

The Green INFLUENCER

FIGHTING
THE CLIMATE
EMERGENCY

Summer
2022

FREE



Written by Norfolk's
young world-changers

VIEWS ON NEWS



Young people react to
climate headlines

P3

STREET TALK



What does Joe Bloggs think of
the climate emergency?

P4

WE WEAR THE TROUSERS



Kate Harper's shocking scoop
on the fashion industry

P6

The mission of the Green Influencers Scheme is to help young people create deep, lasting and meaningful connections with the natural environment. By leading a campaign, we hope to influence our local communities to care for the world around us.

Made possible by grant funding from The Ernest Cook Trust and #iwill Fund (a joint investment by DCMS and National Lottery Community Fund).




WILLIAM
"Every day we were all laughing"



ARTHUR
"It was exciting to have a chance to influence people"



JACK
"Crazy bro, we made a lot of memes"



JACK
"I've learnt that megabats can grow up to six feet long"

The Green INFLUENCER

MEET YOUR CORRESPONDENTS

Would you like to take part in a youth-led social action project? Contact Norfolk's Green Mentor Alex Day via alex.day@sos-uk.org to help make environmental change happen.



SAM
"It was a great and fun opportunity to work as a team"



OPHELIA
"Newspapers are more biased than I thought"




WILLIAM
"I've learnt racoons like crunchy slugs"



NORFOLK HERITAGE CENTRE



Norfolk Heritage Centre, on the second floor of the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, holds a comprehensive collection of published material that tells the story of Norfolk and its people, including the first book printed in Norwich (in 1568) and the Norfolk LGBTQ+ Collection. You are welcome to drop in between 10am - 7pm on Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm on Saturday.

THE HISTORY HUNTERS



The History Hunters meet monthly at the Norfolk Heritage Centre to explore the archive, learn more about local history and lead on creative projects.

BREAKING THE NEWS

Breaking the News is a new exhibition from the British Library that explores 500 years of published news in this country. It's about the stories that have shaped us and why news matters. We were inspired to publish our own newspaper when the exhibition visited the Millennium Library in Norwich.



VIEWS ON THE NEWS

Whose side do you agree with?



Stories relevant to environmental issues and the climate emergency are increasingly hitting the headlines, whether highlighting the actions of campaigners such as Greta Thunberg, or reporting on extreme weather events. What effect do such news stories have? Do they challenge people's opinions, or entrench them? How likely are they to motivate people to make a positive change in their behaviour? With these questions in mind, we sat down to analyse three recent examples from local and national media.

History Hunters were presented with newspaper articles from local and national media platforms, and invited to share their first impressions. The stories each relate to the climate emergency, and span protest, international politics and ecology - you are welcome to scan the QR code to read them for yourself. Here's what the History Hunters had to say. What do you think?



ARRESTED 16 TIMES AND ONLY 27 BUT CLIMATE ACTIVIST SAYS SHE WON'T SAY SORRY

EDP, November 24, 2021

Read the full story

A Norwich climate activist who has been arrested 16 times said today she believes she is doing what is necessary to help protect the planet for future generations.

ARTHUR: I think she gets her point across very clearly about looking at the bigger picture and worrying about the real consequences of not acting.

OPHELIA: How long will it be until she gets what she wants, though? She makes the reader think about the things that she and other people are doing.

ARTHUR: I care about this because it affects people my age and younger and also slightly older because we'll

be living through it. People who control climate change now won't have to live through the consequences, but we may not be able to have children as we'll be facing the impacts of climate change already, before we can.

WILLIAM BRADFORD: I agree with her, but I don't believe she sees the effects of her actions on everyday people.

(The Eastern Daily Press, founded in 1870, is a regional newspaper covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.)

PUTIN'S WAR IS BAD NEWS FOR THE CLIMATE

Novara Media, 25 February 2022



Read the full story



Professor Paul Roberts describes how the Russia-Ukraine crisis could threaten global decarbonisation efforts.

JACK PARKIN: If the war goes nuclear it will have devastating effects on the planet because a single nuclear weapon is already capable of causing unimaginable damage, and as we've seen over the past few decades, this capability has increased so much since the bombing in World War Two and the use of a nuclear weapon then.

XANDER: This won't really change my behaviour because it doesn't affect me at the moment.

JACK PARKIN: This is a really important story, because it mixes two massive problems at the

moment: the Ukrainian war and the effects of climate change, which, if not handled properly, will destroy humanity.

XANDER: I definitely care because lots of people are being killed and it affects thousands of people.

JACK PARKIN: We also need to remember that the increased danger posed by climate change is due to the actions our ancestors took, and there needs to be more recognition of how climate change has developed - people talk about the Industrial Revolution, but skip over the last hundred years.

(Novara Media is an independent platform based in London, funded by supporters donations, who describe themselves as a 'new media for different politics'.)



BOTTLES, CANS BATTERIES: OCTOPUSES FOUND USING LITTER ON SEABED

The Guardian, March 8, 2022



Read the full story

Linda Geddes, Science Correspondent, describes how creatures are using discarded items for shelter or to lay eggs, highlighting their 'extreme ability to adapt'.

WILLIAM BOYDELL: Whose side do you agree with?

SAM: It's good how the animals now have more shelter, but at the same time it also shows how much litter there is in the oceans.

JACK TEASDALE: I don't really believe this article shows two sides of the story - it seems to show the story in a positive light.

SAM: What's the first thought or feeling you have?

JACK TEASDALE: The first thought or feeling I had on reading this article was that it is... kind of pointless, really. It didn't really get into much detail about climate change.

WILLIAM BOYDELL: Will this change your behaviour in any way?

SAM: I already did litter-picking and I am a vegan, and will continue - this article won't change that.

JACK TEASDALE: Is this an important story?

WILLIAM BOYDELL: it's mainly telling us how the octopuses are adapting to it...

SAM: Yeah, the litter over time is going to grow and grow and then it'll just be too much in the ocean for the animals to handle.

JACK TEASDALE: Can you think of a solution?

SAM: Recycle more.

JACK TEASDALE: I'd like to know how much Linda knows about climate change and what she believes about this situation.

(The Guardian Media Group is a global news organisation that is liberal and left-wing, and is over 200 years old. In 2020, 1.5million readers supported the paper financially.)

STREET TALK

MAKE OUR PLANET GREAT AGAIN!



What does Joe Bloggs think?

History Hunters hit the streets of Norwich to find out what the people of Norwich really think about the climate emergency.



ANNAM SIDDIQUI

How do you feel about climate change?

It does harm.

What changes have you made to your life to reduce your carbon footprint?

I can tell you more about Pakistan instead of UK as that's where I'm from. They've started using cloth bags rather than the plastic bags in a lot of shops. They tell you to bring your own cups in a lot of coffee shops rather than use the paper cups. One step at a time.

Do you have a message about climate change for our readers?

If everybody starts somewhere, trying to reduce... if there can be more volunteer work involved around this change, people doing stuff in communities, I think it's going to make a huge change. I don't think we can stop it, the only thing we can do is slow it down.



MIKE RILEY

How do you feel about climate change?

How do I feel about it? I feel we're probably not doing enough to resolve the problems at the moment. We need to do more.

What changes have you made to your life to reduce your carbon footprint?

Yes, we've made lots of changes where I work, for example. We recycle, we're trying to reduce all our travel - our flight-time, and things like that. It's probably not enough, but we're doing what we can.

Do you have a message about climate change for our readers?

I guess the message is that we need to start doing things quickly, so that they can grow up in a better world!



JOANNA JIMENEZ

How do you feel about Climate Change?

I feel that a lot of the animals and the environment is being affected, and we have to share the planet with other creatures, not just people, so their home is being affected by our choices - I wish that people would consider other creatures and not just themselves.

Have you made any changes to your life to reduce your carbon footprint?

Yes. I do drive a car, but I use less petrol. I haven't got the money yet to afford an electric car but I recycle and am aware of plastic and wastage.

Do you have a message about climate change for our readers?

Just be more aware of where you put your rubbish and how you treat other living things, like where you leave your rubbish and what kind of things you buy that could contribute to there being more waste. Not throwing anything in the water, like plastic, so that animals can thrive. Just be more aware of what you can do for the environment.



P. JORDAN

How do you feel about Climate Change?

I think it's something we need to act on quickly. I think we're in a very small window but there's still a chance to change things.

Have you made any changes to your life to reduce your carbon footprint?

I'm a vegan, that's the main thing, but I also don't drive a car.

Do you have a message about climate change for our readers?

Yeah, don't lose hope. I think we are inclined to give up because it seems such a huge task. But actually, if we have hope and are willing to act, we don't have to give up yet.



HELEN ROGER

How do you feel about climate change?

It worries me. A lot.

Have you made any changes to your life to reduce your carbon footprint?

I hope so. I try and drive less, try not to get plastic bags unnecessarily, try and re-use plastic wherever I can. I do fly, because I live in Northern Ireland and my parents are here, so I have to fly sometimes. They're probably the most obvious ones.

Do you have a message about climate change for our readers?

I think we all need to take it seriously. I'm older than you, and you're the guys who are going to have deal with this, so I hope everyone takes it seriously.



LAURA STEVENS

What could our government be doing?

You don't want to get me started on this government. There is loads more they could be doing; insulate houses for a start.

How do you feel about the petrol shortage and were you affected by it?

Not really, we rarely use our car and we walk loads.

Were you aware of Earth Day?

I didn't celebrate it, but I saw images that showed how much the ice caps had melted, which made me sad.

Do you have any final words for our readers?

Walk more, turn your heating off, wear a jumper, sit under a duvet when you watch the telly and turn the light off when you leave a room. If you're not using it, turn it off. We're a lot older than you, we know how to scrimp and save.



REBECCA TOWNSEND

What do you know about climate change?

I know that my family do everything we can to avoid it. We do loads of recycling, composting, try to buy from small shops.

What could the government do to help?

The Government could subsidise electric cars. I looked at buying an electric car because I could charge it straight from my solar panels, but the price is ridiculous.

How do you feel about the petrol shortage and were you affected by it?

I was massively affected by it. I work for children's services, so I spent hours in queues to get that last drip of diesel.

Do you have any final words for our readers?

I still think people need to do their bit. I mean how difficult is it to carry your own water bottle.

Optimist or a Pessimist?

A realist!



CHUN TUNG ERIC CHAN

How do you feel about climate change?

I think the climate is very different from the past and the temperature of the earth is rising.

What could the government do to help?

The government can minimise the bad effects from the industry who emit the bad gas.

How do you feel about the petrol shortage and were you affected by it?

Car fuel is very limited and the price is rising, and so we are low income so it's very difficult to afford the car fuel, however the car is very useful as we need to travel to the supermarket to buy things; we cannot live without a car.

Do you have any final words for our readers?

I hope that the price of petrol is stable.

IT MEMES THE WORLD!



Q&A

History Hunters interviewed three locals who are taking action, to find out what can be done to address the climate emergency.

How do you solve a problem like climate breakdown?

Interview with Kate Harper (KH) of We Wear the Trousers

By SAMUEL & WILLIAM

WE WEAR THE TROUSERS



SAMUEL: What does We Wear the Trousers do?

KH: We exist to empower people to keep clothing and other fashion resources in active use for longer – for example, through encouraging and showing people how to repair their clothes when they need fixing. We run social clothing repair events where people can get together and repair their clothes, upcycling workshops and clothing swap events, where people can refresh their wardrobes for free. We're all about trying to keep clothing in use for longer in the context of a more sustainable fashion industry.

WILLIAM: What inspired you to start We Wear the Trousers?

KH: I was at university in 2012 – studying fashion at Norwich University of the Arts – and I read a study by a body called WRAP [the Waste and Resources Action Programme]. They interviewed loads of clothing consumers about their clothing habits – about buying clothing, how we wash our clothes, how we dispose of our clothes. They did this big study, and this one statistic in the report really hit me: they found that if you keep an item of clothing in active use – stop it from going to landfill – for an extra nine months, you can reduce its overall ecological footprint by 20-30%. That really blew me away, I thought that everybody – regardless of their design/sewing skills or how much money they've got – can keep a garment for a little bit longer, and clearly that has an impact. So, I thought, what can I do to encourage people to do that?

SAMUEL: How do you teach people to mend clothes?

KH: We run social mending events where people can get together and mend their clothes, and we try and get a bunch of people in a room who all have different skills and knowledge to offer – so, I can sort of show people how to darn things or maybe patch things, someone else in the room might be really good at sewing on buttons... It's not like a lesson or a workshop where one person is the teacher and tells everyone what to do, it's more that we all learn from each other and share skills together. We run those quite regularly in different places in Norfolk – including in the library. We've just organised to run

one every month in the Millenium Library in Norwich, so that's exciting, and we do one in the library in Gorleston.

William: How long has We Wear the Trousers been a business?

KH: A year, nearly! I came up with the name, We Wear the Trousers, about four or five years ago, and did bits and bobs, and worked with other charities and other people to put things on. But a year ago we incorporated as a CIC – which is a Community Interest Company – because we want to be able to apply for funding so we can do more stuff and help more people.

SAMUEL: What is the environmental impact of buying clothes?

KH: That's a really big question. Obviously, it depends on what clothes they are, what they're made of, and where they're made. But the industry as a whole is on track to use a quarter of our carbon budget if we want to stay within the 1.5-degree pathway – so, that's quite big. It's quite difficult to quantify the environmental impact of the industry because a lot of what goes on isn't recorded, so we don't know exactly what's going on. But we do know that it is a high polluting industry.

WILLIAM: What can we do to help?

KH: Keep your clothes for longer! You might have heard this phrase before: the most sustainable garment is the one already in your wardrobe. So, if you want to have a more environmentally sustainable wardrobe, then just don't add anything to it. You can swap clothes, you can buy second-hand instead of new. Be excited about wearing your clothes in different ways, styling them differently, making new outfits from the same clothes... We can all do things like wash our clothes less frequently, only wash them if they really need washing (and at a lower temperature), look after them, repair them when they need fixing rather than buying something else... Raising awareness with your friends and family is really helpful, and just showing that it's cool to wear second-hand or to wear what you've got – you don't always need to have the newest thing.

EXTINCTION REBELLION



By ARTHUR, OPHELIA & WILLIAM

Interview with representatives of Extinction Rebellion Norwich: Ruth Jenkins (RJ), Elena Judd (EJ) and James Graham (JG)

ARTHUR: What is the main purpose of Extinction Rebellion (XR)?

RJ: We are a non-violent civil resistance movement campaigning for change for the environment.

EJ: XR has three big demands. Our first demand is that the government and the media tell the truth: we want information about how bad the climate crisis is, and is going to be, to be widely available to people and not come as a horrible surprise. Our second demand is that they act now. Thirdly, we ask for that action to be decided on by what's called a citizen's assembly, which works a lot like jury service. The reason I think that that's so important is at the moment we have such a stratified system; so, the number of people who get to make decisions about what the UK does are a really small group of people with a very, very similar background. I think if we have a citizen's assembly, that comes from the bottom up and is made up of people who look and sound like everyday people, they're more likely to be successful.

WILLIAM: What inspired you all to get involved with Extinction Rebellion?

RJ: When the rebellion came around in October 2019, my dad and my uncle were going along, so I went along to see what it was about. It was really colourful, the samba bands were amazing, and seeing people take action en masse was empowering.

JG: I saw an article in the news about Extinction Rebellion, and then went to an XR meeting. The room was filled with about 100 people, with a lot of younger people as well. So I thought: "right, I'm in."

EJ: For me, it's always been about wildlife. Ever since I was a small child, I've spent a lot of time outdoors and have a real fascination and sense of affinity with the natural world. And I suppose I was aware, even as a younger person, that things weren't going great, and that has really, really accelerated recently, and I feel so passionately that this stuff needs to be protected.

OPHELIA: What has Extinction Rebellion done recently in Norwich?

JG: We went to County Hall to make noise about their decision to change the route of the Western Link road, which is going to not quite bulldoze through the colony of bats.

RJ: We lined up, about 300 of us, along an 800m stretch that would be bulldozed if the road were to be built.

WILLIAM: Do you agree with the more drastic measures some people have taken, like gluing themselves to buildings and things?

EJ: We get called radical but, for me, they pale into insignificance when cast against mass extinction of ecosystems, civilisation collapse, potential extinction of humanity... It feels proportionate.

JG: It's worth saying that when we talk about gluing, it's entirely a time-wasting tactic. If you put your hand on something, a police officer will come and say: "Are you glued on?" If you say yes, they've got to call in the glue specialists, who have to carefully peel you off one at a time, and it takes ages.

RJ: This is all about trying to create change. It's not just to create disruption, it's because the disruption is necessary to create a change and create that attention. We've tried the petitions, we've tried talking to MPs...

ARTHUR: What is the number one piece of advice you would give to someone reading this who wants to help prevent climate change?

JG: Get out on the streets. One of our founding principles is: We openly challenge ourselves and this toxic system. You have to diligently do your recycling, and go out and make a big fuss in the street and demand better, because you deserve better.

RJ: My advice would be to find your group of people. It's easier to experience with a group, and taking collective action is a lot more hopeful.



IT MEMES THE WORLD!



By JACK & XANDER

Q+A

CAR-FREE NORWICH



Interview with Matt White
(founder Car-Free Norwich)



JACK: What is Car-Free Norwich and why is it significant?

MW: As the name suggests, we want no cars in Norwich, but we know that this is not realistic, so really, we're pushing for far fewer cars, which are damaging in so many ways. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to give up their cars. Largely it's "pushing at an open door", as they say, because a lot of local and even national government policies are actually quite good, but they're not really implementing them enough, so it's about trying to push for those more ambitious policies.



XANDER: What inspired you to get involved in Car-Free Norwich?

MW: I founded it in 2008. I have quite bad lung disease, and I am hyper-sensitive to air pollution and very aware of it and how it affects me. I just decided that I wanted to create something more formal rather than just me moaning on social media. So, I created the name and got someone to make a logo, and then some like-minds joined us. Air pollution was the main driver to start the campaign.

JACK: Is that why this organisation is so important to you?

MW: I ended up studying climate change and air pollution since starting Car-Free Norwich, and how it affects everybody but especially the most vulnerable in society: people with conditions like mine, but also children - because their bodies are still developing, and it stops them developing as they should - and elderly people as well. It affects everyone, but especially disadvantaged people, so it's really a social justice issue.

XANDER: How will having fewer cars on the road improve Norwich?

MW: Obviously, there will be fewer car emissions and less air pollution, but the social aspect is what really interests me as well, and in the end that kind of angers me more. It's the amount of physical space that cars take up. It's just a vast amount of public space that we no longer have, and the impact that has on neighbourhoods, on children and their ability to play in their street. I've started a separate campaign called "Playing Out Norfolk" to get kids playing in the streets again, closing roads on a temporary basis to enable that.

JACK: What can people do to help your cause?

MW: Creating play streets is a good one. What it involves is just talking to your neighbours to spread the idea, and if they're interested you can apply to the council, and it's free. You can close your road for two, three, four hours. It's just a really amazing way to bring the community together - you get to know your neighbours, make new friends.

XANDER: What's your opinion on the state of public transport, both in Norwich and nationally?

MW: It doesn't make sense for it to be privatised. And because it's privatised there's been a huge loss of funding - because it's run for profit, rather than for the social and environmental good. It means that the private companies basically choose the routes that are most profitable and then other routes gradually lose out and get cut. It's a battle, but hopefully we will see a national change towards nationalisation.

JACK: What advice would you give to someone who wants to change how they travel?

MW: To find enjoyment in not using a car: whether you're walking or cycling, the slower pace can be so enjoyable, and it is better for mental and physical health. And to be aware of that, and to take more notice of your surroundings, to notice nature as you move around your neighbourhood. But it's also definitely worth writing to your political representatives, because it's not easy for people to give up - depending on where you live it can be very difficult. Whatever you can do to reduce your use of a car is a benefit in terms of the environment and air pollution. 🌱

World Car-Free Day
SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

The Green INFLUENCER

Written by Norfolk's young world-changers

FREE

Summer 2022



Read me!
Re-use me!
Recycle me!

Printed on 100% recycled paper and made from UK-sourced recycled material.

Ark Crafted for Purpose designbyark.co.uk

JOIN OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

Norwich FarmShare exists to provide local, fresh, ecologically grown food.

Experience a direct relationship with how your food is produced.

Find out more: norwichfarmshare.co.uk
Sign up at: ooooby.org/norwichfarmshare