

Welcome to the fourth Green Newsletter from your local Climate Ambassador. This edition brings more local, national and international information to our attention.

LOCAL NEWS

Our Littered Landscape - In this edition we are asking our gorgeous greenies to take example photos of our Littered Landscape. Add the location, the date and your name and I will display your photo on our new Climate Change notice board.

Transition Chesterfield are taking part in the national RHS Big Seed Sow at the Inspire Community Garden. The RHS project is aimed at encouraging schools, groups and individuals to sow and share seeds (something we are already doing). If you want to know more or get involved, visit the RHS website at www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/big-seed-sow

Peak Education Through Adventure has produced a delightful article about Mountain Hares. These stunning creatures are actually native to the highlands of Scotland but populations were introduced to the Peaks in the 19th century. If you're eager to spot some, make your way to parts of the region covered in mixed heather or cotton grass moorland – they tend to shy away from grassland so you probably won't spot any there. You're most likely to see them around Derwent Edge and Outer Edge in the Dark Peak. If you're really lucky, you'll spot a couple standing up on their hind legs, batting away at each other with their forepaws! www.peak.co.uk/things-to-do-in-peak-district-mountain-hares/



NFWI NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS – FOOD MATTERS

Passed at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the campaign stemmed from a resolution calling on supermarkets to take more action to cut food waste and redistribute surplus food to those in need. Over 5,000 WI members took part in a research project looking at food waste in the home and investigated practices at their local supermarkets. In April 2017 the NFWI released the report 'Wasted Opportunities', setting out a range of actions that supermarkets can take to help reduce food waste at all levels.

Since then there has been positive progress. Many supermarkets have adopted WI recommendations to simplify date labelling, increase shelf life and offer clearer freezing instructions. The second stage of the campaign focused on food poverty, with WIs encouraged to organise debates on the topic and consider what needs to change so that everyone has access to affordable, healthy food. At a national level the WI worked with End Hunger UK to call for government action, successfully campaigning for government to start measuring food poverty.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Water Day 11 March 2023

World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. It also celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water.

www.worldwaterday.org

Water quality in rivers

House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Water quality in rivers Fourth Report of Session 2021 – 22 Report tells us that only 14% of rivers in England can currently claim to have good ecological status. The Government is not on track to meet the Water Framework Directive requirement for all rivers to reach good status by 2027. Wildlife and Countryside Link has warned that the water quality of rivers in England is the worst in Europe.



Under the Water Framework Directive, a river's ecological health can be classed as High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad. In an ideal world, we'd like to see every river achieving *at least* 'Good' status... but this couldn't be further from the truth.

- Only 14% of rivers pass good ecological health
- No rivers pass good chemical health
- No rivers pass good overall health.
- No rivers pass good overall health

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8460/documents/88412/default/>

Do you know how many rivers there are in the Peak District? I didn't, but Google tells me that there are 21 in total, the longest being the Derwent at 80 km. Can you name any of the other 20? (Tip - Some aren't called rivers, like Peakshole Water and Henmore Brook, but the other 18 are.)

KEEP THINKING GREEN

This Green Newsletter needs your input to make it worth doing for all Baslow members.

What would you like more information on for our next issue? Bring your ideas to our next WI Meeting, putting them in the box near the notice board marked **Thinking Green**.

Janette.

Baslow WI Climate Ambassador