



# The Big GREEN Issue ATTLEBOROUGH WI



Newsletter September 2021

## GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 18 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2021



This is a national week of events celebrating action on climate change and communities across the country will join together for the Great Big Green Week. It will be the biggest event for climate and nature ever in the UK, and everyone's invited!

As a member of the Climate Coalition, the WI has been campaigning for action to reduce climate change since 2009. In November 2021 the UK will be hosting a crucial climate conference, COP 26. This UN Conference will be attended by 196 countries and is a vital chance for us to get strong international action on climate change.



As for Attleborough WI, and after discussing it with the Committee, I got in touch with Attleborough Town Council to see if we could participate in any events the Council might be laying on during The Great Big Green Week. I had several suggestions for them, including a stall with information for Attleborough residents on what the WI as a national organisation was doing to combat Climate Change, as well as asking if we could either sponsor, or buy, plant up and maintain a container with seasonal flowers in Queen's Square. I have not yet heard back from them, so it looks unlikely that anything will be arranged by the Town Council for The Great Big Green Week. But, individually, we can still do our bit.....

### WHY NOW?

We are seeing the impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change on the people and places we love both here in the UK and abroad. The time is now to do everything we can to protect them. Climate change is the fight of our lifetime.

This year, we in the UK have a huge opportunity to raise the ambition of plans to tackle climate change at home and abroad. The UK is hosting a major UN climate summit, known as COP26, in Glasgow this November. This means Parliament and local authorities alike want to be seen as ambitious in tackling climate change.

The Time is Now for a Great Big Green Week that sets the stage for the most ambitious climate summit ever.

### What can we do?

We have to cut our emissions to zero in 29 years; that's the same as halving them every ten years or cutting them by 7% year on year. It means, every year:

- Buying 7% less petrol for your car, sharing rides or taking the bus or train;
- Buying 7% less beef, lamb, milk or cheese or going veggy for a couple of weeks;
- Flying 7% less each year - taking holidays nearer home.
- You're already careful with the heating, but you could already start cutting the gas bill by 7% each year by not heating empty rooms, and improving the insulation each time you decorate the room.
- Next time you replace the car or the boiler, make sure the new one's electric and small, and if you're having any new work done tell the builders not to use any cement or new steel, and use second hand materials where possible.

(Credit: Prof Julian Allwood, Cambridge University)

## A SHORT NOTE FROM YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADOR

Hello, my name is Elaine Weymouth and I am Norfolk Federation Climate Ambassador. My first challenge was organising the Show the Love Campaign at The Forum in 2017 when children were invited to decorate Green Hearts, this gave us the opportunity to speak to parents about climate change. The day was a great success.

The earth's climate has seen many changes in its 4.55 billion years. The good news is that there are positive actions we can take, such as community energy projects, new flood defences, and clean energy projects. We can also help by, eg, recycling and saving electricity and more. A wise man was once asked what we could do to heal the Earth. He replied:

"The Earth can heal itself.

All we have to do is to stop making her sick".

These are indeed wise words.

We all have a duty to do what we can to combat climate change.



And some pics of the beautiful sunflowers grown by our members



### Coffee Mornings & Outings

Wednesday 15 September and 13 October  
Our Coffee Mornings are at Old Buckenham Country Party, from 10am. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September, we can also celebrate **WI Day** (which is on the 16<sup>th</sup>) - **106 years of the WI**

**Mon 29 November**

Thursford Xmas Spectacular. £61 pp

**Wed 15 December @12.30 for 1pm**

Christmas Lunch at Park Farm, Wymondham  
£28 pp deposit required by 1 August

**Sat 22 January leaving at 1pm**

"A Sound of Music" at the Theatre Royal, Norwich, with coach travel. £37 pp.

**Outings are organised by Ruth.**

Please get in touch with Ruth with any queries

01953 451466;

email [ruthandbryan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ruthandbryan@hotmail.co.uk)

### Our next meetings

We now meet in the Town Hall in Queen's Square.  
Doors open at 1.30pm with the meeting starting promptly at 2pm. We finish at 4pm.

**Wed 22 Sept**

No speaker this month. As it's the Great Big Green Week, we'll be focussing on Climate Change; and we'll also have a quiz with a difference ... don't forget to bring your handbag!

**Wed 27 Oct**

Our speaker for this month, the novelist Joan Khurody, will not now be able to join us. But we will have Ian Sherwood, a Councillor with Breckland Council. The subject of his talk yet to be confirmed.

**Wed 24 Nov**

Our 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we'll have a birthday tea. Also our Annual Meeting when we vote in the new Committee. Plus some fun social time.

**Don't forget your name badge!**