

Summary of PACE Meeting 7 May 2024 at The Crown

Climate Concerns: how can we influence our Politicians?

Jill Bruce, Climate Ambassador for the Federation of WI's, came to speak to 23 PACE Supporters. Jill highlighted several key points about our changing climate:

- It is unlikely that we can keep the average global temperature rise to less than 1.5°C (as recommended in 2015 by the 194 countries in the Paris Agreement);
- Even if we do take major steps to reach "Net Zero" by 2050, it will take many more years to reduce CO2 to acceptable levels.
- Yes, there will be significant impacts of a changing climate in the UK and Essex, however there will be a bigger disproportionate impact in developing countries.
- The scientists have done their job in explaining the challenges of climate change: the politicians and business leaders now need to lead the remedial actions.
- None of the main political parties are doing enough.

There are Climate Change Score Cards produced for each of our Local Authorities so you can see how they are doing against a number of Climate Emergency criteria <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk> Tendring District Council is currently showing action on 22% of these criteria, Essex County Council 43% (against the average for all councils of 35%).

A recent Essex County Council survey showed that the majority of Essex residents thought that recycling was the best way that they could help to reduce carbon emissions. Recycling is of course important, but will not do much to tackle climate change - you can do more by addressing your Travel, Energy in your Home and your Food choices.

It is useful to challenge the councils or politicians on particular points using, for example, the Letters Page in the local papers.

It is useful to lift the level of understanding of climate change issues within your local community so the politicians have to take note of that.

It is also useful to talk to your family and friends about climate change issues – many people do not often raise these issues in the home.

There will be a Climate Summit in Hatfield Peverell on 21st June.

There will be a Restore Nature March in London on 22 June.

PACE will need to decide what it will do to highlight changing climate and biodiversity issues prior to the General Election.

Caroline Hall thanked Jill for a very stimulating presentation and for answering a wide range of questions.

PACE Vision and Strategy for the Future

From early beginnings 5 years ago, PACE has developed a wide range of Projects and the following Vision:

"We need and want the whole local community to get involved in environmental actions"

PACE has grown and become established because of the success of Projects, the largest of which has been the Manningtree Earth Festival. PACE is now a registered charity and we have other communities wanting to know about our successes and to

adapt the materials and Projects we have created. The climate crisis and loss of biodiversity have worsened, and this is more obvious to the public. The Trustees of PACE have therefore begun a review of our Vision and how best to achieve that Vision. 3 of the Trustees, Jonathan Wise, Halford Hewitt and John Hall, presented the progress we have made on a new PACE Vision:

“PACE works with local communities to take positive actions to address the changing climate, to increase biodiversity and to build resilience which will help us all to continue to lead fulfilling, meaningful lives – now and in the future”.

The Meeting discussed this draft Vision and suggested various improvements:

Fundamental points – the draft vision is a bit too long;

Wordsmithing points – omit ‘to continue’; ‘fulfilling and meaningful’ sounds a bit pompous; not clear what you mean by ‘resilience’.

Practical points- don’t spend too long on Vision – we need to get on with doing the actions.

These points and others will be taken to the Trustees meeting on 16 May to try and finalise the Vision and look at how we aim to achieve it.

Wildlife-friendly Gardens Open Day Sat. 8 June 11am to 4pm

This is being organised by the Outreach Team of PACE. There will be 10 gardens open in Lawford where the owners are all doing good things for wildlife and are keen to show these to other gardeners. We have hired the Venture Centre for the day to provide a base for displays, plant stall, parking and toilets. We have a good number of volunteers to help at the Venture Centre and in each garden – but we are still looking for more.

If you would like to help then please Email manningtreepace@gmail.com Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you in the gardens on Saturday 8 June.

Next PACE Supporters Meeting will be Tuesday 4 June, 7.30pm

This will be our first PACE Field Trip, when we will visit South Heath Farm, Great Bentley. The farm owners, The Shepherds, have kindly agreed to take us round, together with Michael Wadham from the Big Green Internet who is involved with connecting farms through tree planting schemes. We have started taking Bookings for this farm visit (involves a 1.5mile walk)– there are still spaces so, if you would like to join us please book by Emailing manningtreepace@gmail.com with your Name and mobile phone number and we will be in touch. Thanks.