

Climate Emergency Group, Stonesfield and Fawler  
Minutes of meeting – Monday 2 December, 2019

1. This Climate Emergency Group has been set up to be an information exchange, to encourage each household to do what they can to reduce CO2 emissions. It is also designed to be a community group so that we can support each other in our efforts to maintain momentum. There may be wider objectives and projects that emerge from our discussions that will embrace the whole community.
2. Format:
  - Monthly meetings at St James Hall on the first Monday. 7.30 – 9pm. £1 donation for cost of hall.
  - Check-in is an opportunity for each member to share their news eg, about local green initiatives; share personal concerns eg I'm finding it really hard to give up plastic; share achievements eg, I have signed up to a greener energy supplier. We respectfully requested members refrain from offering advice unless it is explicitly asked for. This is to foster an environment of friendly support.
  - Topic for discussion: Volunteers to present their chosen area of knowledge or research on a particular subject which is agreed upon in advance. Presenters have a flipchart and a whiteboard with marker pens to record information such as website addresses but we do not have a projector for powerpoint or slides.
  - Questions and further action to be agreed.
3. Caroline Friend provided a helpful overview of the issues with which we are faced on a global scale.
4. Topics for future discussion included: Household shopping (general/food/cleaning products), Plastics which pollute, Clothes (buying and exchanging), Barter system for services, Greener holidays, Greener transport, Energy supplies, Greener Financial institutions, XR, Planting trees, Litter Collection, Internet Usage, Fostering greener work environments, Giving to climate charities, Community Allotment, Repair café.
5. Frances Mortimer kindly agreed at very short notice to talk about what we could all do to have a greener Christmas. There is an article in the December Stonesfield slate about what the nursery have achieved. The following is a brief note of her suggestions:-

**Tree:** Consider decorating branches instead of a whole tree. Rooted trees are available at Charlbury Christmas Trees. They can be re-potted and reused but remember to keep them well watered. If you already have an artificial tree keep

using it for as long as possible (circa 10 years' use makes it comparable with a cut tree). Here is a link to a tree farm in the Cotswolds who rent out trees and keep them in the ground for you Jan – Dec <https://www.countryliving.com/uk/homes-interiors/interiors/a29695669/rent-christmas-tree-cotswold-fir/>

**Gift wrap:** Consider using colourful fabric from clothes and ribbons eg, picked up from a charity shop. Newspaper or other recyclable materials, a scarf as part of the present, a home-made drawstring bag. Remember that mixed materials are not recyclable eg, glue or selotape and shiny and glittery cards will have to go to landfill as they will contaminate.

**Presents:** Consider re- gifting, especially children's toys. Buy and give secondhand. Consider giving experiences eg picnic, day trip 1-2-1. Give a tree to plant. Give a promise eg "To cook a meal". Planted bulbs, consider a secret santa with token gifts to avoid over consumption.

**Food:** Try not to waste. Freeze left over portions, avoid out of season imported goods which have been flown in eg strawberries from South Africa. Check ingredients of ready made products to see if they contain palm oil eg mince pies. Use homegrown produce if you have an allotment. Home produced turkeys are available from Leafield.

**Decorations:**

Make your own crackers

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/features/homemade-christmas-crackers/>

Avoid using glitterglue and stickers because the glue prevents items being recycled. Consider original 'transient art' as an alternative. Use stencils and make crowns using natural materials to maximise recycling potential. Consider using fresh wreaths and even making your own.

**Festive activities:** Leafield tree planting. St James' Church is providing children's activities.

6. The meeting was reminded to use their vote on 12 December to support greener policies and a call was put out to engage the younger people in Stonesfield and Fawler to please get involved and start a social media chat.