



Plumpton Village Action Plan

www.plumptonvap.co.uk

MARCH UPDATE

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**"WALK PLUMPTON WEEK"
27TH MARCH TO 2ND APRIL**



PLUMPTON GATEWAY TO THE DOWNS!

To celebrate Plumpton's footpaths, set in some of the most beautiful scenery in Sussex, the VAP Footpath Team will be hosting two walks events.

On Sunday 27th March, there is a choice!

Either, meet at Plumpton Station to catch the 12.51 train to Lewes. The plan is to walk back over the South Downs, following Walks Leaflet no 15 (5 miles), returning to a scrumptious afternoon tea at the Half Moon pub by around 3.30pm.

Alternatively, if you fancy a walk around Plumpton, meet at the Half Moon at 2pm and follow Walks Leaflet no 4 (5 miles), or join us at Plumpton Station at about 3pm to walk the final mile and a half to the Half Moon pub by around 3.30pm for a scrumptious afternoon tea.

Teas will be served free!

What better way to celebrate British Summer Time!

All through the week, all the pubs in Plumpton or East Chilmington are participating in the promotion. Various offers will be available to walkers sporting muddy boots and a Plumpton Footpath Leaflet, ranging from free soft drinks to three course meals for the price of two courses. Watch the posters and pub publicity to find out what will be on offer!

**Can't make 27th March?
Don't despair!**

On Saturday 2nd April, meet at The Fountain at 11.00am. There will be another guided walk around the village. Jacqui Morris, from the Wildlife & Habitat Group, will be there to show us all the wildflowers and other delights along the path. The aim is to return to The Fountain pub at around 12.30pm for a delicious Brunch at a special price.

If you would like more information or would like to confirm your attendance, please contact Team Leader, Catherine Jackson on footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk or 01273 890219.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

About two years ago, members of the VAP Footpath Team and a number of Parish Councillors worked with the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Rights of Way Team, to survey the footpaths and bridleways in Plumpton, as part of a county-wide survey by ESCC to update the out-of-date maps.

As a result of all this hard work, East Sussex County Council now has a new, definitive digital map on its website showing all the public footpaths, bridleways and rights of way across the county, including of course, Plumpton!

The map shows routes, stiles and bridges, with their numbers, which will make it easier to report any problems. There's also an aerial photographic version, which is really helpful.

You can find the map at:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/rightsofwaymap/intro.htm>

If you do report a problem to ESCC, please copy in the Footpaths Team and the Parish Council so we can follow it up if they don't respond.

We can also inform the Monday Group, who are doing wonderful work upgrading and replacing broken stiles and bridges. Please copy your email to footpaths@plumptonvap.co.uk and sue.akers@plumptonpc.co.uk



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CLIMATE WEEK 21ST TO 27TH MARCH

Climate Week is a national event which offers the UK an opportunity to consider how it is going to mitigate climate change. As you will see elsewhere in the magazine, the School, the shop, and the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group are marking the occasion.

To mark this event, the VAP Plumpton Goes Green Team has been busy collating the results from the Community Footprint questionnaires. It has chosen Climate Week to set out the results for Plumpton.

	Ecological Global Hectares	Total Carbon Tonnes
Average for UK	4.75	15.99
Ave for South East	5.22	17.42
Ave for Lewes District	5.61	17.21
Ave for PLUMPTON	6.01	19.36

So what does this actually mean?

A **global hectare (gha)** is a unit (2.47 Acres) of measurement of our Ecological Footprint which is defined as “the area of productive land and water eco-systems required to produce the resources that the population consumes”.

The **carbon tonne of CO₂** is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide produced by a person, organisation or community in a given time. It reflects the amount of greenhouse gas emitted into our atmosphere.

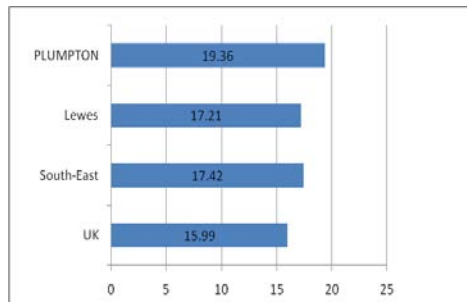
From the above figures, it seems that the South East is worse than the rest of the UK on both measures, whilst Lewes District comes out at about the same as the South East.

However, Plumpton comes out much worse than the District as a whole. Why is this?

The two areas that most affect the statistics shown from the questionnaire results are travel and fuel use.

As regards travel – well that is very much down to personal choice. Hopefully, the introduction of the hourly train service throughout the day may have encouraged some villagers to use the

train instead of the car. The cost of fuel alone may eventually make people think twice about jumping in the car.



Total Carbon Tonnes

As regards fuel – well Plumpton is reliant on oil and LPG – so it would seem at first that not a lot can be done.

However, the VAP Plumpton Goes Green Team is in the early stages of talking to advisers about Community Energy Generation. Micro-generation is the production of heat and power by individuals or communities – typically by renewable means – enabling them to meet their own requirements at, or approaching, zero-carbon cost.

As an approach, it has much to recommend it, both in terms of its energy efficiency – generation takes place at or very near to where the power is needed – and as a very effective direct means of reducing the household or community carbon footprint.

There are a number of micro-generation technologies to choose from – and, perhaps best of all, they can qualify for government grants towards their installation cost.

Plumpton is just starting to explore other ways of mitigating these costs, so if you would like to get involved in this project, please let Team Leader, Ruth Segal, know on pqq@plumptonvap.co.uk or 01273 891126.

Did you return your Community Footprint Form? If not – it is not too late – the Team is happy to add your statistics to the Plumpton figures. **Final deadline is 31st March 2011.** Please return your Forms to the shop.



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CLIMATE WEEK 21ST TO 27TH MARCH (continued)

Are you getting concerned about the rising cost of fuel? Are you interested in being paid to produce your own electricity and heating?

Feed-in-tariff and **Renewable Heat Incentive** are both Government schemes which encourage households and businesses to install renewable energy technologies.

Feed-in-tariff

The feed-in-tariff is a payment for every kilowatt hour generated to anyone who installs a renewable electricity system. This includes solar electricity, wind turbines, hydroelectricity and anaerobic digestion. The tariff is applicable to households and businesses.

The feed-in-tariff pays up to 41.3p/kWh, depending on the type and size of the system used to generate renewable energy. You reduce costs on your electricity bill when you use your own energy and you are also paid an additional 3p/kWh when you export any surplus back to the grid. Tariffs are paid for 25 years for solar systems and 20 years for all other generation systems. These tariffs should cover the initial capital cost of installation and, according to the Government, earn a return up to 8% p.a. In practice that means you should earn back the capital cost at least two to three times over the duration of the tariffs.

Renewable Heat Incentive

The Renewable Heat Incentive is a fixed payment for the renewable heat you generate yourself (e.g. solar thermal panels, heat pumps or a wood burning boiler). Under the scheme you get paid a fixed amount based on an estimate of how much heat your renewable energy systems will produce.

For more information look at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy

What else is happening in the Village during Climate Change Week?

At SCHOOL

The School is supporting the community's involvement with Climate Change. It is running a poster competition about Climate Change in school. It is intended that these will be on display around the village – look out for announcements where the posters can be seen.

AT THE SHOP

Bim and Fal have kindly agreed to hosting a Climate Change display in the shop. The results to date of the community footprinting project will be on display, and, courtesy of Lewes District Council, there will be 75

FREE

POWERDOWN DEVICES!

to visitors to the shop throughout the week. A survey by the Energy Saving Trust found that the average household has up to 12 items left on standby. These Powerdown devices can be used safely on your TV reducing your standby power down to next to nothing, saving you money and extending the life of your TV!

PLUMPTON BUSINESS BREAKFAST THURSDAY 7TH APRIL

The next Plumpton Business Breakfast is being held on Thursday 7th April at the Racecourse at 08.00am.

The VAP Business Team is grateful for the support it is receiving for this event from the Racecourse and the Half Moon.

The Team is contacting all local businesses on its database but should your business not be one of those or you have not yet heard from us, and you wish to attend please call Paul Nicholson on 01273 891725 or e-mail us on business@plumptonvap.co.uk by 31 March.

Tom Hawthorne 01273 890829
Carole Nicholson 01273 891725
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