



## Watlington Climate Action Newsletter August 2021

Welcome to everything you need to know about what's going on this month for WCAG.

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## **WCAG Dates for your Diary**

- August Bank Holiday Weekend - Green Plan Art Trail - 12 pm - 5 pm  
Saturday, Sunday and Monday
- Sunday 29th August - Hedgehog FUNDAY SUNDAY
- Monday 30th August - Ink Holiday Monday
- Wednesday 15th September 7.45 for 8pm - People & Places, Learning from Indigenous Perspectives
- Saturday 18th September - Watlington In Bloom Open Gardens - featuring Wildlife Gardening
- Sunday 26th September 1 pm onwards - Big Green Week Bulb Planting at the Recreation Ground

[Click here for our Events page](#)

## **Green Plan Art Trail**

Don't miss this fantastic event, running over the Bank Holiday Weekend! It's a collaboration with Watlington's amazing artistic community and consists of a trail around the town with six different "habitat stations" to explore.

Each habitat station has art, activities, and information to inspire and entertain!



# GREEN PLAN ART TRAIL

Follow the trail of "Toby Trout"  
and experience a bank holiday weekend full of  
activities, art and insights!

Learn about the diverse habitats of Watlington from  
vivid hedgerows to buzzing road verges and hidden  
chalk streams.



**SATURDAY 28th – MONDAY 30th AUGUST**  
**12pm – 5pm**  
**WATLINGTON**

Pick up your map and quiz sheet from our sponsor  
SO Sustainable, the Library and other High Street  
shops over the next couple of weeks!

[www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk](http://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk)



## CAN YOU HELP?

Please print out the attached poster for your window / share with your networks.

Or could you help man a habitat station? It's an ambitious event so we appreciate any help you're able to give!

email [watlingtongreenplan@gmail.com](mailto:watlingtongreenplan@gmail.com) if you can spare an hour or so!

THANK YOU!

[See more information here](#)

[Register here](#)

## Hedgehog Funday Sunday

As part of the Green Plan Art Trail we welcome conservationist and hedgehog expert Hugh Warwick for a Hedgehog Funday Sunday! Hugh will be here from 2 - 5pm on Sunday 29th. There's a bake off, arts and crafts, a huge display of butterflies made by local artist Karen Higgs.



# HEDGEHOG FUNDAY – SUNDAY



**SUNDAY 29th AUGUST**  
**12 – 5PM**  
**THE PADDOCK**

*Learn about the nations favourite mammal!*  
*Meet hedgehog expert Hugh Warwick – from 2:00pm*  
*Hedgehog cake Bake Off - with prizes!*  
*Crafting and Art Activities*

**PART OF THE GREEN PLAN ART TRAIL**

[www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk](http://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk)



**Ink Holiday Monday**



The fun continues on Monday with a special workshop by local artist Jules Bishop, who will be demonstrating making inks from Hedgerow plants. You can bring your own sample for her to brew!

[More information here](#)

## Green Plan Summer Reading Challenge



So excited to announce the Green Plan Summer Reading Challenge created by Watlington Library as part of this event. Aimed at encouraging children to read, there are books about all the key habitats featured on our Green Plan Art Trail!

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

### A Note on our New Green Plan Logo

Thank you to **Mark Lord** for creating the wonderful lino prints for this logo, representing the different habitats we have around



Watlington.

And thank you to **Luisa Keinprecht** for taking those lino prints and creating this wonderful logo. The circle connecting them reflects both the art trail, and the interconnectedness of our habitats and the creatures that live in them.

We love it!!!

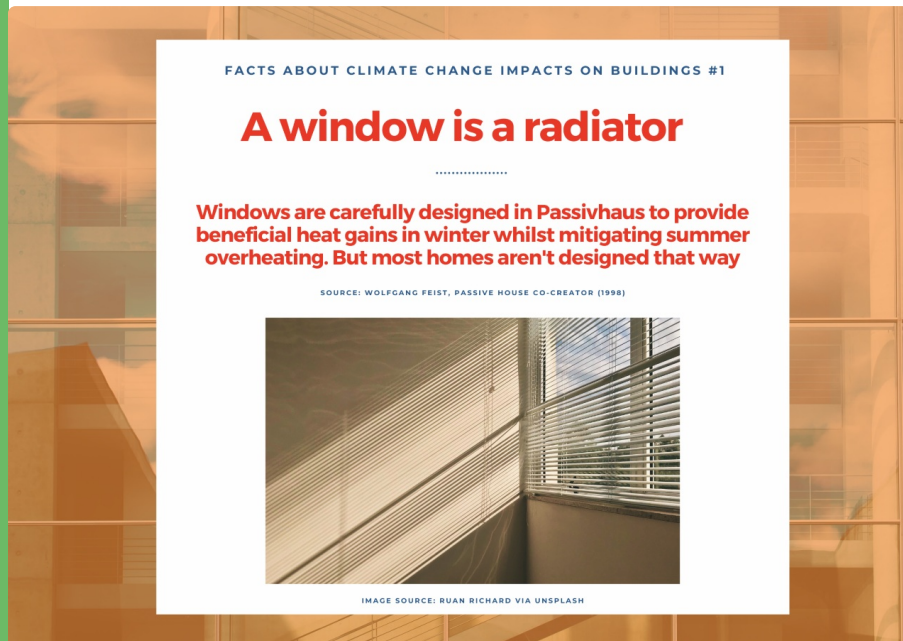
## Homes & Energy

### *What's Happening with Water?*

If you missed it, our Watlington Climate Action Youth Group member Lawrence Dew has written a blog of some of the key points of the talk by Thames Water's Andrew Tucker, which includes a link to the video of the event.

[Read the blog / watch the recording](#)

### *A window is a radiator!*



It might feel a long time ago but this time last week the temperature was soaring and we were desperate for some cooler weather!

With summers likely to get hotter as a result of climate change, it's useful to know how to keep your home as cool as possible without resorting to the energy and costs of fans and air conditioning units.

Thanks to **Kate Brown** for sharing her expert tips.

[Read more about how to naturally cool your home](#)

## Celebrating Grasslands



This summer seems to be exceptional for wildflowers which in turn attract a range of pollinators from bumblebees and beetles to butterflies. The network of local footpaths in our parish goes through varied grassland habitats near town and a little further away; perhaps we should all slow down and take a bit more time to see what we can spot when out walking.

For Fiona's full blog and photos of our local chalk flora, click on the link below

[Fiona's blog](#)

## **Learning from Indigenous Perspectives**

Watlington Climate Action Group

# PEOPLE + LANDSCAPES

LEARNING FROM INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES



## A TALK BY DR. SARAH E. EDWARDS

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SCIENCES AND OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN  
& ARBORETUM, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Based on fieldwork with Aboriginal communities  
in Northern Australia, the talk will explore:

- How culture shapes our relationships with the land and non-human beings.
- The global importance of traditional ecological knowledge and biocultural diversity.
- Can we apply Indigenous perspectives to our local landscapes?

7.45 for 8pm Wednesday 15th September  
[www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/events](http://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/events)

**FREE  
EVENT!**

**HELPING WATLINGTON  
TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**



### *What can we learn from a culture on the other side of the world?*

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Edwards to talk about her fieldwork with Aboriginal communities and the global importance of ecological knowledge.

This should be an extremely interesting talk from a great speaker on a fascinating subject.

Register now and get it in your calendar!

Register now!

**Great Big Green Week**





**Watlington In Bloom** are holding two events as part of the Great Big Green Week event - a national programme of events aimed at raising awareness of the environment ahead of COP26.

#### **BULB PLANTING**

Come along, and help plant bulbs, making the Recreation Ground beautiful for both people and pollinators alike! Suitable for everyone from children to adults to take part. Register your interest on our events page!

#### **WATLINGTON IN BLOOM OPEN GARDENS**

WIB are garnering a lovely selection of gardens for the people of Watlington to visit on 18th Sept as part of the Great Big Green Week. This year is the first time this popular event has been held this late in the year and to add to the interest we are introducing a wild twist.

Garden openers are being asked to consider what in their garden is attracting wildlife and to point this out to visitors so there should be some interesting conversations on wildlife as well as the enjoyment of viewing the gardens.

[Register for Bulb Planting here](#)

## **CAG Oxfordshire**

Did you know WCAG is part of CAG Oxfordshire? One of the first things we did when we set up was join this organisation, which has been fantastic at providing support and linking us up with other community action groups in the network. We are now even more closely involved with the CAG Oxfordshire organisation since our Chair, Nicola Schafer, has just been elected to join the CAG Oxfordshire Board. Hopefully this will enable us to share experience and learn even more from the other amazing groups in the network. Here's a short video about the organisation we are part of and the other initiatives.

[Watch the CAG Oxfordshire video](#)

## Recipe of the Month

Thanks again to Rowan Price for this tasty recipe for August

Watlington Climate Action Group Recipes

### Warm Herby Potato Salad

Serves: 4

Total Time: 30 Minutes

#### Ingredients

900g New Potatoes	1 Tbsp Chopped Chives
5 Tbsp Olive Oil	1 Diced Shallot
3 Tbsp Apple Cider Vinegar	A handful Chopped Parsley
2 Cloves Garlic, Minced	1 Onion Chopped
1/2 Tsp Sea Salt	150g Green Beans
1 Tsp Black Pepper	Chive Blossoms for Garnish, or
1 Tbsp Grainy Mustard	Chopped Chives
A handful Chopped Dill	
2 Tbsp Capers	

#### Method

1. Chop the potatoes into bite sized pieces . Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil. Add the potatoes and cook them for 10 minutes or just until they are fork tender.
2. Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a pan over medium heat. Add the green beans. Sautee them for a few minutes, until they turn bright green. Add 1 Tbsp of water, then cover the pan quickly to trap the steam. Let the beans cook for about two-three minutes.
3. Next make the dressing. In your serving bowl combine the garlic, olive oil, apple cider vinegar, salt, pepper, and mustard. Stir to combine. Next add the herbs, onions, and capers, along with the beans.
4. Once the potatoes are cooked, drain them and add them to the serving bowl. Toss to dress. Taste and add more salt if needed.
5. Serve the salad warm or refrigerate for later.

Rowan Price



Following our What's Happening With Water event, check out these tips - is there anything you could add to what you are already doing?

- Don't leave tap running when brushing teeth
- Use a water butt for watering plants
- Put a time limit on showers (timer available from the Thames Water website)
- Fit water saving devices in the cistern and on taps and shower heads (available from Thames Water)
- Water plants in the evening when water evaporation is less
- Avoid sprinklers
- Fix leaky toilets

**Thanks for reading!**

Watlington Climate Action Group



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