



Welcome to the first Green Newsletter from your local Climate Ambassadors. Hopefully this will be the first of many, bringing information and stories about what has happened to date and is happening now.

The National WI Picture

For nearly 100 years, WI members have led campaigns to conserve the natural world from environmental degradation and climate change. Generations of WI members have used their campaigning might to call for action on issues as diverse as water pollution (1936), acid rain (1985), the ozone layer and CFCs (1988), deforestation (1989), renewable energy (1977 and 2006), litter - a campaign which founded one of Britain's leading environmental organisations Keep Britain Tidy in 1954 - recycling and conservation of resources (2005), and the protection of birds (1933), honeybees (2009) and animal welfare. Be it making simple swaps in their own lives, or lobbying policymakers as part of the WI's Climate Ambassador scheme, more and more WI members are taking action to protect our world for generations to come.

NFWI - End Plastic Soup

End Plastic Soup was a resolution passed with a 98.9% majority at the 2017 NFWI Annual Meeting. Working with Dr Natalie Welden from the University of Glasgow in 2018, the WI undertook a survey and produced a research report looking at the impact of washing clothes in the home. In 2019 WI members attended a Fixing Fast Fashion Day presented by the NFWI Public Affairs Team and the second-hand clothing charity TR Aid, on the impacts of microplastic fibres and fast fashion. In 2020 the WI became the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Microplastics and in 2021 the APPG held a series of policy roundtable discussions about solutions to microplastic fibre pollution released from clothing during the laundry process. In 2022, using the Microplastic Policies for Government report as a basis, the APPG and the WI have had meetings with DEFRA Ministers and civil servants to discuss the findings of the report further, and to explore the feasibility of the Government putting the report's recommendations into law.

Save our old trees

Have you seen any old trees in the UK or abroad? Take a photo and send it to us at BaslowWI@DFWI.co.uk with a note of where they are. We can then display some of them on the Baslow WI Climate Green Board at the September WI Meeting and at Apple Day on 8th October.

Drought

The recent heatwave reminded some of us of 1976. Here in Derbyshire our wildlife is suffering too. Globally we all need water along with the other elements at normal levels not the extremes we are seeing now whether it's for farming, river levels or for us to drink and bathe.

Bees



Were you there last year when Judith Orchard gave us a fascinating and informative talk about bees as part of our Great Big Green Wednesday? Judith came along to the Community Orchard armed with lots of resources and wearing her beekeeping kit and told us all about keeping bees to produce honey. We also learned what an amazing job bees and other insects do pollinating our crops and wildflowers and how essential they are for a healthy environment.

You might be surprised to learn that there are more than 250 species of bee in the UK, including 24 kinds of bumblebee. Bumblebees are one of the most loved and familiar of garden insects. The sight and sound of them buzzing from flower to flower is something we have taken for granted in British summertime but sadly these charming insects are struggling to survive. In our modern world of paved gardens and intensive agriculture our bumblebees find themselves hungry and homeless. But don't despair. There are many things we can all be doing to help them and if you would like to know more have a look at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website:



www.bumblebeeconservation.org/beethechange

Bee the Change is all about simple, quick ways you can become more bumblebee friendly. The website has lots of FREE resources and how-to-guides such as a leaflet called 'Gardening for Bumblebees' and 'How to Feed Bumblebees Through the Seasons'. It doesn't matter if you live in the city or the countryside, if you have a garden, a flowerpot - or no outdoor space at all. You can Bee the Change wherever you live! Thanks to their 'free-bee' service, more wildflowers can grow and we can enjoy delicious foods like tomatoes and blueberries. If lots of people can do just one thing, together we can get these little superheroes buzzing again.

Thinking Green

What would you like more information on for our next Issue? Here's some ideas - Electric cars, solar energy, waste, river pollution, ocean pollution, textiles, moors, peat, insects, moths, wildlife, hedgerows, farming, and lots more. Bring your ideas to our next WI Meeting, putting them in the box at the back of the room marked '**Thinking Green**'.

We hope you enjoyed reading our first newsletter.

Janette and Alison

Baslow WI Climate Ambassadors