



ACT Newsletter May 2021

How about an Electric Car and Bike Club in Teignmouth?



Teignmouth Town Council's notice board: Would you like to see a community-led electric car club in Teignmouth? Or even an electric bike sharing scheme?

The club would have electric cars available to book from as little as half an hour for an all-inclusive price from locations around the area. The e-bike scheme would have bikes that could be rented and returned also from locations across the area. Because they are electrically assisted, the e-bikes are a great alternative to the car for shorter trips and mean you can tackle hills without breaking a sweat!

Together, they would help tackle our county's congestion, parking and pollution problems, whilst providing affordable access to zero emission vehicles for all. Interested? Then please complete this [short survey](#) by **26 May**.

No mow May

Have you considered not mowing the lawn and choosing to help our incredible insects to get on with their essential work of pollinating our plants? It could be the start of a really good habit and give you more time to enjoy the garden without the usual chore of constantly having to cut the grass.

NoMowMay is an initiative started by an organisation called Plant Life who recommend that we resist cutting the grass for one month and then check out the many insects that will make use of the grass. Or you could join in to the nationwide survey "Every Flower Counts" and discover how many bees your lawn feeds. Besides receiving your very own 'nectar' score, you will also help give Plant Life knowledge of the nations' wild flowers.

This initiative is ideal for both urban and rural environments. Councils such as Teignmouth have agreed to not mow the verges in May, so watch the verge near you and notice the beautiful abundance of stunning insects.

Hopefully it will start a new habit and could be followed by "Let it Bloom June" and knee-high July".

See [Plant Life's website](#) for further information.

Six months to COP26



In the lead up to COP26 debates are intensifying over some key issues, some of which have rumbled on for over a decade, passing though and beyond the COP21 in Paris, over five years ago.

There is growing tension between those who promote the importance of doing all we can today to reduce emissions and decarbonise the economy, thus keeping us from exceeding carbon budgets, and those

who believe we can rely on current and future technologies to provide both cleaner and more efficient energy and remove, use or store carbon in the decades ahead.

For more information and links to further reading and videos that will get you fired up for Glasgow, see [our full piece](#).

Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

The CEE Bill was drafted by experts in Climate Change and Ecology and not only brings together two interconnected emergencies into one piece of legislation but also seeks to fill in the gaps in previous legislation, in particular:

1. Accounting for our entire carbon footprint to include all of the emissions linked to the production and transport of goods from overseas that we consume in the UK;
2. To ensure we don't use as yet unproven at scale technology to remove emissions as an excuse for further delay and inaction (This subject was covered in the [March newsletter](#) under "Know your Net Zero from your NETs and BECCS");
3. To focus on nature as much as climate, protecting and conserving habitats in the UK and internationally on supply chains and
4. Making proper use of a Citizens' Assembly to decide on the way forward.

The Bill was put before Parliament last year and will hopefully be reintroduced this year. It is currently supported by over 100 MPs and organisations and we have written to our two MPs to ask for their support (here is [one letter](#)).

All details of the CEE Bill and the campaign to get it through Parliament are on the [CEE Bill Alliance website](#), including guidance on [lobbying your MP](#). This [15 minute video](#) also gives a great summary of what the bill is needed.

Sale of peat to be banned in 2024

After a 10 year voluntary phasing out of peat sales failed to materialise, the Government has announced a ban on sales with large fines for garden centres and other outlets selling it after that date. There will also be £50m to support the restoration of 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025, about 1% of the UK's total.



Globally, peatland covers about 3% of the land surface and yet stores over 40% of the land's carbon, that's more than all the forests and vegetation combined. In addition to helping capture more carbon, restoring peatlands are also vital in boosting biodiversity and wild spaces.

There's more detail in [our piece](#) from last month.

Greta Thunberg - A Year to Change The World



This three part series, available on [BBC iPlayer](#), follows Greta as she took a year off school in 2019/20 to travel and witness both the effects and potential solutions of Climate Change. It also provides an insight into her and her family, in particular getting a balance between the limelight, adulation and her obvious disinterest in both.

See also [our piece](#) on her chat with David Attenborough in episode two and, for a deeper understanding of the tough and moving journey she and her family have taken over the past decade, have a read of her Mother's book "[Our House is on Fire](#)".

The Councillors' workbook on the local pathway to net zero



Similar to the advice provided in ACT's [Resource Pack](#), the Local Government Association has updated its [workbook](#) as a distance learning aid for local councillors providing guidance, challenges and case studies.