



SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Warwick News

#CuttheFlow

The winners of Term 2 Cut the Flow inter-hall competition were:



Emscote for Electricity
Tocil 10 for Water

Well done those blocks; your prize is being organised with your Wardens. The competition continues this term...who will be the final winners of the year?

Environmental Sustainability Fund

There is still time before the end of the year to apply for funds from the Students' Union. The next deadline is 3rd June 2019 and you can apply here: <https://www.warwick-su.com/democracy/fundingyourideas/>

Give your opinion

We are seeking student opinions on the government and the environment. This short survey will take less than 6 minutes. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WJJ73XS>

Biodiversity Strategy Development

Members of the University's Landscape Stakeholder Group are currently working to develop a biodiversity strategy for the campus, which will sit alongside the masterplan. This will identify 'wild areas' where no development should take place and also areas where biodiversity can be enhanced and in turn protected from development, for example wildflower areas. The Group will also look to identify areas where trees will be planted to compensate for any lost during development.

Wilder Future



Students and the public were urged to contact their MP to lobby for stronger laws to protect our environment, at an event held in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, University of Warwick, Coventry University and the NUS (National Union of Students).

The event, held on campus, saw over 200 people attend a 'Question Time' style evening, where speakers Baroness Kate Parminter, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Sir John Lawton, Author of 'Making space for Nature' 2010 - White Paper, spoke engagingly about the need for a strong Environment Act and why campaigning matters. The audience were then able to put their questions to a panel made up of conservationists, politicians, academics, students, and business leaders.

The Government is progressing a new Environment Bill that will set out a legal framework for the government's promise to leave the environment in a better state over the next 25 years. At this critical time, The Wildlife Trusts are working to ensure the public know how to have their say in order to set the UK on a path to restoring nature.

"I was pleased to be able to support the event and hope it encouraged a good number of people to get involved with the campaign. I thought it was a really good initiative of The Wildlife Trusts". Baroness Parminter

The Wilder Future campaign encourages everyone to take steps to bring about nature's recovery, including how to let your local MPs know that more wildlife is better for us all, so that they support new laws that will succeed in achieving a wilder and greener future. You can find out more about the campaign, sign up and pledge your support here.

<https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/WilderFuture>

Carbon dioxide to fuel cars and make rural farm fertilisers thanks to £9m ERC funding

A University of Warwick researcher, Prof. Evgeny Rebrov, together with members of an international team, has won a £9 million ERC Synergy grant SCOPE to study the effect of fast temperature modulations in chemical reactors to improve the efficiency of current technologies utilising cold plasma.

This research is likely to transform the way how bulk chemicals will be produced in the future. The ultimate goal is a cheap, standalone solar-powered system to turn CO₂ into fuels for vehicles, cooking or power generation.

Read more: https://warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/carbon_dioxide_to

Events

RAWKUS (29th and 30th June)

We are looking for volunteers to help us collect food surplus and other items from all the halls of residence as the students leave for the end of the academic year. The mid-March collection saw the highest turnout of volunteers since the initiative began but the summer event is much bigger so more volunteers are needed. Please support this fantastic initiative to save food surplus from going to landfill. We are currently only looking for Staff and Students.

[SIGN UP](#)

Opportunities

Student Micro-grants now available

The NUS are delighted to announce the launch of a micro-grants scheme to fund students to run their own activities around the Environment Act. They plan to fund 40-60 student-led projects, between £50 and £150 each. There's no limit on the number of applications per institution. Please e-mail Sustainability@warwick.ac.uk for more information on how to apply.

Wildlife surveyors wanted

Do you have a passion for wildlife and a knowledge of species? We need you!

We would like to increase our knowledge of the species present on site and are therefore looking for staff and students to either (a) report any interesting species spotted to us or (b) undertake regular surveys. We are looking for people with particular knowledge of birds, wildflowers and insects but would also welcome anyone with a passion for other wildlife that could be found on campus.

If you're interested please get in touch.

Summer School on Climate Change and Behaviour

WBS, University of Warwick, Tuesday 25th June to Friday 28th June

The problem of our changing climate is entirely due to decisions made at the level of the individual, the organization, or the country. Consequently, many of the possible solutions to the rapidly worsening problem require an interdisciplinary approach, in which all areas of behavioural and social science are deployed in an integrated manner.

As always, the summer school is designed to appeal to the widest range of participants. It will appeal to students, including undergraduate and PhD students, who are studying behavioural science and want to learn the wide range of links between behavioural science and climate change. In addition, we have designed our talks to be interesting to a general audience, and to managers and marketers in the public and private sector who seek to learn more about behavioural science, and about how to combat climate change.

[Apply now](#)

Inductions and Presentations

The University's Sustainability Team do a range of presentations and lectures for various departments currently as well as student societies. If you would be interested in a presentation as part of academic induction at beginning of 2019/20, part of a module or society event then please email sustainability@warwick.ac.uk

Ecobricks

An [Ecobrick](#) is a reusable building block created by packing clean and dry used plastic into a plastic bottle to a set density. They are one of the few ways to effectively sequester plastic and are used around the world by people to build items such as furniture and raised beds.

Leamington's Art in the Park Festival are asking people to donate Ecobricks and will be making a big festival chair for selfies from Ecobricks. Find out more by emailing grace@artinpark.co.uk



News and events from further afield

Ditching the fossil fuels

The UK has gone coal free for a whole week for the first time since 1882. The plan going forward is to close all coal plants (~8 in number) in the UK by 2025. To find out more visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48215896>

UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'

A new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has warned that 'nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating.' The report highlights the importance of nature for people in terms, for example, of our economies, livelihoods and quality of life. [Find out more.](#)

UK Parliament declare climate change emergency

On 1st May the UK government approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency, however it does not legally compel the government to act. This follows successful climate emergency votes in the Scottish, Welsh and Irish governments. [Find out more.](#)

Pint of Science

Sometimes the pub is more than just a place to grab some food and a drink; it can be a social gathering of friends and colleagues mulling over the latest serious or novel news stories of the day. Well, Pint of Science is an extension of that chat, where researchers can explain their findings and explore the more complex reasons around why we live, play, and work in the ways we do. So if you're interested in finding out more about a favourite science subject, or want to discover something new, then why not come along to Pint of Science? Tickets only £4 per event, available from <https://pintofscience.co.uk/events/coventry> @pintofscience #pint19

Environmental or sustainability focused vents inc:

Nurturing Nature - <https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/nurturing-nature>

Plastic Fantastic? - <https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/plastic-fantastic-coventry>

Powering The Future - <https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/powering-the-future>

How Can We Keep Going and Going and Going? - <https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/how-can-we-keep-going-and-going-and-going>



Green Drinks

The next Coventry Green Drinks is on the 30th May at Drapers Bar:

<http://www.greendrinks.org/West%20Midlands/Coventry>