



MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No. 12 Winter 2016

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

DID YOU SEE US?

During the summer months MESS erected a pop-up stall for a couple of



hours on Saturday mornings in Marple precinct. It gave us the chance to be more visible and to talk when people had the time to stop and chat. It allowed us to explain what we are about and to take bookings for our thermal surveys. Look out for us again next summer.

MESS members are also involved in many other Marple groups. We have representatives on the Civic Society, the Neighbourhood Forum, Churches Together, and many others.

CHANGE OF CHAIR Please note that a change in the Chair of MESS now alters some of our contact details below.

At last the UK has finally ratified the Paris Agreement. This commits us to limiting global temperature-rises to well below 2° C over pre-industrial levels and to make efforts to keep increases to 1.5° C. This agreement came into force in November and has been ratified by more than 100 countries. The Paris Agreement was only the first stage of the worldwide call to protect our planet.

MESS members regularly meet with our MP to promote environmental issues and to hold the government to account for its attitudes to renewable energy. So many issues become a 'one day wonder' on the News and it is up to each of us to be prepared to put pressure on over things that will affect us all. Look out for petitions on renewables, fracking, clean air, water and bees etc. These are all areas where we can help.

MESS members are enthusiastic local people who are trying to offer ideas, knowledge and solutions to the challenges that we all face in these changing times. Call us if you think we can help or you have ideas to share.

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YOUR ENERGY STRATEGY

Have you noticed a change in our weather over the last few years? There certainly have been some significant changes reported. For example, did you know that 2014 and 2015 were record breaking for rises in global temperatures? 2016 is set to be even warmer and did you know that scientists predicted 25 years ago that the weather in our part of the world would become wetter and stormier? Do you know anyone who has been affected by flooding? Small temperature rises locally probably don't appear to be a problem but on a global scale it can be very serious indeed. 99% of all scientists around the world are convinced that global warming has been very heavily influenced by burning fossil fuels and that's something we all contribute to.

Our government and many others have verbally agreed to make efforts to tackle climate change but what if it's all talk or action is too slow? The consensus of scientific opinion at the moment is that it is doubtful whether strong action will be taken and the serious consequences avoided. As if the problems of climate change were not enough, the burning of fossil fuels, especially diesel, has been shown recently to be creating significant air pollution resulting in serious respiratory health problems for people living in our towns and cities.

These are some of the reasons why MESS has taken a keen interest in promoting any energy strategy which helps to tackle climate change and pollution. To that end, if you would be willing to change your energy supplier to one who procures their energy from sustainable sources e.g solar/hydro/wind/wave/biomass, this would really help and MESS will reward you directly with up to £25. Not only are these energy suppliers, 'Ecotricity' and 'Good Energy', only providing energy from sustainable sources but they are actively investing in new developments for sustainable energy. These suppliers may not be quite the cheapest but can we afford to not use them in terms of the cost to the environment? Another useful feature of using these companies is that they only offer ONE tariff on charges so no sneaky tariff changes at the end of a year. So please consider our switching offer seriously. It does matter to us all.

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MESS MEETINGS

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

Next meetings are: **2017**
9 January, 13 February, 13 March,
10 April, 8 May, 12 June

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

Contacts

Email: marplemess@gmail.com

www.marplemess.org.uk



0161 663 0402
116 Longhurst Lane
Mellor SK6 5PG



WHAT NEXT?

When MESS first started seven years ago for many of us we were only just becoming aware of all the life changes and adaptations that we could make to lower carbon emissions. How many of the following home improvements have you been able to make?

MESS, along with the local council, first introduced a scheme of cavity wall insulation and this led to many of us also having or topping-up roof insulation. The scheme helped us get insulation at low cost.

Many of us then took up the offers on PV solar panels to supply our electricity and, where possible thermal panels for hot water. The effect of the PV panels helped to lower our electricity bills by nearly 50%. With double glazing and efficient draft exclusion this reduced cost and the warmth of our homes, was greatly improved.

Now we are looking at other measures that can continue to improve upon the carbon reductions we

have already made. Do you have foil behind your radiators (seen here being very simply fitted with double-sided tape)? This sends the warm air out into your room rather than being absorbed into the wall.



The more dedicated among us may have a biomass boiler or a heat recovery system and we can all choose to purchase eco-friendly appliances when replacements are necessary. Although our own efforts may seem small and insignificant in themselves, together they really do make a difference. It really is the 'drop in the ocean syndrome'.

If you know of other steps that can reduce our carbon emissions do share them with us.

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THE SCHOOL BOXES

MESS owns two 'School Boxes' which are packed with environmental equipment for explaining and teaching the concepts of energy saving to primary age children.

Each box contains a Thermal Imaging Camera, a Solar PV Module, a Wind Turbine Kit, a Solar Water Heater Kit, a Water Turbine and many more pieces of equipment to allow the children to have hands on experience of how things work.



The boxes which are loaned to local schools for each half term have been in almost constant use since their purchase four years ago. The present school year is fully booked and we look forward to having reports from the youngsters on how they have used the equipment. One box is currently being used by an after-school Eco Club.

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Thermal Imaging

MESS is again offering to do a Thermal Image of your home so you can see where there may be heat loss and other problems that could be corrected.

If you wish to book a survey contact MESS to arrange on: marplemess@gmail.com or 0161 663 0402

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE MARPLE

Incredible Edible Marple, which is part of MESS, is part of a nation wide network of community growing groups. Here in Marple we have put planters of herbs in Market Street, at the swimming baths and outside Stationery Supplies. Please pick some as you pass to liven up your dinner! If you have a shop or office and would like a planter outside, do contact us.



We are livening up the big patio at Queens Court with new planters for flowers, fruit and vegetables, but our biggest project is the Community Orchard which will be planted early next year. We already have sponsors for more than fifty fruit trees, so if you would like to join in please email us for a sponsor form, or look out for one in local shops and community spaces.

If you like gardening, or feel like having a go, get in touch. You can do as much or as little as you want, learn new skills and make new friends, while growing tasty veg for your plate.

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**JOIN
MESS
NOW**

Look out for the
Switch
leaflet in the new year.

MESS meets monthly to discuss environmental issues 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, 116 Longhurst Lane, Mellor, SK6 5PG Email: marplemess@gmail.com

YOUR DETAILS

NAME:

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ADDRESS:

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POST CODE:

TEL.NO:

Email:

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