

# March 2022 Newsletter

## AIR POLLUTION THEME OF THE MONTH: FAITH NETWORK



### *In this issue:*

- > The launch of Sandwell's Faith Centre Network
- > Over 400 trees planted at Oldbury's Balaji Temple- and how you can get your own
- > How you can contribute to reducing local air pollution
- > Sandwell Council's Climate Change grants being launched in April
- > How to find the dashboard to view the data yourself!

### Tree Planting at the Balaji Temple

The [Shri Venkateswara](#) Balaji Temple in Tividale, Oldbury, have planted some of the 500 trees they successfully applied for from the Woodland Trust. On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, Sandwell Council's Public Health team, Cabinet, Royal British Legion, and local schoolchildren from The Meadows, Tividale Community Primary School, and Recovery College came together to plant some of the trees. Trees are an integral part of reducing both air pollution and adapting to the effects of climate change. Please see last month's newsletter for more information about how trees help in the fight against air pollution.



A big thank you to Public Health Development Officer Nicky Taylor for putting together the day. Nicky has also created some beautiful certificates for the children who took part, which can be printed from the last page of this newsletter.

#### **How can I get free trees for my community group or school?**

The Woodland Trust offer free trees for schools and communities. Applications for the next planting season open in Spring 2022. To apply, all you need is the six-digit grid reference for the land you



wish to plant, have permission from the landowner and to read their quick FAQs! You can find more details on their [webpage](#).

## How you can contribute to reducing local air pollution?

Here are a few of our team's suggestions:

- In general, everyone who can, should try to reduce their contribution to air pollution by walking or cycling rather than taking a car, particularly for short trips. This will reduce emissions and keep you active too. You could also consider using public transport or sharing a car.
- If your children attend a local school, consider methods to raise awareness of air pollution at the same time as reducing levels, such as anti-idling zones, car sharing or [park and stride scheme](#).
- If you're considering buying a car, look at its nitrogen dioxide emissions and [check the real world emissions](#) for that car. Avoid buying diesel cars. Buying a hybrid or electric vehicle will also help to cut down your emissions.
- If you have a car, ensure it's serviced regularly to minimise its contribution to air pollution. If you have a diesel car, make sure the diesel particulate filter is maintained and emptied regularly.
- Check your tyres regularly, by keeping your tyres inflated to the car manufacturer's recommendations will make it more efficient and use less fuel. So you'll create less pollution and save money on fuel too.
- Only use approved wood burners/biomass boilers. Log burning stoves look great but did you know that burning wood produces a lot of air pollutants. To minimise this always buy a Defra approved stove, use authorised fuel and try to only light it when really needed.
- Keep your boiler servicing up to date - having your central heating boiler serviced regularly makes sure it runs as efficiently and safely as possible. This can reduce the pollutants produced when running.
- Improve your home's energy efficiency - burning fossil fuels to heat our homes or to generate electricity are major sources of air pollution as well as being costly. We can do lots of things to reduce our energy use, switch off lights when not needed, boil the kettle with just the water you need, run the washing machine or dishwasher only when they are fully loaded, install energy-efficient appliances and lightbulbs and draught-proofing windows are just a few ideas.

- Choose your electricity supplier carefully, and if possible chose an electricity supplier that uses renewable energy helps to reduce the pollution created by power generation.

## Did you know?

Many diesel cars produce more nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter than petrol ones.

The extent depends on the age and model (Euro standard) of the car. On average, compared to the petrol model:

- Euro 4 (2005) diesel cars produce over 3 times more NO<sub>2</sub>
- Euro 5 (2009) produce 3 times as much
- Euro 6 (2014) produce 25% more than their petrol equivalents

In 2016 a government report found diesel vehicles tended to have higher NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the real world, in some cases 10 times as high.

## Sandwell Council's Climate Change Grants

New grants for community groups are available for climate change projects from April 2022. Free training sessions about what climate change is, and how to have climate change conversations, is available as part of the grants as well. Find out more about these grants from Sandwell Community Voluntary Organisation (SCVO) <https://www.scvo.info/>.



Sandwell's Air Quality Dashboard is now showing real-time air pollution data from a Faith Centre near you!

You can access this dashboard yourself by going to this webpage:

<https://portal.earthsense.co.uk/SandwellPublic>. The link is also available on Sandwell's Faith Centre Air Quality [project webpage](#). Each faith centre also has a TV screen to display the dashboard for everyone to see when entering their building.

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If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact a member of the Air Quality team via [pollution\\_control@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:pollution_control@sandwell.gov.uk). The content of this email is correct at time of circulation.

Spring 2022

Certificate of Participation

# I TOOK PART IN TREE PLANTING AT THE BALAJI TEMPLE

**I made a difference to our planet!**

