

SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Warwick News

West Midlands Cycle Hire



[West Midlands Cycle Hire](#), run by Serco on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), has arrived! The scheme links the campus into a network of 1,500 hire bikes and 170 docking stations across the region. Bikes are available to hire 24/7 with docking stations located at key locations across the campus. It is an exciting opportunity to make cycling practical and accessible to even more members of our community, including people travelling to campus from Coventry.

To hire a bike, you will need to register on the scheme's [Beryl cycle hire app](#). As an introductory offer everyone who signs up will get their [first 30 minute bike ride for free](#). This is a great opportunity for us all to get out and explore – rent bikes for short trips around campus or pedal a little further for longer trips to places across the West Midlands.

LEAF – Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

If you missed it last month, the University has recently signed up to [LEAF](#), which is designed to support laboratories in reducing their environmental impact. Laboratories typically consume 3-10 times more energy per metre squared than typical academic spaces and as such we're keen to reduce the environmental impact of our labs. Five labs got involved last year and we would like to increase this significantly this year.

If you're interested, or know of others who may be, please contact Katherine Mayfield (katherine.mayfield@warwick.ac.uk) or Lesley Ward (lesley.a.ward@warwick.ac.uk).



Hedgehog Friendly Campus



Did you know that hedgehogs have declined by up to 50% in the UK since the year 2000? They are now vulnerable to extinction in Britain, due to things like habitat loss, development, roads and garden hazards. We are delighted to announce that we will be playing our part on their path to recovery.

We have signed up to the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative, which recognises universities who are working to provide habitats for hedgehogs and raise awareness of the issues they face and how we can all make a difference. We are aiming to submit for the Bronze award later this year before moving on to Silver and Gold.

We have formed a core working group with representatives from Communications, Grounds and Sustainability as well as staff and student members. However, in order to have the biggest impact we need to recruit a team of volunteers to support us at events, get involved in litter picks, develop fundraising initiatives, and lots more. If you would like to get involved email Katherine Mayfield (katherine.mayfield@warwick.ac.uk).

Find out more about Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative across the UK at an [online session on 14th October](#).

IPCC Report

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) has declared that human activities' impact on global warming is unequivocal. Immediate and significant slashes to our greenhouse gas emissions is needed to prevent warming above 2C, and 'it is more likely than not' that we will hit 1.5C global warming between 2024 and 2040.

The good news is that we can still limit temperature rises below 2C if we achieve net zero global emissions by 2050. To find out more, read our [expert comment](#) from Professor João Porto de Albuquerque, Director at the Institute for Global Sustainable Development.

Events

Pay As You Feel Market

This annual Pay As You Feel Market will be taking place at The Junction near the Oculus. The event is open to students and staff and will run from 23rd September until 3rd October (or as long as stocks last – keep an eye on our social media posts @WarwickUniSust) between 10am-4pm. Everything on sale will be second-hand but they will also have plenty of life left in them. There'll be everything from pots and pans to cutlery, clothes and clothes airers. All items will have been cleaned and checked.

Come along, pick up the items you want and donate what you feel they are worth in the charity collection. All proceeds will go to Emmaus, a local charity which supports people to work their way out of homelessness, providing meaningful work, training, support and a stable home for as long as someone needs it.

Save yourself some money and reduce your impact on the planet!

[Head to the Welcome Week Timetable to organise your week.](#)

Sustainability at Warwick: Sustainable. Action. Together.

Sustainability will be at the heart of your studies; an integral part of all that you do during your time at the University of Warwick and into your future, wherever that may be. We invite you to join us to find out about what the University is doing to reduce its impact and how your actions and choices are part of making your campus and lives greener and healthier (it might also save you some money too!). You will also discover how you can be involved with projects and events on campus and in the surrounding areas.

Sessions will be taking place throughout [Welcome Week](#).

Great Big Green Week

The [Great Big Green Week](#) runs from 18th to 24th September with plenty of events across the country.

Check out the website for events near you.

Local events include:

- Monday 20th Sept, 6:00-7:00 pm. **How to Protect our Pensions and the Planet.** Talk by Mark Campanale, founder of the [Carbon Tracker Initiative](#), hosted by Warwickshire Climate Alliance. This is really important, as pension funds are typically invested in fossil fuels. Not only are our pensions funding climate breakdown, but when the value of fossil fuels crashes, pensions will suffer too. Sign up [here](#).
- Wed 22nd Sept – 10.00-noon, free walk on Lench Meadows with Tony Beysens, “Untidy Nature”. Meet at bus stop in the car park behind the Leisure Centre. Contact Janet Palmer (stratforduponavonfoe@outlook.com) if you would like to join the walk.
- Fri 24th Sept – Plastic Free Stratford are holding a litter pick 5pm – 7pm, meet at the Gower Memorial (Hamlet statue) in central Stratford.

The University of Warwick will be working with many local groups to once again run the local Green Week 7-13th March 2022.

Opportunities

Cut the Flow Assistants and Ambassadors

Cut the Flow is an inter-block energy and water saving competition across the halls of residence on campus. Two prizes are awarded at the end of each term for the performing accommodation block. In addition, mini-competitions will take place throughout the year with individual prizes. It is a competition with benefits for the individual, the community and the environment! #CutTheFlow

We are **recruiting four Cut the Flow Assistants** to work three hours per week for the whole academic year. Assistants will get involved in events across campus as well as undertake regular walkabouts in the residences to speak and engage with students. The deadline for applications is midnight on 3rd October. Keep an eye on our social media @WarwickUniSust for more information in the coming days.



Come along to **Cut the Flow Ambassador training** to find out what actions you can take to make a difference and win prizes! Ambassadors will receive awareness training on the importance of reducing energy and water use as well as learn some top tips on how to do this. You will also find out about how you can reduce your impact through better resource management such as using reusable products, shopping zero waste, making do and mend and buying second hand. A key aspect of the competition is to encourage everyone to get involved so the biggest savings can be achieved. You will therefore find out more about behaviour change and

how to engage with others to *be the change* and *start a movement*. Training will take place at various times week commencing 11th October. [Find out more here](#). [Sign ups will open in the next few days](#).

Do Great Things

Join 'Do Great Things' for their "Into the Wild" project. This is an international youth exchange with partners from 5 European countries: Latvia, Romania, Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom. It will last 24 months, from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021, with a period of 8 days of activities, as well as one day for traveling before and one after, between 6 October and 15 October 2021, 10 days in total. The location of the activities is Upeslīči, Latvia. At the activities there will be present a group of 30 participants, 24 youngsters aged between 18 and 30 and 6 group leaders with no age limits. For more information [click here](#).

You can get in touch by sending an email to informalex@gmail.com. Deadline: 19th September

Wyken locals to join Global Citizens' Assembly

Coventry and Warwickshire charity Grapevine is co-hosting a Global Assembly in the run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference #COP26 in Glasgow in November.

Virtual pins were randomly dropped by the [Global Assembly](#) on 100 locations around the world and the UK pin amazingly landed in Wyken, Coventry! There is now a hunt to find six people from Wyken who represent the diversity of the community there by next Monday (20 September).

For more information and to apply visit the [Grapevine Website](#).

News and events from further afield

Solihull Locals hold first Climate Cafe

Climate Cafe's originated in Scotland in 2015 but have since been established across the world. They are open, informal, inclusive spaces for people to meet and talk about climate change. Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation, meet local people who share an interest in the climate and help to shape how this cafe grows.

Solihull resident and trained Climate Reality Leader, Neil MacKay is taking the Climate Café movement www.climate.cafe forward in Solihull. As part of The Big Green Week (18th-25th Sept) and to kick start the [Solihull Climate Cafe](#), Neil will be hosting a virtual session and a smaller, in-person meeting in the Happy Hearts Café in Olton at 7:30pm on 23rd September. [To book tickets here](#).

There is also a virtual session online on Tuesday 21st September at 7.30 please [register on Eventbrite](#).

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT)

The **Wilder Future for Warwickshire Project** is a National Lottery funded project that is aimed specifically at 18-35 year olds. For the past 18 months WWT have been delivering a series of webinars and in person events which have covered topics including; hedgehogs, reptiles, spiders, sustainability, eco-anxiety, GIS, rewilding, campaigning and communications – just to name a few! The overall aim of the project is to empower young adults to help deliver a wilder future for our local environment by assisting the WWT in raising awareness about key campaigns and inspiring their peers to also become champions of the environment. There's another six months' worth of webinars and events planned and they're always happy to accept new volunteers. If you would like more information on the project or to sign up please visit the webpage

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



Volunteering sessions will take place at Lakeview in September (25th) and October (11th and 23rd) from 10.30am until 3pm; the work will involve woodland management tasks. [For more information contact...](#) Lakeview Park is a vital 'green space' connecting Coventry City Centre to the rural outskirts of Coundon Wedge. WWT have worked in partnership with Coventry City Council to create large swathes of lowland meadow, new ponds of varied sizes and a more natural flow along the historically straightened and dredged River Sherbourne.

The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust have recently launched a [student membership](#). From £1.75 per month or £21 per year, you will receive free access to over 65 local nature reserves, invites to free guided walks, digital magazines and lots more. Get involved to help create a wilder future for all.

One in three Britons drink plant-based milk as demand soars

One in three Britons drink plant-based milk, according to a report that suggests they have become a mainstream choice for consumers.

Shoppers spent £100m more in 2020 on alt-milks, made from oats, almonds or soya, turning it into a near £400m-a-year market.

[Read more.](#)

Just one country on course to meet 1.5C target

Only Gambia is currently on course to deliver climate action that is in alignment with the 1.5C pathway of the Paris Agreement, according to new research from Climate Action Tracker (CAT), which warns that momentum on updating climate targets has stalled.

[Read more.](#)

Five numbers that lay bare the mammoth effort needed to insulate Britain's homes

Environmental activists recently blocked junctions of the M25 – London's orbital motorway – to protest the glacial pace at which the UK government is tackling carbon emissions and fuel poverty in Britain's housing stock.

Arguing that the country has "some of the oldest and most energy-inefficient" homes in Europe, the group known as Insulate Britain has vowed to continue campaigning until the government "makes a meaningful commitment to insulate Britain's 29 million leaky homes".

The transition to net zero emissions is often framed as a race to make new stuff – such as electric vehicles and wind turbines – as fast as possible. That's actually the easy part. The hard part will be modifying what already exists – and that includes people's homes.

[Read more.](#)