

WORKING AS A COMMUNITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Newsletter

February 2021



ChalCAN's Community Survey

As you may be aware, ChalCAN has launched a community survey to find out where residents stand on a range of climate issues. The survey sets out 25 simple actions to help reduce carbon emissions in the form of Climate Resolutions or Pledges for 2021. These actions, if taken by many, can make a difference.

You can find the survey **HERE** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DVKPCP8>. It takes 10 minutes to complete and your input will help ChalCAN understand what can be done to achieve Chalford's net zero target by 2030.

Many thanks to all who have completed the survey already. It's clear that many are doing numerous things already to help the climate such as reducing, reusing and recycling waste, planning menus and weekly shops, walking as much as possible for local journeys and buying less stuff. Over half of respondents have introduced simple energy saving measures, optimised their central heating, switched to a green tariff, use peat free compost and have reduced meat, fish and

dairy in their diet.

People have pledged to take action across the board. One respondent commented: '*I didn't do too well on the carbon footprint calculation – doing this and the survey has really made me think.*'

There were also actions people felt unable to act on and there were over 200 useful practical suggestions as to what might help make Chalford Parish cleaner and greener. Ideas ranged from sharing more information on energy projects to starting car share schemes and supporting food growers and gardeners by providing space, help and guidance.

All ideas are shared with ChalCAN's action groups (Biodiversity, Energy, Food & Waste and Transport), and we are in touch with the Parish Council to see where we can act together to put as many of these ideas as possible into place in 2021.

Please watch this space and if you haven't already done so, do contribute your thoughts at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DVKPCP8>.

Please pass on to your friends and neighbours.

middle of our community, which on closer inspection reveal a wealth of hidden wildlife delights.

Some relate to our own projects (Middle Hill, Parish Bank), whilst others are newly designated nature reserves. ChalCAN applied for this in conjunction with the Parish Council, who are putting match funding in place. ***We also crowd funded for £565 to make up the rest of the grant: many thanks to those who donated.***

Biodiversity – grant success

ChalCAN's biodiversity group has received a grant from Caring for the Cotswolds to erect six notice boards at our wildlife sites in the Parish, design a wildlife walk and accompanying leaflet. The notice board and leaflets will appear this Spring and Summer, Covid permitting. Our aim is to celebrate not just some of the established nature reserves in the Parish but also smaller green spaces right in the

ChalCAN meets Parish Councillors for ‘Climate and Environmental Summit’

‘Today the world is united in the fight against climate change. Today the world gets a lifeline, a last chance to hand over to future generations a world that is more stable, a healthier planet, fairer societies and more prosperous economies.’ (EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, 2015).

What was clear in 2015 is still relevant on an international scale and we wait in anticipation for COP 26 in Glasgow, November. In a world dominated by national political agendas, and top-level strategic conferences between world leaders, how can we engage with global issues? Is it possible to feel we can make a difference to processes which seem so huge that we can feel powerless?

Scientist Dr Jane Goodall, believes the answer is ‘yes’:

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

ChalCAN is striving to facilitate a community response to the climate crisis. Created by the Parish Council when the Council declared a climate emergency, we will soon separate from the Parish Council, making fully independent strategic decisions and practical actions. Throughout the consultation, the Parish Council has been supportive, and will continue to be closely involved with the climate agenda, supporting ChalCAN with funding and resources.

In a statement of intent from both organisations, in January representatives from ChalCAN and the Parish Council held a summit of their own: to share their individual and collective visions for a climate response in the Parish. Held over Zoom, ChalCAN made presentations from each action group (Energy, Transport, Food & Waste, and Biodiversity) and outlined how we can link to other regional climate groups. The Parish Council summarised how they will continue to address their commitment to the climate agenda; they are developing an action plan to that end.

The discussion highlighted enthusiasm for a collaborative approach within the Parish, and in working together with other parishes in the Stroud district. All agreed that only through such collaboration will it be possible to reach out to the entire community and make genuine progress towards the target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership, and to future Climate Summits which will expand to involve many more people from the Parish, united in seeking to achieve the difference we need to make.



They store carbon and are a haven for wildlife - what are they? They're Hedges! And now is the time to plant them....

Hedges form an integral part of our vision of the British landscape. They’re the stitching around the edge of the fields and woods. Locally some of the hedges date from the time of the enclosures - around 1860’s. But some are much older than many of our historic buildings.

How can you date a hedge? A quick way is to take a 30 metre length of hedge, count the number of different tree species, then count 100 years for each species. Try it on a hedge near you.

A native hedgerow is a structure of beauty and historic interest, providing flowers, berries, seeds, shelter and nest sites for birds, hedgehogs, many small mammals, insects and invertebrates. They store carbon and help prevent flooding.

We’ve lost thousands of hedges but there are still about 500,000 kms left. Hedges are wonderful avenues for wildlife – they are green superhighways!

Chalford Biodiversity Action has been busy despite Covid:

- mapping the hedges in Chalford Parish
- planting a native hedge on Middle Hill
- helping to plant a hedge in Brownhill.

A garden hedge provides privacy, reduces traffic noise and pollution and forms a corridor for wildlife. Those little leaves capture carbon almost as soon as you’ve planted it. If you could spread out on the ground a 1 metre stretch of hedge it would cover 3 square metres.

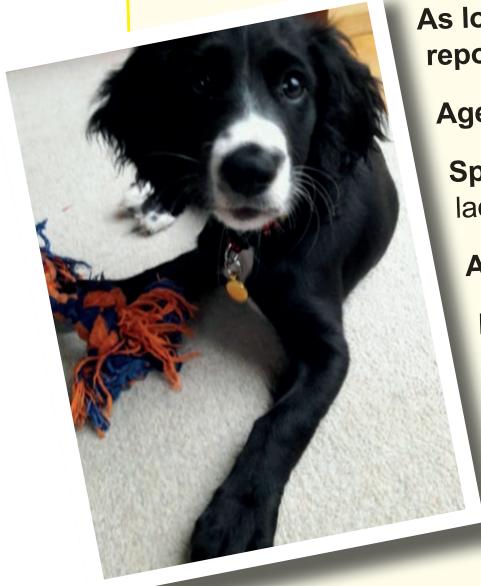
You can plant a hedge now using bare-root “whips” (small trees like little sticks). There’s lots of advice on the internet – a good start is The Woodland Trust <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/> Or you can plant ready-grown hedging at any time of the year.

For local information and advice on planting a hedge please contact us – details can be found on following page.

Dog-food alert!

Did you know that pet food accounts for 25% of the environmental impact of meat production in terms of land use, water, fossil fuel, phosphates and pesticides? Traditionally, dog food has been made from the bits of animals deemed unsuitable for human consumption which otherwise would be wasted. However, there's a worrying and growing trend to feed pets with human grade meat.

But there is an alternative ... it's possible for dogs to have a vegan diet, though care should be taken to ensure that key elements found in animal protein are included as supplements in the vegan foods, and you might wish to check with your vet. Vegan dog food brands include Lilly's Kitchen and Benevo, both of which are available at Stroud Farm Services.



As local vegan canine resident, Black Pearl Jettsetter (Aka Jett), reports...

Age: 8.5 months

Species: canine – working cocker spaniel (though actually a young lady of leisure)

Appearance – gorgeous and very shiny obvs!

Favourite activity – charging about in search of the many fascinating smells to be found in our local fields, woods and hedgerows

Climate pledge – to eat a yummy vegan diet: Benevo vegan puppy kibble, based on soya and other plant proteins, supplemented with the occasional carrot, broccoli stalk or dollop of leftover porridge (made with oat milk of course). And I'm partial to sweet potato chews to keep the gnashers gleaming!

I also don't fly or buy fast fashion.

How's it going? "Fabulous! Love it. And see how gorgeous and shiny I am!"

Would you recommend a vegan diet to others? "Totally! All dogs (and their humans) should consider this to minimise their environmental impact. Cats though? Vegan life is not for them, I'm told. Strange creatures."

What search engine is best for the planet?

Have you stopped to consider the environmental implications of your search engine? Most of us will tend to use Google by default. Although many of the big tech companies are becoming carbon neutral in terms of their operation, **Ecosia uses its profits to plant trees: every search with Ecosia actually removes about 1 kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere.** When you use the browser you get a small tree counter in the upper-left hand corner of the screen indicating how many trees you've contributed to planting... **that's quite rewarding.**

If you'd like to get involved with ChalCAN or be put in touch with one of the action groups (Biodiversity, Food & Waste, Energy or Transport) please contact

Penny at info@chalcan.org.uk

Tel: 01453 887204

We'd love to hear from anyone about their climate pledge and how it's going

Do please browse our website chalcan.org.uk and follow us on Facebook

