



The Great Big Green Week Dawlish Lawn Event organised by Sustainable Dawlish (Transition) was successful in achieving its aims to bring the need for positive climate action to the forefront of people's minds. There was a steady flow of around three to four thousand people, over time.

Our Dawlish Mayor, Val Mawhood reminded everyone why it is important to protect our precious planet, its finite resources, and the natural world in her opening speech. She sold reuse gardening products for The Mayor's Charity and ran a nature identification competition at the Dawlish Town Council Stand. Teignbridge Officers and Cllr. Martin Heath were there to talk about Teignbridge zero carbon initiatives, home insulation and green energy grants, and Teignbridge green spaces.

ACTion on Climate In Teignbridge provided an informative display about Climate issues and the ways in which people can make a difference and The Wildlife Wardens also had a Stand, including a Tree of Hope, and animal skulls to identify.

Devon Contract Waste brought a display of their very sturdy recycled plastic outdoor furniture, fencing and decking and South West Water had lots of giveaways to encourage people to save water and to keep drains fat free.

Dawlish Against Plastic had a range of alternatives for plastic products to use in the home and out and about, on display, and of course, featured the reasons why we should keep our coast free from pollution. Shores of South Devon educated everyone about marine wildlife habitats and what can be found in our area.

Devon Wildlife Trust were there with an information Stand promoting protecting wildlife and wild places, and Dawlish Garden Society gave away free seeds, compostable growing pots and encouraged people to use peat free compost.

The Sustainable Dawlish Stand focused on recent extreme European and global weather events experienced this Summer and asked people to consider making changes now to make a difference. We also featured products available in Dawlish to encourage the local economy with less shopping miles, and had a display showing people about refills and sustainable products available at Poppadums, Dawlish. Lots of people took part in the Moths to a Flame art activity to make a decorated moth

and send an environmental message via Art Energy, Plymouth, to World leaders at the COP26 Summit in November.

Dawlish Westcliff Primary Academy Y1 singers and their guitar players, Gatehouse Primary Academy choir, and Dawlish College singers and band, entertained everyone with confident and enjoyable performances in the morning, and the South Devon Singers Community Choir sang two very good sets in the afternoon, interspersed with David Bailey's excellent classical and acoustic guitar playing. Kim's Acapella group finished the day with a performance of tree songs. Sustainable Dawlish would like to thank everyone who took part for their support in bringing people's attention to the Climate crisis and action to take to bring about a more hopeful future for us all.

Sustainable Dawlish are also appreciative of the range of events run by Dawlish organisations during the rest of The Dawlish Great Big Green Week: Teignbridge Ranger led guided walks at Dawlish Warren and The Countryside Park gave insights into the birdlife, site history and plant species to be found there, and the Walking for Health groups enjoyed the chance to get out and exercise in coastal and local leafy lanes; the Foraging walk was very popular and the Harvest Trail in Cofton, Cockwood and Eastdon had interesting quirky exhibits to find along the way.

Information about action being taken to protect our South West Railway Line from climate change led sea level rise between Dawlish and Teignmouth, was given at the SW Rail Resilience Information Kiosk. Other positive actions that have made a difference in The Dawlish Great Big Green Week are the Litter pick on the Lawn by Churches Together, and the Town Litter pick and Beach Clean, organised by Dawlish Against Plastic.

The Dawlish and Teignmouth Camera Club held an open entry competition 'Saving the World, Saving Dawlish' with members' entries on display at The Dawlish Living Hub.

The Film 'Before the Flood' (2016) saw Leonardo di Caprio giving a strong message about why the Paris Agreement needs to be strengthened. The chance to make a difference requires commitment in 2021 from World Leaders in the forthcoming climate negotiations summit in Glasgow this November, following the meeting of wealthy G20 leaders.

Professor Tim Lenton of Exeter University, an expert in his field, gave an informative and important talk about the tipping points in interrelated environmental systems which could lead to climatic disaster if something is not done about them and the positive tipping points that he and his team have identified that make a difference- from Greta Thunberg and

the call for positive climate action from increasing and diverse voices, to community planting movements; the move to plant based diets; reducing consumption of resources; use of renewable energy instead of coal fired power; ethical investment away from fossil fuels; the development of a circular economy and regenerative agriculture.

Evidence of these kinds of positive actions could be seen in The Dawlish Great Big Green Week events: Soil improvement and productive vegetable growing was highlighted by Cliff Curd in his inspirational garden tours and talks, and at the Fair Trade Friends Afternoon Tea and concert, where a presentation by Sue Errington reminded the audience of the impact that richer nation caused global warming has on poorer people in developing countries and how supporting positive economic development through fair trade products does make a difference.

The 6th Dawlish Fix Fest Repair Cafe at The Manor House, saw reuse in action with hands on volunteers mending items that could otherwise have been thrown away. Taking action to reduce consumption through repair and reuse to increase the life of products has never been more important.

Positive changes are needed from all of us - moving away from reliance on fossil fuels. Now is the time to make positive choices if we are to have a sustainable future for us and future generations.

Sustainable Dawlish (Transition) would like to thank everyone who has supported The Great Big Green Week of Events in Dawlish including Dawlish Town Council, Teignbridge Councillors and our Devon County Councillor.

Carolyn Ballard, Chair Sustainable Dawlish (Transition)



18th September 2021

Great Big Green Week
Lawn Event

South Devon Singers

Professor Tim Lenton's
Talk

"Positive tipping points to
avoid climate tipping
points"



Chris Curd's Garden Talk
and Tour:

Getting the best produce
out of the garden



Walk This Way



Fair Trade Afternoon Tea



Fix Fest

