

**Great Kingshill
Residents' Association**
Newsletter



Spring 2023



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Front cover photograph: Spring flowers at Waddesdon Manor
by Chris Goodfellow

Welcome to the Spring edition of the GKRA Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Firstly, I must take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Robin for the many hours that he has spent teaching me how to use the software that enables me to create this newsletter - I could not have done this without him.

Secondly can I say a big thank you from the GKRA to the team that distributes the newsletter around the village, and especially to Jill who coordinates it all - you wouldn't be receiving your copy without this team of volunteers!

Please see the news regarding our events - planning is underway for a Coronation Celebration on the Common, which will be held on Sunday 7th May, in line with street parties across the country. In the summer we will start planning a firework display to be held in November. Put the dates in your diary now! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help us organise these events, but if you still want to get involved then please let me know.

Do consider writing an article of local interest as we would love to have a wider list of contributors to the newsletter.

Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editors or the GKRA committee, and the editorial team reserve the right to edit or shorten copy as they see fit.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Copy for the Summer edition is required by early May 2023.

Jackie

gkra.newsletter@gmail.com

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	John Golledge	chairman@greatkingshill.org
SECRETARY	Shirley Challis	shirleyannchallis@gmail.com
TREASURER	John Holwill	john.holwill@gmail.com

Diary of Events

Sunday 7th May 2023

from midday

Friday 3rd November

Coronation Celebration on The Common

Bonfire and Fireworks (to be confirmed)

Please look out for posters around the village and on the notice board by the pedestrian crossing for more details and confirmation of dates.

Chairman's Report

Having been away over Christmas, it seems only a very short time since I last wrote a report for the village magazine! How time flies.

The opening meeting for helpers to put on events duly went ahead and we were encouraged to see a number of new faces present. A subcommittee has been formed to arrange a Coronation event on the common – it is not too late to join this if you have any ideas you wish to contribute! There was also interest in reviving the fireworks display and it was agreed that once the Coronation event was past another subcommittee would be formed to look into this.

After the problems with vandalism of the Speed Indication Devices last year, a modified and strengthened device was put up at Apple Tree Cottage. Unfortunately almost as soon as it was put up it was once again broken into and the batteries were stolen – back to the drawing board! A proposal has now been put in to purchase a device which uses wet batteries. Whilst heavier and less convenient these are less attractive to thieves and as such it is hoped that this device may stay in place undisturbed. In the meantime, the Speedwatch sessions continue to show that a significant proportion of drivers are still ignoring the speed

limits in the village. If you are able to help with these please do let me know, the more volunteers we have the more often we can run these sessions to increase awareness of the need to keep to the speed limits.

As always there are various social events taking place in the village, organised by the Resident's Association, Hall Committee and others – I would particularly draw your attention to the Friday coffee mornings in the hall and, my own favourite, Chequers Folk! There is also a new Line Dancing class being held weekly and of course also many other regular classes and clubs, why not look at the schedule of regular hall bookings to get an idea of what might suit you and find something new to do and a way of meeting your neighbours and getting involved in the great community that is Great Kingshill.

John Golledge
GKRA Chairman

GK Village Hub Sunday Swap Shop

Sunday 2nd April 10-11am

Great Kingshill Cricket Pavillion

Come along and swap your books and puzzles!



Great Kingshill Village Hall Your Community Centre

Normally a comparatively quiet period at the hall, there's lots going on! Three large upgrade projects, and several new activities.

The hall trustees conducted an energy utilisation review late last year – it is of course an unusual building in that there are so many different user groups coming and going, some requiring heat, some wanting it cooler. We have decided to install solar panels on the roof (and batteries inside) to provide all our electricity needs and to protect against future price rises, as well as being environmentally friendly. The work will be done in the third week of March. Two other projects will follow later this year: replacing the fluorescent lighting with more energy efficient LED, and some redecorating.

Meanwhile hall bookings are back to and above pre-COVID levels, including new classes in line dancing and first aid, and a venue for the Kingshill Hub 'Swap Shop'. The hall continues to provide the setting for many community classes and activities: www.gkvillagehall.org/whats-on or the posters in the hall and on the village notice board. The Friday morning (10:45am) coffee group provide an 'open-to-all' opportunity to meet and chat. For enquiries, e-mail bookings@gkvillagehall.org

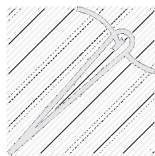
As last year, the hall will be providing help and resources for the Coronation picnic on Sunday 7th May including loaning tables for anyone wanting one on the common, weather permitting.

But of course the hall does not run itself. There is a small team of

volunteers who work to make sure this valuable community resource is maintained and enhanced. We need another one or two people to help though, please. Get in touch if you can spare a little time: 07957 220649

Have a lovely Spring!!!

Peter Jackling, Chairman, Great Kingshill Village Hall



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The Red Kite

According to the Chilterns AOB website 'Red kites are one of Britain's most magnificent and distinctive birds of prey, with fanned forked tails, a reddish brown body and a distinctive mewing call'. We are now very used to the sight of these beautiful birds overhead, but this has not always been the case. In spite of the current numbers they have survived a history of persecution and a series of highs and lows in the past. In the middle ages they were protected by royal decree because of their scavenging ability that helped keep streets clean, whereas in the 16th century they were looked upon as vermin, and so by Victorian times were persecuted to extinction.

It was only in the 1990s that kites were reintroduced to the Chilterns and are now established as a successful breeding population. They feed mainly on carrion, but also on chicks, small mammals and earth worms. One question often asked is whether we need to give them a helping hand by feeding them? They make a spectacular site when they fold their wings back and swoop down to pick up food. Most of us love to watch them but just be aware that the Chiltern Conservation Board (see <http://bit.ly/416al19>) and a number of other local groups discourage feeding them for a number of reasons, including:

- Providing extra food discourages them from spreading out naturally
- They become bolder and can become a nuisance
- Scraps left out don't give them a balanced diet and are often dropped in other gardens or public places, providing a health risk as it can then attract vermin. There have also been reports of dogs picking up scraps containing bones that creates a choke hazard to pets.



Whatever the part we choose to play, let us hope the red kites continue to thrive in the Chilterns.

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BINDERSCAFE



Get your garden safe for the Spring!

Your garden, as well as your house, has valued possessions that thieves would love to steal. It also has equipment that could help them break into your house. Most burglars are looking for easy ways of getting into a house or garden. By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce the risk of being burgled and make your house and garden more secure.

Gravel paths and drives are an ideal way of cheaply and unobtrusively discouraging thieves from your garden. The gravel makes a loud noise underfoot which carries well at night, when any thief relies on moving around silently. For this reason, it is also worthwhile putting gravel near house windows or doors, as the noise of any movement on it may wake the owners or any dog.

Garden sheds are a prime target for intruders. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you regularly keep on top of the security of your shed, to ensure that the contents inside are as protected as possible at all times. Consider the use of a strong lockable box or cage within the shed in which you can store not only your garden tools but also insecticides, weed killers or other items which may be harmful to health or plants if improperly used.

Don't make a burglar's life any easier by leaving gardening tools available to act as the perfect tool with which to force his entry. Always lock them away securely after use. Likewise, do not leave ladders to provide easy access to otherwise inaccessible parts of your house. They should be chained and padlocked to a strong post or wall.

Garages are frequently used for storing not only cars, motor bikes and cycles, but also property similar to those found in garden sheds, as well as DIY power tools and sporting equipment. Considering the value of the property contained therein, security precautions are often found to be wanting, and for this reason they are identified by burglars as easy targets.

If you already have a burglar alarm system, why not extend it to the garage? Consider the benefits of alarmed padlocks and property marking pens; these and other security items are sold on our website. Security marking can deter thieves by making the items harder to sell on.

Learn more about preventing this and other crimes by joining Neighbourhood Watch!
office@wdnhwatch.plus.com



CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP

We ended 2022 as usual with the festive events offering both a dinner/dance in the evening and a lunch time meal for those who prefer to meet up in the daytime. Both of these were "sold out" and enjoyed by all who attended, some going to both! Into the New Year we have already been running a number of events each month with more indoors for the cooler days. Our AGM at the end of January offered the chance to discuss new ideas and events for our programme for 2023.

Our walks and coffee mornings are popular events and sometimes we combine the two with a morning walk and then stop for coffee/late breakfast. Our first this year was for coffee only on what turned out to be a very wet first Saturday of January at Hildreth's Garden Centre. With the spring and summer days ahead, I am sure we will be doing more in the great outdoors. We will of course continue to include at home evenings such as our sharing suppers, take-away food nights and the occasional themed evening.

Regular events that take place each month are our Pub Night on the last Thursday of the month at The Dolphin in Totteridge and Lunch Club on the second Friday at the Spindle & Thread. Both these events are ideal if you are a newcomer to the group giving you a chance to meet others and find out more in an informal atmosphere.

If you are single, 40-60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give Chameleon Singles Group a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. The group has several local people from Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Hazlemere, Prestwood and the surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call Chameleon's membership secretaries Terrie on 01494 445816, Trevor on 01494 529067 or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. Visit the group on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk for more information and the current programme or connect with us through Facebook.

The Chiltern Hills Cycling UK group offers both led rides and coffee pots every Sunday. Now spring is here it's time enjoy the warmer days, coffee stops, make new friends with bike rides in the great countryside that surrounds our local area. There is sure to be something for everyone of all ages who wants to get out with both pedal bikes and e-bikers welcome. If you do not wish to do a full ride then you are welcome to come part way. Cafes such as the Hughenden Valley Coffee Shop, Hildreths at Prestwood, The Potters Arms at Winchmore Hill and Costa in Great Missenden regularly feature in our rides list so you are never far from home.

Web: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk
E-mail: publicity@southbuckscycling.org.uk

Factories in the Countryside

Tall smoking chimneys, ugly blackened buildings, gas emissions. There would rightly be protests against such factories around Kingshill. But a great deal of production is going on in the local countryside, unseen, unheard and undetected. All that leafy greenery: it's just a front. It looks so peaceful, restful to the senses, but vast amounts of energy and chemical reactions are bubbling within cauldrons hidden from view. Every plant, every tree, every fern, is a hive of activity and the existence of all other organisms is predicated on them. Over 300 million years ago, when plants began to evolve, there were no complex animals at all beyond amoebae. Until plants became established and began their vital production, there was no possibility of such animals existing at all. While the plant production lines were purely for their own purposes, there was one crucial by-product of their chemical machinery, a waste gas called oxygen, a gas that was rare in the primeval atmosphere. Plants were polluting their own environment. Animal life based on absorbing oxygen was not only based on the existence of plants continually producing it, but also necessary for the survival of the plants themselves, re-balancing the atmosphere by diluting the oxygen

with animals' own by-product, carbon dioxide. If animal life was also based on eating plants, well ... the plants just had to get used to it.

Take a look at this close-up picture of a fern frond. Ordinarily it looks opaque, a dull green, but here it is backlit to show both the translucency of the leaf and the veins inside, the pipelines of its factory.



The basic membranes of the leaf are transparent, because they have to allow light to be absorbed, one of the basic components of the manufacturing process called photosynthesis (literally, making from light). The green colour comes from chlorophyll, a complex chemical invented (in evolutionary terms) by algae and cyanobacteria, organisms that preceded plants. Chlorophyll molecules are composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and magnesium and they are capable of absorbing light from the sun and using its energy to break down water, H₂O, into hydrogen and oxygen, releasing electrons that fuel subsequent chemical processes. (Chlorophyll is in a similar group of chemicals to haemoglobin, the basic component of mammal blood, a substance that flows throughout our bodies to fuel our own internal factories.) Chlorophyll appears green because it absorbs all parts of the light spectrum but the green wavelengths. Chlorophyll is the dominant component of leaves, although other substances are present, so that if the chlorophyll is removed they may show up as different colours, as in the red damaged parts of the frond above.

Chlorophyll thus creates energy, hydrogen and oxygen to combine with carbon to form carbohydrates, such as glucose, which are essentially energy stores, which can be broken down when necessary to fuel growth. The carbon in this equation is obtained from carbon dioxide absorbed from the air and broken down by those free electrons. Carbon dioxide enters the leaf through pores - see the white spots where the veins reach the edge of the frond, which are gaps that allow gases to enter and be conveyed via the veins to the chemically active centres. Notice how the edge membrane of the leaf is reinforced each side of these pores (represented by dark spots) to maintain the rigidity of the leaf.

The water necessary to these reactions is absorbed mostly from the soil by the roots and conveyed along similar narrow veins, under pressure, through the stem and branches to the leaves. Along with the water are absorbed minerals, particularly nitrogen and magnesium, which are necessary to make chlorophyll, which is why fertilisers contain various compounds of these elements. Some plants, mainly relatives of the clovers, including lucerne and sainfoin, are very good at absorbing nitrogen and storing it in special nodules on their roots, but plants mostly rely on associations with soil-living fungi that are far better at extracting chemical elements, including rarer ones that the plant may also need to manufacture other useful chemicals, such as poisons to deter herbivores.

The oxygen we breathe without even giving it a second thought all comes from plants (and more primitive organisms like algae). Life itself is one great chemical process in which the sun, the air, the soil, fungi, algae, plants, and animals all perform essential roles in keeping the production lines flowing, a factory that encompasses the whole earth, or what some ecologists call Gaia, from the Greek mythological earth goddess. We are all components of that production line and we all benefit from it. Of all the components involved, however, humans are the only ones to have thrown a major spanner in the works, destroying too much life, creating too much free carbon and ozone, causing a major imbalance that threatens to destroy the whole factory.

Tony Marshall

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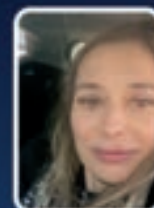
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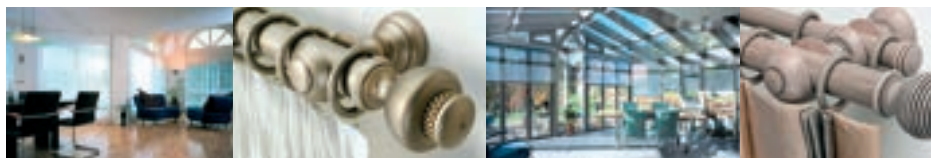


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Why Shop New When You Can Refurbish?

With the Christmas lights and decorations taken down, and the days short, cold and wet, the “bleak” mid-winter is often the time that we think about decorating and refreshing our homes, ready for the warmer lighter days of Spring.

The buzz words in the world of interior design right now, are sustainability and eco lifestyle, as more designers are embracing the ethos of reduce, reuse and recycle in their schemes. Colour trend predictions for 2023 continue to see us moving away from the cooler greys in our homes, to warmer pallets of browns, creams, and the warm colours of a sunset, still interjected with the blues we’ve come to love over the last few years. Nature and our environment will still play an important part, with predictions of more natural materials such as marble, stone, cork and sisal.

However, with the rising fuel bills, inflation, and general cost of living, how can we achieve these styles without spending a large budget? One of the trends coming out of the desire for a more sustainable lifestyle is upcycling furniture, either by buying second-hand, or upcycling the furniture we already have in our homes. “Why buy new when you can refurbish”?

So, dust off that old chest of drawers that have been languishing at the back of your garage for the last 20 years and bring them back into your house! Or why not refresh your beautiful sideboard and instantly update your room. Give them a paint with a pop of colour and change the handles and you will have transformed it into a statement piece for your home. Using old pieces of furniture adds your own personality to your interior, why have the same as everyone else? Afterall, your home is YOUR castle... not everyone else’s and it should reflect your style and taste.

Do you fancy a go at painting your furniture but not sure where to start? I am a furniture and kitchen painter and much of my work is painting furniture of clients, but I also regularly run workshops on how to upcycle furniture for beginners and sell the paints and products you need to achieve amazing results. If your time is of the essence, or painting just

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Wings Over Kingshill

There was a different noise in the air! It wasn't Charlie Mason in his spitfire straffing his Mum's house, it wasn't Bomber Harris in his Lysander but a totally different sound. We boys were ensconced on our usual perch half way up the elm tree nearest the shop ! The noise appeared to be emanating from the White Horse area. Whitenob said we should investigate. We raced around the common on our bikes and on towards Cockpit Hole. Graydo and Don Rodwell were well ahead and shouted that the noise was coming from the White Horse pub! In fact it was emanating from the only flat and straight piece of road in Great Kingshill – the main drive entrance to Peterly Manor, behind the pub.

The American Air force had purloined the area for parking their little Auster spotting planes prior to the invasion of Europe and we boys were duly impressed. "Any Gum Chum" chanted Whitnob as the American sergent told us to "clear off !" "You should keep clear of the planes when the props are spinning." Little good that did as we swarmed around the camp.

That evening we held a council of war in our own "camp" behind the Village Hall. We would start early the next morning and agreed to meet about nine o'clock by the old elm.

There was rather a lot of Aircraft about when we met. There were Dakotas towing gliders that we had seen before, based on the airfields in the vale of Aylesbury. In fact the whole sky appeared to be full of aircraft. So we raced off to see what we could do by investigating our new friends, the Americans, at Heath End.

Donald literally flew up the road from Cockpit Hole as we remaining boys struggled to keep up. But it was all to no avail ! There was nothing to be seen. The field was bare, apart from the usual camp detritus. The little Austers had flown away and all our new friends with them.

It was the sixth June 1944 and "Operation Overlord", the invasion of Hitler's Europe was already underway.

Reg Free

GK Village Hub Dream Grows

What an amazing 4 months it has been since we launched the Great Kingshill Village Hub FB group, a dedicated place for residents to connect positively and nurture community life. It is thriving thanks to the engagement from GK villagers joining and sharing our vision. We will continue with your help to spread the word and connect to every road in Great Kingshill, particularly those of you whom are not on social media so look out for our posters and flyers with details.

We held our first event in December in the village hall and we were delighted approx 100 people joined us to celebrate Christmas. The hall was filled with laughter, music, chatter and festive refreshments and it was heart-warming to see so many young families and children present. We have already booked the hall for this year's festive celebrations - Sunday 17 December and hope residents from a wider age range join us.

Knitting needles, crochet hooks and busy hands have led to some beautiful post box toppers which have certainly spread joy in the village and made people smile. A cheery snowman and Christmas crackers adorned our 2 village post boxes in December. The GK group has grown from 2 to 9.75 since October! They are a secretive bunch and would like to keep their identities a mystery and continue to surprise you with new designs. By the time you read this article you should see our Spring creations on display. If you would like to join in please call Lynn on 269415.

Our monthly Sunday Swap Shop was launched in January and we have made 71 swaps so far. It is the perfect opportunity for you to browse and exchange your puzzles and books with no money involved and catch up with neighbours and friends. We would love to see you at our next swap on Sunday 2nd April 10-11am at Great Kingshill Cricket Pavillion.

Two of our Hub Admins who are avid readers launched a new GK Book Club in February and had their first meet up in the Basil & Thyme. They are excited to be 'writing a new chapter' with book mates. Is there something new you would like to set up or join? Let us know at gkvillagehub@gmail.com or join the Great Kingshill Village Hub FB group.

We are delighted to be supporting GKRA as volunteers along with other residents, for their forthcoming big events - the King's Coronation and the Firework event. Great Kingshill is definitely proving to be a GREAT place to live.



We wish everyone in the parish a very happy New Year.

One of our most important activities in the first months of 2023 is a tendering process for the maintenance of hedges, verges and grounds. Hughenden Parish is a bit unusual in that the Parish Council owns about twenty plots of meadow, woodland and amenity land. The Council hasn't thoroughly reviewed how it wants to manage and maintain the land for many years. We are now taking the first steps to take a fresh look in the light of the local and global ecological and climate challenges we face. A small first step was to support the planting of wildflowers by the Hughenden Valley Climate Action Group at the road junction at the Harrow Pub. This will involve mowing the verge there on fewer occasions each year.

We are reletting the maintenance contracts for verge, hedge and grounds maintenance for just one year. During that time, we intend to develop a Site Management Plan for the larger plots of land, in consultation with residents. For example, we might wish to encourage grazing rather than mowing on meadows, but this might have implications for dog-walkers that need to be discussed. We intend the Site Management Plans to form the basis of future maintenance contracts.

In our updates last year, we encouraged local organisations to apply for small grants if they needed support to provide services of benefit to parishioners. Grant applications dried up during the Pandemic years, but we are pleased to see the number of grant requests increasing. In recent months we have provided grants to residents associations to produce gazettes and newsletters, and to Bryants Bottom Community Trust to help maintain the Village Green. We have also provided two benches on the amenity field at Primrose Hill.

We are sorry that our Clerk, Emily Ranahan, left us in December and we are currently recruiting a Clerk. The position of the Parish Clerk, the parish's executive officer, is vital to the smooth running of the parish.

Please check the job advert here if you think this important position in the local community might be of interest to you. We also have a few vacancies for Councillor positions in Hughenden Valley, Widmer End and Naphill & Walters Ash. If you think you could contribute to the local community by serving as a Parish Councillor, please contact clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk for an application form. We are pleased to have three new Councillors on board, Usha Prashar representing Naphill & Walters Ash, Marc Byrom representing Hughenden Valley and Jaye Hawkins representing Great Kingshill.

In January, the Parish Council agreed to adopt the streetlights in Widmer End. There has been considerable uncertainty as to the ultimate ownership and responsibility for the lights, and this has caused residents of Windmill Estate much anxiety. After an exhaustive effort to get to the source of the ownership of the lights, the Council decided that the Parish was the most likely owner, and that the right course of action was for us to adopt the lights, ending uncertainty for the residents. A Working Group including Councillors and representatives of Widmer End Residents' Association and Windmill Estate Maintenance Company are now working on ways to improve the efficiency of the lighting.

The Council has also initiated a project to renovate the playgrounds at Great Kingshill and Templewood. A consultant has been appointed to guide us through the process. The first phase will be to consult with residents and equipment suppliers and establish a scope for Council to consider.

Wycombe Arts Centre, Your Local Creative Hub

Spring 2023 program includes:

Marlow Amateur Operatic Society perform the Dolly Parton inspired musical '9 to 5' 16th- 18th March
Vintage and Craft Fair – 8th April
The Dung Beatles – 15th April
Jazz Festival -June 3rd
Bucks Art Weeks 10th – 25th June

Check our website for up to date details, ticket information etc:
<https://wycombeartscentre.com/>



Great Kingshill
Residents' Association

Village Coronation Celebration

**Sunday 7th May from midday
Great Kingshill Common**

Residents of Great Kingshill and Cryers Hill are welcome to bring a picnic, decorate their table and celebrate with friends and family

Entertainment	Music
Children's Games	Races
Rides and Bouncy Castle	Fancy Dress
Coronation Photo Frame	Bar
Art Competition	Food

and lots more!

Come and join the party and make it a date to remember for everyone!

See the village noticeboard for more details nearer the time

Children's Coronation Fancy Dress Competition Entry Form

**May 7th 2.00 pm and 2.30 pm
Great Kingshill Common**

Categories:

5 years and under at 2.00pm
6 to 12 years at 2.30pm

Come and enjoy the afternoon with the royal themed fancy dress fun competition for children.

Go wild with your imagination: anything red, white and blue, king , queen , princess, princes, knights , red and blue spiderman, castle, crown, a corgi - just some ideas that jump to mind.

Please fill in the form below and drop it in to the address below or at the Spar shop.

Chris Gould The Pine. Missenden Road . HP15 6DN

Tel 01494 714566

.....

May 7th FANCY DRESS ENTRY

NAME.....

TELEPHONE NO.....

AGE GROUP

Pipers Corner School HOPE Students: Focus on COP 27

COP 27 (held in November 2022) was the 27th annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this landmark event, COP 27 reached a historic decision to establish and operationalise a loss and damage fund particularly for nations most vulnerable to the climate crisis. This undertaking of international solidarity comes at a time of a worsening energy crisis, severe weather events and record greenhouse gas emissions. Pipers Corner School HOPE students shine a spotlight on the most vulnerable populations, and what we can do to make a change, now.

Global Warming

Around half of the world's population is 'highly vulnerable' to the impacts of climate change, meaning they are already 15 times more likely to die due to floods, droughts and storms compared to regions with very low vulnerability. Our actions have a huge impact on the wider world and countries that have some of the lowest emissions are the worst affected and we need to fix this urgently. For example, the entire continent of Africa is responsible for under 4% of global emissions, however, African countries are having to deal with droughts, floods, and heat waves exacerbated due to climate change - all of which have chain effects that reduce total food security.

Since 2015, almost all of the countries in the world have committed to keeping the rise in global average temperature to 'well below' 2°C, and preferably 1.5°C, this is under the legally-binding Paris Agreement Treaty. This treaty takes a 'bottoms up' approach which means that every country can choose what steps they take to make this happen. However, under current pledges, our planet may see an above agreed 2.5°C increase in temperature by the end of the century.

The world's population was believed to have reached 8 billion in November 2022, according to the United Nations. John Vidal writes, "It should not be controversial to say a population of 8 billion will have a grave impact on the climate". Of course, our population numbers matter, and our population is still rapidly growing. If our population continues to increase to an additional 2-3 billion people this would have a monumental ecological impact on our planet.

Women in Education

Due to the differing priorities of various governments, the educational needs of women and girls are being cast aside. Tackling the climate emergency could be hugely impacted by access to education and according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), 257 million women have an unmet need for proper contraception. This is evidenced by the fact that 50% of all pregnancies are

unplanned and nearly 25% of women do not have enough agency to refuse sex. Lack of education for women and girls across the globe is an ongoing problem, as is their access to safe contraception.

Malala Yousafzai stated, "When girls are educated and they stay in schools, they get married later in their lives and then they have less children and that helps us to reduce the impacts of climate change that the population increase brings,". "If every girl was able to exercise her sexual and reproductive health rights through quality education and have access to modern contraception, it would positively influence total emissions".

Energy

Power, transport and buildings cause 84% of UK emissions. Within this, burning fossil fuels to create electricity is the largest source of carbon emissions in the UK. We need to move away from our usage of fossil fuels as fast as possible.

There are a few changes that the general public can make to create a difference and reduce our emissions as well as our carbon footprint. Switching from petrol and diesel cars in favour of low-emission vehicles will make a significant difference in terms of carbon emissions and also make better use of our public transport systems. We should try to remember to walk or cycle for shorter journeys instead of taking the faster (and often easier) option of driving.

While we may not notice this, homes currently account for around 20% of our emissions, yet action to reduce these emissions has been slow. 21 million UK homes are currently not energy-efficient. This is a problem that needs to be addressed. There are some simple short-term solutions that you can start doing to help make your home more energy-efficient. These include but are not limited to: turning off the lights when you leave a room, turning off plugs when they are not in use, closing your curtains if there is a draft and switching your light bulbs to LEDs. There are also some more long-term solutions that you could make to your home that will help reduce our total emissions. This could be adding insulation to your walls, floors and loft, installing solar panels, and upgrading your windows to reduce energy leakage.

When 67.3 million people (the UK's population) each make small contributions to saving our planet a massive difference can be made.

We can all make a difference.

Thank you, from the Pipers Corner HOPE
(Helping Others Protect the Environment)
group.



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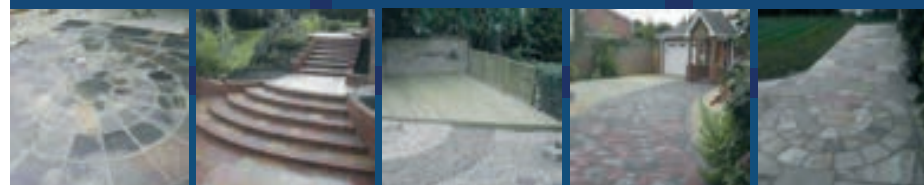
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