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*** HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers ***

1. The 8th Annual Welbury & Rountons Christmas Lecture on Sunday 18 Jan at 4 pm will be on global warming and will attempt a live experiment to test the plausibility of orthodox and sceptical views. It's free, and you are welcome, but please email or ring me on 01609 882501 to reserve places. My summary pdf is available on request. I would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to try it at home and compare results.

2. Politically, global warming and renewable energy drive the rapid expansion of electricity grids especially in Europe. With politically sensitive scientific issues, it can be hard to know who to believe. History cautions us against blindly following authority. So it's good to test things for yourself, while being aware of the limitations. The orthodox position says global warming in the last century was too fast for natural processes and was mainly caused by excess atmospheric carbon-dioxide (CO₂) produced since the industrial revolution. Some other scientists say we don't know enough about natural processes, or about water and clouds, and the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is too small to cause the warming.

3. If you google "global warming in a jar" you may find some home experiments claiming to show it's warmer with CO₂ in the jar, but they have (as far as I've found) not yet measured the results to compare them with the real atmosphere. We hope to do better. And yes, you can "try this at home", and I would be interested in your results.

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