



DISTRICT 105N

2021-22 Environment Bulletin 2

What we are doing to help reduce and reverse the impact we have on our environment.

Malcolm Hogg

District Environment Officer



Fellow Lions,

Anyone with doubts about whether Climate Change is real or a media creation should now be reassessing their thoughts. As the year has progressed, the UK has been hit with more and more extreme events and our, always undependable, weather has been even more so. Heatwaves have been followed by flooding and even Scotland, generally regarded as one of the soggiest parts of Europe, has low levels of water in its reservoirs.

Since the last bulletin the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued its report which makes grim reading. It states quite clearly that it is already too late to stop, or reverse, some of the effects of climate change. Worse, the rate of change is accelerating. The ice caps will melt, sea levels will rise, desertification will increase. There will be more frequent extreme weather events, from wild fires to flooding. It is already too late to stop this. We have blown it. COP 26 gives an opportunity to mitigate the worst of the effects and, should the world leaders take this opportunity, we might be able to at least slow things down. This will require international cooperation on a grand scale and realisation that these critical issues transcend petty politics.

The effects of climate change are already impacting on both the natural world and on our everyday lives and the implications are enormous for food production and spread of disease. Termite colonies are already established in parts of the South of England and malaria outbreaks are almost inevitable. We are in the midst of the 6th great extinction in Earth's history. This one is entirely man made. The others have been down to events such as asteroid strikes which may give an indication of the scale of the impact our activities are having.

As an international organisation, which has Environment as a core service area, Lions can play a major role in combatting changes at local, national and international level. If your club does not undertake any environmental project, please think about what you can do and take one on. Nothing matters more! "Where there is a need, there is a Lion", The need is there, are you?

What can we do - **PLANT TREES!** Not just any old trees but hardwood trees which are suited to your local area. Helps the climate and helps biodiversity. Double whammy!

Around the Clubs

Please let me know what you have been doing! I know that a good number of clubs have been undertaking litter picks and beach cleans. Some may have been undertaking more unusual or adventurous projects. All are worth sharing. Your project may inspire others, both Lions and non-Lions alike to do that bit more to save our home planet.

Cover photo competition

Congratulations to Lion Wayne Hoyle, Rothwell Lions Club for winning the cover photo competition with this splendid photo of a sparrowhawk in winter. Although, there were relatively few entries, Judge Sam Finlayson commented very favourably on the high standard of all the entries and this will hopefully encourage more entries into the M.D. Environment competition later in the session. Second was Lion Ron Henderson, Aberdeen - Bon Accord Lions Club with his photo of a bumblebee about to land on a dog rose flower, and in third place Lion Larry Winger of Allendale Lions Club for his woodpecker.



First Place!

Sparrowhawk in winter

Lion Wayne Hoyle

Rothwell District Lions Club



Second Place

Bumblebee about to land on Dog Rose flower

Lion Ron Henderson

Aberdeen - Bon Accord Lions Club



Third Place

Woodpecker

Lion Larry Winger

Allendale Lions Club

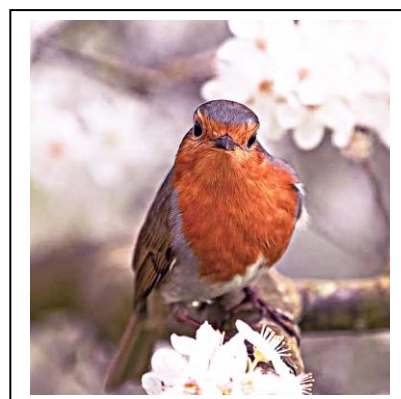
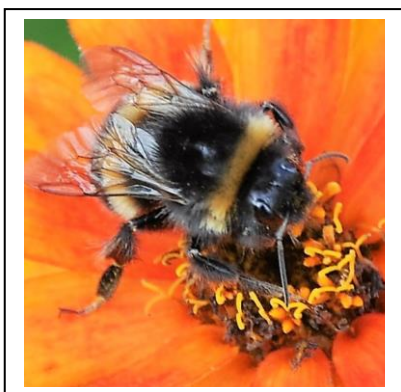
These will feature on the covers of the forthcoming bulletins.

The following will show you what a difficult job Sam had in choosing her three.



Lion George Morgan

Castleford and Pontefract
District Lions Club shows
some of the plants and
animals from his journeys
from the local park to the
wilds of Rannoch Moor in
the Highlands of Scotland





Small tortoiseshell butterfly



Small tortoiseshell butterfly



Peacock butterfly

Lion George Murray of Westhill & Skene Branch Club of Aberdeen L.C. showing why Buddleia is sometimes called the Butterfly Bush

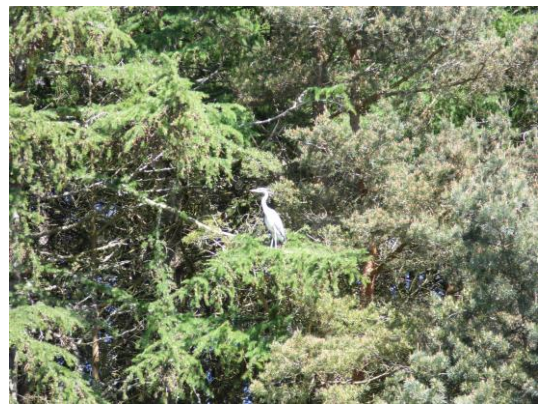


Garforth and District L.C.'s Lion Stephen Mercer shows his busy Blue Tit.

Ron Henderson of Aberdeen – Bon Accord introduces some of the wildlife he met on his daily exercise walks by the River Don.



Swans on the River Don



A nesting heron



Roe deer

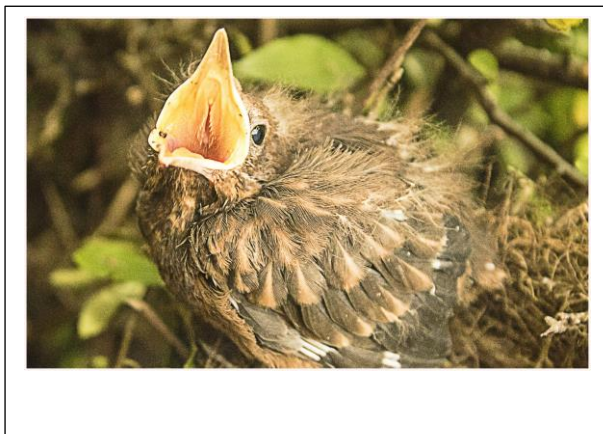
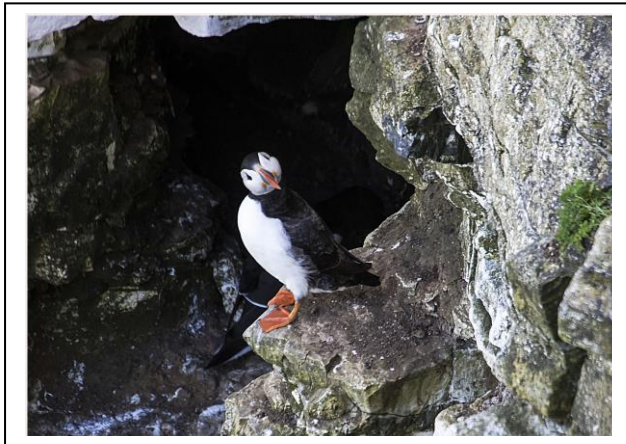


Peaceful birch trees line the river



A Bumblebee approaches a Dog Rose

Lion Wayne Hoyle of Rothwell District Lions introduces us to some of the birds and mammals he has met on his travels.



Thank you to all our contributors. As you can see, the standard has been very high. I do hope we will see many entries to the MD Environment Photo Competition. If you didn't try for this one, why not have a go at the MD one?

Garden nature wardens

With snow now on the them, thar hills (well in some of the Scottish Highlands anyway), it will not be too long before we will be, once more, into wintry weather. Heavy rain, snow and low temperatures all hit plants and animals very hard.

Birds, often, focus our attention, at these times, because they look pretty and it cheers us up to see them at bird tables or feeders. Please think about the other animals which live in your garden. The creepy crawlies which act as food to other animals, as well as feeding on pest species: the ones which hibernate amongst dead leaves, in the soil or even in the dead stems of our border plants. Leaving them (no pun intended) over winter improves their chance of survival no end so even if you like to have an immaculate garden, please leave your autumn tidy up until spring.

Greenwashing is an opportunity for us.

Businesses are very busy “greenwashing” their images and sporting how environmentally friendly they are. This gives us an opportunity to link up with local businesses to undertake a project. Sponsorship of projects is a possibility as is more active participation.

The most important thing we can do to mitigate climate change is tree planting. Some businesses have moderately large areas of lawns surrounding them. Would they be willing to allow tree planting of trees suitable to your local area? Has anyone asked them? This ticks two boxes as woodland increases biodiversity. Even allowing a small number of trees will help both of these issues.

Most local authorities have waste ground, not earmarked for any particular development. Tree planting can create small oases of wildlife in our towns as well as the human benefits of having a tranquil area of calm, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Let’s not wait until someone approaches us to undertake a project – lets look to see what we can do and make the approaches ourselves.

RE! Repair Refurbish Restore Repurpose Recycle

An unfortunate feature of modern life is our willingness to throw away an item because we have finished with it. In the last bulletin, I highlighted the issues water use and with pollution, arising from making clothes. These days most people will not attempt to repair clothes, but simply through them out. What about wood? To my wife’s annoyance, I am one of the people who are very reluctant to throw away timber. Even rotten fence posts will have the rotten part sawn off and the remainder kept, despite my having very little talent for working with wood. Do you have someone skilled in your Club who could, for example, turn old pallets into planters? A fundraiser which ticks a repurposing box! Perhaps there is an opportunity to work in partnership with a Men’s Shed on such a project. You might even be able to plant bee friendly plants in them and locate them around your hometown. Other options are to use some of the social media sites to offer articles you want rid of as free to pick up. A win-win situation.

Personal choices.

To many of us our 21st birthdays are a distant memory. We can remember when we bought articles without blister packs, polystyrene packaging, bubble wrap etc. Some of us will remember being the remote to change channels on the telly. Exotic fruit from around the world cost exotic prices and were only available at different times of the year. Not every household had a car, a fridge, double glazing or central heating. We went on one holiday per year and it was usually in the UK.

How much are we prepared to change our lifestyles for the sake of slowing down climate change? Many of us have grandchildren. One of the scenarios projected by the effects of climate change has predicted that the global impact of climate change may be the leading cause of childhood mortality with events such as hurricanes or flooding or indirectly through starvation.

Your personal choices:

Will you make more use of public transport rather than your car?

Will you only buy locally produced food?

Will you only buy in season food?

Will you repair rather than renew equipment or articles?

Will you buy pre-owned goods rather than new ones?

Will you only holiday in our own country?

Will you stop eating meat?

I expect that no-one will agree to all of these but what we can all do is reduce all of them. Everything helps. Publicise your efforts locally and, who knows, you may inspire others and may even gain new members.

It isn't all doom and gloom!

Some of you may know of Flotta which is a small island in Scapa Flow in the Orkneys which has a very large oil terminal on it. Anyone who has visited Hoy on an Orkney visit will have passed by it. It is also intended to become a green hydrogen producer using seawater as the hydrogen source and wind power to generate the electricity needed. This may be a pioneer platform for the production of green hydrogen which avoids some of the problems associated with the production of batteries for electric vehicles. Some towns and cities are already using hydrogen (zero emission) buses.

Early awareness – educating youngsters about the environment.

Some of you may have heard of Ellie Jackson who has been working closely with Lions in the South West in particular but also in our own District with Easingwold Lions. Ellie is passionate about her cause and is happy to speak to groups about her books. She will be speaking to the Lions of Zone N1 on Wednesday 3rd November and if anyone would like to attend, please email me at lionmalcolmnenv@gmail.com and I will send you the link for the meeting. Please read below ...

Our Environment Needs Lions!

Lions Clubs across the UK are playing a key role in inspiring the next generation to love our planet. As we are all becoming increasingly aware, issues such as climate change and plastic pollution are major global threats facing our environment. Teaching our children about these problems needs to be done in the right way, without upsetting or overwhelming them or pushing an agenda.

Enter the Wild Tribe Heroes! True children's stories, beautifully illustrated, gentle and positive, written by author Ellie Jackson, a teacher and mother of 4 young children, these books are now in over 20% of all UK primary schools as part of a social enterprise project. Each book follows a well loved animal who encounters problems caused by humans - ocean plastic, balloon releases, lost fishing nets, palm oil, climate change and habitat loss. With personal support from Sir David Attenborough and Prince Charles as well as being featured many times in local and national press, these books are a fantastic way to introduce children to these issues.

Lions Clubs are sponsoring their local schools with a set of these books and at between £20 and £35 per school, this is a cost effective way to reach thousands of children across a community. Each school receives a dedicated Lions Schools Edition book and access to high quality digital teaching materials which are often hand delivered by Lions members. This approach increases engagement with Lions and their schools and strengthens relationships with parents and teachers. Lions can further get involved by doing book readings or assemblies, combining with schools to do a community litter pick or beach clean, volunteering to help support a school with gardening projects as well as engaging with local press etc.

Lions Clubs have directly supported over half a million children in schools around the country and it would be incredible to reach even more children both in the UK and overseas. If your Club would be interested in sponsoring your local schools please get in touch with the author Ellie via email ellie.jackson@wildtribeheroes.com. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in tackling these issues with these proven, beautiful teaching resources.

Face to face support

As our District is geographically so large, John Casey, Filey Lions and Corinne Ashburner, Mid Tyne Lions, are available should close local support be required, for Yorkshire and Northern England respectively. Scotland will be covered by myself.

Safety first

As we come out of lockdowns, and, perhaps, are looking for environmental projects to undertake we need to remember that the virus is still out there and also that the Lions insurance policy does NOT cover Covid related issues. Nevertheless, when restrictions are lifted, working outdoors gives us an opportunity to meet in relative safety, as many activities lend themselves to maintaining social distancing. When planning any event, we must consider the safety of our members and the general public, especially if we involve them in participation. Worth highlighting in this are the potential hazards which might be met in collecting litter and how to minimise the risks.

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