Waterside Climate Action Network (waterCAN) update.

Apologies for the cancellation of our March session with Ben Webster. This was due to a technical issue involving publication dates. Please check our website for up to date information.

Our next open session, “Ocean Impact” is on April 29th at Hythe Library. 7.00 till 9.00. All welcome.

Lee Attrill, a south coast representative for the campaigning charity Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) will be talking about what started as a hobby with his son and nephews, and their online shop “Sea Ranger”, and has developed into a personal mission to combat sewage dumping in the UK’s rivers and seas. Lee will highlight the vital work of SAS and their growing influence on the protection of our inland and coastal waters.

This will be of particular interest to all open water swimmers and anyone interested in the protection of our coasts and rivers.

The final part of the session we will be discussing what we can, and should, be doing locally to combat sewage dumping.

The move to the library is in recognition of Hythe Library’s growth towards a community climate centre, being a base for the Waterside Food Project and its hosting of a range of activities in its Green and Thrifty fortnight around half term. Activities included an Energy Saving workshop and children’s activities including wormeries and bird feeders, not forgetting the monthly eco club.

WaterCAN is continuing its work with Community Energy South in identifying suitable local sites for community energy schemes. As mentioned in previous updates we are also working with Power for the People and like-minded local organisations to remove the barriers to community owned sustainable energy developments.  Interestingly, the City of Munich has a larger investment in UK windfarms than the UK government.

Planning for the community meeting for “Holbury Greening” continues, and it is hoped to hold the first meeting by the end of April. The aim will be to provide help to residents to reduce their energy use through simple, informed and achievable actions.

Fawley has also been successful in bidding for funding to provide “Drying Pods” for families who are unable to dry their washing outside or are unable to afford the costs associated with tumble dryers. Any Fawley household who would like to request a Drying Pod should contact Amy, the youth worker, on youthworker@fawley-pc.gov.uk.

A reminder that you have just a couple of days to respond to the County Council’s consultation on future services, which includes Household Recycling Centres.

And finally, a thought for the day: In 2000, Sir Bob May, former President of the Royal Society and Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK government, observed in an interview with Sir David Attenborough when discussing whether we could do anything about the extinction crisis, that: “…we have the potential to apply our understanding for good stewardship and husbandry of this marvellous world that we are heir to. Or we can just thoughtlessly go on creating more bits of garbage to amuse ourselves with…”. And 24 years on…………….

For further, and more, information, please check out our website, on e-voice.org/waterCAN or our Facebook page, or email: watercan2024@gmail.com