



# ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

## FEEDBACK FEB 2021

### Food Waste ? Not if we can help it !

We were once told that Plymouth's student population would never be interested enough to recycle their food waste properly.....well, nothing could be further from the truth. Our guest speaker(s) this month were from Food4Fuel at the University; a group of students determined to find out more about the fate of food waste in the halls or residence and beyond and, even better, to pilot a food waste collection. You can contact them on [food4fuelproject@outlook.com](mailto:food4fuelproject@outlook.com) but we've outlined their presentation on page 2.

Despite manifesto promises, Plymouth City Council will soon be the only local authority in the South West not to have, or even be considering, a domestic food waste collection despite threats of its introduction as a mandatory local authority service by 2023 in the Environment Bill. We'd still like to know what plans there are for this locally....as the budget for the infrastructure will soon have to be found from somewhere. And, in terms of student participation it's clear that there will be a whole load of willing participants !

Our next meeting (online at 6.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March) will look specifically at how the community can influence Plymouth's Climate Emergency Action Plan.....all ideas welcome !

Funding updates and the Green Recovery Plan

Climate change and community action, the PCEAP and us

Forthcoming events, dates for your diary and more.....

Please note that Environment Plymouth does not produce formal minutes. The proceedings of meetings are reported in the Feedback Newsletter which is ratified at the following meeting. Environment Plymouth is the city's independent, strategic network for those interested in all things environmental and sustainable. Membership details available from Co-ordinator, Jackie, at [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org) or by calling 01752 672537

# FEATURED SPEAKERS

## FOOD WASTE...FOOD4FUEL



Plymouth will soon be the only local authority area not to run, or to even be considering, a domestic food waste collection and yet the Environment Bill currently working it's way through Parliament, has suggested that such a service will be mandatory by 2023.....less than two years away. We are still wondering why the City Council has not delivered its manifesto commitment and why food waste is mentioned in current plans for tackling climate change even though they seem to have no intention of introducing one. Originally one of the excuses we were given was that the city's student population wouldn't (or couldn't) be bothered to recycle properly.....however, our contacts at the University have reassured us that this is definitely not the case.

Established by a team of environmental students, Food4Fuel is currently running a survey and petition to try and persuade the University to pilot a food waste collection in, at east, the Halls of Residence. Charlotte, Isabel and their colleagues were our guest speakers on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and will continue to support the continued work of the Plymouth Food Waste Partnership. To contact them please email [food4fuelproject@outlook.com](mailto:food4fuelproject@outlook.com)

Initiated in November 2020 the team found that two groups of students from Environmental Science and Sustainability Management were looking at the same topic.....food waste...and their combined efforts have resulted in recognition from the Global University Climate Forum and the potential to be included in a COP26 publication.

The survey and petition they've created will be used to inform a proposal for the introduction of a pilot food waste collection in Sept 2021 and has been supported by the University's Sustainability Unit. Working with a number of partners, including Langage, the team hope to provide a solution to a recognised problem.....something that many students arriving in the city look for (because they are used to having a collection at home).



As part of a broader project, their survey picks up on issues such as the cost, willingness to participate, the incentives that might drive participation, existing knowledge and student opinions on the subject. The petition considers the options and hopes to inform the planned pilot project.

Despite the limitations posed by lockdown, the team have conducted a considerable amount of outreach work; with articles in students magazines, online and in the wider community. It has made use of popular social media sites including Instagram to get the message across...proving that distance is no object for communication.

We will be keeping a watching brief on the project and helping wherever we can and we hope to invite the team back again for an update.....especially if the pilot project succeeds !

# PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH

## PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

After a year's wait we've finally submitted a tender document for the Interreg funding available from the Preventing Plastic Pollution project. Working with the Oceans Conservation Trust

(formerly the NMA) we will (hopefully) be delivering Phase 2 of the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign; with just under £40,000 to recruit new Business Pioneers, Community Ambassadors and, particularly, School Champions.

I'm not going to tempt fate and say more at the moment but, if successful, we'll include all the details in next month's Newsletter.

In the meantime.....

## Plastiki

Originally built in the US from plastic bottles, Plastiki is currently undergoing a refit here in Plymouth; with plans to sail her down to the G7 summit in June and, possibly, to the COP26 meeting in the Autumn. We received the following email from Kate Crawford of Precious Plastics....

"We have a great opportunity for anyone interested. The Plastiki <https://theplastiki.com/> is being secretly renovated in Plymouth at the moment before making another epic journey, this time around the UK and through Europe stopping at COP26 along the way. If anyone is interested in getting involved there are various jobs which need doing. Some are quite simple like attaching the plastic bottles down the sides, some are more complicated and an electrician or people with some making skills would be useful.



The boat is in a large hanger at the moment, not exactly outdoors but very airy and COVID regulations would be in place. They are looking for volunteers at the moment and are offering hands on experience and a wealth of knowledge about plastic and composites in return. It is an exciting opportunity and we are getting involved where we can. Drop me an email if you are interested.

Best wishes, Kate ([www.katecrawford.co.uk](http://www.katecrawford.co.uk))

## FAB LAB PLASTIC - TECH

February saw the first of a series of meetings on Plastics and Tech hosted by PCA. A recording of the first meeting can be found [here](#). The Meet-Up Miro board also contains some great information on their guest speakers, links to further opportunities and contact details. You can continue to access their Miro board anytime via [this link](#). Host Sophie Headdon said "This was our very first Meet-Up and we'd love to hear your feedback so we can continue to improve future events. If you'd like to get involved and carry on the conversation, please join our Slack channel [here](#). Here are the contact details for Smart Citizens and our guest speakers - please do feel free to get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

**Smart Citizens:** Eli ([ezahoui@pca.ac.uk](mailto:ezahoui@pca.ac.uk)) & Sophie ([sheaddon@pca.ac.uk](mailto:sheaddon@pca.ac.uk))

**Preventing Plastic Pollution:** Chris ([Christopher.Suckling@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Suckling@plymouth.gov.uk)) & Liz ([Liz.Cole@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Cole@plymouth.gov.uk))

**Precious Plastics Plymouth & Tavistock:** Kate ([kate.crawford@gmail.com](mailto:kate.crawford@gmail.com))

**The 100 Tyres Project:** Mallory ([mallory@3hconsulting.com](mailto:mallory@3hconsulting.com))

**Plastiki:** Andy ([andyfoxtec@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andyfoxtec@yahoo.co.uk))

We will be running further Community Meet-Ups in future, each with a different theme. If you'd like to stay up to date with our future events, please sign up to our [Smart Citizens Newsletter here](#).

# THE BLUE GREEN ENVIRONMENT

**Marine Institute News :** The University has recently launched 'Sea Change', the Marine Institute newsletter full of upcoming events and opportunities, as well as highlights of the work that the Marine Institute does to support marine and maritime research across the University of Plymouth. If you would like to sign up then please contact their editor, Katie Pritchard at <https://plymouth.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96878ef611e22f1dbce4b3e92&id=71375ed838&e=7c0b39bd8a>

**Education -Bringing the sea to your campus :** The University of Plymouth has an international reputation in providing courses associated with the sea. Around 50 marine and maritime courses are taught on its campus or as foundation degree level courses provided by its partners within University of Plymouth's College network, including partnership with the Royal Navy (FOST HM). This makes us a provider of one of the widest portfolios of marine and maritime courses in Europe. Around 2,600 of the University's 30,000 registered students choose to study a degree with a marine or maritime theme. The Marine Institute acts as a gateway to the wide range of marine and maritime courses, but individual courses are organised and managed by the University's faculties and schools. More information (<https://plymouth.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96878ef611e22f1dbce4b3e92&id=c18a005ef1&e=7c0b39bd8a>)

## Citizen Science Workshop

**Tuesday 9th March 2021 3.00-4.30pm**, Facilitated by Professor Richard Thompson from the Marine Institute and Dr Kayleigh Wyles, School of Psychology, this event seeks to understand our University wide activities and interest relating to CITIZEN SCIENCE (CS, where non-professional scientists contribute to the scientific process from data collection to developing research questions and running analysis). Anyone with experience or have interest in using citizen science to help with their science and/or to engage different populations in the research (i.e. school groups, general public, specific stakeholder groups) are invited to join this event.

Along with colleagues from across the University this event will seek to understand:

- \* Exactly what are the University's current strengths in this field?
- \* Where do our interests sit (a means of collecting data, of engaging citizens and knowledge exchange, understanding how participation influences behaviour etc.)?
- \* Who is interested in collaborating on the CS theme internally and joining a steering group?
- \* Where do we want to take our interests, what do we anticipate might be the opportunities?
- \* How to move the agenda on with resources available?
- \* What next?

You are welcome to contribute or observe and we look forward to a dynamic event. The event starts at 3pm on Tuesday 9th (will last 60-90 minutes) and will be delivered via Zoom (please click this link to join in.....

<https://plymouth.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96878ef611e22f1dbce4b3e92&id=ce4b5ab7b5&e=7c0b39bd8a>

Meeting ID: 919 9656 6541 Passcode: 260374

## Research Highlights

**University works on multimillion-pound project to create plastic 'hot spots' in Bali :** Researchers in Plymouth have received around £1 million for their part of an ambitious three-and-a-half-year project. They will research and model the flow of plastic waste across the country, and develop case study sites in the tourist hotspot of Bali and the fishing port of Pasuran to use as templates for tackling plastic pollution in other regions of Indonesia and across the world.

Sea-level rise will have complex consequences for coasts and communities. Rising sea levels will affect coasts and human societies in complex and unpredictable ways, according to a new study involving the University of Plymouth. Researchers reconstructed 12,000 years of sea-level rises to produce maps of coastal changes at thousand-year intervals. More information

<https://plymouth.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96878ef611e22f1dbce4b3e92&id=d23642da68&e=7c0b39bd8a>

**Research reveals full extent of seagrass beds in Looe Bay :** Students from the University of Plymouth have led new research showing that seagrass beds in Looe Bay, on the South Cornwall coast, are among the largest such habitats in the whole of Devon and Cornwall. Seagrass habitats are found across the UK and play an essential role in fighting increased atmospheric carbon emissions. For more information.

<https://plymouth.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96878ef611e22f1dbce4b3e92&id=9ddbfc5f5&e=7c0b39bd8a>

# CLIMATE CHANGE



## The Devon Interim Carbon Plan

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our meeting on the draft Devon Interim Carbon Plan on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We were able to compile a significant response to the consultation that has been well received by the team at the Devon Emergency Team

The overall conclusions were actually quite simple :

Although Environment Plymouth has signed the Devon Declaration on Climate Change, we agreed with Climate Action Plymouth members that the target date of 2050 needs to be brought forward to 2030 if the urgent need for action is to be addressed. We have since heard from the DCC team that this is under consideration. The date of 2050 was included to see what response it would get.....and most of the replies, like us, said "bring it forward" !

You can find the Devon Declaration at :

**<https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-climate-declaration/>**

The Devon Carbon Plan has quite a broad scope and huge potential to influence and improve consultation and engagement elsewhere. Our response emphasized that we would welcome their support in efforts to persuade Plymouth to improve their approach. Our meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March will look more specifically at community engagement as, at present, Plymouth's 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan doesn't really focus on the community's involvement.....and it should !

As Plymouth is unlikely to have its own Citizen's Assembly, we would welcome the opportunity to be represented and involved at a Countywide level and look forward to further information. DCC have acknowledged this and will let us know when the next steps will be taking place.

We are highly supportive of the direction the Devon Plan is taking and will do what we can as a community network to assist with awareness raising and, in due course, delivery to speed up the process. We will be promoting progress on the Devon Plan as often as we can.

We look forward to further engagement in the proposed governance of the Plan. Again, DCC have acknowledged this.....we might be a unitary authority but we are still a part of Devon !

**If you'd like a copy of the Response we sent through then please email me.**

**If you want a copy of our Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration please get in touch on [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org)**

**For useful resources on climate change check out <https://www.aether-uk.com/Resources/ClimateEmergencies>**

# The Water-Saving Community Fund



From Rob Scarrott.....

I'm delighted to let you know that we've launched The Water-Saving Community Fund. We're looking to support local projects within the communities we serve with our new £75,000-a-year Water-Saving Community Fund. We're always looking at new and innovative ways to get our customers and communities involved in water conservation, which is why we are thrilled to set up the Water-Saving Community Fund to support projects – big and small. From rainwater flushing public loos, drought tolerant gardens, water butts in community allotments to educational displays and lessons in schools, our Fund is all about getting our customers and communities involved in water conservation. We all cook with it, wash with it and most importantly drink it – tap water is a vital part of our everyday lives and most people don't think too much about it. However, every year the world's population grows, in the UK we're individually using more tap water, and we're experiencing the impacts of climate change with regular extreme changes in weather conditions - now more than ever we need to take an active approach to saving this precious resource. We can't do it alone. It's a team effort.

Community groups can apply for up to £1,000 in funding while registered non-profit organisations can apply for funding up to £30,000. So, could you help your local community save tap water? [Find out more here](#)



## And there's more.....

Never has it been more important to keep connected with each other, our communities and the environment. At South West Water we believe we have a unique role to play in supporting the lives of people and places they love for generations to come, and that's why we're excited to launch our new community initiatives. Our new community initiatives have been created to help deliver what matters most to local communities across the South West. Our Neighbourhood Fund is about supporting our local community. We're funding projects that support the wellbeing of people, the environment and communities in the South West. Community groups can apply for up to £1,000 in funding while registered non-profit organisations can apply for funding up to £5,000.

[Find out more here](#)

**TeamSouthWestWater give an hour :** Our people live and work in the communities we serve, and we passionately believe we can work together to deliver more of what matters through our give an hour initiative. If you're a local charity which could do with some help from our give an hour initiative, let us know.

[Find out more here](#)

## THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2021

**28 May - 13 June 2021**

Building on five years of success, we are delighted to announce the dates for our sixth annual mass-action environmental campaign, the Great British Spring Clean.

This year our outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever before. They have been a sanctuary during challenging times, and from 28 May 2021, we will be calling on hundreds of thousands of #LitterHeroes from across the UK to join us and show some love for those special places that helped us through lockdown.

We have moved the campaign dates a little later in the year than usual, as our great nation starts to recover from the pandemic.

And whether life has returned to normal, or we are still taking precautions to protect ourselves and others, we will provide all the advice and support you need to safely take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2021.

So grab your litter-pickers and get ready - 2021 is going to be our biggest year yet!

## Wembury Environment Groups 'Winter Talks Series'

The last two talks are on....

*3rd March, 7pm - Sir Gary Streeter MP*

*31st March, 7pm - Mya Rose-Craig*

Book your ticket here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wembury->

## How to be more sustainable online.



### Switch to Ecosia

This search engine donates 80% or more of its profits to organisations that **focus on reforestation.**



### Delete unwanted emails

Old emails use up energy, creating **unnecessary CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**



### Manage unruly subscriptions

Unsubscribe from anything you no longer need to **reduce the emails you receive.**



### Emails and emissions

Did you know...  
A **spam** email = 0.3g CO<sub>2</sub>e  
A **normal** email = 4g CO<sub>2</sub>e  
A **long** email with large attachments = 50g CO<sub>2</sub>e

# Global Book Club Plymouth

## Democracy For Sale: Dark Money and Dirty Politics by Peter Geoghegan

This is the story of how money, vested interests and digital skulduggery are eroding trust in democracy. Antiquated electoral laws are broken with impunity, secretive lobbying is bending our politics out of shape and Silicon Valley tech giants collude in selling out democracy. Politicians lie gleefully, making wild claims that can be shared instantly with millions on social media. Investigative journalist Peter Geoghegan guides us through the shadowy world of dark money and digital disinformation. Join us to discuss this powerful account of democracy under threat.

Free Event Open to All

**Wednesday 3 March 2021 7:00-8:30 pm Meeting online – for joining instructions please email [s.kay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:s.kay@blueyonder.co.uk)**

## A Different form of Feedback with thanks to Oly

I heard the Food Programme's Sheila Dillon with this appeal today for funding to support volunteers to help 'gleaning' food that would otherwise not be harvested and wasted. You may know a community organisation and people interested in volunteering or donating. It's a 3min clip. The link to to website is below.



**Feedback is an environmental charity working to create a fair, sustainable food system for all. They are known for tackling issues like food access, justice, and the environmental impact of the food system, including what we grow and how much of it we waste. To achieve their goals, Feedback works on the ground with communities to build a food system which works for them, as well as campaigns for changes by government and businesses for better food for people and the planet.**

[BBC Radio 4 - Radio 4 Appeal, Feedback](#)

## Green Energy Suppliers

Andy Moss Robinson has been in touch to offer his support to any business, school or charity looking to green their energy supplies. He says :



"AMR Consulting has teamed up with some the UK's leading, 100% green energy suppliers, [Cranfield University's](#) Energy department (CEP) and [future Net Zero](#) to provide information and support to businesses, charities and schools in the region to reduced their carbon footprint and accelerate their net zero journey. AMR are now helping to review, negotiate and secure 100% green energy contracts, helping to educate the market on how suppliers are producing energy and offsetting their carbon footprint.

With many buildings left empty at this time, additional financial pressures and the drive towards net zero by 2050, now is the time to take a look at your green strategy and expenditure to buy greener, cheaper energy!

This help and support is free and impartial. There is now a limited opportunity for charities to become **future Net Zero** Certified by obtaining a FREE licence worth £595 to all those wanting to join the campaign and start measuring and monitoring your footprint. Please contact Andrew to discuss how AMR can help and support you. Tel: 01736 806111 email: [info@amrconsulting.co.uk](mailto:info@amrconsulting.co.uk)

*"My advice is completely free and impartial and no obligation to work with me. I only ask for the opportunity to review your currently offer or see if I can find a better, greener deal whilst providing options when the times comes (usually within 6 months of any renewal)".*

*Don't forget other companies are also available !*

## The River Keepers Clan – brought to you by Clan-Kind from the Conscious Sisters CIC

Clan-Kind is a project that connects people living in Plymouth to lost landscapes. It creates micro-nations or clans focused on celebrating each neighbourhood'.

Why not join our River Keepers Clan based around Budshead Creek and Tamerton Lake ? This precious waterway flows through two ancient woodlands full of special biodiversity and a site of Anglo-Saxon settlements and sacred wells in to the lake. Working in Partnership with Plymouth River Keepers, the clan will develop its own identity over a series of eight online sessions, each one around an hour long. This clan experience is free and all materials will be posted to your home. The sessions include:

- o a river-bank forage with All Ways Apples' Tess Wilmot
- o a virtual history walk with historian Richard Fisher
- o fabulous creative makes with artist Karen Evans
- o a river honouring clan ritual with drama expert Gin Farrow-Jones
- o local river folk tales and folk lore with storyteller Lisa Schneidau
- o ecology and restoration of the area talks with Plymouth River Keepers

Clan-kind is part of the Mayflower 400 programme and the sister project of Settlement, a creative digital occupation by 28 contemporary Native American artists.

Joining Clan-Kind will give you first dibs on any Settlement activities [www.sttlmnt.org](http://www.sttlmnt.org)

To find out more email Karen Evans at [hello@theconscioussisters.com](mailto:hello@theconscioussisters.com)

## Creating A Wildflower Meadow

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm on Zoom** : Plantlife's Matt Pitts on how to create a wildflower meadow, followed by a Q&A. Dartmoor's Moor Meadows are hosting. The talk is free but you need to register on : <https://createameadow.eventbrite.co.uk>

# FUTURE PLYMOUTH 2030

Future Plymouth 2030 is a series of fortnightly webinars to be delivered online from now until May 2021 on a whole host of topics ranging from the practical skills and technologies required to design and build better performing new buildings, how to tackle retrofitting existing buildings, biodiversity and carbon sequestration to behaviour change required to achieve any of this. More topics are emerging as partners are engaging and the programme is really taking shape.

These online events intend to discuss collaborative journeys required to achieve reduced carbon development, presenting some of the tools necessary to realise a sustainable city and help to define a better path for a viable future for Plymouth.

Get booked up and take part in this useful series of toolkit talks and debate, to learn, share and take practical steps towards a sustainable future for Plymouth!

To find out more and book please visit [www.futureplymouth2030.co.uk](http://www.futureplymouth2030.co.uk)

For More Information Contact : Claire Bower, RIBA Architectural Communities Coordinator SW Region

[Claire.bower@riba.org](mailto:Claire.bower@riba.org) or Mob 07553 371364

**STOP PRESS** : Environment Plymouth will be taking part in the debate on 10<sup>th</sup> March !



Illustration Joe Meldrum - Plymouth Design

## FUNDING

If you are a POP member there is still an opportunity to vote for the £3000 we have applied for from their POP Collectives pot.

You should get an email every Monday from POP....this, in turn, will have a link to rate the bid we've made.....we only need 10 more votes to succeed and if we do, we'll be able to kick start work on delivering the Green Recovery Plan !

Please help if you can !

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Meetings for 2021** Online via zoom unless otherwise stated (hopefully we'll get to meet up at some point !). Always a Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.00pm unless otherwise stated.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**: Community engagement with the Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**: TBC (possibly 'The Circular Economy – building back greener ?')

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**: TBC (possibly the National Marine Park update)

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** (a Monday): Our 4th Birthday Celebration...we were formally launched in June 2017.

And then July 13<sup>th</sup>, a field trip in August sometime (hopefully), Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Getting in Touch

Don't forget you can always get in touch by email, text, twitter (via Stuart or Ruth – thanks for your continuing help by the way !!!) or phone.

**Email** : [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org) or **Twitter** : @EnvironmentPlym

**Text to 07970 909912 or phone Jackie on 01752 672537**

If anyone wants to chat or email over the next few weeks please don't worry.....I will still be at home and happy to talk or email !

**Our New Website at : <https://environmentplymouth.org/>**

## Please stay safe.....hope to see you soon !

**With thanks to : Tim Purches, Ricky Lowes, Gay Jones, Judy Harington, Sheila Evans, Penny Tarrant, Sophie Paterson, Claire, George Wheeler, Isabell Aziz-Hendrick, Jenny Floyd, Kelsey Parkson, Hugh Janes, Nicky & |Paul Hatherell and Chloe, Oly Skulsky, Erica Tiller, Delphine Holman, Coral Bailey, Lucy Dennis, Charlotte Abrahams and Maddie Simmonds.**