

CAYNHAM NEWS

distributed free

www.caynham.eclipse.co.uk

September 2021

Contact details (area code 01584 except where noted)

Caynham Ashford Women's Institute (<https://sites.google.com/site/caynhamashfordwi/>)

Meets monthly 7.30pm 2nd Wednesday at Caynham or Ashford Carbonell village halls

President	Mrs Christine King	876819	
Secretary	Mrs Jane van Duijvenvoorde	891396	janevanduij@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mrs Ann Morris	831692	

Caynham & District Gardening Society (<http://caynhamgardening.blogspot.co.uk>)

Meets monthly 7.30pm 1st Tuesday Caynham Village Hall

Chairman	Mrs Christine King	876819	
Secretary	Mrs Jean Faulkner	879515	jeanmfaulkner@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Mrs Ann Morris	831692	

Caynham Book Exchange

Meets monthly 11am 1st Monday Caynham Village Hall

Contact	Mrs Paula Spencer	875419	
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Ashford & Caynham Butterflies Pre-school Playgroup

Every weekday in term time, 9am to 3pm Bishop Hooper CE Primary School

Committee Chair	Ms Julia Harmen		
Leader	Ms Leigh Turner	07779171674	

Caynham Parish Council (<http://www.caynhampc.org.uk>)

Meets bimonthly 7pm 1st Monday usually Knowbury Memorial Hall, occasionally Caynham or Clee Hill Village Hall

Caynham Councillor	Mrs Barbara Ashford (Chairman)	874402	
County Councillor	Mr Richard Huffer	891215	richard.huffer@shropshire.gov.uk
Clerk	Mr Eric Williams	874661	cewilliams1@btinternet.com

Caynham Walking Group

Meets monthly 2nd Saturday: walks are 4 to 6 miles starting about 10am. For details please contact Catherine Newcombe (891225 or cathnewcombe@btinternet.com).

Caynham Village Hall Committee (<http://www.caynham.eclipse.co.uk/vhall.html>)

Chairman	Dr David Faulkner	879515	davidjfaulkner@btinternet.com
Hall Bookings	Mrs Jean Faulkner	879515	jeanmfaulkner@btinternet.com

St Mary's Church Caynham

Rector	Revd Lynn Money	831203	ashfordsrector@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Mrs Ann Reid	875519	
	Mr Stephen Ashford	874402	sjashford@hotmail.com

Friends of Bishop Hooper CE Primary School

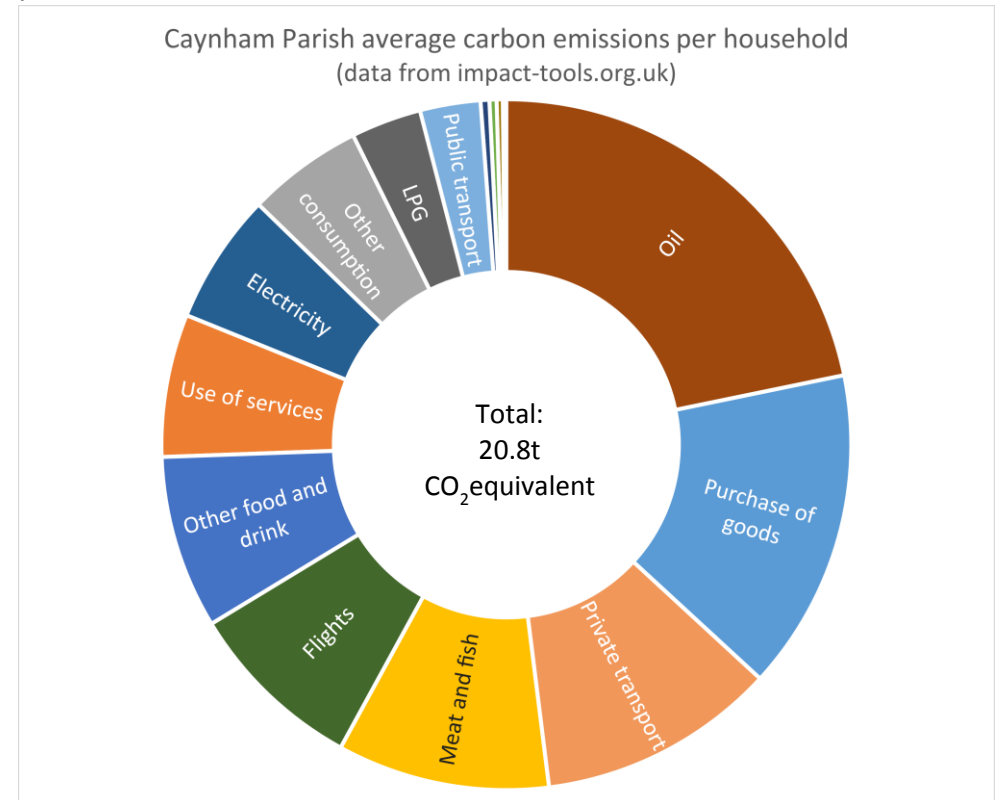
Contact	Mrs Anna Gittins (Headmistress)	831110	
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Produced and published monthly by Caynham Village Hall.
If you are organising anything and would like it to be listed here,
please contact David Faulkner at least one month in advance.

The environmental crisis and us

With the recent publication of the UN's IPCC report and the widespread floods, wildfires and heatwaves, you can hardly ignore the environmental crisis we face: a perfect storm of global warming and pollution, coupled with loss of sustainability and biodiversity. There is much advice available as to what you can do personally to improve matters. Some is trivial and simplistic, but there are two useful approaches.

The commonest suggestion is to work out your 'carbon footprint' – there are several websites which will do this (the results from each will probably be different, but similar). An easy to use UK based calculator is at www.carbonindependent.org. This will tell you where most of your carbon emissions are coming from and allow you to compare your footprint with national averages etc and to identify effective changes you can make.



The carbon emissions for a geographical area can also be calculated. The diagram above shows the annual emissions for Caynham Civic Parish (so includes Knowbury and Clee Hill too). These are the average per household based on consumption (so include activities like flights which take place outside the area, but not, for example, the impact of traffic passing through). The results for neighbouring parishes (Ashford Carbonel, Bitterley, Hopton Wafers) are slightly higher but show the same distribution. Obviously, not all these headings will be relevant to you (eg, if you use LPG you probably don't use oil), but they do indicate a rough breakdown of 32% on household heating and energy, 27% on goods and services, 22% on travel and 18% on food and drink. It's likely that your personal carbon footprint will show a similar distribution.

You may well have already taken steps to improve things: better insulation, more efficient heating, a cleaner fuel source; replacing appliances and cars less frequently; cutting down on flights; using local food suppliers or growing your own. However, some of the changes that are likely to be needed in Caynham are not easy or cheap. Oil and LPG are common fuels here, but will eventually be phased out – how will they be replaced? The standard answer is by heat pumps. In the long term these will be more economical as well as greener, but there is a significant up-front cost. There are grants and incentives available, but older houses may not be able to meet the current insulation requirements to qualify for these. This restriction needs to be relaxed if widespread uptake of the technology is to be achieved.

If working out your carbon footprint left you feeling a bit guilty, don't be surprised. The concept was invented by a PR firm working for British Petroleum, who launched an online calculator in 2004. The intention was to make it clear the problem was with individuals and that BP had no responsibility for the situation!! Yet the fossil fuel industry has a huge carbon footprint itself from the extraction and production of fuels – which also causes enormous environmental damage. Fossil fuel is the biggest cause of the environmental crisis and the industry knows it: global warming due to CO₂ emissions was predicted in the 1950s; in the 1980s consultants for Exxon forecast global warming of 1°C by 2020 due to fossil fuel usage. Nevertheless, the industry promoted climate change denial. Even now, fossil fuel companies employ 'greenwash' to improve their image, funding some environmental projects whilst spending vastly more on lobbying to block any changes.

In the light of this, you may feel that saving the odd ton of CO₂ on your personal carbon footprint is not worth the effort. Don't despair: you're not alone. A recent UN global survey of 1.2 million people across 50 countries showed that a large majority recognised climate change as a global emergency and would support action to tackle

it – in this the electorate are well ahead of the government. Financial institutions are also becoming more sensitive to the impact of climate change.

This brings us to the second way in which you can make a difference: by applying pressure to government and organisations. This could be through petitions or by direct lobbying of your local councillor (richard.huffer@shropshire.gov.uk) and your MP (philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk). Mr Dunne chairs the UK Parliament Environmental Audit Committee so has influence in these matters and has not shrunk from criticising Government inaction. If you have a pension plan or investments, you can campaign for the funds to be divested from fossil fuel companies.

Ambitious targets for 20 or more years in the future too easily provide excuses for delay. We need to take action **now**.

David Faulkner

[Herefordshire Wildlife Trust are hosting a 'Home Energy Day' at the Sustainable Future Centre, Queenswood Park on Saturday 18th September, 10.30am to 3.30pm, which could be worth a visit]

Events in September and October (Caynham Village Hall unless noted)

Weds 8th Sept WI 7.30pm

Thurs 9th Sept Gardening Society outing to Wollerton Old Hall garden from 11am

Sat 11th Sept Caynham Walkers – details from organiser

Tues 5th Oct Gardening Society: talk by Kevin Alviti 'Unusual fruit & vegetables' 7.30pm

Sat 9th Oct Caynham Walkers – details from organiser

Road works

The long-threatened A49 roadworks appear to have started. There will be work affecting both north- and southbound traffic between the A456 and the A4117 from 30th August to 26th November during daylight hours, with further work scheduled in December and January.

Reminder: resurfacing of Caynham Road from St Mary's Church to Whitton House from 30th August to 6th September, 09:30 and 16:00. Diversions in place via the A4117.