



Ron Henderson
Aberdeen-BonAccord



DISTRICT 105N

2021-22 Environment Bulletin 3

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

Malcolm Hogg

District Environment Officer



Fellow Lions,

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the most serious environmental catastrophe, to hit our District was Storm Arwen, in November and recently Malik and Corrie have also taken their toll. With wind speeds of over 90 miles an hour, the environmental and humanitarian impact has been enormous. Thousands of people lost power, in some places, for over a week. Tragically, lives were lost to falling trees.

With Arwen, over 24 hours, our District lost over 10 million trees. Some forests have now ceased to exist at all. Favourite woodland walks are currently closed because of the risks posed by fallen trees and those in a weakened state. The damage done will take decades to restore and that is if there are no equally devastating storms to come.

Regrettably, events like this are going to be much more frequent as global temperatures continue to rise and humanity continues to fail to take sufficient action to even halt where we are just now. Our grandchildren's generation will be hit much harder than we are currently experiencing and they will be quite entitled to ask the question of us "Why did you not do more?"

If your Club is not currently undertaking environmental projects, please think about doing so.



Haddo House, just north of Aberdeen estimates almost half a million trees lost

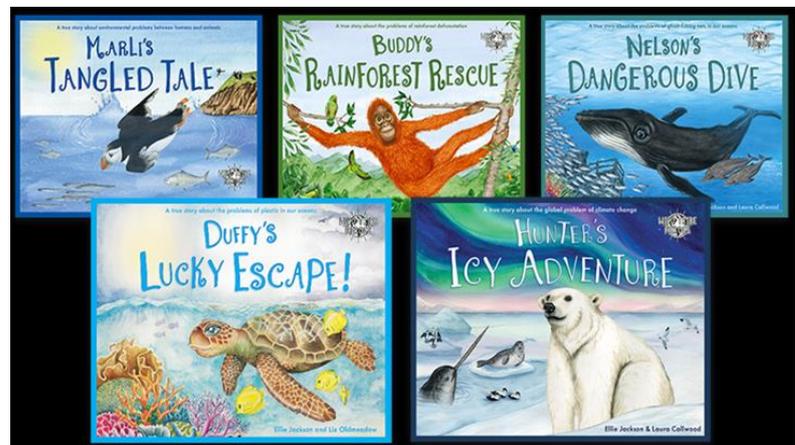
Around the Clubs

Scarborough and District

Congratulations to Scarborough Lions for furthering environmental awareness in young children.

Scarborough Lions are working with 19 Primary Schools in the area and are in the process of visiting all the schools to give sets of “Wildtribe Heroes” books (see Bulletin 2), which raise environmental issues in a format suitable for early stages youngsters. Under consideration is a prize for the pupil from each school for the best feedback letter.

“Wildtribe Heroes” author, Ellie Jackson, is a keynote speaker at Convention. A passionate advocate against single use plastic and its harmful effects as an ocean pollutant, Ellie’s books have introduced around half a million youngsters to environmental issues. She has worked closely with Lions Clubs around the country, and has links with a number of Clubs in both the District and MD. It is never too early to raise awareness of the natural world in children and Ellie’s books achieve this in a format appropriate to their age.



Tickhill and District L.C.

Still in the marine theme, Tickhill and District Lions have plans for beach cleans in February and March. Given the storm winds we have had, they can expect to be busy with washed up flotsam and jetsam. As somewhere between 50 -75% of ocean rubbish is generated by the fishing industry, they can expect to see quite a lot of nets and floats. Good luck, guys and gals!

Tickhill and District Lions: Previous environmental projects:



Litter picking



Keep up the great work Tickhill. You are making your community a much better place to live.

Darlington L.C

Climate-aware parents Paul and Clare Tallentire are planting hedgerows on their land at Bishopton Village near Darlington as a legacy for their children.

The couple, who have recently moved to Bishopton with their three sons, have been backed in their efforts by Darlington Forest Project, The Darlington Lions club and CPRE Durham.

The Lions have provided £1,000 to fund the project, Darlington Forest Project will help implement it and CPRE, the countryside charity spearheading a national campaign to restore hedges across England, has welcomed it as an example of 'citizen action'

"The younger generation seems even more concerned about the climate crisis than we are and I was surprised by how much my lads already knew about carbonisation and the environment, so, Clare and I just thought it would be a great project for them to see hedgerows replanted - it is something they can watch grow over the years."

"We're extremely grateful for the help we've received from the Lions and from the Forest Project in helping us with this."

Roz Henderson, who heads up the Darlington Forest Project, which aims to plant up to 9,000 trees across the borough, said: "It was a case of a lot of things coming together at once - we received an enquiry from Paul and Clare and at the same time were contacted by the Lions looking for an environmental project they might sponsor."

Neil Anderson, President of Darlington Lions, said: "There was a unanimous feeling among the Lions that in the year of COP 26 we should look to support an environmental project locally and we loved the idea of this one at Bishopton.

"As well as being something very traditional, in the shape of hedgerows, we really liked the family element to the project."

The move has been welcomed by CPRE, the countryside charity, (formerly the Campaign to Protect Rural England), which is spearheading a drive to increase the amount of hedgerows across England by 40 per cent by 2050.

Richard Cowen, chair of CPRE Durham, said: "Hedgerows are not only wonderful for biodiversity, they also absorb carbon emissions, reduce air pollution and help prevent flooding."

The hedges will be made of common hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, alder buckthorn, dog rose and spindle and are due to be planted this month.



Congratulations to Darlington Lions for supporting Paul and Clare in this excellent project. Hedgerows are important for wildlife as they act as habitats in their own right but also act as corridors for animals to move between areas. Intensive farming and land use has seen the destruction of a huge mileage of hedgerows. The hedges they are planting will give a range of foodstuffs to a wide range of animals and greatly increase the biodiversity of the area.

Please let others know what you are doing. Sharing good ideas is good for everyone.

Please let me know by emailing lionmalcolmnenv@gmail.com.

Newmachar Branch Club

Our most northerly Club has been helping a local village group, Plastic Pickers do their bit to improve the village. Regrettably, serious equipment failure resulted from removing items from an area of bushes with a lot of litter dumped in them.



Unfortunately, this grabber cannot even grab anyone's attention any more.

Keep up the good work, Newmachar Lions.

Bug Houses and summer lets

With the rising interest in the environment, there has been an increase in the availability of commercially produced bug hotels. The hotels are a good compromise for the gardener who wants a pristine garden but also wants to do his or her bit to help creepy crawlies and therefore the biodiversity in the area. The idea is to provide a piece of wood with holes into which an invertebrate can crawl and overwinter. However, many bugs go through a moult or a metamorphosis and this happens in summer and autumn, so the bug house serves as both a refuge from bad weather and also a secluded retreat at other times.

Commercial ones are not necessarily any better than home made ones. Commercial ones are made to catch the human eye. Invertebrates don't usually care if there is a gnome sitting outside it, on a spotty toadstool, or that their "tree" has a chimney on the roof! Often, the holes are all the same size, which means that you may end up with a fair number of one species in one place. If the hotel is visited by a predator, or a parasite, of that species, they may all be lost. Better to have a range of diameters of tunnels and fewer of one size.

This bulletin has a guide to making a simple and effective Bug Hotel and you can decorate it with gnomes and the like to suit your taste!

The design will allow a range of invertebrates to make use of it with a good chance of survival, as wood is a good insulator and, if a few simple rules are considered, a weatherproof shelter can be made.

Making a few of these using different species of trees will also improve the range of invertebrates you can help. Conifers, or any species which produce resin or sap, should be avoided as many of these contain natural insecticides which the tree produces to defend itself against attack. This is particularly true of recently cut branches. Beech, oak, sycamore and birch are all good.

Care should also be taken if you are intending painting the bug house as many outdoor treatments contain chemicals poisonous to invertebrates. The best option is to leave the hotel unpainted.

Given the millions of trees which have been taken down by Storm Arwen, in our District, it should not be too difficult to source suitable dead branches, and make bug hotels and making these available to the public by selling or giving them away, might be a possible fundraiser or awareness raiser. A stall selling this sort of thing, at a fair, also helps establish our environmental credentials.

DIY enthusiasts in your Club (if you have any) can knock these out on at a rate of around 12 – 15 in an hour and they will cost virtually nothing using recycled materials. Why not make a few and see if there is a market for them in your area? Encourage people to scatter a few in their gardens and they will provide a place for micro-beasts to complete their lifecycles.

Building the Bug Hotel.



1. Find a hardwood tree branch about 10 - 15cm in diameter and cut into a 5 - 30cm lengths.



2. Drill 1 hole with each of the drill bit sizes you have up to 15mm. Drill upwards to prevent water running in.



3. Cut the top of the branch at a slant and cover with an old slate, plastic lid etc

4. The finished article can be hung up or a simple wooden base can be added.

See me at District Convention!

Watching where we throw.

Fly tippers (deservedly) receive heavy criticism in the media. Let's think that through. Nothing is thrown *away* – it is thrown *somewhere else*. We throw much material somewhere else every day, it's just that ours is collected and dumped in an officially approved site. Can we minimise what we put out as our rubbish?

Charity shops depend on people who wish to get rid of their rubbish by throwing it to them. This is much better as someone else can, perhaps, benefit from your donation saving them money and benefitting the charity. It also continues the life of the resource which you donated and no longer require.

Upcycling is reusing an article in such a way that its value increases beyond that of its original purpose. This is much better.

As Lions, our skill base is limited to that of our members. I will cheerfully admit to being fairly appalling at DIY. My wife and I reached an agreement very early on that anything outdoors was my worry and anything indoors was hers. Men's Sheds have individuals with the skill base to upcycle resources. Is there a potential here for a partnership with Lions? Upcycling furniture and selling it on for charity is preferable to recycling it which will lead to it being chipped and turned into chipboard or similar.

What a load

As a young man, I was horrified when a walk along the sea cliffs brought me to a location where sewage-based slurry was being dumped onto a site with a thriving population of orchids. Had I dug them up and rehomed them, I would have been committing an offence but it was (apparently) fine to wipe out the population by means which were most definitely foul.

Even if it is sewage, it is a resource which could be reused and instead will be dumped in such a manner that it can end up being a health concern to others or an environmental hazard to many living organisms in the UK with an increase in raw sewage discharges rising 87% last year according to Surfers Against Sewage. Much of the increase is due to the increase in flooding experienced in recent years. Our antiquated water systems cannot cope with the sudden increases arising from storm flooding.

Is this something in which Lions can have a role? Many people do not make the connection between greenhouse gas emissions and rainfall. The linkage is, of course, climate change. We can have an educational role explaining to those who do not make the connection that our actions influence the atmospheric composition and that causes global warming which, in turn changes the climate.

As Lions we can also act as role models by changing our lifestyles and making changes that will have a small impact in itself but may encourage others to follow our lead.

Personal commitment.

These are things that you, personally, could consider trying and, perhaps, ask members of your community to undertake as well.

- 1.Reduce the number of car journeys you undertake. Car sharing or using public transport is better. Making one planned journey rather than multiple ones saves money and pollution.
2. Have 1 or 2 meat free days per week.
3. Waste less food. Freeze things close to their use by date, meal planning and using a shopping list for food (another tip is not to buy food when you are hungry- you buy more). Check on line what you can freeze – you would be surprised!
4. Buy food you can guarantee is produced locally and is in season.
5. Plant insect friendly flowers (particularly bee friendly).
6. Don't buy items with huge amounts of plastic packaging.
7. Scatter 10 bug hotels in your garden.
8. Grow your own vegetables,

How many of these could YOU do?

What could your Club do?

1. Plant trees - helps reduce your carbon footprint and improves biodiversity.
2. Act as an outlet for upcycled resources.
3. Beach cleans, litter or plastic pick.
4. Run a campaign asking or encouraging the community to take individual actions.
5. Place Environment high in priority in your programme – nothing is more important.
6. Support or recognise individuals, companies or industries who are making genuine efforts to be environmentally friendly.
7. Support local schools' Environmental education. Purchase of books for younger kids – organising tree planting with older pupils.

The possibilities are endless.

Next bulletin will feature an article on gleaning which may well offer some Clubs an opportunity to cut food waste which occurs before it even sees a shop.

Safety first

With restrictions now being lifted everywhere and Clubs , perhaps, 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, 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.

Malcolm Hogg D.O. Environment

Needing help?

Drop me an email or give me a call.

lionmalcolmnenv@gmail.com or phone 01358 743804

Wishing you a happy and environmentally friendly Spring

Malcolm Hogg