

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

PANGBOURNE AND WHITCHURCH SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



TREE FEST

Tree Fest started with a talk to PAWS by James Morison of Forest Research entitled "How will tree planting help in the climate emergency?" We learned that:

Tree growth removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so trees are obviously important. However, the role of trees in the climate is not just about carbon; there are many other benefits of planting trees, maintaining those we have and creating new woodlands, and also some potential problems. James described the role of trees in carbon and greenhouse gas balances, and briefly discussed some of the other contributions they make to our environment and to sustainability.



He emphasised the need to plant the right tree at the right time of year in the right place.

The official launch of the tree planting event was in October in centre of Pangbourne where volunteers signed up to plant a tree in the Thames Meadows. At the same time prizes for the PAWS summer tree quiz were awarded by Sir Brian Hoskins to five well-deserving youngsters.



By the time you read this, hopefully you will have planted a tree on the meadows as part of Pangbourne Parish Council's initiative and either sponsored, adopted or planted a tree in your garden! It has been great to work with the Parish Council, especially Peter McIver and Becky Elkins who have obtained 31 trees from the Woodland Trust and worked on clearing the undergrowth preparing the land for planting. The trees will need watering and looking after until they are established.

You can source trees through the Woodland Trust or grow fruit trees available from good plant nurseries. Apple trees do not have to be super large – you can buy dwarf plants and maintain height by judicious pruning.

By now we all understand the science behind tree planting as trees absorb CO₂ which is the contributor to global warming, but we also plant trees and wild flowers to create a healthy biodiversity of plant and insect life. Without it humans cannot survive. The planet exists by virtue of interdependency of all species and the extinction of one species has a profound effect upon the life of others. We need our bees to fertilise our fruit trees and produce our apples. We have run an apple pressing day every year (except 2020) for ten years to ensure the fruit did not go to waste.

This year our Apple pressing day in September at the maze in Whitchurch was a great success. The beautiful weather and idyllic venue provided a peaceful setting for the hard work of chopping, crushing and pressing of apples brought by a good number of people. Some juice was taken home and a lot consumed on the day. After being unable to have apple pressing last year we all appreciated getting together, meeting new people and sharing in nature's bounty.

COP26

For this edition of the magazine we are focussing on the efforts of world leaders attending COP26 in Glasgow, chaired by our MP, Alok Sharma. This UN climate summit is happening at a time when the window of opportunity for action on climate change is shrinking rapidly. In recent months extreme weather has created havoc across the globe and in August, a landmark report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that there is 'unequivocal' evidence that human activity is already changing the world in unprecedented and irreversible ways. The UN chief Antonio Gutierrez described it as a "code red for humanity".



SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

We hope the list of ideas and resources on the following page will help us all in our own Thameside communities to make changes in our daily lives that contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions. We can all be climate warriors leading politicians by example.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

1. Transport

- ✓ **Walk or cycle to work and shops –**
In the neighbourhood: Bike racks available in Pangbourne at the Coop, Garlands, Library, WBC car park.
- ✓ **Take public transport –** *In the neighbourhood:* For train services from Pangbourne: www.nationalrail.co.uk; Bus route 142 (serving Pangbourne and Whitchurch); www.goingforwardbuses.com/goring-reading-the-parks-route-the-142-8; Bus route 143 (serving Pangbourne): www.thames-travel.co.uk/routes/143
- ✓ **Buy an electric car –** *Online info:* RAC advice: www.rac.co.uk/drive/electric-cars/choosing/buyers-guide

2. Food

- ✓ **Eat more local, organic and seasonal food –**
In the neighbourhood: Organic box scheme: Tolhurst Veg www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk; Organic shop: Garlands Organic garlandsorganic.co.uk; Bakery: Birch Bread birchbread.co.uk; Cheese shop: Pangbourne Cheese Shop cheese-etc.co.uk; Butcher: Greens of Pangbourne greensofpangbourne.com
- ✓ **Eat less meat and dairy, and more vegetables**
- ✓ **Waste less food –**
Online info: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

3. Make your home greener

- ✓ **Insulate your house –** *In the neighbourhood:* Retrofit service for Oxfordshire: <https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org>
- ✓ **Install renewable energy technologies, e.g. PV panels, heat pumps, heat recovery –** *Online info:* <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/generating-renewable-energy>
- ✓ **Sign up to a green energy supplier and turn off appliances when not in use**
- ✓ **Wash clothes only when necessary**, make sure you fill the washing machine and dry your clothes outside or on an inside clothes drier
- ✓ **Buy from local shops rather than online**
- ✓ **Look for alternatives to plastic**, particularly one-use plastic

4. Clothing

- ✓ **Buy better clothes that last longer**, avoid fast fashion and buy fewer clothes and shoes
- ✓ **Get your clothes and shoes repaired –**
In the neighbourhood: Local shoe repair – Abbots in Pangbourne
- ✓ **Buy second hand and recycle good clothes –**
In the neighbourhood: Local charity shops: Age UK and Oxfam UK in Pangbourne

5. Green Your Appliances

- ✓ **Get appliances repaired if possible –** *In the neighbourhood:* NEW Repair café now running every second Saturday of the month at Mad Duck Café, Wintringham Way, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BG, 3-5pm
- ✓ **Buy energy efficient appliances –** *Online info:* <https://inthewash.co.uk/washing-machines/new-energy-ratings-explained>

6. Garden

- ✓ **Plant a tree –** *Online info:* How to choose a tree: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/choose; How to care for your tree: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/
- ✓ **Let the grass grow longer before you cut it and leave areas to become wild**
- ✓ **Plant insect and bee friendly plants and flowers –** *Online info:* <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/beefriendly-plants-every-season>
- ✓ **Avoid using pesticides and insecticides**
- ✓ **Make sure your garden can absorb water**

7. Holidays

- ✓ **Look for destinations closer to home**
- ✓ **Take the train if possible –** *Online info:* Really good resource for information on travelling by train to Europe: www.seat61.com
- ✓ **Take active holidays**

2021/22 PAWS CALENDAR

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Thursday 18 November 8pm start	The Making of CHEETAH the Movie A compelling drama inspired by the very real battle to save an endangered species. Gareth Ellis-Unwin, award winning film producer (The King's Speech) will be talking about sustainable film making, illustrated by film clips	Pangbourne Village Hall
Thursday 16 December 8pm – 10pm	Christmas Gathering: a celebration of 10+1 years of PAWS! Potluck supper; all welcome	Pangbourne Village Hall
Thursday 13 January 2022 8pm – 10pm	PAWS 2022 Planning Meeting	Pangbourne Village Hall

Visit our website www.pawsg.com
and join our Facebook group: PAWS (Pangbourne & Whitchurch Sustainability)