

Newsletter August



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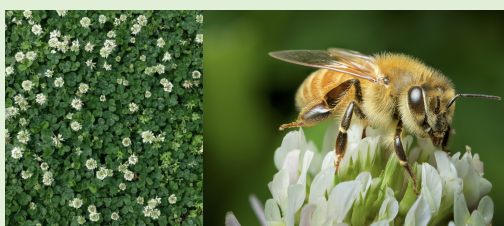
“UNPRECEDENTED”: sadly this has become a common word in the News about Climate Change on our Planet. July’s average temperature around the Globe was 16.95 degrees C, making it the hottest month ever since this data was recorded. The average sea temperature also reached a new record high (*EU Copernicus Climate Change Service*). Three billion people experienced extreme heat in July (*The Times*) and the temperature reached 39 degrees in the Andes in their Midwinter (*Carbon Brief*). One in four Brits think that Climate Change is already out of control (*Ipsos Mori*).

103 million

The number of barrels per day that global oil demand reached in June – an “all-time high”, according to figures reported by the [Financial Times](#).

So, we have every reason to be worried about what is already happening to our Planet and what is going to happen unless everyone, everywhere, takes some action. What can we in the Wilbrahams do? We probably all are aware of the obvious: use less water at home and in the garden; reduce waste in your Bins; turn your thermostat down by 1 degree, showers instead of baths, etc, etc. Here are two new ideas:

A Clover Lawn? If you have a lawn and want to keep it, try a Clover lawn by adding or encouraging clover, particularly the white –flowered type. It grows well, needs less mowing, less watering, tolerates shade, looks good – and the flowers are great for pollinators, particularly bees.



SWISH on 9th September: A new word for most of us! “Community Clothes Swap” is not as catchy but explains the idea. Bring along to the Farmers’ Market on 9th September good quality clothes that you no longer need or wear – and swap them for something you do want or need. Watch out for publicity and more details in the Warbler and elsewhere.

And do not forget these two local Facebook groups: **Wilbrahams Recycle / Free to a Good Home Group** (for swapping, sharing tools and passing on home items); and **Great Wilbraham- Car Share & Green Rides** (to share journeys and cut carbon). [AND **Wilbrahams Environment Group** where we are increasingly trying to share interesting news!]

Our Natural Environment.

A Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for us. Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority has just been given £300,000 by the Government to help develop this strategy. Our County Council will take the lead and work with Natural Cambridgeshire, the Wildlife Trusts and local groups (such as WEG).

At our own local level WEG has already started to work with the Wildlife Trusts on what they and we call a **Nature Recovery Project**. We plan to map all the assets that we have in the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom and to work with landowners and householders to devise simple ideas which can help wildlife and biodiversity. We are seeking funding and will soon have much more to say about the project.

The Wilbraham River – some better news. Water is running under Hawk Mill at Little Wilbraham! Our river, which is a rare chalk stream and so even more precious, has had water in it pretty consistently for some months now – partly because of the wet weather but also because water is being pumped into it by the Environment Agency from the aquifer. The Wilbraham River Protection Society works hard to help the river – and Tony Goryn in particular has cajoled the Agency into operating more effectively its agreed plan to augment the water flow.

Hedgerows are important! Not just those in our gardens but the ones around the fields here. Our local farmers today are pretty good at looking after hedgerows, but the Government is consulting about additional legal safeguards for them. You can participate until 20th September: look at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/legal-standards/consultation-on-protecting-hedgerows>

Other Stuff

Are you fascinated by bats? If so, here is a link to a relatively cheap (a little over £20) Bat Detector kit – already consumer-tested in the Wilbrahams. Must be good – it has temporarily sold out! <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Haynes-HBD2766-Detector-Construction-Black/dp/B07PWQZPC3>



Swifts in Six Mile Bottom – a Good News Story! Almost all the swifts in our villages migrated back to Africa early in August. In SMB, however, two excited enthusiasts (Mr & Mrs Bob Windsor), after 3 years of empty boxes, finally watched two chicks fledge from one of their boxes on the 24th.

Fewer Plastic Bottles in your Kitchen & Bathroom? Why not try using refillable containers to top up on eco-friendly laundry liquid, shampoos, conditioners, washing-up liquid etc. Some are now in supermarkets but perhaps visit Daily Bread Co-operative (dailybreadcambridge.org) in Kings Hedges, or more locally the church shop “Twelve” in Fulbourn High Street which stocks a range of products from Ecover, Faith in Nature and other brands.

New Series of WEG Open Evenings starting in October! We will be presenting a number of events this winter on topics such as Climate Change, Biodiversity, Healthy Living. The first will be on **Monday 16th October at 7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall: Robert Mulvanney of British Antarctic Survey will talk on “Climate: the long and the short of it” drawing on his recent field work and explaining what is happening to our World now. He is a great speaker: his previous illustrated talk to us was riveting – and alarming – don’t miss this one!