

Wild Norley

Think Global But Act Local

January

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THINK GLOBAL - ACT LOCAL

"Never before have we been so aware of what we are doing to our planet – and never before have we, had such power to do something about it. Surely we have a responsibility to care for the planet on which we live?

The future of humanity and indeed of all life on Earth, now depends on us doing so. "

Ref: Sir David Attenborough;
President Emeritus of the Wildlife Trusts.

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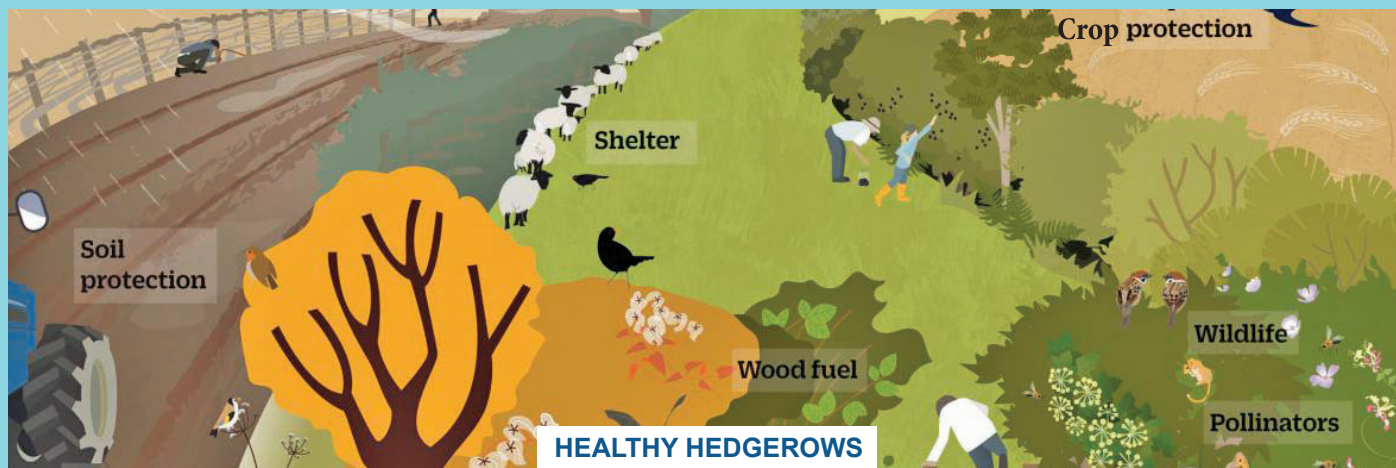
As the New Year gets into its stride I want once again to emphasise that NWG's message **Think Global - Act Local** is for everyone. Yes it's has been our slogan for several years but it is just as relevant now. Bearing in mind it's estimated that we now have less than a decade to save the planet from a temperature rise of less than 2C possibly even more so, all inextricably linked with the sixth level extinction.

All of us have to consider the health of the entire planet and at the very least take action in our own community and come together to protect habitats and the organisms that live within them. Norley has done a lot. Some of it with NWG's help, but everyone can still do so much more. Our group could not have done much without help from others, our Parish Council has been brilliant, as has the Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT), CWAC and latterly Cheshire Zoo - see below.

All of this has meant we are focusing in on global problems at a local level. So by coming to help us on our workdays you could make Norley an even better place for all its inhabitants, improve your own health and well being and possibly make a difference to the planet however minute. So please support your NWG, if coming to our meetings or volunteering isn't for you, then at least make a financial contribution.

NWG works very closely with CWT, for example at Breech Moss, as well as acting as stewards of the recently restored mosses in Norley. So why not in '23 join it? (see <https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/membership>) CWT does an immense amount in Cheshire, including Norley. It manages more than 40 nature reserves with habitats ranging from grasslands and wet meadows to reedbeds, coastal dunes and woodland. CWT's conservation projects focus on aspects as diverse as restoring traditional wildflower meadows, the re-introduction and protection of species, (4 beavers now at Hatchmere!), restoring wetlands and reinstating local woodlands with traditional English bluebells.

It was heartening at the close of last year (20 Dec 2022) that agreement was reached for global biodiversity at the Convention on Biological Diversity. Central to the final agreement is the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** which provides the roadmap for governments, business and civil society to rescue nature in the crucial period up to 2030. This '**peace pact with nature**' after decades of wilful destruction is complex, with virtually every



aspect of our lives impacting on biodiversity and ecosystem health. The framework addresses this with its vision for a world living in harmony with nature by 2050 and its four goals covering:

- integrity of ecosystems
- nature's contribution to people
- equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity
- closing the financial gap.

Chester Zoo took an active role in the conference and it should be noted that it doesn't just conserve endangered species in foreign lands but on its own doorstep too, see **Our Conservation Masterplan | What We Do | Chester Zoo** . As part of this master plan it has a project to make a 10 mile wildlife corridor from its reserves around the zoo to Ellesmere Port.

See <https://www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/nature-recovery-corridor/>

Associated with this is training for 'Wildlife Champions' to provide tools to help groups engage with their local communities to generate or improve wildlife corridors <https://www.chesterzoo.org/events/wildlife-champions-course/> . Despite Norley being outside the corridor, 3 NWG members (me included) attended the zoo's Wildlife Champion's course. A few of the zoo's team were then taken on a tour of Norley when they made very positive comments and useful suggestions. I went on a hedge laying course run by the zoo which was excellent both from acquiring a new skill, as well as reinforcing NWG's view that hedges, a key habitat, are essential for Norley's wildlife corridors. It looks too as though it will be a very useful partnership and we are exploring a number of ideas with the zoo for the coming year.

I know that visiting the zoo itself will help children

appreciate the wonder of the living world. I cannot improve on the fundamental truth of Sir David Attenborough's words, "*The natural world is the greatest source of excitement, the greatest source of visual beauty. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living. An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment.*"

Children are the stewards of the future; encouraging their innate curiosity and giving them that understanding is literally vital. This is part of NWG's Terms of reference, but everyone who has children in their charge can do their bit. In that regard Sir David Attenborough's advice to children not to waste things, holds good for us grown ups too, "*Don't waste electricity, don't waste paper, and don't waste food. Live the way you want to live but just don't waste. Look after the natural world and the animals in it, and the plants in it too. This is their planet as well as ours. Don't waste them.*"

IN BRIEF

CWaC have a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (e.g. restoration of ponds such as the Waste) which will also involve events and training on wildlife corridors. But there is also the exciting possibility that some of the council's farmland could become wildflower meadows, woodlands and community orchards.

See our Facebook page for the dates of our meetings and workdays (usually last Sunday every month).

[facebook.com/wildnorley](https://www.facebook.com/wildnorley)