



Hambleton Greening Campaign Annual Report 2021-2022

In 2021, Hambleton Greening Campaign became a Working Group of Hambleton Parish Council and an annual budget of £1750 was voted through, for which we are very grateful. We submit monthly reports of our activities to the PC. HGC follows a structure of 3 phases set up by the national Greening Campaign. We completed **Phase 1** in 2020. It was all about community engagement, and we calculated how much carbon the village saved through easy household changes such as lowering the thermostat by one degree, washing up in a bowl, drying clothes outside etc. A total of 72 tons!

Phase 2 began in 2021 with a Rewilding emphasis and we were supported by our mentor Craig Whitelock of HIWWT. Every household was encouraged to commit eight hours to rewilding activity and we achieved our goal of 1000 hours by September. We also distributed free gifts of wildflower seed packs to every household, held a Wildflower Walk, an Insect Survey at Hambleton School and a stand at the Hambleton Summer Show. We aim to continue this community emphasis on biodiversity by becoming a HIWWT Wilder Community and John and Christine Dunkley have kindly agreed to lead that initiative.

The Retrofit element of Phase 2 continues, with support from Christine Seaward, CEO of the Sustainability Centre. On May 12th 2021, a public online meeting of over 40 supporters introduced the topic, with guest speakers on Retrofit and Community Energy. 15 people visited the retrofitted Sustainability Centre Eco-Lodge in September and Christine has sent us several information sheets on key aspects of retrofitting such as heat pumps, insulation and solar panels. These are gradually being uploaded on to our website (www.hambledongreening.com), set up by committee member Nigel Foster. We have conducted a village Energy Survey among our supporters and committee member Alasdair MacKenzie has purchased a thermal camera to assess the effectiveness of insulation in village homes. This is an ongoing project and will be much needed as we move towards the phasing out of fossil fuel domestic heating as detailed in the government's Heat and Buildings Strategy. HGC will continue to highlight the challenges in meeting the carbon reduction targets set by Winchester (carbon neutral by 2030) and HCC (2050) and the restrictions imposed by various groups, including the SDNP, bringing these to the attention of our MP and District Councillors. We receive information and attend seminars from groups such as Community Energy South and Energise South, to assess the relevance to our community of current initiatives.

The final element of Phase 2, Health and Well-being, was introduced in a second public online meeting on December 2nd. The meeting also reflected on COP26 with a speaker who had just returned from the conference. HGC is currently engaged in several village projects that aim to promote well-being at a time when climate anxiety is rife: a very popular monthly Recycling station is now well-established (thanks to Belinda Johnson and Andrew Negus for their involvement here); we have also arranged monthly visits from The Little Green Van and continue a search for sustainable mugs and glasses to be used at village events. The Denmead and Hambleton Repair Café has been set up to reduce waste and runs every month in alternating venues. Our first event in the church last Saturday proved very successful with 11 repairers volunteering their time and over 60 repairs and sharpenings of blunt objects completed! HGC was instrumental in obtaining a £4500 Waste Prevention grant from HCC for the project (with valuable help from the Parish Clerk).

Perhaps our largest event last year was the **Hambleton Green Fair, held on Sept 11th, a joint project between HGC and Hambleton EcoChurch**. It involved, among many activities, a children's eco-story competition, local groups including HIWWT, Covers, WinAcc and Juniper representing their various eco-interests, and a stand advertising local recycling opportunities. This will be repeated on September 11th this year and will have a focus on Well-being and Retrofit.

HGC has a healthy supporters' list of over 100 village households which receives regular updates and a page in every *Hambletonian* which records our activities; our Facebook page is also active with over 160 followers, and our website continues to develop. Our aim remains the same: to encourage the community to reduce local energy consumption and thus reduce our personal and village carbon footprint so that, in a small way, we can improve the future prospects of our planet.

Dr Penny Mahon (secretary of HGC)