electric Vehicles

Considering getting an Electric Vehicle but not sure where to start? This is exactly the position Niki Panakis was in, and she shares her thought process on buying a new car here:

[My Electric Vehicle blog](#)

To find out more about Electric Vehicles come to our event! Register now for your FREE ticket

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# ELECTRIC VEHICLES



IS NOW THE TIME FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN WATLINGTON?

*Hear from industry expert Anthony Simpson  
and members of WCAG that have taken the plunge!*

7.45 for 8 pm Wednesday 14th April on Zoom

For your FREE ticket register at:

[www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/events](http://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/events)



HELPING WATLINGTON TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Register now for your FREE ticket!

## Green Investing

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# GREEN INVESTING



Thanks to Saskya Huggins of Low Carbon Hub and Rachel Mountain of Ethix for their introduction to green investing. We learned a lot about how to make our money work for us AND for the planet. For more information read Sammy's blog [here](#):



## Website update!

Satnam has been working hard behind the scenes to organise all the content we have been generating so that you can easily find what you are looking for on the website, so you may notice a few changes.

At the top, you'll see we have created links to our three main project areas:

- Green Plan
- Reduce and Recycle
- Homes & Energy

Each of these sections has more information on those topics and the projects we are running, and this provides a structure going forward for additional information to be added to the site.

Satnam has also revamped our blogs page, as we have created a whopping 43 posts since July! To be able to locate blogs these are now categorised by topic so you can easily search and find the information you want

[Explore the site](#)

## Our new Plastic Free Champion!



We are still getting local businesses to be “Plastic Free Champions”, the latest being The Orange Bakery who use paper bags for their products and also sell cloth bread bags to enable their customers to re-use rather than using single-use plastic. They also encourage their customers to bring reusable mugs for their soup.

Al Tait explained, “Sustainability is at the heart of what we do - it is built into the fabric of how we work. We source our ingredients locally as much as we can, and going plastic-free is an important part of that bigger picture. We are delighted to be part of the club of Watlington businesses that have joined this scheme”

[See all our Plastic Free Champions here](#)

## Microplastic pollution in our streams and rivers

Thanks to Jeannette Wooster for this blog explaining more about the problem and what we can do about it

## Green Plan

Thank you to Fiona Danks for the following update:

**The Green Plan** is a collaborative approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and green spaces within the parish, which we seek to do through various projects and through increasing awareness of the value of local habitats. We welcome volunteers and will seek to find different ways to involve anyone who is interested in working with us.

### Hedgerow Project

As we start to emerge from lockdown and the winter, our team of hedgerow survey volunteers will resume their survey of all the hedgerows in the parish. The plan is to complete the survey over the spring and summer months with a view to identifying planting projects to improve existing hedgerows and create new ones for next autumn. We would welcome additional volunteers to get involved with planting hedgerows. Nicola Schafer's film Hedgerow Project (see <https://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/>) has now had about 2800 views on YouTube and we have been contacted by other local community environment groups seeking to do similar projects in their area. We are setting up a website to share information about how to run a local hedgerow project.

### Mapping the parish

Mapping of green spaces in the parish will continue during the spring when and summer; we are hoping this will identify possible sites for tree planting but also for other habitat improvements to enhance biodiversity and sequester carbon. We wish to ensure that the parish has a diversity of well managed habitats and we recognise the role of non-forested sites such as grassland and wetlands in sequestering carbon, mainly in the soil.

### Community Orchard

There will be an opportunity in the future to create a community orchard on one of the development sites, but it has been suggested that there could be a dispersed community orchard in Watlington, with a few fruit and nut trees planted in community spaces. The first step is to identify where there are existing fruit and nut trees in the town; please email Terry Jackson at [tjacks@waitrose.com](mailto:tjacks@waitrose.com) if you would like to let us know if you have orchard trees in your garden.



### Wildlife gardening - trees, hedges, and ponds

Check out the latest blog on how to make your gardens more wildlife friendly! With a particular focus on frogs, toads and newts

[Wildlife gardening blog](#)

## Recipe of the Month!

Thank you to Rowan Price for this delicious recipe using seasonal, local produce. We know eating more vegetables in our diet is good for the planet - and Rowan's mouthwatering recipe shows that this doesn't have to be boring or bland!

# GARLICY KALE PESTO

## MARCH RECIPE

Total time 10 minutes

Serves 4

### Ingredients

Pinch of salt

200g Kale

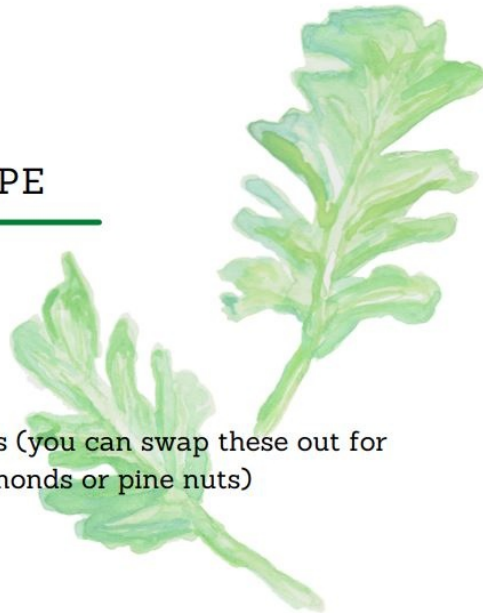
125g pumpkin seeds (you can swap these out for sunflower seeds, almonds or pine nuts)

Juice of 1 lemon

70ml of olive oil

2 -3 roasted garlic

Small bunch parsley



### Method

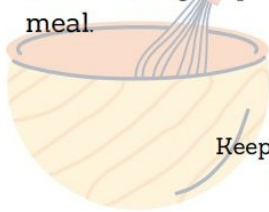
Roast the garlic, with skin on in the oven for 15-20 minutes at 180C .

Squeeze out the pulp from the garlic, once cool.

Toast the pumpkin seeds, by placing the seeds in a dry pan on a low heat until golden.

Put all ingredients in the blender and blend until smooth, add a little extra oil if needs to blend well.

Add to 100g of pasta per person for a quick and easy meal.



### Notes

Keeps for up to a week and can be frozen in portions.



## Nature Crafts

Thanks to Andrea for creating this lovely, March themes, upcycled craft activity! (See the daffodil pics at the top)

Make an Upcycled Daffodil

## CEE Bill

Calling all businesses! Have you signed up to the Open Letter from businesses to Oxfordshire MPs asking them to support the CEE Bill? Do you know a business which might be interested?

The Open Letter calls on Anneliese Dodds, David Johnston, John Howell, Robert Courts and Victoria Prentis to support the CEE Bill (the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill), which would essentially commit the UK to following the scientific advice on tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. If adopted, the bill would oblige current and future governments to work to keep temperature rise within 1.5°C, beyond which we risk runaway climate change, and to act to restore habitats and ecosystems which remove CO2 from the atmosphere.

Thanks to Layla Moran for already supporting the Bill. If you know a business which might be interested, send their name and contact email to [ceebillalliance.oxford@gmail.com](mailto:ceebillalliance.oxford@gmail.com)

[More Info and Copy of Open Letter here](#)

## Can you help get the word out?

A poster for the Electric Vehicles event is attached, if you can put it up in your window that would be great!

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