

Do you want to be on The Greenhouse's mailing list and receive the newsletter as a PDF each month? Or get a hard copy sent directly to your office? Let us know via sustainability@canterbury.ac.uk. Plus - do you have Christ Church-related sustainability news? We'd love to know so we can feature it in the newsletter or on our blog! Get in touch!



SUSTAINABILITY BOOK REVIEWS #8



by Maz Hamilton

We all know the Earth can't read, right?! But what if it could, what would you want to say to it, knowing what we now know about how 'we' - collectively as humans - have contributed to the destruction of its beauty and depletion of its bounty?

Published in early 2019, *Letters to the Earth: Writing to a Planet in Crisis* is a collection of letters, poems and reflections – expressions of how a wide range of people feel about the negative impacts of 'climate and ecological emergency' and our role in causing it.

What makes this book so engaging is that the contributors really do vary widely, so there are many different perspectives: from parents and children to politicians and poets, actors and activists to songwriters and scientists. I'd recommend turning straight to page 72, where you'll find Tabitha's touching 'What have we done to the Planet'. Aged 7 and 11/12 (as she writes) Tabitha is the youngest contributor, but in one short, beautifully crafted lament, her words distil a myriad of emotions from gratitude to grief, articulating what many of us may feel but never tried to communicate.

There is no right or wrong way to approach this book – it's up to you, take it at your own pace. The 'letters' are grouped under various headings: Love, Loss, Emergence, Hope and Action, but you could read them at random by opening the book to any page, or select the ones you like the look of, or even digest them all by ploughing through from cover to cover.

Whichever way you tackle it will be worth your while, as you're bound to find some nugget of truth in there that resonates with how you feel, or a gem of wisdom that makes you think about something differently than you have before. But is there a danger of an overwhelm given the nature of the content, you might ask? Well, my experience of dipping into it had quite the contrary impact, (and I can be a bit of a 'doom and gloom'-ster!) It made me feel joyful about how much goodness there is in our humanity, and hopeful...

And there's an added dimension - a wonderfully informative website www.letterstotheearth.com which not only tells you how this project came about and provides educational toolkits with many useful resources; but also enables you to submit your own letter, if you feel moved to do so.

To quote from the 'Community & Education' section of the website, 'Writing a Letter to the Earth can be a simple and powerful way to deepen our connection with the natural world and the people we are sharing it with.'

Absolutely! Why not give it a go? It could be very cathartic...

Academy for
Sustainable
Futures



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Find our monthly sustainability book recommendations, blogs and good news round ups on the blog:
blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/sustainability

THE LAUNCH OF BISHOP'S BLESSING

Our newest ale has arrived!

Following the in the footsteps of a series of locally-grown and brewed ales, Bishop's Blessing is the most recent heritage ale created by the Academy for Sustainable Futures at Christ Church, in tandem with local brewery and distiller, The Foundry.

The process of creating a CCCU ale starts with growing our heritage hops in the space between Moore and Fleming on campus. We grow four types of hops - Canterbury Whitebine, Early Prolific, Bramling Cross and East Kent Goldings - the last of which is exclusively grown in Kent. These hops were then harvested by staff and students in the beginning of September and began brewing the same day. Notably, as the ale is of the green hop variety, the 25kg of harvested hops were used fresh, within hours of picking.

However, long before we harvested, the Academy for Sustainable Futures collaborated with PR and Media students to design the label, logo and name for the new ale.

One student who worked with us, Sainabou, wrote a blog post on the experience, and explained the process: "One of the first things we did was take a look at one of the hops gardens on campus to get some more information on how they're harvested and where it all starts... We generated lots of ideas based on the inspiration of the culture of ale and drinking, its history and the part it plays in Canterbury. This is also where we got our colour palette from: traditional colours associated with hops and beer, such as browns, greens, blacks and whites."

The ale arrived mid-October and is now on sale in the Anselm Food Court. Sainabou's blog post will also be up soon, so you can read about the entire process of designing an ale brand!

Twitter: CCCUSCN **Instagram & Facebook:** cccusustainability
Blog: blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/sustainability



Canterbury City Council Declares a Biodiversity Emergency

On Thursday, 19th October, the Canterbury City Council unanimously voted to declare a Biodiversity Emergency.

All 36 members of the Cabinet supported the declaration and the demonstration of their commitment through championing short and long term actions across the council that will, together, contribute to delivering nature's recovery.

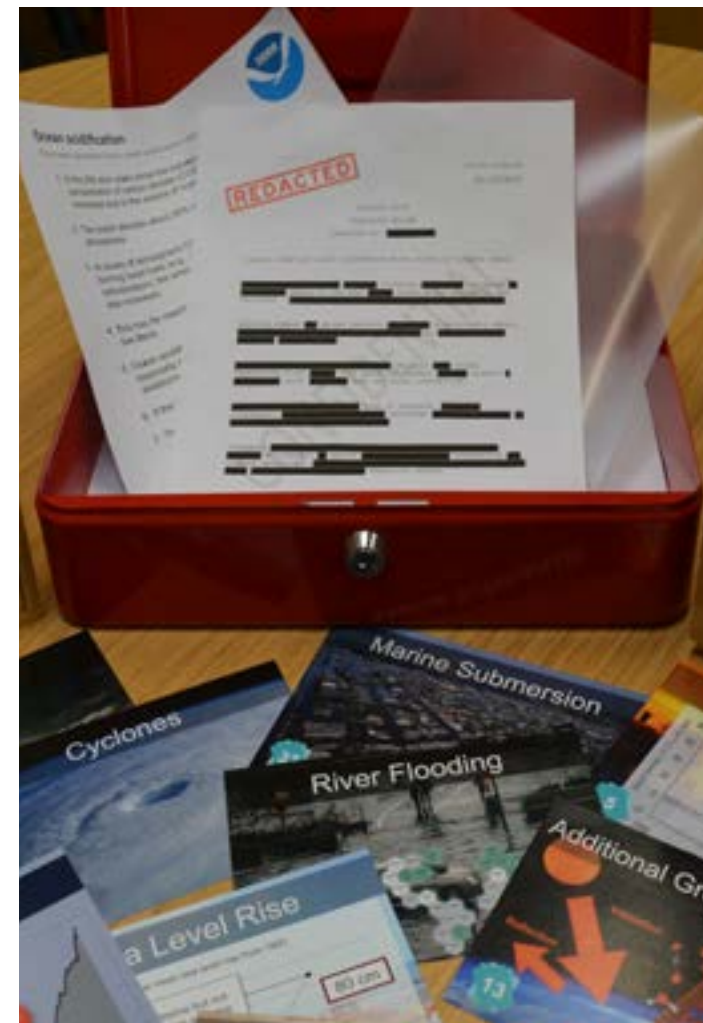
The Canterbury District Open Space and Biodiversity Group will produce a draft Biodiversity Plan for the Canterbury District by April 2024.

THIS MONTH @ CCCU

3 November 2023

- **Café Social** - 2-4pm, every Wednesday in Daphne Oram; *drop-in midweek activities including Games Sessions (1/11) Creative Workshop (8/11), Open Mic (15/11) and Christmas Decorations Workshops (22/11 & 29/11)*
- **Potter and Prune** - 3-4.30pm, every Wednesday in the Johnson Wellbeing Garden behind Johnson Building; *drop-in gardening sessions*
- **Wellbeing Café** - 2-4.30pm, every Thursday in The Food Court
- **Tea @ 3** - 3-4pm, every weekday in Chaplaincy
- **Soup and Serenity** - 12-1pm, every Friday, The Chapel; *free community meal*
- **StressLess - Collaboration** - 1-5pm, 16 November, StressLess Zone in Augustine House, 2nd floor; *collaborative arts, crafts and activities*
- **Refillable Van** - 11:30-12:30 outside Augustine House, 1-4pm outside Verena Holmes, last Thursday of every month
- **Climate Escape Room** - 3-4.30pm, 6 November, The Careers Hub in Augustine House; *part of Green Careers Week, book online*
- **Carbon Literacy Taster Session** - 2-3pm, 7 November, The Careers Hub in Augustine House; *part of Green Careers Week, book online*
- **Green Skills Workshop** - 12-1pm, 8 November, The Careers Hub in Augustine House; *part of Green Careers Week, book online*
- **Green Careers Workshop** - 3-4pm, 9 November, The Careers Hub in Augustine House; *part of Green Careers Week, book online*
- **Climate Fresk Workshop** - 2-5pm, 10 November, The Careers Hub in Augustine House; *part of Green Careers Week, book online*
- **Give it a Go: Craftivism** - 1-4pm, 30 November, Students' Union; *drop-in crafting activism sessions*

PLAYTEST A CLIMATE ESCAPE ROOM



Green Careers week will contain the pilot for the newest offering from the Academy for Sustainable Futures: a brand new Climate Escape Room!

Laura Hackett and Bethany Climpson built upon the basis of Climate Fresk to create an hour-and-a-half escape room in which players try to beat the clock and understand the causes and effects of climate change (for world-saving reasons, obviously). It has undergone several playtests with staff and students, but for the first time it's available for anyone to play! Book your spot at Green Careers Week to get involved right away, or email sustainability@canterbury.ac.uk if you and your friends would like to arrange your own slot.

If you're not much of an escape room fan but still want to learn climate science, then we're also running a session of Climate Fresk too! Climate Fresk is a popular, pre-existing workshop that teaches the chronology of climate science through card games, creativity and discussions.

Get in contact if you and your colleagues/classmates would like to book your own sessions and get involved with sustainability at Christ Church.

GREEN CAREERS WEEK @ CCCU

Mon 6 Nov - [Climate Escape Room](#), 3-4.30pm

Tues 7 Nov - [Carbon Literacy Taster Session](#), 2-3pm

Wed 8 Nov - [Green Skills Workshop](#) 12-1pm

Thurs 9 Nov - [Green Careers Workshop](#) 3-4pm

Fri 10 Nov - [Climate Fresk Workshop](#) 2-5pm

All events are hosted in The Careers Hub on the ground floor of Augustine House.

In collaboration with the Careers and Enterprise Team, the Academy for Sustainable Futures is helping to host a number of events across Green Careers Week, including a climate-themed escape room, an introductory session to Carbon Literacy Training and a workshop of Climate Fresk, which teaches climate science as a card game.

All events can be found on the student events page and booked through the Careers Team's Eventbrite links.

The second year of the annual Climate Action Awards, hosted by the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership, will be held on Saturday, 9 December at St Peter's Methodist Church. The deadline to nominate yourself or others is 24 November - to find out more information and download an entry form, check out ccap.org.uk