

Shaftesbury's Great Big Green Week 10-18 June 2023

Great Big Green Week is the UK's celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Shaftesbury will have its own Great Big Green Week community hub:

- ◆ celebrating local activity,
- ◆ raising the profile of climate change
- ◆ showing why climate change is relevant to the community and local decision makers.



See our website:

GreatBigGreenWeekShaftesbury.org

In association with:



Draft for starting point:

- 1) Help the tree planters - visit a planted site to walk down the grass to help the growing saplings, (Recommended by the Woodland Trust Inspector.).
- 2) Plant wildflowers
- 3) Nature photography competition – photos will be added to our website gallery
- 4) Childrens' Nature Art competition
- 5) When I was a child – reflections by older people on how nature and/or the climate has changed. Anything from “When we went for a long drive, the windscreen would be covered in dead insects” to an essay. Will be published on our website. Audio recordings can be attached to email.

and will add more as people decide to run an activity.

If you have a request, offer or suggestion then please email

chris@GreatBigGreenWeekShaftesbury.org

GBGW has only been running for two years and Internet Research shows significant

activity in GBGW in Barnet, Barton, Bedford, Berwick, Berkhamsted, Burton, Carlisle, Cumbria, Eynsham, Frome, Guildford, Henley, Kent, Kirby Lonsdale, Leicester, Lyme Regis, Marsh Gibbon, North Somerset, Oxfordshire, Salford, Stockton, Watford, Weston, Woking and Yatley. This is growing quickly. If we get behind and push, it could be a really positive force.

Some blue sky thinking - to tempt you to run an event:

Lead walks:

- ◆ nature walk
- ◆ follow local rivers walk
- ◆ wildflower meadow walk
- ◆ herb walk
- ◆ bat walk
- ◆ night walk
- ◆ an I-spy around Shaftesbury findlist
- ◆ Forest Bathing
- ◆ tree walk - people to learn to measure trees and what that means
- ◆ Admin: guide at <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/how-identify>.



Consider meeting at local RSPB Reserve, Wildlife Trusts Nature Reserve or Woodland Trust Wood.

- ◆ green man walk and green woman walk and green child walk – combine with face painting

Hedgehog help – describe how to make a hedgehog box, make runway networks, talk about understanding and helping hedgehogs.

Nature Photography competition – sections for newts, bees, insects, general.

Green Man competition, Green Woman competition, Green Child competition.

Run demonstrations (with handout instructions) - of building bat boxes, hedgehog boxes, bird boxes.



Green Food:

- ◆ Allotment Tours - Open up a local allotment or vegetable bed for the day or week and give tours to local people, talks or workshops with tips on growing your own fruit and vegetables.
- ◆ Community Produce Exchange - I give Ivan honey from my bees and he gives me eggs from his hens, I give honey to Paul and he gives me apple juice from

his apple orchard, could we extend?

- ◆ Plant-Based Feasts - in cooperation with local cafes.

Arts & Music Festival - singing, community singing, art (inc. Come & paint), drama.

Art in the Open - children and adults paint climate change and nature themed pictures in the high street.

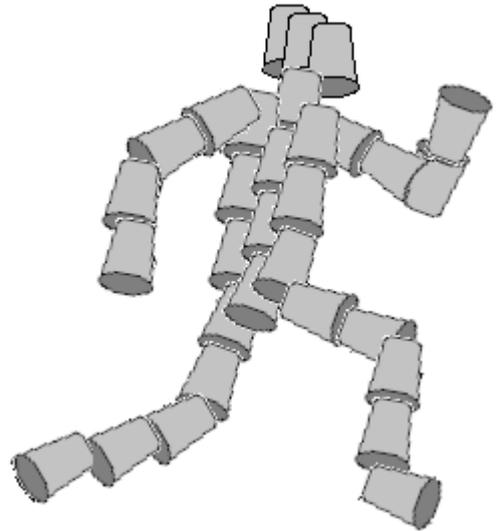
Children's candle making - rolling sheets of wax to make beeswax candles

A sculpture which people can add to using natural materials or recyclable materials.

Poetry workshop:

- ◆ Write an eco poem (general)
- ◆ Write an eco poem (haiku)
- ◆ Read an eco poem aloud

Volunteers Gateway - organisations like Trees for Shaftesbury and Climate Change Activists .Org (we don't march, we plant trees) are always looking for extra hands to help fight climate change.



GBGW Market:

- ◆ RSPB stall
- ◆ Tree Planting Stall
- ◆ Growing saplings
- ◆ Science of climate change exhibition – stop burning fossil fuels and plant trees. Learn the basics (handouts) so that you can have Climate Conversations with people and spread the facts.
- ◆ Rural crafts (basket making, making a corn dolly, beadwork, egg decorating, art from painting old wood).
- ◆ Kite Flying Day - make an animal shaped kite in the morning, fly it in the afternoon.
- ◆ Schools exhibition
- ◆ Climate & Green Quiz - e.g. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/quizzes>
- ◆ Learn the common types of bird that you will see in Shaftesbury. Also bird songs. Guide at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/birdwatching/>
- ◆ Beekeeping display (at the Green market) - I am a beekeeper and I can provide an empty hive. We might get the support of my bee keeping club in which

case they might supply an observation hive with a colony of bees - very popular at shows. They also do a nice line in getting children to roll sheets of wax to make candles.

... we could even have a stall at the Thursday market.

Make a Saftesbury Green Calendar

Children's activities:

- ◆ Cycling activities - cycling from one GBGW location to another and collecting tokens, cycling round a nature route in the area.
- ◆ Pond Dipping
- ◆ Collect an apple seedling (free) - Children collect an seedling apple pip in compost. Children take them home, look after th rooms and plant them out in autumn when the leaves fall.
- ◆ Find as many different types of bee as you can.
- ◆ Photograph as many types of insect as you can and email to greatbiggreenweekshaftesbury.org - we will make a montage.
- ◆ Clay modelling
- ◆ Green Face painting
- ◆ Nature table – discover plants and animals of local area
- ◆ Cardboard plant pot making
- ◆ Cardboard nature scene making
- ◆ Take a sapling, look after it over the summer, try to come to a planting day to plant it.
- ◆ Open fire cooking – cookie dough



Give a talk – nature or climate change related

Tea parties (mad hatters tea parties)

Dressing green event

Green face painting

Seeing the stars – Bob from WAS might talk/demonstrate.

Community gardening

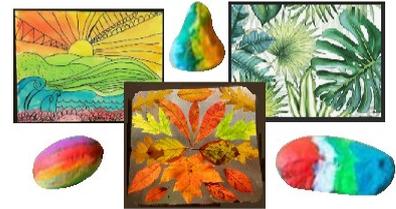
Mindfulness groups in the grass

Name the plants competition

A green camp – eateries open to support.

Local Schools:

- ◆ big painting contribution
- ◆ own eco socs
- ◆ sign boards for the green or STH
- ◆ presentation boards for trees, water, pollution
- ◆ making things out of what's in the recycling bin at home



Pollinator-friendly planting session

Plastic-Free Picnic - meet, discuss climate issues, march to the picnic.

Recipes - to help you reduce food waste.

A Bake Off - nature themed.

A sponge cake competition – nature themed

Homes & Heating - visit a local low-carbon home.

<https://www.greenopenhomes.net/about> organise visits to people who have made energy saving improvements and who open up their homes to share their experiences.



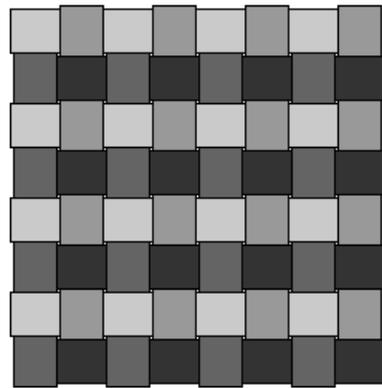
Home activities - some for adults, some for children – stuff on the website, Internet research, playing a simple game, making a simple game, learn to identify local trees - guide at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-to-identify-trees/>

Plot the trees - we need to collect tree seed to grow saplings to fight climate change. For a climate-changed SW England the Forestry Commission recommends Oak, Beech, Aspen, Wild Cherry, Sweet Chestnut and Norway Maple. Make a map of an area (perhaps print one out from Google Maps), and plot where examples of such trees

grow in order to help seed collectors.

River clean-up.

Ribbon weaving from old clothes.



NOTES

Advertising and funding

Liaise with schools, Churches, youth groups, clubs, community groups and children's gardens in Shaftesbury and surrounding villages. Children to design a poster for the week.

Contact shop owners with ideas about what they could do in addition to being added to our "Supported by ..." list on our website in return for displaying our poster in their shop window

Consider grants

Consider how community/children's gardens could be involved

All residents can be added to our "Supported by" list on our web site by application by email or to sandwichboarder.

Involve Tesco.

Morris Dancing.

Druid proclaiming the coming of the Summer Solstice - a time to cull magical and healing herbs: fern seed to make one invisible; elderberries to ward off enchantment; stonecrop, vervain, and yarrow for protection against the evil eye and death; and St. John's wort, the golden, star-shaped flower to bring peace and prosperity to the house, health to the animals and a bountiful harvest.

A draft of the poster that we might to ask shopkeepers to display in return for having their names added to the “Supported by ...” list:

