

Report from the Climate Action Working Group

We represent Holbrook's Climate Action Working Group, 'Greener Holbrook, Greener World'. Our group started off very small (the group was born in response to some Methodist Church lent group meetings in 2022, which focused on climate change, with a handful of residents attending regularly for the 4 weeks of Lent, so we are a year old!). Since April 2022, due to strong feelings of some residents - 2 of which were Councillors - about climate change, the group has now been 'adopted' as a working group of the Holbrook Parish Council with support from Holbrook Society. Our role is to consider what can be done at a parish level to combat climate change. The group currently consists of 12 members - 2 Councillors and 10 residents - and we hope for more residents to get involved as we become more active around the village. We are community-led and aim to provide information and suggest/discuss ideas about caring for the environment and living sustainably, and to create opportunities for individual and collective action in the face of climate changes. We meet once a month in Holbrook Methodist Chapel at the moment and will be present at various village events across the year, including the village fete. Please look and listen out for our logo (kindly and generously designed and donated by Come Hither Designs) on event promotion and campaigns in the coming weeks, months and, hopefully, years...

We have a FB group, 'Greener Holbrook Greener World', which anyone is welcome to join (currently with 26 members) and we make regular use of Shaun's Shorts; Holbrook Parish Noticeboard on Facebook; the parish website and Parish Papers to share information. You, hopefully, will have seen posters around the village for our climate change seminar (held last Friday, which was a success with 20 attendees, of which 6 newly joined our mailing list) - and we will continue to display posters about events in the future. You may have seen some of our articles in the Parish Papers over the past few months - the latest one being about stag beetle stumperies, and some in the past giving advice on how to reduce household waste or carbon emissions.

Climate Change can be a massive and overwhelming subject but our planet and the life upon it needs everyone to make better choices - however small or seemingly insignificant - every positive change counts! We, as a group, endeavour to bring information and support and to work alongside residents of the village who are already making positive choices; who are hoping to make changes; or those who may need support to understand the issues around climate change, thus changing perceptions and hopefully, over time, habits. We hope to encourage people to make informed individual and collective choices and to act on them to make a difference.

We impress upon you the words of Sir David Attenborough, speaking to our generation and those rising behind us: "We are after all the greatest problem solvers to have ever existed on earth. We now understand this problem. We know how to stop the number (temperature) rising and put it in reverse. We must halt carbon emissions this decade." Please come to see Simon and I at the end of the evening or find us on Facebook if you feel impressed to do that little bit more to help reduce climate change.

Mel Holmes and Simon Hooton (GHGW)