

* **Green Bullet**

26th July 2016

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to andyyuille@gmail.com - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/nwel-green-bullet) website.

**CPRE North West have kindly agreed to continue their support to enable the Green Bullet to be produced throughout 2016 – very many thanks!**

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***Campaigns***

**Climate change**

Depending on who you believe, tackling climate change will either provide the [thread of continuity](https://www.energyvoice.com/other-news/113295/brexit-will-not-disrupt-action-global-warning-says-un-climate-chief/) needed to guide the UK through Brexit, or will [become very much harder](http://www.edie.net/news/11/Leave-vote-makes-UK-s-transition-to-clean-energy-harder--say-experts/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20c6b38bc4bc-dailynewsletter). Positively, both [Andrea Leadsom](http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/leadsom-energy-policy-will-not-change-due-to-brexit/1257312#.V5YcFLgrLIU) and [Amber Rudd](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/amber-rudd-speech-to-the-business-climate-summit) in their old jobs at DECC gave assurances that the UK’s commitment to climate change action had not changed, although that was before the major reshuffle and the disappearance of the climate change department! And DECC-as-was also confirmed that they would adopt the Committee on Climate Change’s [5th carbon budget](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/what-fifth-carbon-budget-and-what-are-uks-next-steps), which sets a target for the UK’s emissions between 2028 and 2032 to be 57% below 1990 levels, a major step forwards. On the same day as this confirmation, the Committee released its [2016 progress report](https://www.theccc.org.uk/2016/06/30/good-progress-in-reducing-uk-emissions-will-not-continue-without-urgent-action-to-strengthen-policies/), saying that although progress was being made, urgent action was needed in the areas of heating, transport and low-carbon generation. They have also released their [Risk Assessment 2017](https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/) which details the evidence of the most urgent risks facing the UK, and suggests priorities for the next five years. The UK and Germany have been criticized by the UN for undermining the historic Paris agreement with their substantial [subsidies for fossil fuels](http://www.edie.net/news/9/UN-criticises-UK-and-Germany-for-betraying-Paris-climate-deal/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%206a7f67dabb-dailynewsletter), and National Grid has warned that the UK [is on track to miss its legally-binding target](http://fes.nationalgrid.com/fes-document/) to produce of 15% of all energy from renewables by 2020 – even under the most optimistic of four scenarios, it projects that 15% won’t be achieved until 2022 at the earliest. [New research](http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/13307/) shows that even if the Paris agreement is implemented in full, it still implies temperature rises of 2.6 – 3.1C. The Climate Coalition are planning a [week of action](https://weekofaction.org.uk/) around the country on October 8th-16th – join an event near you or create your own.

**Litter**

Do you see litter spoiling the town and countryside where you live? Litter picking groups and other organisations are transforming these places into pleasant places for people and wildlife. The Campaign to Protect Rural England [LitterAction](http://www.litteraction.org.uk/) website supports the growing number of individuals and community groups tackling litter problems across the UK. LitterAction demonstrates the brilliant contribution volunteers are making all over the country. Register your local action group, find other groups near you using their interactive map, read their blog or use the information pages for help on running a litter group and organising cleanups. There are 851 litter groups registered so far. Relatedly, recent research has shown increased public support for [charging for plastic carrier bags](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4306-public-behind-plastic-bag-charge-as-support-for-anti-litter-measure-increases).

***Information update***

**Governmental changes**

Well, what a busy month. We have a new [Prime Minister](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/theresa-may) and pretty much a new Government with big changes in all the key environment-related ministries. New Secretaries of State and Ministers are in place and you can see their portfolios at the bottom of the web pages for [Defra](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs), [Transport](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport), [Communities & Local Government](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government), [Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy), and [Brexit](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-exiting-the-european-union). Brexit is included here as the way that we co-operate with the rest of Europe over international environmental issues should form an important part of the exit negotiations - although the fact that this has barely been mentioned by any of the key players does not bode well and indicates a pressing need to push the issue up the political agenda!

The main good news that [climate change](https://news.google.co.in/news/more?ncl=dryw7OJHwPYA45MFgO8oRN9V5ruxM&authuser=0&ned=in) is clearly no longer much of a problem as the department dedicated to it has been disbanded. It will be tackled by the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in an as-yet non-specified manner - none of the new BEIS ministers have specific responsibilities yet, although as Secretary of State, [Greg Clark](https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/secretary-of-state-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy) is acknowledged as having overall responsibility for tackling climate change, as the fourth of his four overarching responsibilities. The new department “[brings together responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy, and climate change](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy/about)”, although its name rather suggests that science, innovation and climate change will be playing second fiddle to the interests of business and industry. However, they do have a pretty good ‘[Climate change explained](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained)’ page lifted from the DECC website.

Andrea Leadsom, the new Environment Secretary, admitted asking “is climate change real?” when she first arrived as a junior minister at DECC. She has [generally voted against measures to stop climate change](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/24829/andrea_leadsom/south_northamptonshire/divisions?policy=1030), repeatedly voting against setting a target on reducing carbon emissions, and backing levies on renewable energy providers. She has been strongly committed to de-regulating industry, supported selling off the public forests, has [advocated abolishing all farming subsidies](http://www.andrealeadsom.com/working-for-you/andrea%27s-blog/does-britain-need-its-own-farming-industry/64), and has recently suggested intensifying farming in lowland areas by [shifting nature](http://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/14639023.Leave_the_hills_to_butterflies/?ref=rl&lp=3) to the uplands. NGOs will of course have to work with her and so are generally reluctant to [be critical](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/20/brexiters-make-britain-countryside-like-kansas) at this point, but there does seem to be [some disquiet](http://www.edie.net/news/11/Concerns-mount-over-Andrea-Leadsom-s-suitability-for-environment-role/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%209eb026943a-dailynewsletter) at her appointment. Defra will be in the forefront of [developing new UK-specific policy](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36809570), with around 80% of its (farming and environmental) policy [deriving from Europe](http://www.edie.net/news/11/Environmental-policies-could-be--eroded--by-Brexit--the-green-business-reaction/).

Defra has announced that its 25 year plans for the environment and for farming have been [put on hold](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3696619/Government-deliver-25-year-environmental-plan-campaigners-urge.html) until next year at the earliest following the referendum result. However, they have said that they remain committed to developing a plan for nature and are [continuing with engagement](http://www.wcl.org.uk/25-year-strategy-for-nature.asp). Some experts have suggested that EU-based environmental protections are [likely to remain substantially in place](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/333/brexit_won_t_mean_bonfire_of_eu_green_regulations_insist_lawyers). Others argue that [NGOs and others](https://www.foe.co.uk/act/will-you-fight-keep-our-environment-protected?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=e9673ca209-LM1606047&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-e9673ca209-20757677) will need to exert significant [pressure](http://blueandgreentomorrow.com/2016/07/14/take-control-farming-food-fisheries-brexit-government-urged/) on Defra to ensure that environmental protection is not reduced as we leave the EU. There are [Governmental](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/140238) and [38 Degrees](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/secure-environmental-protections-gained-from-eu-membership) petitions calling for EU environmental protections to be retained. Concerns over how the UK will collaborate with the rest of Europe on key environmental issues post-Brexit abound, while the UN’s new environment chief has [called for continued close co-operation](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/06/un-calls-for-post-brexit-uk-to-link-with-eu-on-environment-policy) and supra-national decision making.

**Energy**

* The Government's cancellation of the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) competition could [cost the UK an additional £30bn to meet its 2050 carbon targets](https://www.nao.org.uk/report/sustainability-in-the-spending-review/), and is also likely to delay deployment of the technology until 2030, according to a report released by the National Audit Office (NAO).
* Friends of the Earth and Frack Free Ryedale have launched a [legal challenge against the decision to permit fracking](https://www.leighday.co.uk/News/News-2016/July-2016/Legal-action-launched-on-behalf-of-Frack-Free-Ryed) in North Yorkshire, while a 250 hectare open cast coal mine has been given permission in Northumberland
* Following a double U-turn, the Government has confirmed that it will restrict fracking in SSSI except in “wholly exceptional circumstances”. It originally ruled out drilling in SSSIs, then ruled this out as impractical, then re-proposed the restriction in last November’s consultation. In its [response to that consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/532428/Government_Response_Surface_Restrictions_for_Hydraulic_Fracturing.pdf) it confirms the restriction, although fracking under SSSIs where the wellpad is outside the protected area will be possible.
* Greg Clark’s final energy infrastructure decision as CLG Secretary of State was to r[efuse a four-turbine wind farm](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-at-agricultural-land-west-of-newark-road-hawton-newark-on-trent-ref-3003130-30-june-2016) in Nottinghamshire, against the advice of his Planning Inspector.
* The High Court has ruled that [councillors were misled about the impacts of a proposed solar farm](http://www.bailii.org/cgi-bin/format.cgi?doc=/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2016/1527.html&query=(R)+AND+(on)+AND+(the)+AND+(Application)+AND+(of)+AND+(Butler)+AND+(v)+AND+(East)+AND+(Dorset)+AND+(District)+AND+(Council)) on nearby heritage assets, overturning the planning permission granted.

**Planning**

* Cheshire East has been given permission to go to the Supreme Court to challenge the Court of Appeal’s ruling against them, which threatens to [undermine Green Belt](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/media_hub/media_releases/council-given-green-light-to-seek-landmark-supreme-court-ruling-to-protect-planning-powers.aspx) and any other policies protecting land from development.
* The new Planning and Housing Minister, Gavin Barwell, has said that the [response to the NPPF consultation](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2016-07-13.42707.h&s=barwell#g42707.r0) – and subsequent changes to the NPPF - will be delayed until the autumn.
* The CLG select committee has [published the responses](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/local-plans-expert-group-recommendations-16-17/publications/) to its inquiry into the local Plans Expert Group’s Recommendations, with the development industry broadly supporting them, while environmental organisations such as CPRE, the RSPB, the National Trust and Friends of the Earth raise serious criticisms, particularly around sustainability appraisal, the test of soundness, and public participation.
* Following last month’s publication of the [2014-based sub-national population projections](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014basedprojections), the latest [household projections to 2039](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-household-projections) have been released, which are the starting point for determining Local Plan housing numbers. They project that on average 210,000 households will form each year, far above current housebuilding levels. In the North West, the biggest changes have been significant increases in the projections for Manchester and Liverpool, and significant decreases for Bolton and Tameside.
* The impacts of Brexit on housing demand and household projections remains uncertain, with some experts predicting an increase and others a decrease, for a variety of different reasons, while the [construction industry](http://www.building.co.uk/what-a-brexit-means-for-construction/5082323.article) seems likely to be particularly hard-hit.
* The Secretary of State will continue to recover [appeals involving Neighbourhood Plans](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-07-07/HLWS74/) for another six months, but in more restricted circumstances: only where 25+ homes are proposed (as opposed to 10+ previously), and only where the Plan has been submitted to the Local Authority but not yet been ‘made’ or adopted.
* [New research by NLP](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/rise-in-approvals-by-communities-secretary-in-neighbourhood-plan-areas) suggests that since the election, there has been a huge increase in the number of appeals being allowed in cases that feature Neighbourhood Plans
* Liverpool risks [losing its World Heritage Site](http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/liverpool-collision-course-unesco-over-11615492) status by rejecting UNESCO’s request for a two-year moratorium within and in the buffer zone around the site.
* The CLG Select Committee has launched an inquiry into the [capacity of the construction industry](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/news-parliament-2015/homebuilding-launch-16-17/) to meet demand for housebuilding, including investigating why fewer homes are being built than are granted permission

**Waste**

* The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee has launched a new inquiry to establish the impacts of the [eight million tonnes of post-manufacturer food waste](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/food-waste-inquiry-16-17/) produced in the UK.
* As a whole, there is an ongoing movement to end poor trading practices by supermarkets across Europe. While France has [banned supermarkets from throwing away unsold food](http://www.dw.com/en/france-battles-food-waste-by-law/a-19148931) (forcing them to seek alternatives such as donating it to food banks or charities), MEPs have voted 600 to 48 to enforce laws that limit the amount of food waste being produced, and the European Parliament’s environmental committee has also [called for European food waste to be halved by 2030](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FNONSGML%2BCOMPARL%2BPE-580.497%2B01%2BDOC%2BPDF%2BV0%2F%2FEN).
* Meanwhile WRAP has launched a [five-point plan to improve food waste recycling](https://www.scribd.com/document/317685187/A-Food-Waste-Recycling-Action-Plan-for-England#from_embed) to tackle waste that cannot be prevented.

**Transport**

* The [National Audit Office](https://www.nao.org.uk/report/progress-with-preparations-for-high-speed-2/) has warned that the growth and regeneration benefits promised for HS2 are increasingly uncertain, and thata lot of work needs to be done on how HS2 services will complement or compete with other rail services, and how HS2 will interact with proposed improvements in the North, and that the schedule already seems to be slipping by a year. A new report from HS2 Ltd Chair David Higgins proposes [changes to the eastern branch](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-higgins-recommends-new-hs2-plans-for-south-yorkshire%20).
* Councils across England have been invited to apply for a share of £60m of new funding to support sustainable travel projects involving walking and cycling initiatives in local communities. The DfT’s [Sustainable Transport scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dft-launches-60-million-competition-to-support-sustainable-travel) will support projects over 3 years from 2017 to 2020; councils have until 9th September to apply.

***Publications***

**STOPPED – Why people oppose development**

A new report by the Centre for London analyses the reasons [why people oppose development](http://centreforlondon.org/publication/opposition-housing-developments/) and suggests ways to address these.

**Zero Carbon – Making It Happen**

The Centre for Alternative Technologies have published the initial findings of their ongoing [Make It Happen project](http://zerocarbonbritain.com/en/new-research), a multi-disciplinary investigation into the barriers to acting to tackle climate change engaging economics, psychology, sociology, community, history, politics, law, democracy, arts, culture, business & the media, as well as people working practically on the ground on renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport, food security and provenance, land-based projects, and more.

**National Ecosystem Assessment**

The Ecosystem Knowledge Network’s summer newsletter considers the position 5 years on from the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, [reviewing and critiquing progress](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/sites/default/files/newsletters/pdf/EKNnews13.pdf) made since then towards real on-the-ground outcomes and environmental and social improvements.

**Brexit: implications for the voluntary sector**

The full political, economic and social (as well as environmental!) consequences of the EU referendum will take some time to fully understand. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has published an [initial briefing](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/about_us/media-centre/implications-of-brexit-for-voluntary-sectory-28-june-2016.pdf) on the political landscape, funding and finance, social implications, regulatory change and the role of civil society. They are really interested in hearing what people have to say about this so please send any comments and/or evidence you may have to tell@ncvo.org.uk. [Locality](http://locality.org.uk/blog/policy-update-brexit-community-sector/) has produced a similar briefing for the community sector.

**Plate for the Planet**

Yet more evidence has emerged of young people’s willingness to reduce their meat consumption on environmental grounds. The research from [Plate for the Planet](http://platefortheplanet.com/) showed that nearly half of 16-19 year olds and 40% of 16-24s agree that a meat free diet, or one that involves eating less and better quality meat, is better for the environment. It follows a similar survey from WWF that showed one in five ‘millenials’ plan to eat less meat over the coming year.

**Garden cities in the Green Belt?**

The first paper from the International Garden Cities Institute, [Garden Cities – Why Not?](http://www.gardencitiesinstitute.com/sites/default/files/documents/garden_city_perspectives_final_web_1.pdf), says that the future of the green belt "is a crucial topic of national scale and importance" which "should be considered strategically at the national level, in ways that fully engage with communities rather than solely in a piecemeal and partial fashion". The report says that, through a national review "of the purpose and current extent of the green belt we could help to create a rational basis for locational decisions about new development including garden cities, garden towns and garden villages."

***Events***

**Post Paris Perspectives**

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and Greater Manchester’s Low Carbon Hub invite you to join them for an evening of talks, discussion and networking focused on [what the Paris Agreement means](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tyndall-centre-and-low-carbon-hubs-post-paris-perspectives-event-tickets-26243078755) for policy-makers, industry, NGOs and civil society on Monday 12th September at Manchester Town Hall, 5.30-8.30pm (registration from 5pm).

**Campaign for National Parks’ 80th Anniversary**

Saturday 30th July is the [80th anniversary](http://www.cnp.org.uk/80thbirthdaywalks) of the Campaign for National Parks in the UK. Join the celebration with events taking place in National Parks across the country!

**National Marine Week**

The UK's marine areas are home to amazing creatures from dolphins and basking sharks to brittle stars and fireworks anemones. Organised by The Wildlife Trusts, [National Marine Week](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/NationalMarineWeek2016) celebrates these marvellous animals and encourages us to go out and explore our local seashores, with events being organised up and down the North West coast from 23 July to 7 August (so actually rather more than a week!). The North West Wildlife Trusts are also running a new “[marine mudness](http://www.irishsea.org/news/2016/06/16/all-you-need-mud)” campaign to raise awareness of the wonders of the Irish Sea, to encourage people to support protected areas of sea and coast and to have fun in some muddy events.

**Save the Date – Valuing Nature Annual conference**

As part of the Valuing Nature Programme's aim to build interdisciplinary research capability with strong engagement of end users, the **Valuing Nature Annual Conference** will be held at the Town Hall in Manchester on Tuesday 18th October 2016. A varied programme will bring together researchers, practitioners, business and policy makers in a forum of key note presentations, discussion and activity workshops. Full details will be available soon from the [Valuing Nature Programme website](http://valuing-nature.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=82eea74c4d837492bb41ff662&id=06f68a8367&e=3ad86ab6e8).

***Resources***

**Natural Capital Protocol**

The [Natural Capital Protocol](http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/protocol/) is a framework designed to help generate trusted, credible, and actionable information for business managers to inform decisions. It aims to support better decisions by including how we interact with nature in the decision-making process.  It allows companies to measure, value and integrate natural capital into existing business processes.

**Free media and communications support**

The Media Trust works with the media industry to empower charities and communities to have a voice and be heard. They have 20 years of success creating communications solutions for charities and communities and work in alliance with the UK’s top media and communications companies. Charities and other voluntary organisations needing help with their media and communications activities can obtain support from the Media Trust in areas such as marketing and PR, branding and social media, filmmaking and photography. To sign up to the service, groups should visit the [Media Trust website](http://www.mediatrust.org/) and upload a ‘request’ for support.

**Sustainability freelancers**

Need help with issues around sustainability, the environment or earth sciences? Or is this your area of expertise? [SEESjobs](http://www.seesjobs.co.uk/) is the UK’s first website for sustainability freelancers, where they can advertise their areas of expertise and find part time, freelance and contract work. And where like-minded businesses can find the right talent fast!

**Urban meadows – for people and wildlife**

Access to nature is beneficial to human health and well-being, yet over 80% of the UK population now live in urban areas and experience nature as 'urban green infrastructure', a mosaic of greenspaces including parks, gardens and semi-natural areas. Replacing some mown grass areas with designed urban meadows has been shown to enhance the value of individual greenspaces for both people and wildlife. Local authorities and other organisations that are responsible for management of public space are in a position to make this change. [LWEC Policy and Practice Note no 32](http://www.relu.ac.uk/landbridge/LWEC%20PP%20Note%2032.pdf)draws on the latest research on the best approaches for local authorities and other public land managers – and those who want to lobby for changes to be introduced!

**Small Charities Coalition**

The Small Charities Coalition is a national umbrella and capacity-building organisation with over 7,000 members UK-wide. They help trustees, staff and volunteers of small charities access the [skills, tools, and information](http://www.smallcharities.org.uk/our-services/) they need through a range of programmes of support, advice, mentoring and matching.

**Neighbourhood Planning and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

A key stage in the neighbourhood planning process is determining whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This toolkit sets out how neighbourhood groups can conclude whether an SEA is required for their neighbourhood plan and the next steps it should take having decided this.

**(Kids are) Great outdoors in summer**

The Canal and Rivers Trust have produced a [free booklet](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/have-a-magical-summer) with summer activity ideas for children to help them reconnect with nature and avoid “[nature deficit disorder](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17495032)”.

***Consultations***

**Moorside nuclear power station**

The consultation on the proposed [new nuclear power station](https://nugenconsultation.com/) at Moorside in Cumbria, plus associated infrastructure, ends on July 30th. [Radiation Free Lakeland](https://mariannewildart.wordpress.com/2016/07/24/resistance-write-and-tell-nugen-the-only-shape-we-want-is-no-no-no-no-no-no-no-no-no-no-no/) are encouraging people to write in saying that the consultation is [flawed](https://mariannewildart.wordpress.com/2016/07/22/stop-moorside-spiked-consultation/).

***Funding***

**Celebrate!**

The Big Lottery Fund are offering grants of between £300 and £10,000 for groups to hold one off events or activities which [celebrate their local community](https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/celebrateuk), the places where they live and what makes them special.

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*To subscribe or contribute*

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North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

To contribute to the NWEL Bulletin, please contact:
Andy Yuille
andyyuille@gmail.com

01524 389 915

To contribute to the policy work of VSNW, please contact:
Warren Escadale
warren.escadale@vsnw.org.uk

0161 276 9307