On the 5th June 2021 SI Lichfield held a ZOOM meeting with a Planet Conference to support World Environment Day.

There were approximately 60 members from clubs across the country and 5 guest speakers.

1. This first presentation was an incredible family story from a very determined lady Annemarie Stone and her daughter Rhiannon

The family have built up a fantastic business over the past 10 years at Woodhouse Farm in Staffordshire. It is well worth looking at the link, and is a wonderful place to visit if you get the chance.

<https://youtu.be/7TzIDDk_flM>

2 The next guest on the agenda was Colin Hastings from Cornwall, his mission is to reduce his own and others carbon footprint to save our environment. He has written a book/manual to help us all look at where we can help reduce our own carbon footprint.

The book is called. Carbon Buddy Project. The manual is a practical guide to cooling our Planet. It can be purchased on Amazon.

<https://youtu.be/dHumx5W4TXU>

3 Up next was Ian Retson from The Woodland Trust. The health benefits of planting more native trees and spending more time outdoors is that we will have cleaner air, it will help our physical and mental health. The Japanese have Shinrin –Yoku which means bathing in the forest. Take in the smells, taste, noises and touch of the forest.

[The Woodland Trust™ - We Are Standing Up For Trees](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/)

[Ad·www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support\_us](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/)

What does Woodland Trust do?

We create havens for wildlife by planting millions of trees every year, campaign for new laws to protect ancient **woodland** and restore damaged ancient woods so they can breathe again. Our vision is a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

The Woodland Trust supply free trees to community groups, this might be worth some of our clubs looking into.

It is important not to plant non native trees as these could carry diseases.

There is so much work going on all around the country, it is worth taking a look at projects in your own areas

4 Our next speaker was Dr Haley Pinto, She is a member of Greenpeace, is the lead psychiatrist consultant of addiction in Norfolk, and also is the founder of CHAIN (Climate Hope Action in Norfolk.)

A very serious and mind provoking presentation talking about climate change in particular, looking at the impact of heat waves, flooding and bad air quality on the planet.

The statement to take on board from this presentation is ‘The 2020s are the most important to change the future’

<https://youtu.be/bm47nctO3ic>

Nicola Lynes from Transforming the Trent Valley presented an upbeat, positive and inspirational presentation. They believe in ‘Nature connection for all’ help and support schools and local communities to enjoy the outdoors.

Transforming The Trent Valley (TTTV)

<https://youtu.be/2Y_grcD7O2M>

5.This final presentation was by Professor Abdul Gatrad OBE a remarkable man who founded this organisation. WASUP. A scary statement was made ‘2 Billion people do not have a waste collecting system’ He has done charity work all over the world, providing toilets in Kashmir and organising cleft operations to children in Malawi and Pakistan. He funds the projects himself. You can volunteer for WASUP in your area. Professor Gatrad is an inspiration to us all.

World Against Single Use Plastics (WASUP)

<https://youtu.be/23WBwFTecIk>

Please take time to look at the presentations they are all very important to all of us who want to help make a change to help our PLANET. Some of the videos are quite long, sit down with a glass of wine or a cup of coffee and be amazed at the presentations.

Cris Young

SI Newcastle upon Tyne.