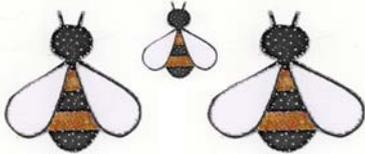


# MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No.10 Winter 2015

*“An opportunity to face and plan, together as a community, the challenges that Climate Change will bring”*

## BEES v CABBAGE FLY BEETLE



‘Bee-harming’ pesticides are to be allowed in four English counties even though there is a two year EU-wide ban on their use. The Environmental Secretary, Liz Truss, used emergency powers to partially lift the ban. The environmental group Friends of the Earth (FOE) have been refused permission to apply for a judicial review of the decision although studies showed that the pesticides caused harm to the bees. The government has authorised a 120-day easing of the ban in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

More than half a million people had signed the FoE petition against the use of nicotinoids and many more had signed other similar agency petitions.

## MESS MEETINGS

MESS meets every month at 7pm in the Community Room at **Marple Fire Station**, Hollins Lane, Marple SK6 8AL

Next meetings are: 14 December **2016**

11 January, 8 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June

*and every 2nd Monday of the month  
Everyone welcome*

## Contacts

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Renewable energy really is the way forward especially as it is carbon free and is what nature provides for us. The electricity produced by wind turbines is cheaper than almost any other form and they produce no pollution. Similarly solar panels do no harm to the environment and sunshine and light come free. We do have to get used to the new look to the countryside but we live in an ever changing world and we all have to adapt. Some of the big wind farms in Scotland and Cornwall have an elegant look about them. The picture below shows the floating solar farm at Godley Reservoir which is due to open before Christmas. From ground level it should be out of sight.

With the rise of 1° in global temperatures (half way to irreversible climate damage) we need to encourage all the renewable schemes and climate talks that we can.



*Artist impression of the floating solar farm being assembled at Godley Reservoir in Hyde*

## 1° RISE IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

With the global temperatures having reached a 1° rise it is more important than ever that we all cut our carbon emissions in every way we can. On the chart below tick all the actions you can take. Taking these actions really will make a difference and save money.

Only boil the amount of water you need	Print out as few emails as possible	
Don't buy more food than you need	Eat less meat	
Keep lids on saucepans to shorten cooking times	Compost food waste and make leftovers into tasty snacks	
Buy energy efficient electric appliances	Reduce car use and use a journey for more than one purpose	
Only use washing machines and dishwashers when full	Turn off the computer when not in use	
Line dry washing rather than tumble dry	Don't clean teeth under running water	

Share and compare these ideas with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Pin up this chart to check up on your pledges to lead a less carbon wasteful life.

## LIVING WITHOUT A CAR

In September 2012 we decided to give up our car. There were several reasons for doing this – we both had recently acquired travel passes which gave us free travel on all public transport throughout Greater Manchester, we were about to leave on a long trip around the world and thirdly we felt it was the “right thing” and wanted to see if we could rise to the challenge. Our three adult children had all left home and we had no dependent elderly relatives.

It is now three years since we owned a car and I can honestly say we have hardly missed it. Yes there are times, especially on a cold winter’s evening, when it would be much nicer to jump into a warm car rather than standing waiting for public transport, but the benefits of not owning a car far outweigh this inconvenience. For instance, we don’t have to pay for any car insurance, road tax or petrol. We never have to worry about finding a parking space anywhere, nor do we have to sit in traffic jams for hours getting more and more frustrated. We do a lot more reading both on trains and buses and don’t notice that the journey takes a little longer than in a car.

We are fortunate to live very close to a bus stop which has four buses an hour to Marple and Stockport. We are 15 minutes’ walk from Marple station and 10 minutes’ walk from Marple Bridge, which has a post office, doctor’s surgery and dentist, plus numerous cafes, pubs and a very good cheese shop. We try to do all our shopping locally, using the

butchers, greengrocers, health food shop and bakers in Marple. We do use the small Co-op supermarket regularly and for any bulky or heavy items we have a monthly internet delivery.

We also have an allotment within walking distance where we keep 6 hens, who keep us in eggs all year round. There is a large polytunnel on the allotment enabling us to extend our growing season. We try to eat seasonally and although we are not self-sufficient in vegetables, we do manage to grow a very good variety of vegetables and salads throughout the year. We make our own jams and chutneys with the surplus fruit and vegetables. We are both very fortunate that we have good health and are sure that all the walking and gardening help to keep us fit. And of course we have some kind neighbours and friends, as well as a caring daughter, who take pity on us and give us a lift if they see us walking!

We do not claim that everyone should give up their car at once. If we lived in an area with poor public transport or had young children involved in activities we would need a car. However given the right combination of circumstances a car is not essential in Marple. If we do need a car for any reason we take a taxi or hire a car for a few days – probably about twice or three times a year – and think that this could well be a workable and cost effective solution for a number of people as it would reduce the number of cars on the road while giving room to use cars when they are really needed.



## SHARING CONCERNS

The Locks Festival in June was an excellent opportunity for MESS to share concerns and ideas about climate change and the environment with our new local MP, William Wragg. MESS aims to raise awareness of ways by which we can all lower our carbon footprint which not only helps the health of the planet but can save us each considerable finances.

*William Wragg MP and MESS Chair  
Geoff Tomlinson*

## REGRETS

In the last edition of this newsletter we said we were exploring the possibility of negotiating a ‘special’ energy cost with the green energy company Ecotricity. Regrettably this has not been possible.

Which? Consumer Association is a good source of details on energy tariffs so if you want to change to one of the smaller suppliers, instead of the big six, then see their publications (see in library). Try to choose a supplier that puts its profits into green projects.

## SPONSOR A TREE

We have the land, we’ve planned the trees and the planting, now all we need is the funding! Alas, there are so many calls on dwindling sources of grant money, that an orchard seems to be well down on the priority list – but not for us. Everyone we have spoken to in Marple thinks it is an excellent idea and will be a great asset to our Marple, Marple Bridge and Mellor community.

So this is our plan – we invite you to adopt a tree, perhaps to commemorate the birth of a child, who will grow as the tree grows: perhaps to remember a loved one: perhaps to celebrate a marriage or an anniversary. Whatever you choose, we will provide a stout, weather-proof label, with the dedication of your choice on it, and you can visit the orchard, enjoy the fruit, and know that this orchard really belongs to us all.

The site is behind the station car park situated behind the Purple Pakora restaurant, opposite Marple Station. We have room for 75 fruit trees, choose between apple, pear, and cherry, and we estimate the cost for the tree, post, rabbit guard and label to be around £20.

If you are interested, contact us on [marplemess@gmail.com](mailto:marplemess@gmail.com) or 0161 663 0402. We are also on the lookout for people who would like to get involved in Incredible Edible, both for this project and for other growing events in the town.

Let’s get this project moving – we can do it ourselves!



MESS meets monthly to discuss the scheme and matters arising and to plan the way ahead. If you would like to be part of the group and / or keep in touch with the group & other issues of Carbon Reduction in the area please complete this form and send to: MESS, 41 Ecclesbridge Road, Marple, SK6 7 PF Email: [marplemess@gmail.com](mailto:marplemess@gmail.com)

**YOUR DETAILS**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POST CODE: ..... TEL.NO: .....

Email: .....