

Ludlow Quaker Journal

November 2020



This Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. Please contact Barbara Mark if you would like to have something included or wonder if you have a subject that might be of interest. It will be published on-line only and will come out when enough articles have been gathered in. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome.

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Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.



Some Ludlow Friends join Peace group celebration



On 25th October, Honduras became the 50th state to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). *This means that in 90 days time, the Treaty becomes international law — banning all use, possession and development of nuclear weapons*. This is a huge and long-awaited step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Treaty prohibits those who have signed up to it from undertaking any nuclear weapons activities, and complements existing legal instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

<https://civi.medact.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=6972&qid=859421>

Read more on the implications of Honduras' ratification of the TPNW in Medact's new blog

<https://civi.medact.org/civicrm/ mailing/ url?u=6972&qid=859421>



A Story from Ludlow Museum from Impy the dog,
many thanks Colin

“ As you may know I have recently been given a place to regale on my life on the Ludlow Museum website. I would like to thank His Munificent Honour The Mayor, The Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk for the important role they have given me. I would add that there is no pecuniary interest in this but I do gain residence in a superior setting with my own well appointed living room. This is tastefully decorated by the display people from Shropshire Museum Service to whom I am so grateful. Let me say for many years I sat in a cardboard box in the old British School on Old Street so I have known less habitable places too. The Gaffer always said you should bless them that blesses you and I do so much do.

Your Clerk, Mrs Mark, has graciously, generously and bountifully asked that I use your Journal, *The Journal*, to announce my presence as a writer to you and invite you to read my little tales of dubious historical accuracy.

The report published every three months will be called “*Impy’s Tales*” and is about my Gaffer (and me) and our happenings. The Gaffer was a great old lad and you’d a liked him, though I dunna think he’d ever come to a Quaker meeting . For the most part we’d find our society in hostelry’s and such. I always found a reflective solitude under a pub bench between The Gaffer’s legs though that could be cast aside in the event of mice activity in the wainscot. I liked noise and so did The Gaffer though he’d get maudlin too ... but that wunna by choice...so I was his cheer up tonic when it hit but mostly our life together was great fun and full of cheer (and mutual naughtiness too) So bless you all and keep a look out for my website.”

Impy

Chestnut stuffed nut roast many thanks Beth

Please read all the way through this recipe before starting to cook, the tips at the end will make life easier for you, especially at Christmas

Ingredients

110g finely chopped mushrooms
15g butter
1 egg
1 teaspoon marmite or Vegemite
1 teaspoon tomato puree
2 tablespoons warm water
170g ground nuts
Dried breadcrumbs
Salt & pepper

Stuffing

50g butter
2 tablespoons cream
425g unsweetened chestnut puree
110g breadcrumbs
Zest of 1 lemon
1 egg
Salt & pepper

Method

I cook this in a loaf tin, greased and with a strip of baking paper across the width of the tin with enough overlap at the sides to use the paper to lift the roast when cooked

First, fry the mushrooms in the 50g of butter and then, in a large bowl, mix all the nut ingredients, adding breadcrumbs if too sloppy. You should be able to mould the paste in the same way as a meat patty for burgers.

For the stuffing, melt the butter and cream together, then beat the chestnut puree with a fork, adding the rest of the stuffing ingredients.

Layer half the nut mix in the tin, followed by all the stuffing mix, and finally the rest of the nut mix.

Dot some butter on top, cover with foil and cook in the centre of the oven at 190c/170cfan/gas6 for about an hour, taking off the foil for the last 10 minutes or so to brown the top.

TIPS

1/ to make the roast vegan, replace the butter with vegetable spread, the cream with soya milk, the egg with 1 tablespoon of chickpea flour per egg and use Vegemite.

2/ make the roast in advance, cool completely and refrigerate overnight. Cut slices of the roast with a sharp knife and wrap in baking paper. To serve, either microwave each serving for approx 2 mins (check it's hot all through) or wrap the paper parcel in foil and put it in the oven for 20 minutes with the rest of Christmas dinner.

Don't remove the paper or the roast will stick to the foil.

Freeze any unused portions for later.

3/ use dried breadcrumbs in this recipe, fresh ones will make the roast too crumbly

4/ the variety of nuts used in this roast is a matter of personal preference but I would recommend using an oily nut (Brazil's perhaps?) and a flavoursome one such as cashews or almonds in approx 1 to 3 ratio. Avoid peanuts in case of allergy.

Put the nuts in your food processor and run it for a couple of minutes, they don't have to be very finely chopped. Using whole nuts and chopping them yourself rather than industrially processed will give a better flavour

5/ if you find you have far too much mixture for the size of your tin, use the excess to make rissoles as follows.

With wet hands, roll some nut mix into a ball (tennis ball size).

Hold the mix in the left hand, push it into a cup shape and add a small (walnut size) ball of stuffing.

Pinch the nut meat to seal the stuffing inside and roll a little, then flatten gently.

Dip in dried breadcrumbs and either shallow fry or oven cook.

6/ the secret of success, as with all recipes is to 'mise en place', that is, have everything in front of you before you start your preparation. Chef's have sous chefs for this and usually a kitchen porter to wash up afterwards. At home being organised is the key.

Merry Christmas

Second Helping Christmas Pudding ---many thanks Joy

Makes one large and One small Christmas pudding

4 oz Glace cherries

4 oz dried Apricots

3 oz Soft Pitted Prunes

4 oz Candied Peel

10 oz Seedless raisins

6 oz Sultanas

3 oz Currants
4 oz Roughly chopped Pecan Nuts
8 oz Hard Butter cut into very small pieces
Half grated Nutmeg
1 Rounded teaspoon Ground Cardamom
8 oz breadcrumbs
6 Large Eggs
Quarter pint Guinness
3 tbsp Rum

Generously butter a 2 pint and 1 pint pudding basin. Roughly chop up cherries dried apricots and prunes. Put dried fruit, chopped pecans, cut up butter, spices and breadcrumbs into a large bowl and mix thoroughly.

Whisk the eggs until frothy and thickened and stir into the dried ingredients. Lastly stir in the Guinness and rum. The mixture should just drop from the spoon. Add more Guinness or rum if it seems too thick. Spoon the mixture into the pudding basins and smooth the tops. Cover each with a double layer of well buttered greaseproof paper or foil and tie tightly with string, making a string handle to lift out the basin. Put the basins, preferably on a rack or an inverted saucer, into large saucepans and pour in boiling water to come three quarters of the way up the sides of each basin. Cover the pans and steam for about 4 to 5 hours for the small and 6 for the large. Keep the water topped up. When cooked leave to cool.

When the puddings are cold put them away in a cool place for up to 2 months. On Christmas day replace the buttered foil with clean layers and steam for another hour before serving with brandy butter or cream.

It should not be made more than 2 months before Christmas, and it is quite alright to make it as little as one week before.

I should think it would be alright to use lemon juice instead of Guinness and Rum but I haven't tried it!

Malteser Christmas Pudding Two alternative pudding from Peter, many thanks Peter.

125g self-raising flour
125g golden caster sugar
125g butter, softened

40g cocoa
1/2tsp baking powder
3 eggs
6tbsp chocolate buttercream
300g Maltesers
100g white chocolate, melted
5 glacé cherries
1tsp edible red glitter
1 bay leaf

Heat the oven to 180C. Tip the flour, sugar, butter, cocoa, baking powder and eggs into a bowl and mix for 5 mins, until light and smooth. Spoon into a lined pudding basin and bake for 45 mins, or until a skewer comes out clean. Set on a wire rack to cool.

Turn the cake out onto a serving plate and cover with buttercream. Decorate with Maltesers and drizzle over the melted chocolate.

Toss the cherries in glitter, put on top of the cake and garnish with the bay leaf.

Black Forest Trifle

500ml tub ready-made chilled custard
100g plain chocolate, broken into pieces
400g chocolate brownies
2 x 390g packets of frozen pitted cherries
300g tub double cream
200ml tub crème fraîche
25g icing sugar
grated chocolate, to decorate, and fresh cherries (optional)

Put the custard into a pan with the chocolate pieces. Gently heat, stirring, until the chocolate has melted into the custard. Cover with cling film and cool.

Arrange the brownies in the base of a trifle bowl. Drain the jars of cherries, reserving the liquid, and scatter over the brownies. Drizzle over 100ml reserved liquid. Spoon the cooled chocolate custard over and chill while you make the topping.

Lightly whip the cream with the crème fraîche and icing sugar until soft peaks form. Chill until ready to serve, then pile on top of the trifle and decorate with grated chocolate and fresh cherries, if you like.

Parkin

My daughter always uses Gary Rhodes for this but I have this Parkin recipe from a teaching colleague from a long time ago. She said it came from her great grandmother. I have added new measurements.

100g/4oz flour
100g/4oz medium oatmeal
pinch of salt
2 to 3 teaspoons ground ginger
225g/8oz black treacle
150g/5oz butter (or other fat)
150g/moist brown sugar
added milk for consistency

Parkin can either be made as a 'tray bake' or a square cake. Here it was a type of 'tray bake'.

Put the oven on to 140/ Mark 1
Mix the dry ingredients together .
Warm the treacle, sugar and butter (do not boil, just melt)
Mix them both together gently.
Add the milk to make soft pouring consistency and pour into a greased shallow tin.
Cook for about an hour, or just over.
Leave in the tin for at least a week before cutting it into the finger sizes you wish.
Parkin is better left in a sealed container for three weeks to get the best taste and texture.

Barbara

This Poem was a Christmas present to me 2006

Morning, with a peaceful sigh
pours light across its newborn sky
the sleeping landscape slowly wakes,
the snow topped hills and crystal lakes,
till sounds and colours paint the land,
turquoise water, golden sands.
In untouched places beauty lies,
away from ugly human eyes.

The living earth still finds its beat
in falling rain and rustling wheat.
Far from the clutch, the greedy claws
of ruthless men with septic laws.
The shifting balance finds its peace
where living rhythms never cease.

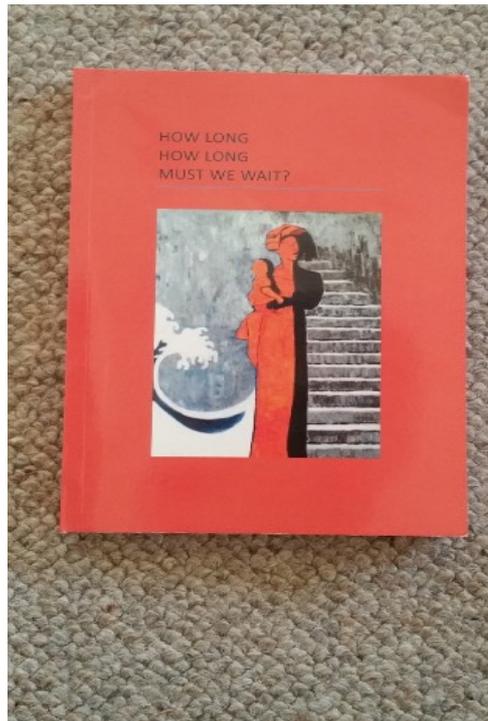
But Gaia's fragile scales now tip,
oceans rise and ice caps drip.
Man's ambition, lust and drive
(the characters for which we strive)
have given us such lofty goals
technology from dust and coals.
But while eyes focus on these feats
the host that reared us swell and heats
to fight for life, and yet survive,
she finds a way to stay alive.

Playing God is only right
if everything is kept in sight.
For tiny plants that grow on rocks
affect the lives of roaming flocks,
and powerful men with half closed eyes
are focussed on a dangerous prize.

But though we seem to be at war,
the earth has felt worst pain before.
Our time is short, the earth's is long.
Though lives are fragile, life is strong,
it holds a secret, vast and free.
It waits for those who chose to see
settled just beyond the stripe:
the beauty of this thing called life.

Sarah Mark December 2006

Book Reviews



HOW LONG HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT?

By Anne Jones

This book is written by a Quaker member of QARN (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network)

It is a diary of Anne's regular visits to the 'Jungle' at Calais from December 2015 to July 2019 where she played her part to support the refugees and asylum seekers stranded there.

It pulls at the hearts strings, but as with all human actions, somehow becomes normal after a while.

The men, women and children she comes across, and does her best to help, have stories unimaginable to us, so safe in this country. She finds so many others also trying to help and shares time and emotion with them. She finds them inspirational.

She also comes across a lot of mental health issues, unsurprisingly.

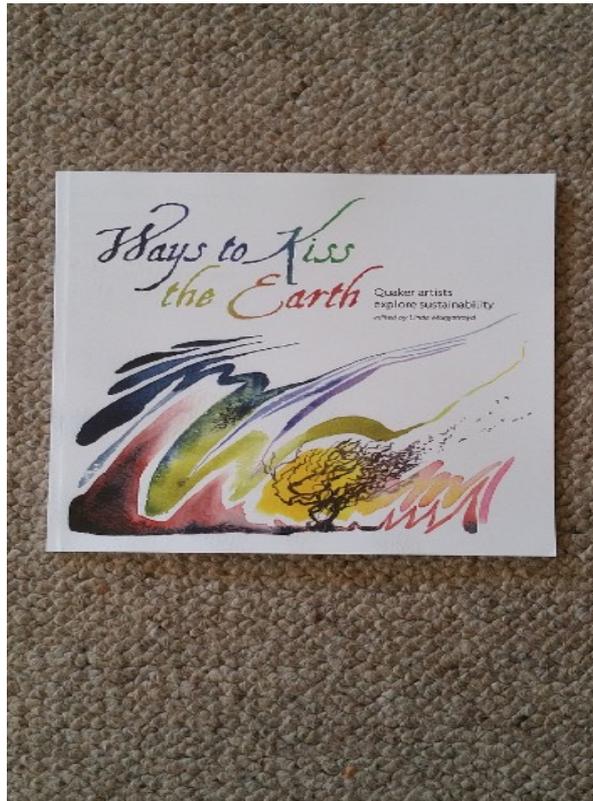
As time goes on her ability to use a sewing machine, and her patience, means she has a regular job to return to replacing zips in sleeping bags and mending damaged clothing. These are often damaged by police clearing people from places they have found shelter. This is after the 'Jungle' was dismantled.

It is something we should make ourselves aware of. As something happening now but also something of our recent history which will go down in books of the history of Europe, I am sure.

This book is only available for Anne via her email. Contact via me or QAN.

Barbara

ps. I will give my copy to our library, in due course.



Ways to Kiss the Earth

Quaker artists explore sustainability

This book has been published by QAN (Quaker art network)

How can one know the effect of art on anyone else but oneself. Art is very personal and reactions will come from personality and experiences. This book has all sorts of different art in all sorts of different mediums. Nothing has been left out.

The wood engraving of a trees, many fabric designs and stitchings, paintings, chalk work, pieces in clay and of plants themselves draw one in and make you think. Each piece of art work has an explanation of what was in the artists mind as they created it. Lots of the descriptions draw upon our Quaker testimonies and connectedness.

If you have this book in your book case you will never be at a loose end of something to dip into at quiet moments. From art to spirituality, it gives us an insight into our thoughts as well as what the artists are trying to share.

You can only get this book via email to QAN, or contact me or Julia Renyolds.
Barbara Mark

ps. I will give my copy to the library in due course.

WITH A TENDER HAND

By ZELIE GROSS

Four years ago, as an Attender, I was struggling to understand the Quaker structures of 'Pastoral practise'/ 'Community'/ Business meetings and several categories of responsibility, within ways of working together.

There were so many queries for individual reflection, which surrounded the advantages and disadvantages of the Quaker way of providing eldership and oversight, linked to our local Ludlow meetings for worship, which sensitively, includes 'pastoral care,' structured in a certain Quaker way.

I found that, over time, this book was and is an excellent supportive resource, which guided a greater understanding for many of my queries on eldership, oversight and many other topics we shared, in our monthly study group.

This well researched book,(with a pool of other Quaker regions and friends) clearly presents in each chapter : 'Queries for reflection, discussion and learning.'

This form of questioning and structure weaves it's direct references to core Quakerism, outlined in : 'Advices and Queries' and the historically collected; 'Faith and Practise' testimonies. '

Queries, such as;

"What is the spiritual basis for our practice of corporate discernment?"

"How do we fulfil our wider, legal and moral community responsibilities?"

" How do our Quaker testimonies influence our conduct and communications, in these matters?"

Zellie Gross's diligence of research, with so many other Quaker friends, has enabled me to understand, in a more refreshing way, how to accept and embody the " God within each of us," and express the spiritual foundations of the 'real' Quaker decision making processes..as a guided people.

Qf&p 19.28

William Penn 1693

'The humble,meek,merciful,just,pious,and devout souls are everywhere in one religion...The world is a form;our bodies are a forms;and no visible acts of devotion can be without forms. But the less form in religion the better, since God is a spirit;for the more mental our worship, the more adequate to the nature of God;the more silent;the more suitable to the language of a spirit.'

I wish to thank Zellie and each Quaker friend for the insightful enlightenment, which they offer within this guiding and resourceful book.

In caring friendship, Maiya Lyons.

Never Mind the Elephant, Don't Even Mention the Room

Jamie Wrench explores the attractiveness of the spinach tart

Two emails caught my eye this week: the first, an article about what we mean by a “one in a thousand year event”, and the second an invitation to a workshop on Speaking Out for Climate Justice.

...and already, half of my readership has gone. Here's why..

In his book *'Don't Even Think about It'*, George Marshall recounts how senior academic and climate campaigner Mayer Hillman was at a dinner party with retired liberal professionals like himself. People were talking about the holidays they had enjoyed and the places they intended to visit. Mayer could not resist commenting upon the effect such trips – usually involving many hours of flying – were having upon the climate and the impact upon future generations.

The room went very quiet. Then one of the guests spoke. “My word,” she said, “what a *lovely* spinach tart”. The next ten minutes was taken up with discussions about the virtues of fresh spinach and the recipe that had produced this culinary masterpiece.

There are academic terms for this phenomenon and its attendant behaviour. The term is ‘meta-silence’, and the behaviour involved is called ‘disattention’. We don't talk about the elephant in the room – and we don't talk about the fact that we don't talk about it. Some subjects don't arise because they simply don't come up in the conversation. Other subjects – and climate change is one of these – are actively avoided. The inability to talk about the issue, or even verbalise the reasons for not talking about it, is a meta-silence.

Quakers, above all, should be able to recognise meta-silence. I suspect we can all remember occasions when a gathered meeting receives several pieces of ministry, each of which builds upon the other, and then a particularly inappropriate observation is thrown in. Advices and Queries 12 and 13 notwithstanding, the best way to receive such interventions is sometimes to let them sink without trace.

But what if what is offered is not so much inappropriate as deeply discomfiting? Perhaps it's easier to let it pass without receiving it in a tender and creative spirit, or indeed receiving it at all. What if the Friend involved falls into the category of one who speaks ‘predictably or too often’ (A&Q 13)? And who is to make that judgement?

Last March, another ‘unprecedented’ weather event caused me to postpone a shared lunch and Elders’ session until the following week. I was tempted to add a postscript:

“PS. These weather patterns are due to the degradation of the Northern Polar Vortex. This is a circular band of weather in the stratosphere that essentially keeps the very cold air spinning around the North Pole. The warming of the planet has forced warmer air north over the USA and Canada with the result that the vortex has become unstable and irregular, with temperatures at the North Pole rising above freezing, and cold air escaping over Siberia and westwards across to Britain. This sort of thing will get worse in future years, and will go on getting worse and worse unless everyone can somehow reduce their carbon emissions markedly. Yes, Everyone, including you and me.”

I didn't. First, it sounded like a lecture, and no one likes a smartypants. Second, it risked a meta silence. There are four stages in response to global warming: 'It's not happening'; 'It's happening, but it's not as bad as They say'; 'It's happening, it's bad but not our fault'; and finally, 'It's happening, It's our fault and we don't want to even think about it, thank you.'

So, I wimped out; and everyone discussed how irritating it was, and how wonderful the emergency services were, and how much we'd had to turn up the heating.

Spinach Tart, anyone?

Environmental Articles

Planetary Boundaries

In the November 2020 Engineering and Technology Institute magazine there is an article about the concept of Planetary Boundaries which could help the fight to secure the safety for our planets life giving systems. First introduced as an idea by Johan Rockstrom of the Stockholm Resilience centre and Will Steffen of the Australian National University it is gaining interest from many global bodies. They argue that if we want a stable environment, our planet depends on maintaining equilibrium across several interrelated Earth system processes. If any of those processes are pushed too far it may cause unpredictable and catastrophic damage.

The Planetary Boundary concept aims to do two things. Firstly it invites us to think about damage to the whole Earth system, not just one aspect of it. Second, it tries to set 'safe' limits for different kinds of environmental change. So the goal is to define a 'safe operating space' within which humanity and the natural world can flourish. Of course these proposed boundaries will only be estimates and scientists will be learning as they go along.

This needs to happen soon because if we overshoot the safe limits damage will be very difficult to pull back from. The Planetary Boundary model says we

are currently within a safe operating system for ocean acidification but are getting dangerously close to the limit.

There is a plethora of different reporting mechanisms at the moment and the World needs to decide on one so companies and industries can incorporate one into their corporate strategy. Planetary Boundaries are, of course, global, and there is a lot of work that needs to be done to turn them into a practical tool to use locally.

One amazing thing to come out of Covid 19 pandemic is that concerted action across the World can happen. Policies that help the environment can be introduced very fast and, explained clearly, the general public will work with governments to secure our safety.

Letter to Interfaith friends,

Many thanks for coming to our interfaith meeting on the climate emergency on 14th October.

Rev Tim Harwood, chair of Shrewsbury Interfaith Forum, started the meeting by explaining to us that the fate of mankind and of our natural world is “in our hands”, just like the butterfly in the hands of the boy in his morality fable.

Jo Blackman then outlined the stark facts about the climate and ecological emergency facing us and how crucial it is that we act NOW, making huge changes in our lives, our society and economy. In the words of Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, we face:

***"a stark choice: set in motion the RADICAL transformations we need now,
or face the consequences of a planet radically altered by climate change."***

([UN Emissions Gap Report 2019](#), p13).

Jo also gave examples of action that is happening locally in Shropshire, including the recently launched Shropshire Climate Action Partnership. There's lots of information in the document below, including links to resources and organisations that can support us in the rapid transition we need to make from our current ecocidal society - which is destroying our very life-support systems to a life sustaining society in which all needs are met.

During the meeting a number of people stressed that, despite differences in our belief systems, we have many important values in common. In the context of climate crisis action, we all believe in living a lifestyle that avoids harm to others. We all acknowledge that we have a responsibility towards nature and for our common home - planet earth. We all accept that we may have to make

personal sacrifices for the common good, and we all have a sense of transcendence when we contemplate the amazing but fragile world we live in.

We have been encouraged by the response since the meeting to continue, strengthen and widen our endeavour. For example, many feel that it would be valuable to set up an interfaith climate action group/partnership to share lessons from our faiths and to enable us to approach important institutions or organisations, such as the local councils, our MPs and businesses with a collective voice.

Shropshire Interfaith Climate meeting: RESOURCES FOR ACTION

Connecting with others of faith and conscience:

Faith for the Climate is a UK organisation which exists to encourage, inspire and equip faith communities in their work on climate change: <https://faithfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Also see **Faith for the Climate's directory of faith resources:**

<https://faithfortheclimate.org.uk/Faith-Resources>

The UK Inter Faith Network often covers issues connected with the climate crisis:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>

GreenFaith is a global, multi-faith climate and environmental movement: <https://greenfaith.org>

Interfaith Declaration on the Climate Crisis, presented to the UN climate change summit (COP25) in Madrid, December 2019: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/faith-communities-demand-climate-justice-interfaith-declaration-on-climate-change-for-cop25-madrid-2019>

The Centre for Alternative Technology's **Zero Carbon Britain** research has clearly demonstrated that we already have the tools and technologies needed to rise to the climate challenge. They conclude that the barriers to action are rooted in our dysfunctional relationship with nature and with each other. In this article they suggest how we can support a cultural and spiritual shift in how we all see the world: https://medium.com/@centre_alt_tech/worldviews-and-values-inspiring-the-shift-to-zero-carbon-21f261a079d4

Living as a witness: making everyday decisions in the light of the climate emergency

9 actions which will make an immediate difference to your ecological footprint
(recommended by scientists at the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London):

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/>

The story of one climate scientist's personal journey in realising and embarking on the profound changes that we all need to make:

“Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution”:

<https://peterkalmus.net/books/read-by-chapter-being-the-change/>

Options and resources available locally in Shropshire: [http://](http://www.shrewsburygreenguide.org.uk/)

www.shrewsburygreenguide.org.uk/

NB: There's some helpful tips on their “act & adapt” page

Sign the pledge to be flight-free (either in 2021 or longer-term):

https://flightfree.co.uk/why_flight_free/

Taking action with others locally to respond to the climate and ecological emergency:

Sign the Zero Carbon Shropshire pledge:

Shropshire Climate Action Partnership was formed in August 2020, with the purpose of making and implementing a practical plan to ensure Shropshire is net zero carbon by 2030. Everyone is needed! There are two ways to pledge your support (it only takes a few minutes!):

Individuals can sign up as Supporters at:

<https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/sign-up/>

The form also allows you to select working groups you're interested in joining.

1. Faith groups, community groups, businesses, schools and other organisations can sign up as Members at:

<https://zerocarbonshropshire.org/member-sign-up/>

Call on the Shropshire County Pension Fund to stop financing fossil fuels!

<https://www.fossilfreeshropshire.com/>

Support local community and campaign groups, for example:

- [Friends of the Earth](#)
- [Global Justice Now](#)
- [Shropshire Supports Refugees](#)
- [Shrewsbury Food Hub](#)
- [Better Shrewsbury Transport](#)
- Or check out other groups here: <https://shropshire-activists.jimdosite.com/groups/>

“Our Leaders Have Failed Us at Every COP. So We’re Building Our Own”: Youth Hold Virtual COP

19th November – 01 December 2020

- Two weeks of virtual climate talks mirroring the real COP, except run by young people, for young people. Mock COP26 is being held between 19 November – 01 December 2020, in the same time period that COP26 would have been held in Glasgow.

This event is being held because young people have watched world leaders squander every opportunity to act on the climate emergency and we have no confidence that COP26 will be any different.

At COP26 in 2021, young people demand that leaders match the scale of the solution to the scale of the problem. In Mock COP26, the message is clear: young people are no longer waiting to be given permission to speak, but are taking the floor themselves. “Climate leaders have slammed the door of climate negotiations in our faces. Since they won’t listen, we won’t play their game anymore. We are building our own COP”, said Dom Jaramillo from Ecuador.

COP25 failed the world. The hashtag #TimeForAction was plastered across the conference centre, but there was no ‘action’ to be found. Sofía Hernández, a young member of the COP25 Costa Rican delegation, said ‘global leaders neglected human rights- the human face of the crisis- and prioritized their economic interests’. The COVID-19 crisis has shown how fast governments can act if they want to, but they don’t treat the Climate Emergency with the same urgency, despite it being a crisis that is already causing suffering across the world, and without action will cause the death of billions. “Marginalized communities are underrepresented, or have been drowned out by the most powerful countries”, said Mitzi Jonelle Tan from the Philippines. “We demand urgency and for those being most affected by the crisis to have a seat at the table”.

3-5 delegates per country will participate in Mock COP26 and will receive targeted opportunities for education and to express their own ideas: The aim of the event is to empower young people to be able to engage with their local, national and international leaders about the Climate Emergency. At the end of the event, delegates will present a collective high-level statement to leaders, summarizing what they believe should be prioritized at COP26 in 2021. “Mock COP26 gives us – the youth- a stage to resonate our concerns”, said Prithvish Ashok from India. “it gives us a way to put our voice out there amongst all the noise”. **The discussions will be framed around five conference themes:**

- Climate Justice
- Climate Education
- Climate-resilient Livelihoods
- Health and Wellbeing
- Nationally-determined Contributions: The carbon commitments for each country or negotiating bloc

The event is being hosted by Students Organizing for Sustainability UK, with student staff members and volunteers taking the lead in organizing. <https://below2c.org/2020/10/our-leaders-are-failing-us-youth-plan-their-own-mock-cop26/>