



Great Big Green Week

FAIRER WORLD LINDFIELD

Before coming to live in Lindfield, Peter Desmond and Chris Lee were involved in Fairtrade in west London. Peter's interest in Fairtrade in the developing world was inspired by his work and travels in Africa. Peter said: "Since I first went to South Africa in 1982, I have seen how much buying ethically can benefit food producers a long way from here."



Peter and Chris were keen to introduce Fairtrade to Lindfield and, after engaging local shops, cafes, churches and schools who used or sold Fairtrade products, they applied to the Fairtrade Foundation and Lindfield was accredited in April 2018.

As the climate change issues became more public, they decided to undertake Al Gore's Climate Reality training in March 2019 to raise awareness in the local community about the climate and ecological crisis. Peter explained: "A group of us founded Fairer World Lindfield to extend our work on Fairtrade to help care more for our planet and all those living in it."

The Fairer World Lindfield climate and ecological action group took off with a brunch at King Edward Hall, showcasing the great range of local food products that are produced in and around Lindfield, from cheese to good-quality meat and vegetables. Chris said: "The hall was packed with people enjoying local food and listening to speakers about waste prevention and regenerative agriculture." This event was followed by 'Your Climate Your Choices' with the young Eco Group at Blackthorns school and the West Sussex County Council Sustainability Officer and gave ideas of practical action you could personally take to help mitigate climate change.



"After this we were preparing to do something on a regular basis," says Peter, "but, just as we started our

monthly Climate Cafes at the Stand Up Inn, lockdown happened!" Yet, moving to monthly online Zoom talks proved to be a great success as attendance increased including beyond Lindfield; a wide range of topics has been discussed, such as fast fashion, divesting, growing your own, insect life in your back garden, the circular economy, being more sustainable in the home, eco-friendly cleaning products and two movies on climate change were also screened.

"We began to think that, rather than reinventing the wheel, there were other local climate action groups from whom we could learn. So, in November 2019 several climate and transition town groups got together to share. As a result, Central Sussex Climate Network was born, bringing together HKD (Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Keymer and Ditchling), Henfield, Burgess Hill, Balcombe, Scaynes Hill and Cuckfield."

Their latest venture, the Great Big Green Week (set up by The Climate Coalition) is being held between 20th and 25th September; it's grown from a small seed to now six evening Zoom talks, the screening of a climate movie, a visit to a local farm, and a nature walk. They are also hoping that cafés, restaurants and shops will become involved. More details on this later, and the Fairer World Lindfield Facebook page.

Chris said: "I think it's really hard not to feel overwhelmed by the climate and ecological crisis; I know I've certainly struggled to believe that the small daily changes I've made can make a difference. I'm a lot more aware now of where I shop, what I eat, my consumer habits, reducing car journeys and using less plastic." One area Chris has noticed a big difference in is her garden. She's grown more plants that encourage pollinators, had a go at growing some vegetables in between the plants (not too successful this year!) and only mowed the grass once this year so far. "The best bit is the wilding patch I started, which I have to say, looks a glorious mess, full of flowers I've never seen before that the birds, bees and butterflies delight in. Maybe we have to believe that

little by little, a little becomes a lot, and change can begin to take place!"

Peter was pleased to see that Lindfield's three local churches have supported the Global South by serving Fairtrade products. All Saints Church recently became accredited as a Fairtrade Church, and they are working towards an Eco Church Award and starting the Caring for God's Creation group, raising awareness of climate change and putting their faith into action (see page 58).

Fairtrade and Fairer World Lindfield will also have a presence at the Late Summer Lindfield Village Day on 11th September, with displays of Fairtrade products, plastic free household items, an example of a wormery, a kid's corner with storytelling and Make Do and Mend, with repair and sewing activities. Trevor Carpenter will be on hand to chat about the upcoming Lindfield Repair Café and talk to anyone who might want to volunteer. Chris said we need to refuse, reuse, repair and recycle and a Repair Café is a fantastic start to those 4 R's.

How Lindfield's Great Big Green Week looks...

All Zoom talks starting at 7.30pm.

Monday 20th: Peter Desmond on the background to our climate breakdown and COP26, plus Lindfield Parish Council Climate Change Group with Q&A.

Tuesday 21st: Vegetarian and vegan cooking demonstration by local chef with discussion by attendees.

Wednesday 22nd: International Development Agency Tearfund on climate justice and the effect of climate breakdown on the Global South. We will also be joined by Sussex University's Climate Justice group.

Thursday 23rd: Nick Owens from HKD on home insulation and energy savings with Q&A

Friday 24th: The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide – Author Jen Gale is an ordinary, knackered mum of two whose life changed when she recognised the power that we all have as individuals to make a difference. There is a small charge for this event of £3.50.

Saturday 25th: 1pm-3pm - Visit to Cockhaise Farm with Dan Burdett. Numbers restricted and we are holding a waiting list.

Saturday 25th: 7.30pm-9pm – Movie Night: Screening of 'The Race is on: Secrets and Solutions of Climate Change' followed by Q&A with the two producers Dr James Dyke, associate professor at the University of Southampton, and Paul Maple.

The events listed here are all bookable on www.eventbrite.co.uk (search for Fairer World Lindfield) or you can contact Chris & Peter at fairerworldlindfield@gmail.com or call 01444 484063.

Stressed about your Bookkeeping?

- Business Accounts and Taxation
- Self-Assessment
- Bookkeeping and Vat Returns
- Payroll and CIS

Hand it over to a qualified, flexible and experienced extension to your team.

BASED IN LINDFIELD
Call now for a **FREE** initial consultation
NANETTE KILBRYDE MAAT AATQB

E: nanette@hentonsaccounting.co.uk
www.hentonsaccounting.co.uk

aat AAT Licensed Accountant

Nanette Kilbryde is licensed and regulated by AAT under licence number 1001793



T: +44 (0)1444 417478

Matthews
Drainage
CLEARANCE
Drains • Gutters • Emergencies

24 hour EMERGENCY SERVICES **01444 672 796**



Blocked drains, toilets & sinks



Gutter clearance & repairs



Moss and roof treatments



Patio treatment and cleaning

📞 01444 672 796 🌐 WWW.MATTHEWS-DRAIN-CLEARANCE.CO.UK