

Smoke is still getting in my eyes!

.....and my sinuses and lungs too.

This is a plea to all villagers, like myself, who love a good bonfire. Mine are very good.... bright and hot, like a supernova. I save all my hedge trimmings, prunings of trees, thinnings of shrubs, roots and materials too hard to compost and leave them for at least six months, until they are bone dry. I then choose an evening at dusk in the winter months when windows are closed, when there is either no wind, or a breeze that will take the smoke away from the nearby houses and light up. Since the material is so dry it burns very quickly and very hot so that there is little smoke, and what smoke there is rises vertically straight up on the hot convection currents. Sadly this method means I rarely have more than one bonfire a year.

However I am able to enjoy other villagers' bonfires. Some people like to have them every week, some more frequently. They often have a small amount of freshly cut green material which they endeavour to burn. Of course, it smokes, no flames to be seen, and spreads to all the surrounding houses. The favourite time for such fires is during a warm sunny day when I have a line full of washing, or on a balmy summer evening when all the windows of the house and conservatory are open and I am enjoying the fresh air gently wafting in with the scent of honeysuckle. I apologise for the bad language emanating from my garden when this happens, and for the noise of slamming windows and doors.

Some might say, "Use a green bin." The stuff you put in a green bin is made into compost by the council. Compost rots when put on the garden, "eaten" various organisms, which respire and produce carbon dioxide, the same amount of carbon dioxide being released as if you had burnt it, plus that released from the fuel used to pick it up in the council wagon. So green bin use increases the CO² in the atmosphere, and global warming. Burning is preferable in this respect.

So a plea to our bonfire burning villagers ...make your bonfire a supernova.....burning brightly, hot..... and rarely.

This is a personal view and not necessarily the view of the Parish Council although I suspect they may support it !

Chris Chelu