

Holbeton Parish Council

Environmental & Climate Change Library

This collection of books has been assembled in support of our climate change emergency declaration of December 2019.

All these books have either been donated or bought second hand. The choice of books represents suggestions from parishioners. They are arranged roughly by size (not number of words!), the largest books first.

The subjects vary from global warming, its causes and the way forward for humanity, to books celebrating nature (and cows), mankind's past and hoped for future relationship with the world we live in, and beautifully illustrated poetry books. Together they will hopefully inspire and maybe even encourage you to believe that it is important for us all to do our bit.

The books are there to be enjoyed and read. The library will be open on Monday mornings with Sue Price's coffee mornings in The Reading Rooms. Otherwise let Sue know (telephone 830353) so she can arrange to leave your requested book in the village shop for you to pick up.

The Lost Words, by Robert MacFarlane

This large, beautiful book stands against the disappearance of wild childhood. It is a joyful celebration of nature words and the natural world they invoke. With acrostic spell-poems by award-winning writer Robert Macfarlane and hand-painted illustration by Jackie Morris, this enchanting book captures the irreplaceable magic of language and nature for all ages. (H)

Flora Britannica, by Richard Mabey

This large and beautiful book covers the native and naturalised plants of England, Scotland and Wales, and, while full of fascinating history, is topical and modern. Indeed, Flora Britannica is the definitive contemporary flora, an encyclopaedia of living folklore, a register, a sort of Domesday Book. (H)

Plants for Bees, by Kirk & Howe

Packed full of beautifully colourful images and written by experts this book provides a wealth of knowledge for gardeners, beekeepers and all those wishing to do their bit to help all species of bee. (H)

Discovering Hedgerows, by David Streeter and Rosamond Richardson

The patterns of field and hedgerow are an integral part of the English countryside. Many are extremely old, some dating back over 1,000 years. Today hedgerows are disappearing having outlived their use to the farmer. This book includes how to date a hedgerow. (P)

This Changes Everything, by Naomi Klein

You have been told the market will save us, when in fact the addiction to profit and growth is digging us in deeper every day. You have been told it's impossible to get off fossil fuels when in fact we know exactly how to do it - it just requires breaking every rule in the "free-market" playbook. You have also been told that humanity is too greedy and selfish to rise to this challenge. In fact, all around the world, the fight back is already succeeding in ways both surprising and inspiring. It's about changing the world, before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe. Either we leap - or we sink. *This Changes Everything* is a book that will redefine our era. (H)

Our Place, by Mark Cocker

This is a book that looks to the future as well as exploring the past. It asks searching questions like who owns the land and why? And who benefits from green policies? Above all it attempts to solve a puzzle: why do the British seem to love their countryside more than almost any other nation, yet they have come to live amid one of the most denatured landscapes on Earth? Radical, provocative and original, *Our Place* tackles some of the central issues of our time. Yet most important of all, it tries to map out how this overcrowded island of ours could be a place fit not just for human occupants but also for its billions of wild citizens. (H)

The Well Gardened Mind, by Sue Stuart-Smith

In a powerful combination of contemporary neuroscience, psychoanalysis and brilliant storytelling, *The Well Gardened Mind* investigates the magic that many gardeners have known for years – working with nature can radically transform our health, wellbeing and confidence. (H)

A life on our Planet - My Witness Statement, by David Attenborough

"I am 94. I've had an extraordinary life. It's only now that I appreciate how extraordinary. As a young man, I felt I was out there in the wild, experiencing the untouched natural world - but it was an illusion. The tragedy of our time has been happening all around us, barely noticeable from day to day - the loss of our planet's wild places, its biodiversity. We have one final chance to create the perfect home for ourselves and restore the wonderful world we inherited." (H)

No one is Too Small to Make a Difference, by Greta Thunberg

The history-making, ground-breaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young activist who has become the voice of a generation. "Everything needs to change. And it has to start today." (H)

The Old Ways, by Robert MacFarlane

Following the tracks, holloways, drove-roads and sea paths that form part of a vast ancient network of routes criss-crossing the British Isles and beyond, Robert Macfarlane discovers a lost world - a landscape of the feet and the mind, of pilgrimage and ritual, of stories and ghosts; above all of the places and journeys which inspire and inhabit our imaginations. (H)

Diary of a Young Naturalist, by Dara McAulty

Evocative, raw and beautifully written, this very special book vividly explores the natural world from the perspective of an autistic teenager juggling homework, exams and friendships alongside his life as a conservationist and environmental activist. With a sense of awe and wonder, Dara describes in meticulous detail encounters in his garden and the wild, with blackbirds, whooper swans, red kites, hen harriers, frogs, dandelions, skylarks, bats, cuckoo flowers, Irish hares and many more species. (H)

The Shepherd's Life, by James Rebanks

The first son of a shepherd, who was the first son of a shepherd himself, he and his family have lived and worked in and around the Lake District for generations. Their way of life is ordered by the seasons and the work they demand, and has been for hundreds of years. A Viking would understand the work they do: sending the sheep to the fells in the summer and making the hay; the autumn fairs where the flocks are replenished; the gruelling toil of winter when the sheep must be kept alive, and the light-headedness that comes with spring, as the lambs are born and the sheep get ready to return to the fells. (H)

Hope in Hell, by Jonathon Porritt

We teeter, like the coach at the end of *The Italian Job*, on the brink of irreversible disaster. Pulling back from that peril may be seen as impossible, but Jonathon Porritt's *Hope in Hell* shows us how it can be done. It's so full of wisdom, clarity and inspiration that it should be compulsory reading for every world leader; and, more importantly perhaps, for every young person looking for real hope in today's encircling gloom. (H)

Plants with a Purpose, by Richard Mabey

Packed with interesting information and lovely illustrations. This book is not a Herbal and it doesn't go into edible/medicinal uses. Instead it focuses on other practical uses for plants such as cordage making, dyes and other projects. It also includes a bit of folklore and traditional beliefs and uses. (H)

Bringing Back the Beaver, by Derek Gow

Devon farmer-turned-ecologist Derek Gow's inspirational and often riotously funny first-hand account of how the movement to rewild beavers into the British landscape has become the single most dramatic and subversive nature conservation act of the modern era. (H)

A Sting in the Tale, by Dave Goulson

Prof of Biological Studies, Univ of Sussex and founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Goulson's book is not only enormously informative, but also hugely entertaining: its light touch and constant humour make cutting-edge research a pleasure to read about. Goulson reminds himself that he 'began studying bumblebees not because they are important pollinators but because they are fascinating, because they behave in interesting and mysterious ways, and because they are rather loveable.' (H)

The Living Mountain, by Nan Shepherd

Shepherd spent a lifetime in search of the 'essential nature' of the Cairngorms; her quest led her to write this classic meditation on the magnificence of mountains, and on our imaginative relationship with the wild world around us. Composed during the Second World War, the manuscript of *The Living Mountain* lay untouched for more than thirty years before it was finally published. (H)

English Pastoral, by James Rebanks (*James is a working shepherd and author of A Shepherd's Life*)

English Pastoral is the story of an inheritance: one that affects us all. It tells of how rural landscapes around the world were brought close to collapse, and the age-old rhythms of work, weather, community and wild things were lost. And yet this elegy from the northern fells is also a song of hope: of how, guided by the past, one farmer began to salvage a tiny corner of England that was now his, doing his best to restore the life that had vanished and to leave a legacy for the future. (H)

The Carbon Fields – How Our Countryside Can Save Britain, by Graham Harvey

This is a great book for those who love the British landscape, care about the environment and rural communities, care about animal health and welfare and want to eat good food with a clear conscience. Graham Harvey should be made Minister of Agriculture and the Environment immediately. The book is written in an accessible style but well researched and documented - if you have children and you care about their health and their future you must read this book. (P)

There is no Planet B. A Handbook for the Make or Break Years, by Mike Berners Lee

Big picture of how humanity can thrive in the twenty-first century; a book of realistic hope from a leading environmental author. (P)

Green and Prosperous Land: A Blueprint for rescuing the British Countryside, by Dieter Helm

The author is the independent Chair of the Natural Capital Committee, an independent advisory committee to the government on the sustainable use of natural assets. The unpalatable truth about Britain's current agricultural policy is that it is illogical and unprofitable. But while the politics are complicated, the solutions are not. (P)

Natural Capital – Valuing our Planet, by Dieter Helm

Distinguished economist Dieter Helm debunks the common perception that environmental protection hinders economic progress and offers hard-hitting recommendations for managing global resources while reversing environmental destruction. He concludes that we can avoid an environmental catastrophe, but we do need to get on with it. (P)

Guests of Summer (A House Martin Love Story), by Theunis Piersma

Written by an eminent Dutch ornithologist and Prof of Global Flyway Ecology at University of Groningen Very readable, not loaded with graphs and data, not overlong but tells you all you want to know about house martins, where they go and what's happening to them. (P)

The Secret Lives of Cows, by Rosamund Young

The author is the latest generation on the family organic dairy farm. Cows are as varied as people - they can be highly intelligent or slow to understand, vain, considerate, proud, shy or inventive. Foreword by Alan Bennett. Jilly Cooper thinks this book is charming as does Clare Balding. (P)

Defending Beef, by Nicolette Hahn Niman

This sets out the ecological and nutritional case for meat, carefully researched and extensively referenced. The author argues that with a responsible approach to producing and consuming meat, eating beef can help build carbon sequestering soils to mitigate climate change, enhance biodiversity and provide essential nutrition. (P)

Underland, by Robert MacFarlane

A journey into the worlds beneath our feet. From the ice-blue depths of Greenland's glaciers, to the underground networks by which trees communicate, from Bronze Age burial chambers to the rock art of remote Arctic sea-caves, this is a deep-time voyage into the planet's past and future. (P)

Meadowland (The Private Life of an English Field), by John Lewis-Stempel

A lyrical book that records the passing seasons in an ancient meadow on his farm. Each chapter is a new month. (P)

Wilding –The return of nature to a British Farm, by Isabella Tree

This is the story of a wilding project on the Knepp Estate. "Forced to accept that intensive farming of the heavy clay soils of their farm at Knepp, West Sussex was driving it close to bankruptcy, in 2000 Isabella Tree and her husband Charlie took a spectacular leap of faith and handed their 3,500 acres back to nature." (P)

Feral: Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life, by George Monbiot

George Monbiot, one of the world's most celebrated radical thinkers, offers a riveting tale of possibility and travel in the wild. How many of us sometimes feel that we are scratching at the walls of this life, seeking to find our way into a wider space beyond? That our mild, polite existence sometimes seems to crush the breath out of us? *Feral* is the lyrical and gripping story of George Monbiot's efforts to re-engage with nature and discover a new way of living. (P)

The Garden Jungle, by Dave Goulson

The story of the wildlife that lives right under our noses, in our gardens and parks, between the gaps in the pavement, and in the soil beneath our feet. Dave Goulson gives us an insight into the fascinating and sometimes weird lives of these creatures, taking us burrowing into the compost heap, digging under the lawn and diving into the garden pond. He explains how our lives and ultimately the fate of humankind are inextricably intertwined with that of earwigs, bees, lacewings and hoverflies, unappreciated heroes of the natural world. (P)

Nature Cure, by Richard Mabey

The author had a nervous breakdown and this is the story of how he reconnected with nature and recovered. How appropriate is this at the moment! (P)

The Wild Places, by Robert MacFarlane

Are there any genuinely wild places left in Britain and Ireland? Or have we tarmacked, farmed and built ourselves out of wildness? In his vital, bewitching, inspiring classic, Robert Macfarlane sets out in search of the wildness that remains. (P)

Rebirding (Restoring Britain's Wildlife), by Benedict Macdonald

Winner of the 2020 Wainwright Prize for writing on Global Conservation and Climate Change. This book stands alongside Isabella Tree's book. He is one of the new generation of outstanding naturalists - he's 32! (P)

Landmarks, by Robert MacFarlane

Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. *Landmarks* is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature, and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales to describe land, nature and weather. (P)

Holloway, by Robert MacFarlane

Holloway – a hollow way, a sunken path. A route that centuries of foot-fall, hoof-hit, wheel-roll and rain-run have harrowed deep down into bedrock. In July 2004, Robert Macfarlane and Roger Deakin – author of *Wildwood* – travelled to explore the holloways of South Dorset's sandstone. (P)

Rewild yourself, by Simon Barnes

23 spellbinding ways to make nature more visible. We're not just losing the wild world. We're forgetting it. We're no longer noticing it. We've lost the habit of looking and seeing and listening and hearing. But we can make hidden things visible, and this book features 23 spellbinding ways to bring the magic of nature much closer to home. (P)

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson

First published in 1962, it is now recognised as one of the most influential books of the Twentieth Century. *Silent Spring* exposed the destruction of wildlife through the widespread use of pesticides. Despite condemnation in the press and heavy-handed attempts by the chemical industry to ban the book, Rachel Carson succeeded in creating a new public awareness of the environment which led to changes in government policy and inspired the modern ecological movement. (P)

Poems, by John Clare (1793-1864)

One of our greatest nature poets. Writes in a vernacular style. In his lifetime there were massive changes as the Industrial Revolution swept Europe. Some of his poems reflect this. Timely. (P)

Earth to Earth – a Natural History of Churchyards, by Stefan Buczacki

Few spaces are as enchanting and romantic – with a touch of the tantalizingly morbid – as a churchyard. From the earliest pagan sites to modern urban cemeteries, these burial grounds have always enjoyed a sacred, protected status. Their preservation, and their removal from the day-to-day hubbub of life, have led them to become tranquil oases in which wildlife can flourish – a microcosm of the natural habitat that has long since disappeared from their surroundings. (H)

Food for Free, by Richard Mabey

The classic foraging guide from 1972 to over 200 types of food that can be gathered and picked in the wild. (P)

Harry Baumer, Chair Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee 10th May 2021