

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

April 2019 – Monthly Newsletter



Dear Members

A summary of our meeting and some details on our future programme and plans.

The meeting on 4th April was chaired once again by Jon Roots who introduced our speaker for the day, **Dr Martin Parry**. Dr Parry, a member of our group for several years, was until September 2008 Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability), of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) based at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, U.K. Meteorological Office. He has held several key roles in UK research in this topic and gave a very interesting and informative view of the current state of play.


It seems clear from his report that the UK and indeed Europe as a whole are making serious efforts to significantly reduce their carbon footprints and are being successful. However, the global trend continues its almost monotonic rise, which suggests that other parts of the World are not doing so well.

The presentation was followed with a lively round-table discussion of the topic, with many new aspects being covered. Thanks go to all for their contributions.

Looking ahead,

On **4th May** we will hold our normal SITN meeting at St Michael's Undercroft at which Alec Hillier will moderate an open discussion of SITN items you bring on the day. Later in May we have the first of our outside visits scheduled. The **John Innes Research Centre** outside Norwich is an independent, international centre of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology. They provide guided tours of the facility and with a limit of 15 persons per tour we have agreed two separate two-hour tours for **7th and 21st May**. Check your diaries as this is an excellent opportunity to hear about the work undertaken and please let Richard W your preferred date for your participation.

June this year is a month focussed somewhat on local farming. We have organised a farm walk on the **19th on Frostenden Hall** in Suffolk. This farm has apparently reduced its workforce from something in excess of 40 people to single figures by extensive use of mechanisation. **John Bailey** has agreed to give an introductory talk about this at our usual U3A SITN on **4th June** and the farmer, John Watson will be "driving" the visit on the day. He is keen to make this a really lively session and invites any questions and he will do his best to answer them. He has said that refreshments will be available.



July 4th is being kept open for a full two-hour session of SITN items. Please do your best to bring along your items of news and let us all learn something and perhaps assist all in understanding something new.

As our tradition, **August** will be treated as a vacation month. Enjoy your holidays, take the grandchildren to the beach before it has all eroded farther South or perhaps a day treat to the Science Museum in Kensington. Back on **September 5th** and we will catch up on all the science news before embarking on our Autumn/Winter schedule in **October**. **November** we hope to host a visitor from the Sizewell 'C' project.

Just to remind you, our Meetings take place **2pm to 4pm** on the **first Thursday of the Month**, in the **St Michael's Undercroft**, unless otherwise advised.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. And to remind you that all our newsletters are available on our U3A Group web page. Just access Beccles U3A and follow the link to Science in the News/ LINKS/Past Newsletters and then select the month you would like to access.

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