

Eco Whittlesford 2023 AGM Report

AGENDA for inaugural AGM - Monday 26th June 2023, 7.30pm, at URC

- Welcome
- Apologies for absence
- Chair's report of the activities of Eco Whittlesford over the last year
- Treasurer's report
- Election of secretary
- Election of Hub group members
- Questions from the floor



Refreshments followed by: 'How to have a Green Summer'

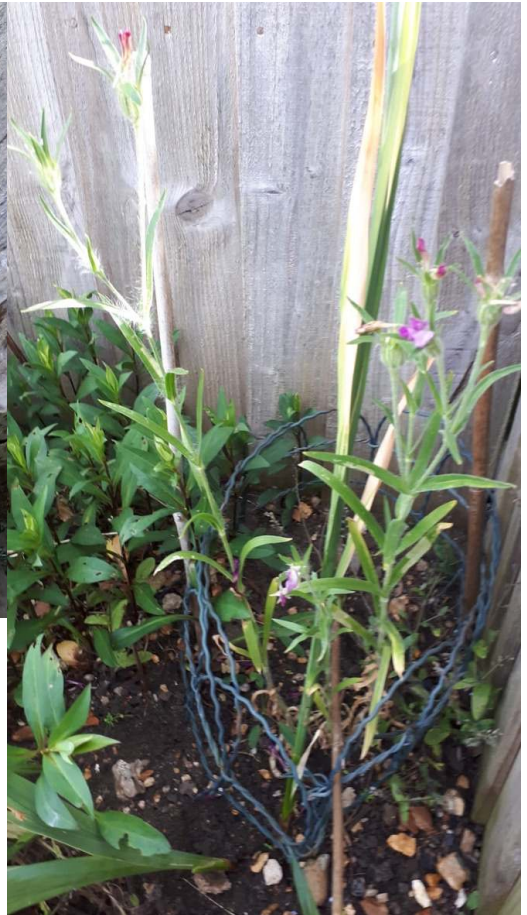
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Chair's Report

In many ways Eco Whittlesford had its beginning with a Seeds and Bees project at school in September 2021. The pandemic delayed things, but three of us (Fanny Moreau, Sally Thomas and Sue Ginsberg) who had met at the Pop Up Café at school eventually gave a packet of native wildflower seeds to every pupil and members of staff in a special assembly, for sowing in their gardens or other space! Later that autumn we had an EcoFest at church.

Sowing seeds is a good place to begin, and it has felt like this as Eco Whittlesford has started to germinate and send up shoots over the last year.



Our Logo

We were thrilled that Emma from William Westley School designed our Logo for us.



Launch of Eco Whittlesford on the Lawn July 2022

Bit by bit, and lots of interesting, timely conversations and meetings later, we formed the Hub Group. About a year ago we agreed on a constitution (see our website) and had a launch stand at the 1000 years village celebration.



Eco Whittlesford talks

It's been wonderful to see how so many people of goodwill have come together to help us as a village community to learn more about how we can change things for the better. In Whittlesford we have a lot of experience and expertise.

In the autumn Prof Geoff Maitland helped us to think about ways we can reduce our energy consumption. Following on from this we have a vision that by 2030 the net carbon emissions of the village will reach zero, with an initial focus on community buildings. We want to say thank you to Geoff for getting us started and continuing to support us.

As we carried on considering energy, in March this year National Hydrogen Champion Jane Toogood and her colleague at Johnson Matthey Caroline Roberts, shared their knowledge about the advances that are being made already in the use of Hydrogen as energy. If you want to see a summary of this you can find it on the Government website. Thank you to Jane and Caroline.



“How can we deal with the current energy crisis and still reach net-zero by 2050?”

with Professor Geoffrey Maitland

A talk and opportunity to think about what we can do personally to help us reduce our energy consumption

Tuesday October 11th at Whittlesford URC, 7.30-9.30

Whether you have been trying to reduce your energy use for years, or are a complete beginner just wondering how you are going to pay the bills this winter, come along for information, practical advice and the chance to chat to others about what they are doing.

Free event: everyone welcome whether you have been to an Eco Whittlesford event before or not!



How Hydrogen will play a role in decarbonisation

**with National Hydrogen Champion
Jane Toogood & Caroline Roberts of
Johnson Matthey**

Wednesday March 22nd at Whittlesford URC, 7.30

Come along to find out more about how new hydrogen technologies could contribute low-carbon energy to the economy and even one day to heating our homes...

Free event: everyone welcome, whether you have been to an Eco Whittlesford event before or not!



Thank you to the Summer Ball committee!

We were delighted and surprised that The Summer Ball committee announced that Eco Whittlesford would be a beneficiary of their proceeds. This showed great faith on their part because at that point we didn't even have a bank account! (That took a while to set up... thank you Rich for doing this!) Here is lovely Jacqui Cunado presenting the cheque at Eco Whittlesford's December social at the Bees.



Two Repair Cafes

We have begun to collaborate with other village environmental groups. Thanks go to Alastair Knights together with 2G3S (Green groups of Sawston, Stapleford and Shelford) for organising two very successful Repair cafes here.



A multi village event

In January Eco Whittlesford, 2G3S (Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston) and Haslingfield & Harlton Eco groups jointly organised a Multi Village event in the Memorial Hall "Re-imagining the Future", gettin three local Eco groups together!



Bat Night

Ashley has organised a number of Nature walks over the last year including Bat night in September. We were greatly indebted to Guy Belcher, Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer for Cambridge City Council, for leading the excursion from the Parish Church along Public Footpath No. 1 to the Blue Bridge across the River.



Nature walks organised by Ashley Arbon

A Moth Night in September was led by Dr Louise Bacon and Dr Vince Lee.
Ashley held a Newt Night in April.



Both of these were educational and well attended.

Botany walks in May and June

Recently Ashley has conducted two Botany walks which really opened our eyes to the special plants and diversity of grasses growing on and around the Lawn. Ashley has been untiring in sharing his passion for local flora and fauna (and geology and archaeology too) and we benefit enormously from his wealth of expertise.

Ashley is also working setting up Nature trails which we now have funding for.

We want to say a public thank you to Ashley for his support and drive to raise awareness and learning in our community.



Pyramid orchid



Bee orchid



Wild Liquorice

Our Website - ecowhittlesford.org.uk

Eco Whittlesford now has over 93 members and thanks to Hugh Frostick we have a website which will be continuously developed.

It's easy and free to join our mailing list and become a member through the website.



Litter pick

In May, Eco Whittlesford members Judy and Alan Oswald initiated and put in a lot of work to organise a Litter Pick for the Coronation Bank Holiday. About 50 of us turned up for this and although Alan thought there might be nothing to find under the nettles growing up, there was a large pile of bags for the council to take away. Thank you to Judy and Alan and all who took part.



Solar Panels evening

For us all, building communities which are zero carbon, which nurture and support nature and work for climate justice, is work in progress and at the heart of this is to do it together, because ultimately it is about recognising that to do this is also an act of love for our neighbours near and far. Whittlesford is good at coming together. We look to develop links with individuals and groups. Thank you for all your support. Thanks go to the URC and Memorial hall for so generously allowing us to use their buildings free!

As we look to the future, we think of education and generations to follow - how we can do all that we can do now for them. We are delighted that pupils from William Westley Eco club are keen to share with us what they are doing and maintain links.

** End Chair's Report **

Treasurer's report

- **The Group and its Objectives**

- Eco Whittlesford was established by a group of volunteers in 2022. A constitution for the group was adopted that year. The constitution sets the aims of the group as being to make the village of Whittlesford "more environmentally friendly and greener for us all today and for future generations to come" and "to encourage one another to work together" to:
 - reduce our carbon footprints
 - conserve wildlife and encourage biodiversity;
 - preserve the rural character of the village;
 - build these aims into our everyday lives."
- The group fulfils these objectives by organising public talks, open free of charge to all residents of the village, undertaking projects to reduce the carbon footprint of the village, promoting awareness of the natural environment and undertaking projects that enhance, protect and restore the natural environment.
- The group opened its first bank account in January 2023.
- The group has benefited from a financial donation of £1,000 from the Whittlesford May Ball Committee, which has been paid into the group bank account.
- To date, items of expenditure incurred by the group include a payment for public liability insurance to cover group activities and a payment for advertising events in the village magazine. It is expected that other expenses connected with group activities will be incurred during the year.
- The Group holds a community chest grant of £1,500 from South Cambridgeshire District Council to fund a designated project. Grant funds cannot be spent on any other projects and any underspend must be returned to the District Council.

Financial Statement and Accounts Year to date 2023

Income	£
Donation (Ball Committee)	1,000
Grant (SCDC)	1,500
Donation (Litter pick) (WPC)	50
TOTAL	2,550

Expenditure	
Insurance payment	(157)
Events advertising (LOOK)	(94)
TOTAL	(251)

GROSS DEFICIT/SURPLUS	2,299
Minus restricted grant from SCDC	799

** End Treasurer's Report **