

## October Forum Report - Climate Solutions Discussion Group

Report by Hazel Yeadon and Kate Bailey

Last month we talked about textile and clothing recycling and discussed the idea of a Barnard Castle 'Clothes-Swap' of good quality pre-loved items. This month we explored the logistics of organising, collecting, checking, displaying, and storing donated items ourselves, and decided that it would be better to use the Forum magazine to tell people about alternative ways to recycle textiles and clothes. There are several websites that will help to recycle pre-loved items - for example, Facebook Marketplace, Vinted, e-Bay and local dress agencies will sell your clothes for you. Better still, Darlington has a Freecycle where you can offer your unwanted items for free.

Next month we plan to start a new Forum feature "Offered and/or Wanted" that will enable our members to send in a photo of any good quality items they are offering to give away, or a special request, such as a Prom dress for a relative, that they need. If this feature proves to be popular we will consider making it a regular feature of the newsletter.

Please send your images, details of the item and your contact details, in an email marked "Offered or Wanted" to <forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk> for inclusion in the November issue.

Good News Items - All about Corals:

We have learned about NASA technology that is free to use and provides data that can help scientists pinpoint reefs at risk. For example, in Grand Bahama during a mass bleaching in the summer of 2023, natural corals in the area were wiped out.

To restore the reefs, a local farm, Coral Vita, used a process of cutting healthy corals into small pieces and positioning them near each other to trigger a natural healing and accelerate the rapid growth of coral tissue. While on the farm, corals are also exposed to managed stress such as water warming or acidification, to help cultivate their resilience — this process is also known as "assisted evolution."



*IMAGE sent separately*

*(source: Blue Planet - bbc.co.uk)*

Another news item "IVF baby corals are defeating marine heatwaves", explains that researchers at Secore International, a reef restoration organisation, collect coral eggs and spawn from healthy reefs. They use the coral spawn to rear millions of baby corals in specially designed floating pools and tanks. Once the corals mature, they are transplanted to damaged reefs to attach and grow <https://www.secure.org/site/home.html>

Young IVF corals that were planted in US, Mexican and Caribbean reefs, thrived during the 2023 marine heatwaves, while older colonies bleached. A study showed that 90% of IVF corals stayed healthy and vibrant, retaining their vital algae, compared to only 25% of older, non-IVF corals.