



# Wild About Barrow

December 2021

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## COP 26: The outcome

After much protesting by people young and old from around the world and long negotiations from representatives what is the outcome of COP26?

- US and China will work together to achieve the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C, underlining the seriousness of the climate crisis. This may influence other countries to take more effective action.
- Some big emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> including the EU and UK plan to significantly cut emissions by 2030. Others upped their ambitions but their emissions will still rise this decade while many such as Australia and Brazil didn't improve their plans.
- 0.3°C has been shaved off predicted world temperature increase and we are now heading for a 2.4°C increase from pre industrial times instead of a 2.7°C rise.
- Alok Sharma, COP26 president, said that the 1.5°C goal is 'hanging by a thread'.
- Paragraph 29 of the new Glasgow Climate Pact importantly requests countries to submit stronger plans next year to cut emissions by 2030 and these must be aligned with the 1.5°C target.
- Negotiators set a precedent by directly referring to coal and fossil fuel subsidies in the final agreement. It is staggering that for 25 years the major cause of global warming has not been named in an agreement. This will send a powerful signal to investors and give them confidence to back this change.
- A pledge to double the money given to help lower-income countries adapt to climate change was one of many successes of the Conference.

There are many aspects to climate change and our lives are inextricably bound up with carbon emitting processes so it is incredibly difficult to reach worldwide agreements. As Ed Miliband said "I don't think – apart from Alok Sharma – anyone in government understood how complicated this thing is." However, failure is not an option, governments must now translate policies into action.

## Why does climate change matter to us here in Barrow

Well, here are 4 reasons:

Non-native species from warmer areas such as Himalayan balsam, will be able to survive here and as they often do not have any natural predators they become invasive, pushing out our native flora and fauna.

We rely on bees to pollinate over 66% of our food and changing climate affects their survival.

Pests and diseases will take hold. Xylella, for example, is a serious plant pathogen which likes warm conditions and although strict regulations are in place to prevent it arriving, if it does come, it will be more likely to survive.

More erratic weather and unreliable seasons make it harder for bees, blue tits and chaffinches to nest and feed. They time their egg hatching to coincide with the emergence of caterpillars but if weather conditions change the two will not be synchronous, as happened this year.

Tell ~~Wild About Barrow~~ other reasons at [Wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com](mailto:Wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com)

We can all make a difference, though. If we all make small everyday choices to lower our carbon footprint, that's 7 billion steps to save the planet!

## Wild Celebration December

A slight festive touch to the celebration this month with 'The holly and the ivy', Old man's beard and the Yarrow which has the colloquial name in Northumberland of Old Man's Baccy (but surely Santa doesn't smoke?)



Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)



Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera periclymenum*)



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*)



Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Honeysuckle turns dark yellow when it has been fertilized and the flower shown above still smelt heavenly at the time it was photographed.

Because holly and ivy are both evergreen, they became important symbols during winter.

## Ivy

The ivy dome shown has immature fruit and the remains of the style can be seen as a point on the end of the fruit. It will turn from green to yellow, red, purple and finally black.

The berries, being fat rich, are highly nutritious to a range of birds and insects throughout winter and early spring. When there is little other food in autumn, the flowers are an important source of nectar for flying butterflies such as the red admiral and moths. This climber also provides roosting sites for bats and birds and a home for hibernating insects.

A study by Sussex University in 2013 found that during September and October the majority of pollen pellets collected by honey bees were from ivy thus showing how significant this plant is.

Ivy is not parasitic, having its own root system and aerial rootlets which attach strongly but superficially. The Woodland Trust states that it is not indicative of an unhealthy tree and doesn't create a tree-safety issue.

Studies have also shown ivy to be beneficial to buildings and reduce air pollution. With its enormous benefit to wildlife opinions about this climber are changing.

**What have you seen?** Send your pictures to [wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com](mailto:wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com), post on Barrow in Bloom Facebook page or to 15 Ennerdale Road for inclusion next month. There's no need to identify, we'll try to do that. Just tell us where you saw it so we can look first hand.

## What to see

1. Look out for **migrating birds** such as waxwings, redwings from Scandinavia and fieldfares. Waxwings are attractive starling-sized birds with an upstanding pointed crest. All 3 birds like eating berries so if you have any in your garden you may be in for a treat.
2. **Spot the flowers** that are still putting on a show this month. Send the photos to [Wildaboutbarrow.com!](http://Wildaboutbarrow.com)
3. Look out for **starling 'murmurations'** where gatherings of birds swoop through the sky together before settling down to roost for the night. Groups of tens of starlings can be seen performing in the village at dusk.

## What to do

1. **Buy nature friendly gifts** such as bird feeders or nest boxes, hedgehog homes or bug hotels.
2. **A kid's microscope** will open up a whole new world for your youngsters – and the not so young after an afternoon scavenging for things of interest in the wild.
3. Treat yourself to a **years' subscription** to a wildlife magazine. As an RSPB or WWF member you would receive 4 issues a year, both of which cover all kinds of wildlife.
4. Keep any kind of **netting above ground level** to prevent wildlife becoming tangled up in it.

*Think global: Act local*