

## Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

In June the Annual Parish meeting was held. I told the meeting that we were running out of ideas for articles for the Parish Magazine.

It occurred to me somewhat later that, that had to be nonsense. How can you run out of ideas about climate change? How can you run out of ideas about such an important subject; one that does, or will, affect us all? Perhaps we had missed something; or perhaps some things were worthy of repetition?

I know – the Budget!!

It is going to affect us all, one way or another, almost certainly in our pockets and not very pleasantly. We are going to have to tighten our belts and change the way we live. And what better way to do this than to address some of the climate change issues about which we have written previously.

- Is that car journey really necessary? Could I give a lift to someone else so that only one car is used = saves energy generally; cuts down on my costs, when I am one of the passengers; cuts down on my energy costs if I only make a journey when I can do several things at the same time.
- Long life bulbs? = initially a greater cost, but thereafter a much longer life (I do not recall when I last changed a light bulb) and lower running costs, quite apart from production costs saved.
- Turn off the lights when I am not in the room = an obvious energy cost saving
- Shower rather than bath = nice in the summer anyway; reduces water consumption and costs; reduces energy costs
- Buy local and seasonal vegetables = likely to reduce motor miles travelling to a supermarket; better tasting food; lower food miles wasted; supports local farmers
- Recycle and re-use = reduced environmental cost; good feeling
- Do you need to mow every week? - every two weeks might be just as good and would save on fuel = cost saving
- Avoid the tumble drier = considerable energy saving; hang the clothes out of doors
- Make sure you have a full load before using washing machine or dishwasher = energy saving
- Regular meter readings will give you a target for energy cost reduction

There must be lots of other ways to cut our household costs, if we have the will to do so. What can you think of that has not been mentioned?

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For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council