

MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No. 15 Spring 2019

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

Make a date in your diary for Sunday 29 September 2.30—5.30pm at Marple Sixth Form College to come to an afternoon where we explore how we can all help to work together to find ways to curb the rise in carbon emissions and aim to become a carbon neutral town. Look out for more information—coming soon.

CLIMATE CRISIS IN MARPLE

A positive response

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MESS news
Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No. 14 Summer 2018

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

Since the TV documentary Blue Planet II was shown some months ago the whole attitude to Climate Change has changed. At last people are accepting the facts that science of us have been trying to get across for many years, but the brilliance of the programme and its photography have convinced even those who were disbelievers or sceptical that perhaps there is something that we must all be doing to adapt to the present situation.

The sight of all the plastic in the oceans has horrified us and finding litter in our own backside environments shows us how close to home these problems are. MESS is one of the many organisations that has done a bit of pick-up in and around Marple itself. Only a week after a previous issue we are still collecting more stacks of rubbish. We should be ashamed of this amount of littering. Wouldn't it be good to have a clean shopping area and town centre?

The strange weather of this year which saw us suffer from Storm Dorian, the 'Heat from the East' and at least the glorious weather of this summer many of us have finally believed that the pattern of our climate is changing.

CLIMATE CHANGE: do we, should we care?

As ever, it's usually the case that unless a damaging event affects you personally, the majority of people tend not to take these dangers very seriously. Plans for environmental issues being given to parts of the world, and the increase in drought, others, the increase in violent storms being more regular, the increase in drought, others. Of course, there have always been floods, storms and droughts but the last few years do not indicate a better environment can last more than a few years and more so because there is more energy to power them and drought can be more severe than ever in a warming world.

So what is the current state of the world's atmosphere and climate? Well, carbon dioxide levels have risen again. The 2017 year will show an increase in December 2018. In March 2018, the temperature in Miami was 30.0°C, in fact the highest ever recorded in the city. In the last 100 years, there have been 12 years where the global temperature has risen by 0.2°C or more. The global temperature has risen by 1.1°C since 1880. The global temperature has risen by 1.1°C since 1880. The global temperature has risen by 1.1°C since 1880.

MESS MEETINGS
MESS meets every month at 7pm in the Community Room at Marple Fire Station, Marple, Greater Manchester, M45 9JL.
Next meetings are: 2018
10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December.

Contacts
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SORRY if you missed this

We apologise if you had difficulty finding our last "MESS news". We distribute it through the library, shops, cafes, schools and churches and people can help themselves to copies if they wish.

We have been doing this for the last eight years. However **one** person objected to the library holding copies as they decided it was political. We disputed this through various levels of the library bureaucracy but they decided to follow the objection of one person rather than the many requests to display our newsletter.

MESS MEETINGS

MESS meets every month at 7pm in the Room 4 at **Marple Methodist Church**, Church Lane, Marple SK6 7AY

Next meetings are: **2019**
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1.5 DEGREES C — Why it matters and how you can help

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report, approved by the representatives of 195 countries, which warned that global warming must be restricted to a maximum of 1.5 degrees C and that any rise beyond that would significantly worsen the risks of severe drought, floods, extreme weather events and increasing poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Only 3 years ago, at the time of the Paris agreement, it was believed that if the global temperature rise could be kept below 2.0 degrees C, the impact would be manageable,

but further analysis of existing and new data, has shown that this is no longer the case.

The Report is also quite clear that the challenge of avoiding catastrophic climate breakdown will require "rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." Whilst it also states that governments must take the lead in effecting these changes, many environmental experts believe that it will take the collective action of ordinary citizens, to persuade governments to respond with the speed and commitment that will be required.

As a measure of the speed and scale of actions that are required, the report proposes that global carbon emissions must be reduced by 45% in the next 12 years and should be reduced to zero by 2050. This will require immediate and significant lifestyle changes, particularly in highly developed nations like the UK, so let's look at some actions we can all take that will make a real difference.

1.5°

1. Eat less meat.

Agriculture produces over 30% of global CO2 emissions and 60% of that is due to beef and dairy production. Avoiding meat and dairy products is the single

biggest way to reduce your impact on the planet.

2. Switch to renewable energy.

Installing your own solar panels or simply changing to an energy supplier who only uses renewable energy will accelerate the transition from fossil fuel use. The IPCC have stated that 80% of all known oil, coal and gas reserves must remain in the ground, if global warming is to be kept to no more than 1.5 degrees.

3. Energy saving.

Fitting cavity wall or solid wall insulation

Continued overleaf

and loft insulation, draft proofing doors and windows or installing new double or triple glazed windows, will all help to save energy and reduce your CO2 emissions. Similarly, swapping an old boiler for a ground or air source heat pump, switching to LED lighting and using energy efficient home appliances will all help to reduce your carbon footprint and your energy bills.

4 Transport and Travel

We all need to reduce the extent to which we use forms of transport powered by fossil fuels, particularly the private car. Walk or cycle where possible, or use public transport. Where a car is essential, consider changing to an electric or hybrid model and as a general rule, shop locally, use local pubs and restaurants and seek out local venues for sport and entertainment. Holidays in the UK or travel around Europe by train are both planet friendly options, but learn to view air travel as the very last resort.

5. Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

We should buy fewer things and consume less across every aspect of our lives. We should reuse and recycle clothes and household goods, learn to mend things and learn to be sceptical about the next life enhancing gismo that a retailer foists on us. In whatever we do purchase, we should always consider, where was it made, how was it made and what its carbon footprint looks like?

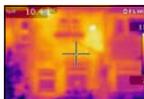
Ideally, by now, the sort of information and advice given above should have been provided in far greater detail by a government body, but as the scientists and environmental experts fear and, as their experience over the last 30 years has proved, governments have struggled to communicate clearly on the issue of Climate Change, unless directly prompted by public concern.

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N.B. Please note our new meeting place is in Room 4 at 7pm Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane SK6 7AY
Second Monday of the month

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



A USE FOR OLD PLASTIC

As some of us are busy making 'eco bricks' from old plastic bottles filled with waste plastic to use as hard core in gardens etc, in Madurai, India, a chemistry professor, Dr Rajagopalam Vasudevan, has been working on a solution. As the professor says **"Plastic isn't the problem. We are. Plastic wouldn't clog our oceans or our landfills if we didn't throw it there in the first place. There is so much we can do with it instead."** Because the poor in India have made a living recycling plastic the Professor wanted to use the plastic in such a way that low-income families were not affected by just banning plastic.

Professor Vasudevan discovered that in molten condition the plastic was an excellent binder similar to bitumen. When molten plastic was added to stone and bitumen the plastic stuck fast and bound both materials together and the strength, durability and flexibility are all increased. When used as a road building material it also prevents pothole formation. When the layer of molten plastic fills the space between the gravel and bitumen it thwarts rain water from seeping in and causing structural defects.



Prof Rajagopalan Vasudevan

Asphalt is heated to a temperature of 170C. Shredded plastic below 70 microns is then sprinkled over it. The bits of plastic melt into the red heat. Heated bitumen is then added. The molten plastic then moulds with the bitumen and stone and results in a shiny tar surface. As the plastic is softened at 170C it will not release toxic fumes.

The Professor has also created another eco-friendly building material "plastone" which can be used as building blocks. So like the primary school at Ashton Hayes with their Greenhouse made from plastic bottles recently shown on TV we need to be imaginative in cleaning up our litter.

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ECO FRIENDLY SCHOOL UNIFORM



Headteacher Lee Saunders with children in their new uniforms

Children at Brabyns Preparatory School in Marple are now proudly wearing their new blazers—made from recycled plastic bottles.

The school is an Eco-School, meaning it is committed to actively addressing environmental issues, from litter and waste recycling to healthy living and biodiversity.

The award winning Eco-Uniform uses a unique process which turns plastic bottles into school uniform and the Brabyns blazer will prevent approx 2250 bottles going to landfill.

Headteacher Lee Saunders says the quality is excellent and the bonus is that it is more hard wearing and colour-fast than ordinary material, so it also offers added durability and value for money. You would never guess that the material is made from recycled plastic.

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:
 ADDRESS:
 POST CODE: TEL.NO:.....
 Email:

