



BBC East Midlands Today broadcast a feature on 9<sup>th</sup> August on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change. It was a well balanced item highlighting the report which was described as nothing less than "[a code red for humanity](#)". The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable". The UN Secretary General noted that the internationally-agreed threshold of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels of global heating was "perilously close". He said we are at imminent risk of hitting 1.5 degrees in the near term and the only way to prevent exceeding this threshold, is by urgently stepping up our efforts, and pursuing the most ambitious path.



The program tried to highlight the very real impact of global warming on our everyday lives. We have seen the sudden floods in Germany, Turkey, India and China, the incredible heatwave in Canada and the forest fires in Algeria and California. In an attempt to make it real for its viewers the program interviewed Russ Blenkinsop of Lowdham Flood Action Group. The floods in Lowdham whilst incredibly

small compared to the above world events and the real 'flash' flooding in places like Hebden Valley (who have just 20 minutes notice of imminent flooding), are very real to many of us. As well as new housing in the Cocker Beck catchment area, it is climate change that has led to increased rainfall and greater intensity of that rainfall.

The program also highlighted the well known pressure group Extinction Rebellion. While many do not agree with their tactics, the message they have been giving is clear for us all to see. At least they are doing something and making elected politicians sit up and listen.

The UK is hosting COP26 - the next annual UN **climate change conference**. COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and the summit will be attended by the countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – a treaty that came into force in 1994. This is where, hopefully, agreements will be made for countries to commit to taking action to keep the rise below the threshold of 1.5 degrees.

Lowdham has come together to have its own response to flooding from the Parish obtaining extra funding to make the reservoir scheme financially viable to the many paired volunteers who give real time protection and peace of mind to vulnerable villagers. **But more needs to be done and the question is what can individuals and village communities do to minimise flooding and help reduce global warming?** **People used to say we had to save the planet for our grandkids, but now it looks like we'll have to save the planet for our kids and ourselves.**

We suggest the starting point is to become better informed and form a group to help map out what can be done working as a community. Whilst Lowdham Flag is primarily founded to help mitigate the effect of flooding is happy to help establish a group to co-ordinate Lowdham's response and publish information on its website. If anyone is willing to become a member of the Climate Change Working Party which will prepare a draft terms of reference, constitution, etc. please email your name and contact details to [lowdhamflag@gmail.com](mailto:lowdhamflag@gmail.com) quoting "Climate change working party" in the subject.

Below are some groups and articles I have found, they are just starting points but if you know of better ones please let people know by sending them to [lowdhamflag@gmail.com](mailto:lowdhamflag@gmail.com)

1. Nottingham City Council are running an online event on Monday August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12.30pm to 1.30pm for community groups who are interested in understanding the carbon footprint of their community and to learn how they can access funding to reduce their carbon emissions through developing place based low carbon and renewable energy projects. (Link is here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rural-community-energy-benchmarking-and-funding-workshop-tickets-166686639225> )
2. Nottingham City also regularly ask for local people to participate in events to get 'grass roots' opinions.
3. The BBC have produced two short videos about an individual's carbon footprint (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-56822950> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-55437567>). They suggest there are five areas where individuals can move towards their own carbon net zero position which include looking at your electricity suppliers who claim to be using renewable sources, think about what you eat, replacing imported foods with locally grown in season foods, think about where you place your money (is it being used to fund fossil fuel industries?), rethink your transport options, reuse and repair things rather than buying new.
4. Many organisations have joined the UN Race to Zero (<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>). Write to your local representative (MP, County / District / Parish Councillor).
5. Carry out gardening in a more climate friendly way, maybe mow the grass less often! The Nottingham Windmills group have some excellent ideas in their "gardening in

times of climate change” pack ( <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/resources/climate-change-gardeners-pack> )

6. East Midlands Today report is available at <https://lowdhamvolunteers.org/videos/>
7. Links to all these sites are on <https://lowdhamvolunteers.org/climate-change/>

Russ Blenkinsop  
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