

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

During June this year, another report on climate change was published in the UK. Just another....? Well, not quite, in so far as this report does two things – it confirms many of the previous projections and postulates that it is already too late to stop some inevitable warming.

Apparently the full effect of greenhouse gases is not felt for 30 years after they are emitted, so some climate change is inevitable and unstoppable. This does not mean that our efforts to stop it getting even worse are wasted; they aren't. What we need to do now, is not for us, but for our children and the succeeding generations. We have their lifestyle in our hands.

The temperature map for the UK shows that, apart from London, the West Midlands will be the hottest area in 2080. Average West Midland temperatures in June are around 29.5°C (oh really??!!) In 2080 they are forecast to be 39.5°C. Just think back to how hot we were in June this year during Wimbledon – that would become the norm. Alright for some, but the very old and very young are certainly not going to like it, not to mention the infirm of any age.

Of course the impact is much wider than just humans feeling hot and sticky. It will cause massive droughts and flooding which in turn will have an impact on wildlife, the food chain and infrastructure. "Bent railway lines" will become a regular excuse, I expect, if lack of power does not stop them first! The whole way of life will have to change.

Keith Hopkins gave me a supplement from the Guardian in July about the Carbon Trust. The Trust has the task of identifying and encouraging investment in renewable energies that will lead to a low carbon economy. UK is near the top when it comes to invention, but near the bottom in implementation (again!). As an island we have more renewables in the form of wind and wave power than any other country in Europe, but we are slow to capitalise on it.

There is an UK company developing domestic fuel cells that could result in generation of electricity in each house, making for far greater efficiency and removing the enormous strains on the national grid as well as the need for massive capital expenditure.

By the way, for those of you with an internet connection, take a look at www.warmerworcestershire.com. This site, after adding your postcode, shows how well insulated your house is. Food for thought!!

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For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council