

# SCION



scion

/ˈsɪɪən/

*noun*

1. a young shoot or twig of a plant, especially one cut for grafting or rooting.

# VOL.5

THE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE GROUP  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY, CREATIVITY & INNOVATION  
AT PLYMOUTH MARJON UNIVERSITY





# SCION MEMBERSHIP



Greg Borne



Debby Cotton



Natalie Raven



Jennie Winter



John Downey



Damien Hackney



Mark Leather



Phil Brown



Kate Massey-Chase



Andreas Walmsley



Sarah McAdam



Lynne Wyness



Anna Turns



Katie Major



Laura Wallis



Richard Thain



Alex Mallinson



Kass Gibson

In Addition:

Kevin Burchall

Katrina Perkins

Selina Rowse

Lisa Stewart

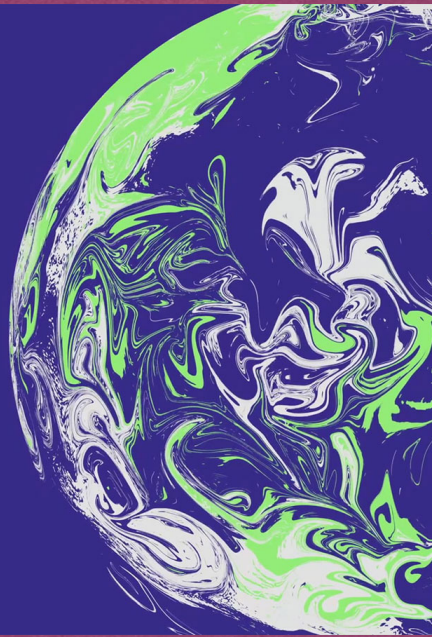
Karl Sweeney



01-12 NOV 2021  
GLASGOW

# COP26

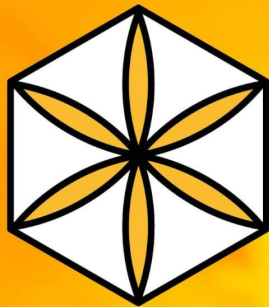
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



“As a student climate commissioner, I was incredibly fortunate to attend the first week of COP26 and help represent the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges. At first, I found COP to be a chaotic and overwhelming experience full of protesters, police and repeated covid tests. However, I soon found that COP consisted of 20,000 enthusiastic and passionate people who are dedicated to tackling climate change. Unfortunately, covid restrictions made it difficult to observe and be part of the negotiations between the world leaders, but there were plenty of talks to attend, interesting people to meet (even Leonardo DiCaprio was walking around!) and I was invited to attend the launch of the Department of Education’s sustainability strategy hosted by the secretary of education, Nadhim Zahawi. So far promising commitments towards stopping deforestation and reducing methane have been made, but disappointingly some key areas have been missed, including discussions on our food systems’ contribution to climate change, and it is looking unlikely that we will meet the 1.5 degrees Paris agreement (even 2 degrees is looking uncertain). Although COP was a great experience, stronger global commitments are needed and success will depend on the concrete actions that come out of COP in tackling the climate crisis”.

## KATIE MAJOR AT COP26

## MARJON CLIMATE CONFERENCE



**Pollenize**

Community Supported Beekeeping  
Local Honey  
Pollinator Conservation



For those of us who couldn’t make it to Glasgow, we also had our own **Marjon Climate Conference** on November 10<sup>th</sup> with a great line up of speakers, brilliantly organised and coordinated by Ellie Edwards, Marjon’s Sustainability Intern. A highlight of the conference was the arrival of Outdoor Education student, Oscar Lindsey-Turner, who walked from Totnes to campus for the event in order to raise awareness about sustainability and show the importance of connecting to nature for mental health. In other campus news, we now have a hive of bees up in the allotments, organised by Pollenize (<https://www.pollenize.org.uk/>), so we’re hopeful of having some Marjon honey at some point in the future. Pollenize are creating a network of community-funded research beehives stocked with European Dark Honey Bees. The aim is to conserve and extend the local populations of our native honey bee. If you’re interested in supporting this local social enterprise, packets of bee-friendly plant seeds and merchandise are available on their web-site.



# MEMBER ACTIVITIES



Mark Leather

Mark has been involved in a successful bid to DEFRA for an evaluation and review of current best practice in access to non-residential outdoor learning.



Debby Cotton

Debby and Jennie had a paper accepted (with international colleagues) in the Journal of Cleaner Production. Entitled 'Reducing energy demand in China and the United Kingdom: The importance of energy literacy' it is available online at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652620339214> - or email us for a copy.



Jennie Winter



Anna Turns

Anna has been featured on Radio 4's 'Costing the Earth' talking about synthetic chemicals in our bodies. Listen back here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0011lf7>



Natalie Raven

Natalie has entered a bid for the Creative Scotland 'Four Nations International Fund' in collaboration with practitioners from Scotland and Serbia. If successful, artists will be joining forces in Plymouth during the summer of 2022 to present a weekend of workshops, performances, and installations which re/examine relationships to nature, earth, and climate injustice through the lens of feminism, phenomenology, and direct action protest.



Sharon Smith

The performing arts department are running a new MA in Experimental Theatre Practices from September 2022, led by Dr. Sharon Smith. This MA will guide learners in the production of cutting edge and innovative performance works, which push at the boundaries of convention to explore new avenues and methods of production, performance, and experience. You can see Sharon discussing the new course and its potentials for creative and innovative practice here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FCcSlq5Iso>



Zero Carbon by 2030

There has been great progress on the ground source heat pump project on campus. Marjon is on track to be one of the greenest universities in the UK after the project is completed - with an 80% carbon reduction from our 2005 benchmark.

Changes to catering on campus have seen the elimination of all single use plastics in food outlets; an increase in vegan food options; and a 20p discount on all hot drinks if using a reusable cup.

# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

## RESEARCH RECAP

Plymouth Marjon University was represented at the Race to Zero Showcase organised by the EAUC in October. A video of the talks is available here: [https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms\\_single\\_event.php?event\\_id=7676](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7676)

We've had one **SCION brown bag** session already this year, with fantastic talks from Lynne Wyness, Damien Hackney and Paul Warwick (from Plymouth University). If you missed it, you can watch the recording here:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/f53a8f9b-2e29-4e2d-91b8-59785f1d4629?channelId=847b0ece-1a5d-4d44-bcbf-f9fcc2149034>

We also had a great research impact event, led by Philly Iglehart, and targeted at SCION and CAPE members which was really helpful in terms of starting thinking about how our research might have more impact outside academia. We have another SCION/ CAPE event planned for **March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 on Citizenship, Creativity and Sustainability** – this one is still at the planning stages so if you have something you'd like to contribute around these themes, please do get in touch.





# SCION UPDATES

## SCION Student Researcher

Our first **SCION student researcher** project has now commenced, and we have added Rachel Mullee, a psychology undergraduate to the team. Once we have ethical approval for the project, we will be opening a sustainability photo competition on campus so look out for more information on that in due course.

## SCION Member Posters

Part of our role as a SCION community is linking research to teaching; making undergraduate students aware of the research and knowledge exchange activities which we do as academics is an important part of this.

*The SCION team would like to encourage all members to develop a poster showcasing your research or knowledge exchange if you don't have one already. The posters should be put up on campus to encourage conversation with students about research and other external roles.*

Michelle Jones has agreed to fund poster printing through RKEO – so please contact [research@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:research@marjon.ac.uk) for more information and to check availability (first come first served with a maximum of 15 posters funded in the first instance – a maximum of one per person).

## Co-Production of Knowledge with Marjon Students

We are also looking at **links between knowledge exchange and sustainability**, building on the Student-led Knowledge Exchange (SLKE) project at Marjon. Key components of the SLKE model include co-production of knowledge, experiential learning, active participation and transformative learning, all of which are considered important in sustainability pedagogy. We are interested in thinking about how we might open up opportunities for Marjon students to have a direct impact on green economic recovery by working with local partners and community groups. Get in touch if you have any ideas or any examples you'd like to share.



*Ornithogalum flavissimum.*  
Juss. Coll. vol. 5.



# COMING UP

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 12pm**

**Isabel Losada - "How to Have a Good Life and Save the Planet Too"**

*This is about positive action in relation to sustainability – no doom and gloom allowed! Isabel has worked as an actress, comedian and public speaker, and has published seven books on subjects like happiness, spirituality, sexuality, social activism and making a difference.*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 12pm**

**Professor Zoe Robinson talking about sustainability on campus.**

*Zoe is a visiting professor at Marjon but her day job is at Keele University where she works as the Director of Education for Sustainability. Indicative of how good she is at this role, Keele was recently recognised as the top university in the world for sustainability at the International Green Gown Awards.*

*We have another SCION / CAPE event planned for **March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 on Citizenship, Creativity and Sustainability** – this one is still at the planning stages so if you have something you'd like to contribute around these themes, please do get in touch.*

# LINKS & RESOURCES

**The Repair - Podcast**

*Season 5: The Repair. This podcast explores the cultural roots of our current ecological crisis, and the deep changes Western society will need to make to save the Earth and our species. With help from historians, leading thinkers, activists, and producers in other countries where climate change hit early and hard, the series traces the evolution of the colonizing, extractive Western culture that has driven us into the ecological ditch, and look at potential solutions—the repair.*

**Link:** <https://www.sceneonradio.org/the-repair/>

**My Toxic Cocktail - BBC Radio 4 episode**

*Anna Turns (Lecturer at Plymouth Marjon University) investigates the synthetic chemicals which are in her own body - from pesticides to flame retardants. She asks how they got there and whether it matters.*

**Link:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0011lf7>

**Sustainable Materials in the Creative Industries - ongoing research**

*Researchers on the 'Sustainable Materials in the Creative industries' project are asking those with a creative practice to please complete this questionnaire - do take a moment to support sustainable research in the arts by offering answers to these questions:*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmM1UkwcYxGhE\\_nWjLzs4LlVi5jnt4GEYx2QX46LHkIIG5w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmM1UkwcYxGhE_nWjLzs4LlVi5jnt4GEYx2QX46LHkIIG5w/viewform)

Further details of the project can be found here: <https://www.rca.ac.uk/research-innovation/projects/sustainable-materials-creative-industries>



# SCION CONVENER UPDATES

At our **SCION convenors' team meeting**, we discussed our priorities for the 2021-22 academic year. It was decided that these were to:

- Make links with external partners / international research communities
- Organise a peer review writing workshop
- Support research-informed teaching at Marjon
- Continue to develop a strong web presence to market outputs and disseminate new knowledge effectively
- Prioritise what emerged from the curiosity conference, which was
  - Making sustainability in the campus environment visible
  - Engaging staff and students in that debate
  - Sharing and communicating what is happening
  - Linking sustainability and the healthy workplace

Hopefully, you can see how the kinds of activities we're organising link to these priorities – we are always keen to hear more from the wider group so if you think there's something here that you could contribute to, please do get in touch.

Do keep sending in your ideas and good news stories...

All best wishes,

Debby, Greg and Natalie





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noun

1. a young shoot or twig of a plant, especially one cut for grafting or rooting.

# CONTACT US

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WE WELCOME ENQUIRIES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY WITHIN OUR  
RESEARCH GROUP



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