



Watlington Climate Action Newsletter June 2020

Here's everything you need to know about our projects and events this month, so you can keep up to date with everything that's going on. Anything you'd like to see included please email us at watlingtonclimateaction@gmail.com and let us know!

In this issue:

- Streaming Services - Climate Friend or Foe?
- Film Festival from Your Sofa
- Waste Not Want Not Watlington Facebook Group
- Project updates from Plastic Free Watlington & Website
- Green Plan - Next Steps
- A Better Future Is Possible
- Environmental Attitudes in Watlington

Dates for your Diary

- **Thursday 11th June 8 pm - Film Festival From Your Sofa**
- Programme 1
- **Thursday 18th June 8 pm - Film Festival From Your Sofa -**
Programme 2

Details and link for (free!) tickets below !

Streaming Services - Climate Friend or Foe?

In this time of lockdown streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, BBC iPlayer and the like have been a boon, entertaining us when we've had to stay at home. Video conferencing services have helped keep businesses running when we've not been able to go to work. And all of this has helped keep cars off the road, and planes on the ground. Great for the environment, right?

Unfortunately all those streaming services actually come with an environmental impact too. Vast data centres have sprung up, requiring enormous amounts of electricity to run, not to mention the carbon footprint of all the equipment required for the storage and transmission of all that data. The total impact of digital technologies was estimated by Paris based think tank The Shift Project to be 4 % of global carbon emissions last year, and forecast to grow to 8% by 2025. 80% of that is online videos, including live video streaming such as Skype

calls.

However, it is not all gloom and doom as there is much that service providers can do to make their operations more environmentally friendly. Simply by switching to renewable electricity, rather than using fossil fuels, for a start.

This area has seemed invisible and with many companies involved in providing complex infrastructure, it has been easier to just call all of it “The Cloud” – something that has become difficult to see how to influence.

The good news is, we don’t have to stop binge – streaming the latest television series, or go back to commuting rather than logging onto Zoom or Google Hangouts. But we can make a difference. For example, we can let our providers know we are watching what they are doing to be more environmentally friendly. The Disney + channel – one of the worst offenders according to the Ethical Consumer website - is currently offering a free week, so you can sign up and then cancel giving their environmental credentials as the reason.

So, if all of that has left you wondering how your favourite streaming services are doing with regard to the environment, check out the Ethical Consumer website and search for “streaming services” for a complete ranking.

What you can do to help: Sign up for Disney+ free week and then cancel it, citing environmental concerns, or contact your streaming service and ask what their plans are to be more environmentally friendly. Consumer pressure works!

Waste Not Want Not Watlington



Consuming less stuff is good for the planet, good for our pockets, and good for helping keep our homes less cluttered! So it is no surprise that the Waste Not Want Not Watlington Library of Things group has been so popular since it was set up just two weeks ago. It already has 128 members and numerous posts.

So if you need something but wouldn’t use it very often, have something that you wouldn’t mind loaning out, or just have stuff gathering dust that you want to clear out, it is really worth checking out this group.

In just two weeks, it has already helped people needing items from DIY tools to coat hangers, jars, flowerpots, bricks, planks, plants, children’s clothes, steak knives, roller skates, sunglasses, and there is even a piano!

We will of course have to be very careful during lockdown and do our best to wash items, stay alert and maintain social distancing.

What you can do to help: If you like the group, please help by sharing with

local friends to spread the word!

Join the Waste Not Want Not Group here

Plastic Free Watlington



For the last month we've been asking people to #seeit #snapit #shareit as part of the #ReturntoOffender initiative.

The idea is to try and make companies accountable for the waste that they produce through their packaging and encourage them to look at sustainable alternatives, such as using paper or cardboard rather than plastic packaging, or perhaps refillable containers.

What you can do to help: Keep snapping and sharing!

Website for WCAG!

The contract for developing a website for Watlington Climate Action group has been awarded to Satnam Bains, and initial work is underway. We look forward to sharing with you more progress next month!

What you can do to help: As part of this project we are looking for a volunteer to help with our ongoing social media – Facebook & Instagram. We need someone to help come up with engaging ideas for posts and help monitor and manage content. If that is you, please contact Andrea at andreastravelemail@yahoo.co.uk

A Better Future Is Possible

A BETTER FUTURE IS POSSIBLE

WE'RE ALL LISTENING TO THE
SCIENCE ON COVID-19

LET'S LISTEN TO THE SCIENCE
ON THE CLIMATE
AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY



rebellion.earth



Extinction Rebellion



ExtinctionR



extinctionrebellion

Aylesbury XR has designed a poster for people to put up to remind them to continue to take steps to address the Climate Emergency in this time of the Corona Virus Emergency, and we have been asked to help put these up around Watlington. Keith Jackson is co-ordinating and has A3 and A4 colour posters available.

What you can do to help: If you can put one up in your window, or help put them up around town, please contact Keith Jackson at keithc.jackson@btinternet.com. If you would prefer to print out at home please see the attached pdf file.

Green Plan

The first project meeting for the Green Plan was held on Wednesday 13th May when a few people from WCAG, WEG, the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan Group and other interested individuals met on Zoom to consider next steps. The key points from the meeting were:

- Everyone agreed it would be a good idea to develop a Green Plan for Watlington to identify areas of green space and biodiversity interest, to identify possible projects to improve biodiversity and opportunities to manage habitats better for carbon sequestration, including tree planting.
- It was also agreed that this should be co-ordinated by a steering group with representation from different groups with an interest in this area – ie; WCAG, WEG, the Neighbourhood Plan Group, Watlington in Bloom, the Parish Council, and potentially other Watlington groups

- The wider community could be involved in various ways, particularly through encouraging people to record wildlife in their gardens and to improve gardens as wildlife habitats.
- Various people put their names forward at the Town Hall meeting on the 12th March and Fiona will be in contact shortly
- Need to learn from other communities – eg; Thame Green Plan, and also Eynsham's Nature Recovery Project, and the Benson Nature Group
- A key aim is to sequester carbon through natural solutions – need to find a way to measure impact.
- We should identify some projects that could be progressed soon while having a few longer-term and more ambitious project ideas for the future.
- Priorities to take forward are:
 - A Mapping project to identify what we have, led by Roselle Chapman
 - A Hedgerow survey to find out more about existing hedgerows and draw up a plan for improving and planting hedgerows, led by Nigel Adams
 - Gardens – how we can promote key messages on biodiversity
 - Road verges, led by Robert Barber
 - A community orchard and “edible” hedgerow
 - Consulting on new developments
- There are a number of other possible projects, including ponds, tree planting, wildlife corridors, and working with local farmers and landowners.

What you can do to help: Please contact Fiona if you are interested in getting more involved with one of the emerging Green Plan projects!
 fionadanks@gmail.com

Environmental Attitudes In Watlington



James Fotherby is currently taking a master's in Anthropology, Environment and Development at University College London. He writes:

"I have lived in Watlington all my life and I am currently taking a master's in Anthropology, Environment and Development at University College London. Due to COVID-19, I have switched my fieldwork project from Lake Champlain (USA) to Watlington's chalk-stream. I am interested in local awareness, attitudes and engagement. I would be incredibly grateful if you could spare 5 minutes to fill in my questionnaire. The data collected will form an important part of my dissertation and the findings will help improve local conservation efforts."

What you can do to help: Please click on the link below to complete the survey

[Complete the Survey](#)

Film Festival From Your Sofa

FREE!!!

WATLINGTON CLIMATE ACTION PRESENTS

FILM FESTIVAL FROM YOUR SOFA

TWO DAYS OF SHORT ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS

11TH JUNE & 18TH JUNE 8 PM

FOR DETAILS OF FILMS AND HOW TO ACCESS THEM

REGISTER AT

FILMFESTIVALFROMYOURSOFA.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK



Grab your popcorn and book your spot on the sofa for our next event – Film Festival From Your Sofa!

We have curated a special programme of newly released short films to watch. Featuring a wide variety of issues from poaching to pollution, these films explore the challenges faced by our planet, and some of the solutions being implemented to address these.

There are two sets of films, the first will be on Thursday 11th June at 8 pm, and the second the following week, Thursday 18th June at 8 pm, and it is free to

join.

Watch the films and then join in the on-line discussion and debate!

For full information on the programme and how to access the films, please register by clicking the link below.

What you can do to help: Join us for the films and discussion afterwards!

[Register for your FREE ticket here](#)

Watlington Climate Action Group



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