

## **Climate Solutions Discussion Group** - report by Kate Bailey (May 2023)

In May we focused on collective solutions and actions we can take to address climate change and biodiversity loss. We discussed the possibility of setting up a project that has a positive impact on wildlife in and around Barnard Castle.

Jane and I have made contact with Climate Action North-East, a not-for-profit organisation that works with communities and "provides practical solutions and actions for local groups, communities, schools and businesses in the region." Their initiatives include *Pollinator Parks*, increasing the biodiversity of places where people can enjoy nature and *Global Wilders*, educational activities "focused on people, places, plants, and animals to restore nature, and conserve biodiversity."

For example, at Darlington Denes, a "meadow of over 700 wildflowers has been created around a play area, to increase biodiversity, supply a haven for insects and birds, and give people a place to enjoy nature".

link: [www.climateactionnortheast.org.uk](http://www.climateactionnortheast.org.uk)

The first step is for our group to discuss what sort of project we'd like to create, and find out whether there is any interest from other Teesdale u3a members, community organisations and businesses in the area. Finding a site or sites for the project won't be easy - the land must be available for the public to enjoy as an accessible open 'green space' and with a landowner who is committed to managing it for wildlife in future years.

In June we'll begin to map out a plan for our project, and make contact with people who may be interested in supporting us. Climate Action NE's ecologists can help us to deliver the project by undertaking an initial site survey and advising on planting, funding and future maintenance.

If any members of Teesdale u3a would like to be involved, or can suggest a local site that might be suitable for a small wildflower meadow, or a community orchard, or a native hedgerow planted for birds -

- please email [kate@katebailey.co.uk](mailto:kate@katebailey.co.uk) or

- phone Jane 07816 845 557 or Kate 07867 683 195

(338 words)