

## The People's Emergency Briefings

The People's Emergency Briefings (PEBs) are happening across the country — including here in Bishops Lydeard this June. This piece explains what the briefings are, where they came from, what the film covers, and why people are organising screenings in local communities. It also explains how you can get involved — by coming to a screening, helping with the Bishops Lydeard event, or organising one for your own community.

### Where the briefing comes from

The PEB grew out of a National Emergency Briefing ([www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)) held in Westminster last November. That event was for politicians, national leaders from different sectors and the media. In the briefing, ten of the UK's leading experts set out what the climate and nature crisis could mean in practice for our health, food, national security, nature and the economy.

A public information film has now been made from that event, featuring these scientists alongside some familiar faces, so that the same core information can be shared more widely – you can watch a trailer here [here](#) .

### What the film covers

The film looks at three main things. First, it explains what is already happening to our weather and climate, including the fact that the weather we are experiencing now is likely to be the least extreme we will face over the rest of our lives. It looks at what the climate science is saying, including the evidence that changes are happening faster than many experts and models originally predicted. It also explains some of the major tipping points that could irrevocably change the UK's climate.

Second, the film looks at the implications of the climate and nature crisis for everyday life and national resilience here in the UK. It considers food security, because our current food production depends on a stable climate; health, for example extreme heat is already affecting people's health in this country; and national security, with one adviser in the film explaining that climate and nature used to be seen as peripheral to security concerns, but is now high on the agenda. It also looks at nature: the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, even though nature is our life-support system and should be treated as a critical part of our national infrastructure. One of the overall messages is that the country is not properly adapted to the weather we are already experiencing, let alone what may come next.

Third, the film looks at how we can respond, and what gives grounds for hope. It includes examples of energy transition and adaptation, including what the UK can learn from steps already being taken in other countries. It also makes clear that this cannot be left to individuals alone; it will need government, organisations, business and wider society to change how we do things.

The film is serious, but it is not simply a message of doom and hopelessness. Rather, it is about helping people understand the situation clearly enough that we can begin to talk seriously about how we respond.

The [Climate Psychology Alliance](#), who are working closely with the PEB recommends it being shown for audiences aged 16 and above because this is an age at which young people begin to have greater civic agency and a voice in shaping the future they will inherit.

### **Why this information needs to be shared**

This is not a party-political initiative. It is supported by people and organisations from a wide range of backgrounds — including the National Trust, the Church of England, Exeter University, WWF, the National Education Union and the Royal Meteorological Society — with the shared aim of making sure the public has access to clear information about the climate and nature crisis. Because this information affects all of us, both now and future generations, it should not only be politicians, policy-makers, campaigners or people already engaged with climate and nature issues who hear it. The general public needs to be briefed too.

During Covid, we had national briefings on television so that everyone could hear directly from experts and government about what was happening. The climate and nature crisis is also a national emergency, but we have not had the same kind of public briefing. One aim is therefore to push for a proper National Emergency Briefing on television, so that the whole country can hear this information directly.

But we do not have to wait for that. As citizens we can begin sharing this information ourselves amongst our own communities and this is where the People's Emergency Briefing comes in.

### **The People's Emergency Briefing**

The idea is simple. A PEB is a local screening of the public information film followed by time to reflect and discuss it together. This gives people space to hear the same information, make sense of it with others, talk about what it might mean locally, and begin thinking about possible responses.

The screenings also have a wider role. A proper National Emergency Briefing on television would need political support. MPs and other elected representatives need to hear that the public want this information shared clearly and widely. They also need to know that people are concerned about the climate and nature crisis, want it taken seriously and would support serious action.

So the PEBs therefore have two roles: First, they help more people understand what is happening by sharing the same basic information in communities across the

country. Second, as more people watch the film, discuss it, and ask for others to be briefed too, they send a stronger message to MPs and other elected representatives.

### **Attending a People's Emergency Briefing**

These People's Emergency Briefings are already happening in village halls, churches, community centres and local meeting spaces all over the UK. There is an interactive map on the website <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map> showing where screenings are taking place.

You can see from the map that there are also screenings happening locally in Taunton and the wider area. Nearby examples include past events at Kingston St Mary and Taunton Meeting House, and future events at the Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation (12 June), and St James Church (23 June).

We also have one happening here in Bishops Lydeard:

Thursday 18 June

7–9pm

Bishops Lydeard Village Hall

Small New Hall

Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/pebbishopslydeard/2204587>

There will be time after the film for reflection and discussion. Space is limited, so please book in advance using the link above. If you would like to help on the day, please also let me know, as I would really appreciate it.

### **Organising a People's Emergency Briefing**

If you cannot make this screening — or even if you can — please consider organising one yourself. The strapline for the PEB is “screenings everywhere for everyone.” The aim is not just to reach people who are already engaged with climate and nature issues but to make it easy to reach people and groups who may not usually be part of this conversation.

This could be through an existing community group, workplace, faith group, parish council, film club, gardening club, WI, local society or simply a group of people, like me, who want to understand the issue better and talk about it together.

You do not need to be an expert to organise a screening — just someone who, like me, is concerned, wants to understand more, and is willing to create space for others to talk about it with their local community. There is support online, including guidance, publicity materials and facilitation training. Locally, there is also a small network of people already organising screenings, so do get in touch with me if you would like to know more about this or can help with the Bishops Lydeard event.

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