



Datchworth

Climate Action

In July 2020, an open meeting was held with the aim of encouraging people in the parish of Datchworth to share ideas for local action to highlight climate issues.

A number of initiatives were proposed but we decided to start with a surplus stall to encourage the acquisition and exchange of locally grown vegetables. The produce is provided by growers in the village and donations (or exchanges) are requested.



A local beekeeper attends to sell her honey and eggs are also available. The first stall was located in one of our member's front garden and so happened to be on the then wettest day on record – 3 October 2020. Despite the drenching, it was a great success and we were able to donate £140 to a rainforest protection charity in Ecuador.

The event has become very popular and is held once a month at a local open space known as the Turkey Farm. Since the first stall, we have been able to add to our offering seasonally with seedlings, jams and chutneys, freshly picked flowers, bread and cakes. Occasionally, we have been joined by the local school PTA, who provide a separate cake stall that raises funds for their use. We have also benefited from donations of wood turnings and vintage clay flowerpots (to avoid the use of plastic). Sometimes we have also been able to arrange for bicycles repairs to be available.



The proceeds each month have been donated to charities or community projects that have mainly an ecological purpose that fits with the general stewardship of our world that is necessary if we are to avoid excessive warming; sometimes, though, other charitable projects benefit. We try overall to give both locally and to national or international organisations. So far, we have donated over £4,000 among the following:



The Tesoro Escondido Reserve, Ecuador; Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust; Mudlarks; Friends of the Earth; StreetSmart (a London-based charity helping homeless people); Black Grove Farm (an organic smallholding and educational project at Colliers End); The Word Wide Fund for Nature; Trees for Life (rewilding the Caledonian Forest); The British Hedgehog Preservation Society; Compassion in World Farming Tree by Tree (a social CIC that arranges the planting of trees that can subsequently be enjoyed by the Community); Population Matters; Furniture Friends (a charity based in Datchworth, providing donated furniture to people in desperate need); Greenpeace.