



Watlington Climate Action Newsletter July 2021

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

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WCAG Dates for your Diary

- 7th July 7.45 for 8pm What's Happening With Water talk by Thames Water
- 29th August - Hedgehog Workshop with Hugh Warwick - SAVE THE DATE!
- August Bank Holiday Weekend - Green Plan Art Trail - SAVE THE DATE!

[Click here for our Events page](#)

Water Talk - Last Call to Register!

Don't miss our next event - What's Happening With Water? We take for granted that every time we turn on the tap, clean drinking water comes out. How much pressure is our water supply actually under and to what extent is climate change an issue? Andrew Tucker from Thames Water will be talking and answering your questions. Register for FREE on the Watlington Climate Action Group Events page

Watlington Climate Action Group

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WATER?



CLIMATE AND OUR WATER SUPPLY - HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Is water supply really an issue?

What challenges do we face?

What can we do about them?

*Andrew Tucker of Thames Water will
answer your questions!*

7.45 for 8 pm Wednesday 7th July on Zoom

For your FREE ticket register at:

www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/events



HELPING WATLINGTON TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Homes & Energy - Complete Our Survey!

We are conducting a parish-wide homes & energy survey throughout July, supported by Watlington Parish Council. The information you provide will be used to understand the housing and energy usage across Watlington Parish in order to better target our work and develop energy efficiency initiatives.

Please only complete the survey if you live within Watlington Parish. It will only take a few minutes to complete.

The survey will be open until the end of July. We will also have volunteers at the Town Hall on Saturday 3rd and Saturday 17th July if you would like to complete the survey face-to-face. You can also find a printed copy in this month's Watlington Times, which can be torn out and returned to the Parish Council office in Old School Place

[Complete Survey Here](#)

Thermal Imaging Case Study



Sophie Nelson shares the results of the thermal imaging survey on her house and what she now plans to do to reduce her carbon footprint and save money!

[Read about Sophie's house here](#)

Plastic Free July

It's Plastic Free July again, and the movement to get rid of single use plastic is bigger than ever, with increasing awareness about the plastic pollution problem. There are now 326 million participants worldwide, people who have signed up to cut out as much single use plastic as possible for one month, such as shopping bags, straws, cups and packaging...to create a world without plastic waste.

Plastic Free July helps people be part of the solution to plastic pollution - so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities. We invite you to join the challenge at home, work, school or out in the community... because your plastic action counts! You can sign up to at plasticfreejuly.org to receive the latest plastic free ideas. Together we are making a difference.

PLUS don't forget to contact us if you would like to get involved with Plastic Free Watlington Phase 2!

[Sign up for Plastic Free July here](#)

Green Plan



Photo credit: Josh Robinson-Ward

The Marlbrook Meadow Project

Exciting news with a new project, led by Josh Robinson-Ward and fellow Marlbrook resident Andrea Brewer, with support from our road verge gurus Robert Barber and Roselle Chapman.

This project is looking to implement management of part of the green spaces in and around the Marlbrook Estate, to enhance biodiversity of flora, which support pollinators and bird populations. The meadow area will have mown paths and neat edges and be an attractive place for people to enjoy.

The project will also encompass a number of community engagement activities. More details in the blog!

[More about Marlbrook](#)



Photo credit: Zoe Broughton

Hedgehog Activity Afternoon

Watlington's "Hedgehog Champion" Andrea Brewer has arranged for hedgehog expert Hugh Warwick to hold a Hedgehog Activity afternoon on the 29th August. This is a major coup, as there is nothing Hugh does not know about our favourite prickly mammal.

Call out for photos! Do you have any photographs of hedgehog feeding stations, hedgehog houses, or hedgehog fence holes that you may have set up in your garden? Please send to andrea.brewer_sculpture@yahoo.com for part of a community art installation.

Hoglet Helpers It is hoglet season from May to September and five young people have helped raise awareness by distributing leaflets from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society in selected streets that are located next to wooded areas or parks. Many thanks to our caring volunteers who were Ada and Nell Skene, Ruby and Amelia Caffyn and Lawrence Dew.

For more interesting and prickly facts about Hedgehogs please check out the blog

[Hedgehog Blog](#)



Visit from new County Councillor Pete Sudbury, and Chair of CPRE Richard Harding

We were delighted to host Pete and Richard at a meeting organised by Green Plan members Roselle Chapman (Wild Oxfordshire) and Helen Marshall (CPRE), to talk hedges and road verges.

We met at the intersection between the Ridgeway, where Nigel Adams had planted up gaps in the hedgerow, and Britwell Road, which is a long established Road Verge Nature Reserve, set up by Watlington Environment Group.

It was amazing to see the sheer variety of flora, including the pretty Greater Knapweed with its purple flowers (see header photo), and the fascinating Knapweed Broomrape, which is a parasitic plant, gaining its nutrients from the root system of the former. The Broomrape has no chlorophyll, hence its lack of green pigmentation. Check out the blog for more details!

Road verge and Knapweed Blog



Chalk Stream Film Project

Following on from our Hedgerow film, which has helped raise awareness of our hedgerow project and the importance of hedgerows in general for biodiversity and carbon sequestration, we are looking to create a film focusing on our precious Chalk Stream.

Chalk streams are a globally rare habitat and important from a point of view of the biodiversity they support. But they are also under threat. This film will feature the great work by Watlington Environment Group, the River Thames Conservation Trust and others to protect and restore the habitat. The film aims to encourage people to connect with nature and protect their local environment.

We are delighted to announce that we have a grant confirmed by Magic Little Grants, The Cobb Charity, our county councillor Freddie van Mierlo, and Watlington Parish Council towards this project, which gets us on our way. Thank you so much to these organisations for supporting this film, and to everyone who has helped with developing the film proposal and the funding applications.

Green Plan Art Trail



We are proud to be collaborating with Watlington Artists again to create an Art Trail this bank holiday that celebrates our natural habitats and highlights the projects we've been working on!

[Read all about it!](#)

Watlington Climate Action Youth



New County Councillor for Watlington and Chalgrove ward Freddie Van Mierlo met members of WCLAY to talk about plans to tackle climate change in the local area

Find out more about what Freddie said

Recipe of the Month

Thanks again to Rowan Price for this tasty recipe for July

Watlington Climate Action Group Recipes

Summer Middle-Eastern Salad

Serves: 4

Total Time: 30 Minutes

Ingredients

1 cauliflower
4 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch of cayenne pepper
Pinch of salt and black pepper
1 red onion, finally sliced
400g cooked lentils
12 pitted dried dates
80g toasted almonds
150g spinach

Dressing

2 tbsp tahini
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp water
2 tsp runny honey



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Trim and cut the cauliflower into florets. Coat the cauliflower with the spices and oil, and bake on the tray for 25 minutes until the cauliflower is golden and tender.
3. Place all the ingredients for the dressing in a bowl and whisk until smooth. Toss in the lentils until well covered.
4. Thinly slice the dates and roughly chop the almonds. Add half to the lentils along with the cooked cauliflower, sliced onion and the spinach.
5. Scatter the remaining dates and almonds around the top of the dish and serve.

Notes.

For a nut free version use sunflower or pumpkin seeds.

Rowan Price



Nature Walk



A goldfinch. Photo credit: Steve Godz

Find out the species spotted on this fascinating walk around Watlington - and what to look for next time you venture out! Sophie Nelson reports on this walk by Steve Godz, which was part of the Chilterns Conservation Board Walking Festival

[Read Nature Walk blog](#)

Quick Tips - Out & About

It's great to be able to get out and about a bit more now lockdown rules have been relaxed, and we're starting to enjoy days out! A few reminders of what we can bring with us to keep things sustainable, can you add anything to what you do already?

- reusable shopping bag
- reusable water bottle
- reusable coffee cup or thermos flask
- reusable cutlery
- reusable mask
- reusable wrapping for home-made sandwiches

Thanks for reading!

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