



E-newsletter, January 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021!

Planet Woking provides a one-stop shop for all things relating to climate change, sustainability and biodiversity in the borough.

We hope you enjoy learning about some of the natural environment and climate change initiatives taking place across Woking borough.

Home is Where the Heart Is

At the centre of the Planet Woking programme is the involvement of the local community to inspire local residents to continue to make changes to live a greener, more sustainable home and work life. On 20 October 2020, we held our first virtual event, focusing on the theme “Home”. Almost 50 residents joined us to find out how making changes to everyday activities at home can contribute to a sustainable borough.

The talk was chaired by Cllr Kevin Davis, Environment Portfolio Holder, with an introduction by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ayesha Azad. We were joined by guest speakers [Jen Gale](#), author of The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide, and [Wendy Wakenshaw](#), Woking resident and founder of the Imperfect Footprints website, who gave inspiring presentations and shared tips and advice on sustainable living. Their presentation slides are available on the Planet Woking website [here](#) along with a recording of the online talk [here](#).

Following the presentations, 23 webinar viewers stayed online for a discussion, sharing their own experiences of living greener and asking the panellists questions. It proved a great forum through which to gather ideas. After the event, we got in touch with attendees Morgan and Karin, who kindly shared their experiences of home energy efficiency measures and building a living green wall. Check out their case studies on the Planet Woking website [here](#).

The Great Outdoors

In Woking borough we are lucky to have a diverse range of countryside, town and village environments. Enabling access to our natural habitats and wildlife while enjoying the benefits this brings to our own health and well-being is important. However, we must balance this with a need to ensure we protect our local biodiversity for its own sake and so that future generations can enjoy it too.

On Tuesday 2 February 2021 we will be hosting our second Planet Woking online event, this time celebrating the great outdoors. We will be exploring (virtually!) the countryside on our doorstep and how local organisations are working together to protect our local habitats and species. We have a whole host of great speakers lined up including Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Chief Executive of the Surrey Wildlife Trust; Helen Cocker from Surrey Countryside Partnerships; Pete Bickford, local conservationist; and Andy Salisbury, Principle Entomologist at RHS Wisley.

We have had an amazing response, the event is now sold out to watch live, but keep an eye out on the [Planet Woking](#) website for the webinar recording.

Green Jump Surrey

Just as we released our autumn newsletter, [Action Surrey](#) was successfully awarded £6.2 million in Government funding to help 600 Surrey households save money on their energy bills.

The “Green Jump Surrey” scheme provides eligible households up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. In addition to the Government’s grant, Surrey County Council is contributing £750,000 to the project as top-up funding to cover the full cost of works.



Eligible owner-occupied households can use the funding to install energy efficiency improvements including loft, solid wall, cavity wall and park home insulation, to keep their home warm. Air source heat pumps and solar hot water systems can also be funded in addition to insulation works, to further help save on energy bills and reduce carbon emission.

Private and social housing landlords can receive up to £5,000 to cover two-thirds the cost of installing solid wall insulation.

Residents living in hard-to-heat homes and who are either in receipt of a means tested benefit or have a total gross annual household income of less than £30,000 could be eligible for funding.

Since Green Jump Surrey launched, it has identified 306 eligible households and has already helped five households and installed five energy efficiency measures ranging from park home insulation to underfloor insulation.

As funding is time-limited, Action Surrey is urging residents to contact them as soon as possible on **0800 783 2503** or visit www.actionsurrey.org/improve/green-jump-surrey to check their eligibility for support.

Hattie's Hedge Fund

Planet Woking recently learnt about the fantastic efforts of Izzy, aged 8, and her friends who have been litter picking in Horsell. Izzy is the founder of Hattie's Hedge Fund and she wants to "make the environment a better place for everyone". Not only are the children rolling up their sleeves and getting out and about to clean up the local area, they're also collecting funds for The Harper Asprey Wildlife Rescue Centre in Windlesham and have raised over £800 so far!



The group has already received lots of support from their school St Andrews, the Horsell Residents' Association and Horsell Common Preservation Society for their great work. What's more, McLaren recently donated a collection cart to help separate litter from mixed recyclables and 19 litter pickers to offer out to volunteers. It's never too early to start caring for the local environment as Hattie's Hedge Fund also has litter-grapplers for younger helpers and litter-picking badges to reward their efforts!

Thanks to Izzy and the team at Hattie's Hedge Fund for caring for our local area – we think you are Little Planet Woking Champions!

Feeling inspired? Hattie's Hedge Fund would love to hear about other children and schools around the borough doing their bit to keep their local area litter-free! Find out more on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hattieshedgefund and Instagram: @hattieshedgefund. And don't forget to let us know at Planet Woking too!

Bare + Fair - new premises!

Local eco business Bare + Fair has a new home inside the Peacocks Shopping Centre, currently open for all your refill needs on a click and collect basis. A weekly milkman-style delivery service to Woking residents and surrounding areas also operates. The online shop offers a range of refill alternatives to help you save plastic and re-use your own bottles at home. Check out which products are available, as well as store opening times for click and collect, on the website [here](#).

Planet Woking Competition Winners

To celebrate the launch of Planet Woking in September, we asked people to get in touch via Instagram and Facebook to tell us their pledges to live greener. The fastest entries into the Planet Woking mailbox received a copy of Jen Gale's book "A Sustainable(ish) Living Guide". Here's competition winner Nikolai with her copy! Congratulations!



In December, Planet Woking got together with [Bare + Fair](#) to spread a bit of festive joy with our Christmas stocking competition! We had one adult and one child stocking to give away packed full of wonderful eco-friendly goodies. Congratulations to Leah and Sam! Sam, age 7, won us over with his festive drawing pictured here.

Wild Pyrford

A key aim of Planet Woking is to inspire and involve the local community to live greener lives. We would love to hear from you, from your community group or business if you'd like to share your own eco experiences.

Tim Matthews, Pyrford resident, got in touch with us to share how his idea of showcasing the village's history, environment and conservation efforts evolved into a monthly YouTube programme called Wild Pyrford. And all this came to fruition during lockdown – inspiring stuff! Find out more by reading Tim's article on the Planet Woking website [here](#).



We love hearing about local environmental projects brought to life by individuals, community groups and businesses. If you'd like us to feature an article in the next Planet Woking newsletter or on the website, please get in touch by emailing hello@planetwoking.co.uk

Crest 21 Awards

Surrey's first sustainable business awards will take place on 20 May 2021.

The Corporate Responsibility for the Environment and a Sustainable Tomorrow 2021 - CREST21 - awards are being run jointly by the Woking News & Mail and the University of Surrey's Centre for Environment and Sustainability.



Planet Woking is proud to sponsor the Transforming Food category. Other categories include:

- Resilience in Crisis
- Going Circular
- Smarter Transport
- Efficiency Champion
- Social Impact
- Sustainability Innovation
- Sustainability Hero

The aim of CREST21 is to promote the positive work being done by businesses based in the Woking area to protect the environment and promote more sustainable working and lifestyle habits. Do you know a company that fits this bill? Find out more on how to nominate them [here](#).

Communicating climate change

We were really pleased to feature in an article by the South East Climate Alliance (SECA) as one of just a few councils in the South East communicating well on climate change. The article is available [here](#). Keep up to date with climate change news in the South East by signing up to their newsletter. You can also encourage your friends to sign up to ours [here](#)!

West Byfleet Community Gardening Group



Planet Woking caught up with Rebecca Bradshaw, professional gardener and West Byfleet resident for 30 years and one of the founders of West Byfleet Community Gardening Group, to find out how they're greening their local neighbourhood. You can read more [here](#).

If you'd like to feature in a Planet Woking case study, drop us a line at hello@planetwoking.co.uk