

## Wickham Bishops Parish Council

### Climate Change Event 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

We were very pleased to welcome Professor Jules Pretty from Essex University to the village hall to talk to us about climate change, as part of our Biodiversity project. The display board shows the projects we have been involved in since the project started in 2021. As you can see, we have created a pond in the library, involved the children in the Edward Bear Club and in the Scouts, had a plant swap, got involved with the local agro-forestry project, and encouraged residents to leave their lawns and verges (where safe to do so) unmown to encourage more plant, bird, bat, and insect life within our village.



Professor Pretty talked to about 35 of us – which was a very good attendance given the monsoon-like conditions on the night – about what we can do as individuals to make an impact on climate change. He told us about the great stories in human history which have a moral theme about how to live a good life and be better people. He talked about the childhood fairy tales of Goldilocks and Jack in the Beanstalk with a message for us about the real value of things in our lives, and our environment, and which have been shared and passed down the generations as a way to live.

We are in a dark place in terms of the current changes in climate and impact on our planet, but from dark places comes hope and we discussed the projects in other local villages in Maldon District, which are also creating opportunities for change, such as Tollesbury, Manningtree, Wivenhoe and Danbury.

Claire Williamson (Climate Action Lead Officer MDC) came along bringing recycling materials and ideas and the plan to create a group of representatives from within the District to work together on our projects. Parish, District and Essex CC Councillors attended on Thursday – all wanting to promote the idea of working collectively to bring about change.



The talk was informative and thought-provoking – we plan to invite Professor Pretty to come back to the village again in 2024.

If you would like to get involved in our Biodiversity Group, to be part of the change, please contact Cllr Jane Williams

[jane.williams@wickhambishopparishcouncil.org](mailto:jane.williams@wickhambishopparishcouncil.org)