



ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

FEEDBACK JUNE 2021

Sustainable Development – A Personal View

For our 2021 AGM our guest speaker was Prof Iain Stewart who will soon be leaving his role at the Sustainable Earth Institute for a new role in Jordan. Luckily he has agreed to be Environment Plymouth's newest patron and Hugh (our Chair) has already extended an invitation to him to come back in a year's time and tell us all about the challenges of sustainable development in a Middle Eastern country. We will miss him but we wish him all the best for his new job.

The link to Iain's talk and slides can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/OwOxkfVzYAs>

The presentation looks at how 'sustainability' has been highlighted over the ages and, particularly, at the developments since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and Agenda 21. From an more focused approach to wellbeing, perhaps reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we do perhaps need to review the frailty of environmental resources and the pressures we are still piling on to the Earth to provide. Whilst many of the challenges are global there is still a link to local action – the things that we can all do to make a small change. One of those will be for Environment Plymouth to raise awareness of sustainability's principles and to persuade the Council to embed them more clearly in future decisions. It was a very inspirational hour !

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 13th July at 6.30pm online with sustainable palm oil as the topic !

Green Week in September ?

Forthcoming events including
our belated birthday
celebrations

More on the Resurgam
Economic Recovery
Strategy...your ideas needed.

The PPP project is still going well..... in addition to recruiting our new Plastic Free Pioneers and Ambassadors (please let me know if you're interested) and updating the details of those already on our list (please get in touch), the focus at the moment is on the national Plastic Free July promotion and the chance of launching our challenge to create a Plastic Free 'Charter' to unite all those working to reduce plastic use, to finding alternatives and cleaning up the mess we've already created.

The draft Charter will be based on the existing 'Code of Conduct' launched for businesses in 2019 and the inspirational of the international Earth Charter that provides a very workable framework for the principles and actions needed. A copy will be set out in the July newsletter and your comments would be welcomed. We are re-establishing the Plastic Free Working Group to over see this work too so if you'd like to be involved in this, again, please let me know.

The pledge forms can be requested from plasticfreeplymouthsound@gmail.com

A Very Common Problem



Sadly one of the repercussions of the Covid crisis has been the huge rise in discarded face masks and other PPE. As long as masks are still required, we are encouraging everyone to use reusable masks that can easily be washed and dried over night. Did you know that by investing in reusable masks you'd save £190 a year. Here's why you need to swap.....

You know something's up when the Sun Newspaper launches Mask Force – a new campaign to encourage the responsible disposal of face masks and Morrisons responds by installed special recycling points in their stores. From there ReWorkeD will recycle them in to benches, building materials, more PPE and more so please use these if you can get to the Morrisons stores in and around Plymouth.

So what are the stats and why are they so damaging ? It is estimated that globally 129,000,000,000 masks are used every month at a cost of £142 billion – that's 3m every minute and 65 billion gloves will be discarded globally. 75% will end up in the sea or in landfill and Lizzie Prior of the Marine Conservation Society has confirmed that two thirds of the inland litter picks found PPE items last year. 30% of UK beaches have been littered with single use masks and plastic gloves in the last year. You cant really walk down a Plymouth road without seeing one in the gutter or on the pavement and they are already visible floating on the Sound.

53,000,000 are thrown away every day – that's the weight of 100 cars and they'd cover an area half the size of London.
19,500,000,000 disposable masks will be used in the UK this year.



If you collected 4 months' worth of masks and stretched them out in a single line they would reach all the way to the sun. **So please change your choice and go reusable !**

FUNDING AND FINANCES

Our AGM will record the situation from 1st June 2021 but....

Allowing for May's expenses (the PPP project management and keeping EP going), our balance at the time of writing was just under £28,000 with a further £1240 still being held in the Open Collective account via POP.



The cheque from South West Water has been paid in and we would welcome ideas for how we might spend the funds.

I am pleased to say that Chris Kemp has agreed to be our Honorary Treasurer so, between us, Hugh, Chris and I and the Steering Group will be keeping an eye on spend.

We are also working with POP (Michelle Virgo) on a bigger fund from the National Lottery which, if successful, would bring in £10K a year for seven years.....we have quite a while to go before we can confirm that one !

We have also renewed our Public Liability Insurance with Markel Insurance so, once our events get going again, we will be fully covered !

And, it's only a small step, but we have just gone paperless with the bank so our accounts from now on will be on line and downloadable. It doesn't make any difference to the care with which we monitor the funds.

Sustainable Earth 2021

There is still just time to register for this two-day online forum across 24 and 25 June, as we bring together researchers, businesses, NGOs, the public sector, community groups and individuals to tackle global and local challenges around the climate emergency. Over 1000 participants have registered so far and both the Preventing Plastic Pollution Project and Plastic Free Plymouth have presentations lined up for the Friday Market Place sessions.

The event is free, but registration is required to attend any part of the two-day programme, be it one session, half a day, day 1 or 2 only, or the full two days!

Confirm your place at the forum today. [Register](#)

Sustainable Earth 2021 offers a full two-day programme, including:

- **5 keynote presentations** covering the latest research and response to the climate emergency from academia, not-for-profit organisations, business and industry.
- **Over 20 guest speakers** sharing the latest insights, research and developments across the forum's key themes.
- **12 action-oriented workshops** providing case studies and sector findings, plus the tools and strategies to take action at all levels.
- **40 marketplace sessions** showcasing research, action and initiatives, hosted by researchers, businesses, social enterprises and community groups.
- Documentary **screening of 8 BILLION ANGELS**, inc.



We wanted to get in touch to tell you some very exciting news.

We are delighted to announce the details of our virtual festival to celebrate our 10th anniversary. Born of the passion of two amateur divers, in the last decade Sea-Changers has generated significant contributions from a range of businesses and has truly made an impact on the marine conservation community around the UK, enabling over 200 conservation projects to take place. Run entirely by volunteers, Sea-Changers has proven that small sums of money distributed around the UK's seas and shores can catalyse new ideas, seed practical action and reach new audiences.

The Sea-Changers festival of virtual events aims to spotlight some of the incredible projects we have funded; promote what we do as a charity; and raise more funds to distribute. Our line-up includes The Shark Trust, The National Lobster Hatchery, Cornwall Seal Research Group and Project Seagrass. Marine biologist Helen Scales, explorer Heather Koldewey, presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, Yachting Monthly Editor Theo Stocker and coastal ecologist Maya Plass will also be taking part. From species conservation and citizen science projects, to beach cleans and public awareness campaigns, it's time to celebrate all that we have achieved together in the last 10 years.

Programme of Festival Events

[Involving Communities in Species Conservation](#) - *In partnership with the Marine Biological Association*

23rd June, 3pm to 4.30pm

[Ocean Pollution: Practical Action on Plastic Pollution](#)

24th June, 7pm to 8.30pm

[Helen Scales in Conversation with Miranda Krestovnikoff about The Brilliant Abyss](#)

29th June, 7pm to 8.30pm

[Cornwall: A Critical Mass of Community Marine Action](#) - *In partnership with the University of Exeter*

30th June, 10am to 11.30am

Wanted If anyone has any discarded mascara wands they've finished using then can you please rinse them with hot water and pass them on to me (email to find out where to send them or drop them off. We are collecting them for the local wildlife 'hospital' where they are used to clean or apply medication to rescued animals.



Honour local business' success at the 2021 Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Awards

Do you know of a local business that has not just survived but thrived during the pandemic? Did they adapt or diversify against the odds in the most challenging of times?

Their resilience, innovation and ingenuity can be celebrated at the Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2021. The awards are now open for entries and nominations ahead of the glittering ceremony at the beautifully refurbished Buckfast Abbey in September. One of them is for Green Business of the Year.

The deadline for entries is July 1 – just a few weeks away.

How to enter: You can check the criteria and download an entry or nomination form from <https://devonchamber.co.uk/chamber-awards> or by clicking on any of the following categories:

- [Business Diversification Award](#), sponsored by Practice Plus Group
- [Diversity & Inclusion Award](#)
- [Digital Business of the Year](#), sponsored by Thomas Westcott
- [Entrepreneur of the Year](#)
- [Export Business of the Year](#), sponsored by Western Union
- [Green Business of the Year](#), sponsored by Frazer Nash Consultancy
- [Small Business of the Year](#), sponsored by Swatpro Academy
- [Customer Commitment Award](#)
- [Workplace Wellbeing Award](#)
- [Steve Whiteway Award](#), sponsored by Devon & Plymouth Chamber

Judging will take place over the summer before the winners are revealed at the ceremony itself at Buckfast Abbey in Buckfastleigh on Friday, 24 September, where you are invited to a gala dinner with entertainment. Tickets and table bookings are also open now at <https://devonchamber.co.uk/chamber-awards>.

The Great Big Green Week

18th to 26th September 2021

The Climate Coalition have been in touch about their plans for September !

“We at The Climate Coalition are currently looking ahead to a time when we can get together in person and campaign with others on climate change. Thus, we are planning a Great Big Green Week - a huge national call for action on climate change. The aim is to raise the profile of the climate emergency, especially in the lead up to the UN Climate Summit COP 26 in Glasgow in November.



The Great Big Green Week will take place from the 18th to 26th September. We're inviting community groups like yours to host thousands of events and Green Weeks across the UK, and we'd love for you to get involved!

We've seen the great work your group is doing for communities in Plymouth. We would love to know if you would be interested in hosting an event as part of the Great Big Green Week? The event could highlight the value of community initiatives making cities more sustainable by empowering communities to participate in decision-making.

If you're interested in joining us on this and working together, please do let us know as we'd love to help develop and support your ideas. If you'd like more information on Great Big Green Week, you can find it at greatbiggreenweek.com where you can also access training and lots of resources.

If you've got any ideas for local events to add to this Caroline and Vaishali are currently planning some local action so please get in touch at info@environmentplymouth.org

On Climate Change...

A recent report (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57487943>) has suggested that the UK, including Plymouth, is nowhere near ready for the impact of climate change.



A challenge backed up locally by recent reports about where sea level rise might impact on our coast and some well loved and well used land.

We are particularly keen to hear what you feel should be done in Plymouth to reduce these risks so that we can create a dossier for the new Council and, once it is launched, contribute to the revision of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.



MISSION COMPLETE - A MILLION MILES OF CLEANER BRITAIN

The 14th June marked the end of the sixth annual #GBSpringClean campaign, and KBT wanted to say a **Great Big Thank You** to all the #LitterHeroes who have worked to make 1.16 million miles of outdoor spaces cleaner and greener.

Our thanks go out to Clean Our Patch and all of Plymouth's Litter Picking volunteers !

Thank You Day.....Building on the momentum of the #GBSpringClean, on Sunday 4th July KBT will be joining hundreds of organisations to support a Thank You day. Whilst green spaces have been vital to our mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic, many sites have seen increases in litter.



At 11 am on Sunday 4th July, Keep Britain Tidy needs you to join our Power Hour clean-up, and help us say 'thank you' to the places that have mattered to us during lockdown, and to the people who look after them year-round.

[JOIN THE POWER HOUR](#)

Mobility Hubs – Community Engagement Online Discussions

This comes from the Low Carbon Team at the City Council !

Within the following sessions we are hoping to dive further into the individual topics of interest surrounding the Mobility Hubs, identified within our initial online discussion. We want to answer any questions you may have around the subject areas, address any concerns and work together to tackle these. As a result, we hope to start piecing together thoughts on how we can incorporate this information into our engagement events to take into various local communities.



Through our engagement events we want to inspire local residents to incorporate low carbon transport into their everyday lives and provide them with information to be able to confidently do so.

We are holding the following events via. **Microsoft Teams**.

Please find the links for each of the meetings below each title.

22/06/2021 10:00am – 11:00am

Technology within the Mobility Hubs

[Click here to join - Technology discussion](#)

30/06/2021 10:00am – 11:00am

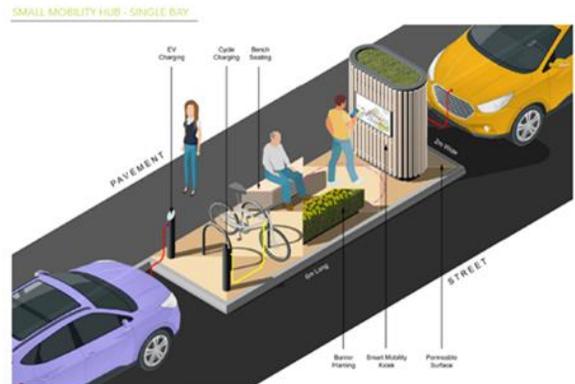
Benefits – car club vs. private car

[Click here to join - Benefits discussion](#)

06/07/2021 10:00-11:00am

Safety – e-bikes, car clubs and future mobility

[Click here to join - Safety discussion](#)



Please let us know if you are interested in attending. If you have further contacts you think would like to join any of our sessions with their permission, please send us their email address at lowcarboncityteam@plymouth.gov.uk .

Look forward to seeing you there. **India Nuttall**
Associate Project Manager Apprentice

Celebrating the end of the G7 Talks..

From Pat at Transition Plymouth

Everyone is welcome to this picnic in Freedom Fields to celebrate the end of (Covid? Not quite!) the G7 Talks. Come and meet up at the top of the park by the Civil War siege memorial. If you want to come by bus it's the 23/24 leaving Royal Parade at five minutes past each hour on a Sunday.



Bring your own food and drink, and something to sit on if you want. Children are especially welcome, we're expecting the cafe to be open and the toilets too. Masks are not required when eating and drinking, and we'll sit in groups of appropriate numbers.

This event is being organised by the Movement of Movements, a collection of groups, in this case local ones, who are in different ways all working to bring about a better world. These include Plymouth Extinction Rebellion, Climate Action Plymouth, Plymouth Green Party, Plymouth Climate Council, Environment Plymouth and Transition Plymouth.



Plenty More Fish...

a new film from Cornwall Climate Care

We just wanted to let you know that we've just launched the trailer for our second film, Plenty More Fish?, looking at climate change and the Cornish fishing industry. You can see the trailer

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbXq8tfBav0&t=1s> Please do share it, either from our Facebook page (Cornwall Climate Care) or Twitter (@ClimateCornwall) This film is packed full of loads of interesting local stories and we hope you'll want to watch it. We'll have a live online launch on July 1, with a Q&A with the filmmakers and some of the participants taking part too. If you would like to take part in this livestreamed event please reply to this email to register. The film will also be available after July 1st on our website www.cornwallclimate.org and we hope soon to be able to start doing real live screenings and discussions to take this and our previous film to communities and schools around Cornwall and beyond too.

In other news we have also just launched the first batch of educational materials to go with our first film Under The Surface. These are aimed at GCSE and A-level ages, and designed to be used alongside the films by teachers to support lessons in a variety of subject areas.

Thanks again for all your support and interest in this project

The next Green & Science Book Club...

The next event will be Around the World in 80 Plants by Jonathan Drori. 6:30 - 8pm, Thursday, 22 July. Full details of the link will be in the next Newsletter.

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.

July 13th : Sustainable Palm Oil – the potential for a Palm Oil Free City (Penny Tarrant).

August : Subject to what we're allowed to do, we are looking at a boat trip so watch this space.

September 7th : The reintroduced Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill – an update and call for support.

Then Oct 12th, Nov 9th and Dec 14th (The annual update on the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign)

At some point we hope to hear more about the new Council's approach to the Environment and Street Scene.

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 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, Gay Jones, Chris Kemp, Iain Stewart, Tess Wilmott, Richard Sroka, Jenny Floyd, George Wheeler, Sheila Evans, Alan Ramage, Roger Mitchel, Hugh Janes, Sophie Paterson, Oly Skulsky, Ricky Lowes, Jackie Young, Sam Lavender, Penny Tarrant. With apologies from the Hatherell Family and Sue Dann.