



DDE Newsletter No. 309

Climate Crisis – Climate Justice

Could Santa Marta climate talks mark ground zero in push to ditch fossil fuels? Colombia hosted nearly 60 countries at pivotal time on world stage for fight to transition to a clean energy future. [Read more ...](#)

Somalia hunger crisis worsens as drought displaces more than 500,000 people. In Somalia, displaced communities face starvation as humanitarian funds decrease, leaving them without assistance or hope. [Read more ...](#)

What women's work songs reveal about the changing climate. [Read more ...](#)

How climate change threatens the economic backbone of the Pacific. The vast Pacific Ocean and the islands dotted within it produce more than half of the world's tuna. [Read more ...](#)

Other News

Uganda copying Russia and China with new bill designed to crush dissent, say critics. New law proposes up to 20 years in prison for promoting 'foreign interests' and restricts those who work with or are funded by overseas partners. [Read more ...](#)

Press freedom worldwide falls to its lowest level in 25 years. Reporters Without Borders warns that 'journalism is increasingly criminalised worldwide'. [Read more ...](#)

A nation built on pan-African principles faces questions about racism. Zambia likes to pride itself as being at the forefront of African ... racism remains a problem in the country more than 60 years after independence from the UK. [Read more ...](#)

'Cries of delight' as Sumatran orangutan filmed using canopy bridge to cross road for first time. After a two-year wait, video of a young male crossing above a road gives hope that critically endangered species can survive habitat fragmentation. [Read more ...](#)

Inside the 'miracle' drug rollout that could end Aids ... reports from Eswatini, southern Africa, where there is hope that the pandemic could be brought to an end. [Read more ...](#)

Websites...

Records from **City Nature Challenge 2026** in Exeter run over the weekend of the 24th-27th April recording wildlife in the city. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2026-exeter>

Books ...

Josephine Baker's Secret War: The African American Star Who Fought for France and Freedom Hardcover by Hanna Diamond. [Details ...](#)

Topics discussed at Thursday's World at Lunch

Jamaica's J\$35-billion congestion problem. [Read more ...](#)

Supreme Court weakens the Voting Rights Act and aids GOP efforts to control the House. [Read more ...](#)

Japan's New Care Workers: Bodybuilders, Wrestlers and M.M.A. Fighters. Young athletes are being recruited to plug a staff shortage in Japan's nursing homes. The results are reshaping elder care. [Read more ...](#)

MPs who opposed assisted dying seek to revive bill in face of Lords filibustering. Anger at peers' delaying tactics could result in 150 MPs reintroducing it to the Commons. [Read more ...](#)

President has been roy-ally humiliated on his own turf. [Read more ...](#)

Trump green lights a psychotropic gold rush in the jungles of Gabon. The African nation is being asked to grant the US access to a hallucinogen that can banish opioid addiction and could heal the Maga rift. [Read more ...](#)

Local news ...

Exeter University top of table in SDG Teach In, an annual campaign which calls upon educators worldwide to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their teaching, training, and learning. [Read more ...](#)

Explore UNESCO South West Trails ... These are landscapes and landmarks that tell the story of humanity, nature, and our relationship with the planet. [Read more ...](#)

'Tipping point' to electric vehicles reached in Europe and China ... has triggered an irreversible shift away from their petrol and diesel-powered equivalents. [Read more ...](#)

Ashburton casts a spell as witches and writers gather for folklore festival. Myth, ritual and community are drawing new energy and believers to Devon town on edge of Dartmoor. [Read more ...](#)

BBC responds to interest in Cornish with new language podcast. Learn Cornish launched few months after language given new level of protection. [Read more ...](#)

Things to do ...

Thursday 30th April to Thursday 30th July *India on the Line*. This unique display, curated by University of Exeter PhD student Shibani Das, reveals the fascinating and complex history of telecommunications in India from 1856 to 1947. [Details ...](#)

Venue: Arts and Culture Display Space, West Wing Foyer, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, EX4 4QH

Saturday 7th June 11am to 4pm **Exeter Quay** *The Book Market* [Details ...](#)

Tuesday 16th June 7:30pm **Northcott Theatre** *Us Folk* A powerful dance and music experience, *Us Folk* explores what folk culture can teach us about today's shared challenges. [Details ...](#)

Campaigns ...

Rainforest Rescue: Ecuador: Stop criminalizing environmental defenders! ... bank accounts are being frozen without evidence, hearings, or due process. Environmental groups and individuals are left unable to pay salaries, buy food, or see a doctor. [Petition ...](#)

Campaign Updates ...

Amnesty: Palantir manifesto described as 'ramblings of a supervillain' amid UK contract fears. Alarm caused by posts of Alex Karp, tech firm's CEO, championing US military dominance and of AI weapons. [Read more ...](#)

Electoral Reform Society: Exploring the franchise: Who can vote in UK elections? [Read more ...](#)

The Equality Trust: In the UK around 14 million people in poverty pay extra costs for essentials such as energy, credit and insurance. This is the poverty premium. [Read more ...](#)

River Action: 2025 Impact Report. [Read ...](#)

River Action: First court hearing for River Wye pollution claim. [Read more ...](#)

International Tree Foundation: How we're protecting threatened trees Kenya is home to around 1,100 native tree species. Yet today, nearly 10% of them are threatened with extinction. [Read more ...](#)