

PRISTON: A LOOK AHEAD

As we emerge from the series of lockdowns which have had such a huge impact on our lives, we are probably all looking forward to a more relaxed and carefree summer when we can see our families and friends again. And it's likely that in the autumn, once we've been able to have some sort of holiday, our minds will turn back to the serious issues which worried us before the pandemic stormed the world.

We all know that Covid 19 is a product of humans' destruction of the natural environment, caused largely by an ever-growing population and its demands. Climate and ecology emergencies are being declared throughout the world at all levels of government; the UK government is hosting the UN climate change conference in Glasgow in November this year – there is a growing sense of urgency and recognition that we have to change how we go about our daily lives now. There is optimism, too, that this change will not cause us personally as much trouble as we previously imagined.

Priston Parish Council is seeking to support villagers in adopting new habits to reduce our carbon footprint and enhance our environment. **Keep Saturday 9 October free for a village meeting** when we can get together to discuss our concerns and ideas for how to meet the challenges we all face. How do we see the future of Priston? What do we value now and how can we preserve it? How can we enhance our lives and the environment in the village and its surroundings? These are big questions, and they may help us land on some realistic action that we can take.

October is a long way off. In the meantime, a group of us have identified some things we can do and a few schemes to explore:

- **Louise Callan** will summarise our tree and hedge planting push over the last year in the May Link and will be coordinating more planting in the autumn. Louise is keen to hear from anyone who would like to take part, especially if you have land for planting.
- **Bruce Clarke** is looking into the viability/need for a village charging point for electric cars. Contact him if you can help.
- **Peter Brookes** is investigating an electric bike hire scheme in the village and would like to hear from anyone who has experience of one.
- **Penny Rogers** is organising an open day (or days) in the autumn when village home owners can demonstrate their alternatives to oil and gas heating and methods of reducing energy consumption. Do let her know if you are willing to share your experiences. In the meantime, if your boiler breaks down, don't rush out to replace like-for-like until finding out a bit more about the new heating systems. You can go to www.energyathome.org.uk or email energyathome@bathnes.gov.uk. And Peter is happy to give advice too.

You are bound to have more ideas. Please come along to the village meeting on 9 October and share. But do have an enjoyable summer before that!

Penny Rogers