

OPINION

Climate Action

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Save the date and save the planet

Sustainable Harborough Community is organising the third Harborough Big Green Week (HBGW) which will kick off with a bang on June 10.

This year the start of the week happily coincides with the Harborough carnival which is also going green. There's going to be a Green Street on Symington's rec with stalls focussing on all aspects of sustainable living, and a green theme for the carnival floats.

There'll be lots of events during the week to encourage people to get active to help tackle the climate crisis and do something 'green' for the planet!

But why bother? Aren't we all a bit tired of being told we shouldn't fly for holidays and

mustn't buy new clothes; that there are fewer birds in our gardens and the rivers are full of sewage? Does it feel like the small, daily changes that we are personally able to make are pointless given the enormity of the crisis?

Well, the Harborough Big Green Week team and local environmentally aware groups like the Carnival Committee, Harborough Climate Action, Harborough Woodland, Harborough in Bloom don't think it's pointless. Businesses at The Village and others around the town, don't think that it is pointless either. And, the scale of the climate crisis really does need our engagement.

The United Nations says: "Climate change is a global emergency that goes beyond



national borders." David Attenborough asserts: "The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it." We need to listen to people like David Attenborough and act together now to ensure that future generations of people and wildlife across the world are

able to survive and thrive.

The Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature, with events taking place all over the country. In Harborough we definitely aim to celebrate the many good things that are happening locally and to encourage more people to get active for the climate.

We are not looking at this through the rose-tinted spectacles! There are certainly some big issues to address. Our housing stock is woefully inadequate to cope with a changing climate. The cost of getting rid of your gas boiler and installing air source heating is prohibitive for most people. However everybody can find ways to

reduce their carbon emissions by adjusting the way they get around, or the food they eat, or the things they choose to buy. And, many of the events during HBGW will be fun, informative and money-saving as well as important.

So why not get your bicycle out and replace some of your car journeys with cycling? Get your children to plant some vegetables or flowers for butterflies? Re-organise kitchen cupboards to make use of refill services and check out charity shops for a new summer outfit before buying new? Be part of the fight for our planet and join us for Harborough Big Green Week.

www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/harborough-big-green-week-2023.