

Peakirk Climate Emergency Group (PCEG)

Newsletter 1: January 2021

Would you like to make a difference in our village?

WHO WE ARE

In November 2019 Peakirk Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency. In response, an independent Working Group was set up to engage with everyone in the parish. The group was tasked with working out Peakirk's current impact on the climate and proposing ideas and plans for how we could live more sustainably.

"Climate change is definitely happening. We can't wait for governments to do what's needed. Individuals must change their behaviour now and apply pressure on politicians to encourage everybody to do the right thing. I've joined the PCEG to do my bit to reduce carbon emissions and improve the natural environment."

There are currently five active members who meet regularly and decide on how to do this, but we would love to expand our group.

You may be a big David Attenborough fan, have made a new year's resolution with a difference or want to improve the local landscape...whatever your motive, would you like to join us?

Or, get in touch with your ideas so that we can include your positive actions in our next issue!

Climate Central's recent research shows that by 2050 sea level will be on the 5m contour line...

This means that Peakirk will be on the North Sea coast and that all the Fenland from Peterborough out to the Wash will be sea!

WHAT WE'VE DONE

"As individuals and communities, we must make sure we do all we can, however small our actions, to retain the diversity of our wildlife and the beauty of our countryside."

TREE SAPLING PROJECT

Thank you to those who have put tree saplings in pots of compost as part of our Peakirk Wood project— we'll have to wait and see what comes up next year!

Please hang on to your young trees, as we're working hard to find a suitable piece of land to plant a wood...if you have any suggestions let us know.

In November a small working party cleared the far end of the Village Hall car park, which was identified as unsuitable for parking but ideal for a small woodland area. Now, we've set native wild woodland plants including Wild Garlic, Musk Mallow, Marjoram and Primroses, along with Foxgloves and Wild Violets which were kindly donated.

NATURAL AREA PLANTING

PAST HEDGEROWS

Throughout 2020 the Peakirk Archaeology Survey Team (PAST) has planted around 50 trees in the village. These include Yew, Holly, Lime and Walnut which can easily be spotted, protected by mesh guards, when you're out walking. The late David Dearman (PAST member) will be remembered as an **environmental champion** who gave his time selflessly to improve the flora and fauna of our village which he dearly loved. The trees will be a lasting tribute to David.

“During lockdown, the countryside became even more important because, on some of the dark days (that probably everyone has had), being able to get outdoors and hear the birds sing, smell the fresh air and see the wildlife was a boost to both physical and mental well-being. It made me realise that what we have around us is a constant and the current situation has showed us that nature can continue despite everything going on around it – we just need to ensure that it can continue.”

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN 2021?

2020 has been a difficult year for us all but, not deterred, we now have 4 more practical projects that we aim to complete in 2021, as part of our Parish Nature Recovery Plan. Instruction and tools will be provided by the Langdyke Trust, as part of the John Clare Countryside Project.

We're also hoping to hold a workshop session to build bird and bat boxes for our gardens and public places in the village, but we need your help to succeed!

- 1 Allotment orchard:** An area on the Allotment site has become available for us to plant fruit trees and maintain as a pollinator garden. This will need a survey of existing plants, a work party to clear the site and a planting party to plant the trees and other pollinators.



- 3 Millennium Corner pollinator planting:** The existing planting will be removed in the Spring and we encourage everyone to supply suitable bee-friendly plants, from your gardens, for an organised planting day (a list of suitable plants will be provided).

“There’s no doubt that the world is heating up as a consequence of human activity. My impact as an individual to reverse this potentially devastating situation is slightly higher than nil but if more people can be persuaded to take individual action that tiny benefit will be multiplied and the strength of numbers kicks in. I hope that we can encourage others to look at their lifestyle and consider changes and that, by working together, we can help avoid a cataclysmic destiny.”

- 2 Village Hall planting:** The first stage is complete. The second stage will involve removing the nettles at the back of the Village Hall and organising a replanting day in the Spring.

- 4 Firdale Close:** Our aim is to create a woodland glade in the existing trees at the entrance to Firdale Close, as a memorial to David Dearman. First, we need to survey the existing plants and what work needs to be carried out on the trees (with the necessary TPO permissions) to encourage bluebells to flourish again. The final stage will be deciding on suitable plants to add and get a working party together to plant up.



If you would like to get involved in any of these projects please contact us on jackson.sallyann@gmail.com / 07710607077 or david.hankins2009@btinternet.com

And, in the meantime, why not use the Giki zero website to understand, track and lighten your footprint on the planet? Visit > <https://giki.earth/giki-zero-yourstep-by-step-guide-to-asustainable-life/>