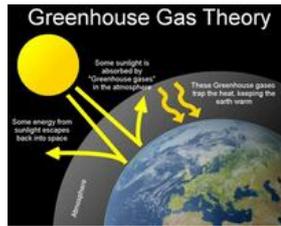




**What's on next?**

**Monday 11th March  
Robin McDonald  
"Orchids"**

**Monday 11th February**

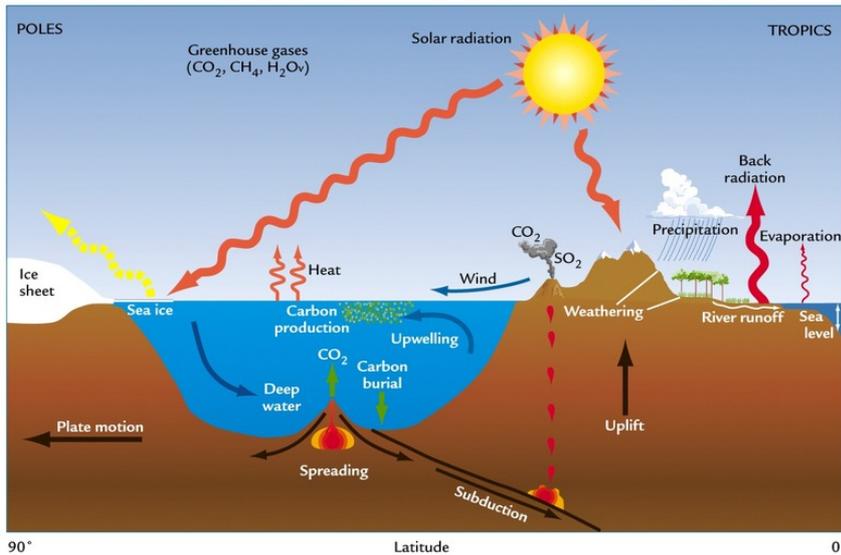


## **Chris Bell - Global Warming.**

Our speaker for February was Chris Bell from Weatherquest who came to talk to us about 'Global Warming'. Chris describes himself as something of a weather geek and has worked for many years with Weatherquest in Norwich; and he also lectures in meteorology at the U.E.A

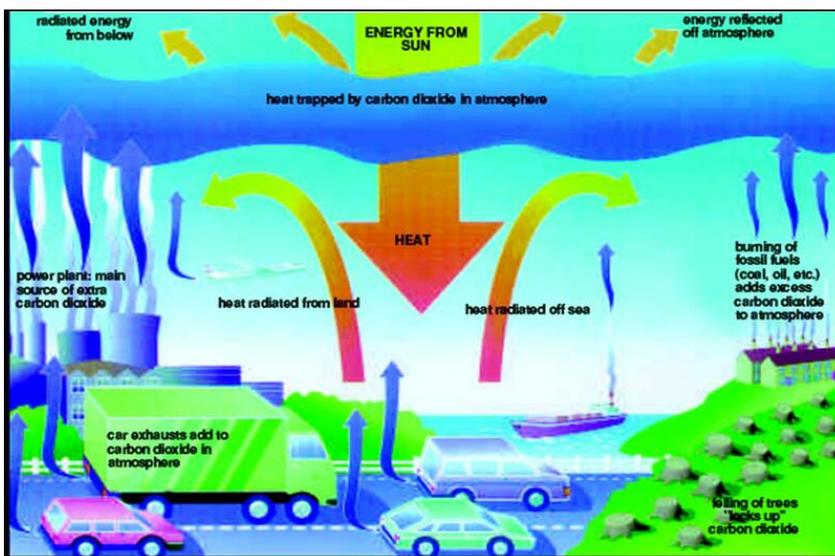
Chris's talk focused on the patterns of climate change over millennia and how the future looks in terms of global warming. He explained how the gases surrounding the Earth prevent huge extremes of temperature from the sun's radiation. This is known as the 'greenhouse effect' and occurs naturally. The gases reflect the harmful UV rays from the sun. The main 'greenhouse' gases are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and CFCs.

We all know that we have to reduce our burning of fossil fuels to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. However, different parts of the world have different attitudes to this, especially in developing countries and this makes it harder to develop a global plan to try to address the problem.



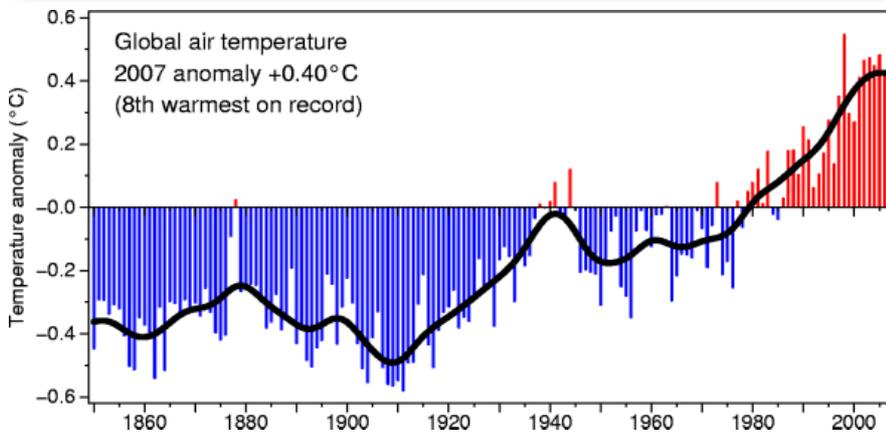
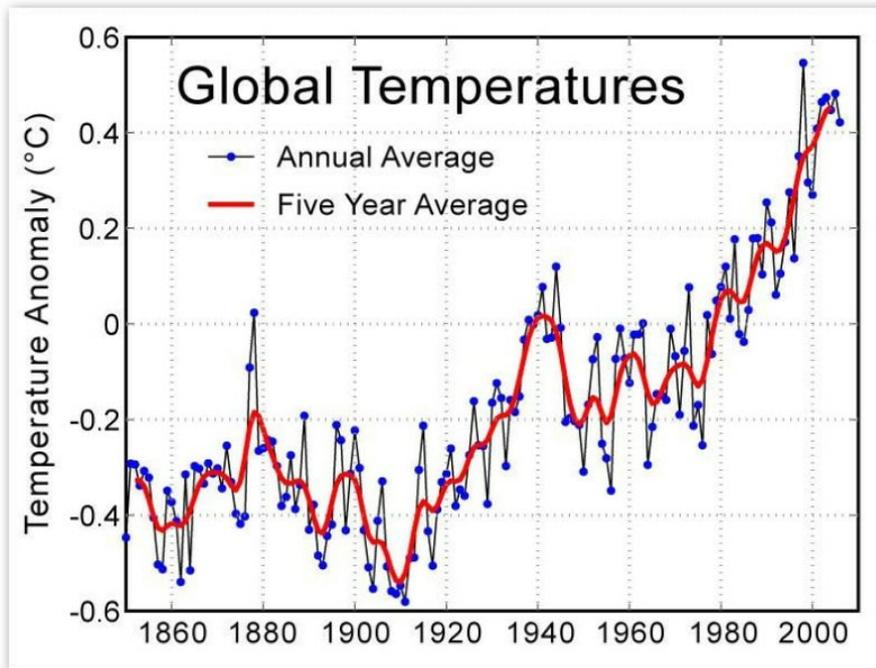
### List of countries by 2007 emissions

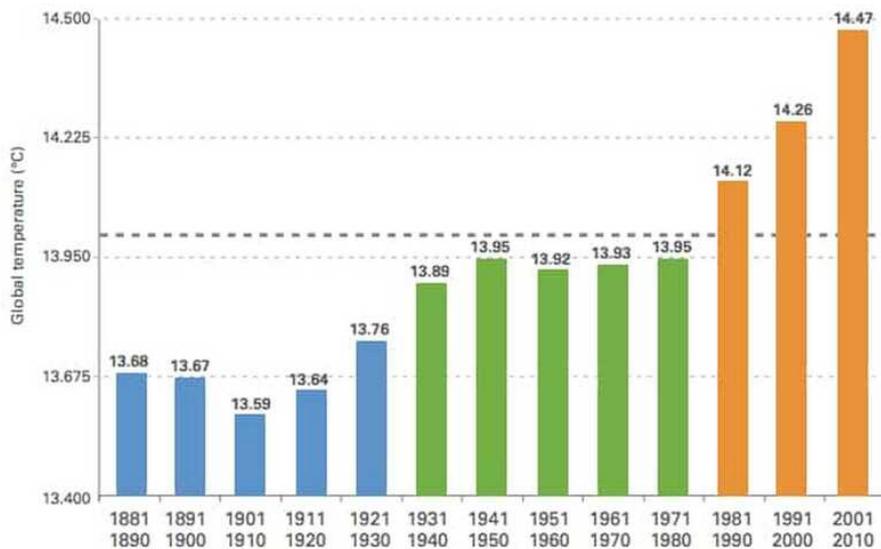
Rank	Country	Annual CO <sub>2</sub> emissions <sup>[8][9]</sup> (in thousands of metric tons)	Percentage of global total
	World	29,321,302	100%
1	China <sup>[10]</sup>	6,538,367.00	22.30%
2	United States	5,838,381.00	19.91%
-	European Union (27)	4,177,817.86 <sup>[11]</sup>	14.04%
3	India	1,612,362.00	5.50%
4	Russia	1,537,357.00	5.24%
5	Japan	1,254,543.00	4.28%
6	Germany	787,936.00	2.69%
7	Canada	557,340.00	1.90%
8	United Kingdom	539,617.00	1.84%
9	South Korea	503,321.00	1.72%
10	Iran	495,987.00	1.69%



Although solar output hasn't changed much in the last 150 years, there has been an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the air which

has been the main cause of a rise in temperature. Temperatures now are about 1.1 degrees C. higher than in preindustrial times and if levels of carbon dioxide are not reduced, there could be a temperature rise of up to 4 degrees C. by 2100. This would then lead to a rise in sea levels of 50 - 80 centimetres over the next 100 years which would affect low lying coastal areas like Norfolk.





So what does this mean for gardeners? We may be able to grow different plants if the temperature rises, though if sea levels rise..... Chris's message was simple: keep growing lots of plants especially flowers to attract bees. Without bees there will be no agriculture.



Chris was thanked for a most informative and enlightening talk.