

# SUPER COTSWOLD LINK MEETING

On 6<sup>th</sup> July there was a good turnout at the Pavilion at Cheltenham to hear four very well-informed speakers on Mitigating Climate Change and Environmental Impacts. First up was Dr Richard Swannell, International Director of WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Program).

Richard is based in Banbury but he advises governments, cities, NGOs and businesses in 40 countries about how to be more sustainable by simply cutting waste. He is keen for people to measure their waste and be aware how much there is! He had six priorities, of which one was reducing food waste. He said that 70 % of food waste occurs in people's homes. Too many people buy too much food, and throw the rest away. The secret is to buy only what we are going to eat!

Two speakers from the Woodland Trust talked about why it is so good to plant trees to reduce levels of carbon dioxide. But it is also important to plant the right sort of trees in the right places. They had a video about trees absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. They talked about how weather can be affected by forests, and told us that in forests, much of the carbon captured is held underground.

A young lady from EDF Energy called Jessica Harris came to tell us about the great care being taken to ensure that the new Nuclear Power Station Hinkley Point C will have a net zero carbon footprint. All the steel used in rebar has been made of recycled steel. They have planted 65,000 plants and trees around their construction site. Their workers' canteen sources all the food locally in Somerset, etc, etc.

Finally, Paul Sheridan talked about ways to save money and to improve energy efficiency in our homes. He talked about all the possible ways to heat our homes, including air pumps and ground source heat pumps. He talked about different ways to save heat, by improving our insulation. He did say we could help ourselves by putting less water in our kettles when we make a cup of tea. Somebody from the floor suggested that, if you do heat up more water than you need, it is good to put the excess water into a thermos flask, and then to put it back into the kettle next time round. On the next occasion you make tea, it will boil very quickly!

It was a very informative day in which we talked about the big issues, but also addressed how individuals can make significant differences. It was good to be able to listen to such talented speakers. There was a good sandwich lunch. A good day was had by all! There was a good crowd there, but it was a pity that there were so few of us from Ledbury.