

Climate Action Lewisham turned two years old in October...

2020 was a very tough year for all of us, although what may have been toughest for us, as a group, was the Climate Crisis slipped down in the pecking order of public attention...or did it?

We had great hopes for expansion, success and progress in 2020. Like everyone, our hopes had to be moderated, but we are nonetheless proud of our transition online and our achievements this year, in the face of adversity and challenge. We have greatly missed the face-to-face contact with people in Lewisham, but we've gained a wider reach and recognition through social media and online communication.

Our Social media presence doubled, we engaged with people and raised funds:

we produced **9** short films, we gained **7** new active members, we held **2** face-to-face public meetings and **6** public zoom meetings attracting a total of **172** people we published **5** blog pieces online and...

we gained funding from TfL for one new project in 2021: **£5,000** to set up a family cycling library in collaboration with Lewisham Cyclists.

2020 in pictures



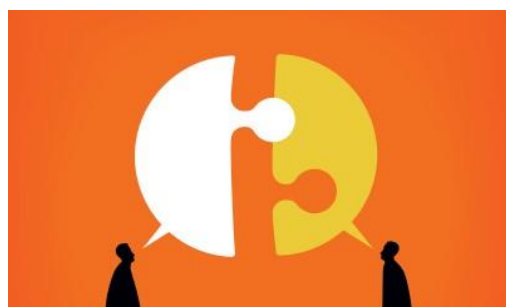
The year started with a bang on **2nd February**, with a public meeting based on exploring the links between different sustainability issues, to which **40 people came**, many for the first time. We used lengths of string to physically connect issues, engendering discussions and understandings that many had not previously realised.



On **1st March** we planted **15 trees** on Blythe Hill Fields, with **14 people** from the local community: CAL members have been watering them and supporting the saplings throughout the year.

Then the pandemic struck the UK.

Our first online meeting was on **29th March** by Zoom: **‘Climate Action in the Context of Covid-19’**. **22 people attended**, and we explored the environmental causes behind the pandemic and how these were being highlighted, or not, in public discourses. It was also where the film project **‘Big Steps in Small Spaces’** was born.



On **26th April** we held **‘Persuasive Communication: The Climate Crisis and how to Talk about it’** on Zoom, addressing the complex communication skills needed to broach the climate crisis. **25 people attended**.

14th June saw our third online meeting: **‘Feet on the Ground, Eyes in the Skies’**, and we hosted Tim Walker of HACAN East, a local aviation noise campaigner. This meeting drew **24 participants** and alerted us to the unfair levels of noise pollution residents particularly on the west of Lewisham are subjected to, being under the flightpath of two London airports.



In May, the **Big Steps in Small Spaces film series** started in earnest, releasing 7 films over two months. The project highlighted the sustainable practices people were picking up during lockdown. Members of the public who were keen to film themselves or their family were encouraged to send in their footage for montage and editing by Titania Krimpas and Joshua Fairbairn, who formed an effective voluntary team. Films are all on our YouTube channel as follows below:

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'The team at CAL' (7 subscribers). The 'Uploads' section lists the following videos:

- Can a Cargo bicycle replace a car? (7:00, 187 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Anna (2:25, 65 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Sue (2:05, 35 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Jane's Electric Bike (2:48, 18 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Crack On With Composting! (3:05, 69 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Made a Pond (2:51, 42 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Bug Hotel (2:44, 28 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces - Cycling (3:07, 97 views)
- Big Steps in Small Spaces (1:29, 64 views)

- Cycling-with-kids, 22nd May
- Building a wildlife pond, 7th June
- Composting, 9th June
- How to build a bug hotel, 11th June
- Jane’s life-transforming e-bike, 22nd June
- Watering trees in Lewisham’s parks, 11th July
- Installing an air-sourced heat pump, 19th August
- Can a cargo bike replace a car, 30th November

At this time, CAL's social media presence expanded in reach and ambition. Holly Coyle joined the team and took charge.

Social Media

We realised that the impact of the pandemic meant that a huge amount of social contact had moved online, so we put resources into developing and expanding our online presence, in order to promote our films, attract attention from the public, build our mailing list and raise awareness.

346% The increase in our facebook group members growing from **197** members to **683**.

46% increase in Twitter followers, now at **567**

165 instagram followers, which was started up in 2020

45% growth in our mailing list, now at **488 emails** (which is remarkable given that previously our main way to get people's email addresses was at live events, such as festivals and markets), and ways to track whether people are local and which postcode area they live in, to try and have contact with Lewisham people from throughout the borough.

515 people viewed Big Steps in Small Spaces films on YouTube.

172 people came to our events, face to face or online.

Follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/climateactionlewisham>

<https://www.facebook.com/climateactionlewisham/>

<https://twitter.com/ActionLewisham>

<https://www.instagram.com/climateactionlewisham/>

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

In early summer Lewisham implemented the Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood, to a very controversial public reaction. Climate Action Lewisham put together a series of web pages with information about air quality, CO2e information, similar schemes, and links to areas where roads were restricted to vehicles. We collaborated with other activists in the borough to achieve this, and we hope these pages may be useful as further traffic reduction is implemented in Lewisham, in whatever form, in 2021. See our pages here: <http://climateactionlewisham.org/low-traffic-neighbourhood>

Moving ahead as restrictions eased

In October we held a socially-distanced mask-wearing meeting on '**Creative Communication for the Climate Crisis**', with the Climate Museum UK, with **19 participants** at Stanstead Lodge. That was the last time Climate Action Lewisham saw each other face-to-face in 2020. Many thanks to Bridget, Meg and Seamus for facilitation and inspiration.



November was **'Ethical Consumer week'**, when we provided group access to local residents to the week-long Ethical Consumer conference, culminating in a Zoom meeting called **Harnessing our Power as Consumers**, with about **12 participants**.

Thanks to Jude Bailey for facilitating the meeting and organising access to the Ethical Consumer conference.

Early December saw **'Baby it's Cold Outside'** on Zoom, with a presentation by Emma Bushell of the Lewisham Council's Climate Resilience team, on heat networks and possibilities for non-gas heating in our borough. **16 people attended**.



As the second lockdown lifted, on **5th December**, we distributed 20 of the saved Extinction Rebellion oak saplings to individuals and park groups all over Lewisham, including the Horniman Triangle, Chilthorne Close estate, Lewisham Park and Blythe Hill Fields. Most recipients planned to plant the saplings in pots and wait for better times to plant them out.

Stakeholders and networks in 2020

We have felt lucky to have relationships with a wide range of other local environmental, and other local groups:

<i>Deptford Folk</i>	<i>St Saviour's Church</i>	<i>The Friends of Mais House</i>
<i>Lewisham Lowdown</i>	<i>Stanstead Lodge</i>	<i>Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve</i>
<i>Climate Museum UK</i>	<i>Lewisham Unity</i>	<i>Fourth Reserve, Buckthorne Cutting</i>
<i>Extinction Rebellion Lewisham</i>	<i>The SE Transition Network</i>	<i>Devonshire Road Nature Reserve</i>
<i>The Forest Hill Society</i>	<i>Choked Up</i>	<i>Friends of Lewisham Park</i>
<i>Friends of the Earth</i>	<i>Friends of Hilly Fields</i>	<i>Clean Air SE23</i>
<i>The Brockley Society</i>	<i>Lewisham Cyclists</i>	<i>Friends of Blythe Hill Fields</i>
<i>SELCE (South East London</i>	<i>Street Trees for Living</i>	<i>HACAN-East</i>
<i>Community Energy)</i>	<i>Lewisham Council Climate</i>	<i>Greener, Cleaner, Bromley and Beyond</i>
<i>Make Lee Green</i>	<i>Resilience team</i>	<i>The Horniman Museum and Gardens</i>
		<i>SE Magazines</i>

Finance:

We raised **£2972** in funding (mostly from council-related grants, some from personal donations). Our spend was less than expected due to lockdown but we spent over a third of that amount mainly on events-related equipment and insurance, venue hire and our online presence, carrying over about two thirds for use in 2021.

Thanks to all those who made movies in 2020:

Judy Harrington, Jane Martin, Caroline Mayow, Jake Westmoreland, Zaria Greenhill, Carole Destre, Titania Krimpas, Anna Moore, Susan James, Amey Gokarn

Thanks to those who give their time, skills, passion and commitment to Climate Action Lewisham, in difficult times.

We work from a conviction that communities are the place to push forward the great transition towards a low carbon and sustainable world: Ben Middleton, Fiona Mayfield, Holly Coyle, Titania Krimpas, Ashwini Rao, Alice Tate-Harte, Andrew Rendell, Ann Dunton, Anna Moore, Carole Destre, Christian Rauch, Eleanor Ashfield, Emma Reade, Jake Westmoreland, Jude Bailey, Kezia Kershaw, Susan James, Sylvie Waudby, Richard Freeston, Richard Heap, Zaria Greenhill.

Our plans for 2021, as the pandemic continues and restrictions are in place.

At time of writing we are still under 'tier 5' restrictions, with over 100,000 souls lost to Covid-19 in the UK, and little sign of the pandemic abating. This makes progress difficult as many of us have children at home and are needing to work from home under difficult circumstances. Some of us are shielding completely for fear of infection.

However, we started 2021 with the 7-day Vegan challenge, where about 20 Lewisham families went vegan for a week, saving an average of 25.5kg of CO₂e per family, in just one week. We are also planning to run a waste reduction project, a Family Cycling Library and get involved with the Lewisham Borough of Culture in 2022, all starting from the premise that we begin with engagement online.