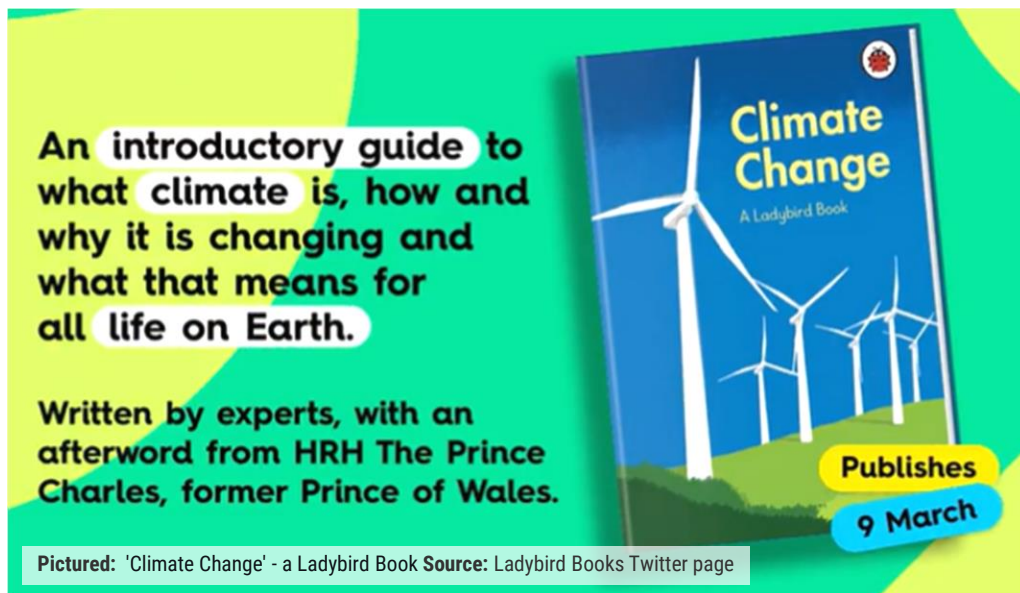


The King co-writes a children's book



Pictured: 'Climate Change' - a Ladybird Book Source: Ladybird Books Twitter page

King Charles III has co-written a children's book about climate change. The book explains what climate change is, how it works, discusses environmental threats to the planet, and hopes to encourage young people to take action. The book, published by Ladybird Books, is co-written by Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, and climate scientist Dr Emily Shuckburgh and has an afterward written by HRH The

Prince of Wales, before he became King. The aim of the book is to make the topic accessible for 7-11 year-olds. Tony Juniper, tweeted 'I do hope this little book that Dr Emily Shuckburgh & I worked on with the Former Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) will help young people gain an even more confident voice in shaping a sustainable future.'

Tiger twins

Two incredibly rare Sumatran tiger cubs have been born at Chester Zoo! The zoo recently announced that the yet to be named tiger cubs were born to first-time parents, Kasarna and Dash, on 7th January. It was also revealed that keepers have been recording the precious cubs' progress using hidden cameras. The zoo has shared footage from these recordings on their social media accounts to keep the public informed. The Sumatran tiger is critically endangered; there are thought to be only 350 living in the wild. The smallest subspecies of tiger is named after its native Indonesian island. The Sumatran tiger is able to camouflage itself in its tropical rainforest habitat as its stripes are closer together and its fur is a darker

orange than other types of tiger. 'We've been closely monitoring Kasarna on our CCTV cameras as she gets to grips with motherhood and her first litter of cubs. It's a real privilege and incredibly special to watch. She's a great mum and is being very attentive to her new babies, keeping them snuggled up in the den and feeding them every few hours. It won't be long until they gain enough confidence to start venturing outside for the very first time as a family, which is really exciting!', Dave Hall, Carnivore Team Manager, said on the zoo's website. Experts think that the cubs will venture outside their den in early April and then the zoo will be able to find out their sexes, discover more about them and give them names.

Do you know any interesting tiger trivia?



Pictured: Sumatran tiger, Kasarna and her cubs Source: Chester Zoo Twitter page

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Mush-room for improvement



Pictured: People having a surfing lesson. **Source:** Canva

Steve Davies, from Porthcawl on the south coast of Wales, has designed a new kind of surfboard, grown using mushrooms! He hopes that the environmentally positive surfboard will help make surfing kinder to the environment by cutting down on the number of non biodegradable plastic surfboards produced every year – currently it's around 400,000! The former Cardiff Metropolitan University design student thought up the idea during his final year, with his aim to make the sport more sustainable. He is experimenting now by growing mushrooms and using their mycelium roots to form a polystyrene-like material for the base of the surfboard.

The boards would then need to be coated in organic sealants like bees wax and linseed oil. 'It sounds a little bit crazy, but it's a way to get away from polystyrene, polyurethane and resin boards that can sit in landfill and not decompose for hundreds to thousands of years,' Mr Davies said. 'In the right conditions, we will grow a mycelium board in around 21 days. The dream would be to make it the new norm. Connecting with nature would be the new design rules and a lot of things like that would be really cool. We're using the sea, we should give back to the sea and it should be a circular model.'

Last week's topic:

Should everyone have access to a mode of transport?

Only if you can pay for it and fund it, otherwise - who will pay for it?
Philip



Yes, I think everyone should have a way to get around.
Harry

I think it's important to have alternatives to cars as it's better for the environment. Renting bikes is a great idea!
Julie

Yes - because it's fun and a good way to get around! It's not fair if just adults have transport if children don't!
Emily

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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TAKEHOME



Could you do more to protect your local area?



In the news this week

It has been suggested that the number of hazel dormice in the UK has dropped from around 3.5 million to only 750,000 in almost 30 years. Currently, their conservation status is classed as 'vulnerable', but some researchers say people should be more worried for them. A recent report from the University of Exeter urges for hazel dormice to be reclassified as 'endangered' and calls for more conservation action.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Describe your local area to someone older. Ask them to share details about their local area from when they were younger. Was it different?
- Talk about different places e.g., the countryside, cities. How can people who live in each take greater care of local habitats?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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