

Press Release from Greater Reading Environmental Network (GREN).
For immediate release.

“Reading Climate Forums”

A series of ‘climate forums’ kicked off on Wednesday 16th March when Mr. Chris Beales, a local hydrologist and climate change specialist, discussed the links between ‘Extreme Events’ – weather events that can dramatically affect our lives, our homes and our communities – and climate change – which is often described by quite modest-sounding increases in global average temperature.

The presentation showed that global and UK average temperatures are rising and are now at their warmest since records began, and the number of Extreme Events is increasing and records for temperature and rainfall are being broken.

Mr. Beales said that average temperatures are projected to rise significantly and we can expect to see even more Extreme Events – bigger and more frequent droughts and floods and heatwaves – which we need to prepare for.

Mr. Beales commented:

“The world has important choices to make: if we significantly cut our use of coal, oil and gas ... and meet the targets agreed in the Paris conference in December ... we could limit the average rise in temperature to two degrees. Otherwise the climate could change very dramatically and the accompanying Extreme Events are going to be very difficult to deal with!”

The series of meetings is promoted by the Greater Reading Environmental Network (www.gren.org.uk), supported by the Reading Climate Change Partnership, and funded by the Reading Climate Action Network www.readingclimateaction.org.uk .

The next event will be on Wednesday March 30th at 7:45 at RISC and will discuss ‘Carbon Fee and Dividend’ – a proposal for carbon pricing with the revenue returned to the public so that polluters pay and people prosper. Two more meetings to discuss the results of the Paris Conference in 2015, and the impact of climate change on agriculture, are being planned.

Notes:

1/. Members of Greater Reading Environmental Network (GREN) include over two hundred local individuals and over twenty organisations. Its members have a collective voice and share information, news and resources to help build a more sustainable world.

www.gren.org.uk

2/. Image of flood waters of the Thames attached – Chris Beales has given permission for this to be reproduced.

3/. The ‘Extreme Events’ meeting took place at 7:45 pm on Wednesday 16th March at the Quaker Meeting House at 2 Church Street RG1 2SB.

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