

### **Frozen Planet III**

And now..... a BBC trailer featuring Sir David Attenborough:

D A: In this new series I shall be exploring what it is like to face extreme hardship in the depths of a cold winter now looming. I travel to the North to investigate how the indigenous creatures and plant life of the Yorkshire Tundra survive when the thermometer hits zero and they cannot afford their energy bills, and to the south as far as humans can go to see what life is like in places like Brighton and The Isle of Wight when benefits are cut and bills rise. I met some trees just outside Stoke-on-Trent and one of them told me,

Tree: (Species unspecified but might have been a larch. Difficult to tell as it was wearing a big overcoat.) It was so hot in the Summer that I lost all my leaves and now it is freezing cold and I wish I still had those leaves but it is too late in the year to grow any more. I've got no leaves saved up and it's causing me a lot of stress.

D A: I speak to a polar bear who wishes to remain anonymous, and is waiting to receive his £400 energy discount whilst a typical bear family with 2 cubs will see their annual household bills rise by £2500 from the start of October,

Polar Bear: I can go for weeks out there with no food. I am skating on thin ice and despite so called global warming believe me it is bitter here in the middle of a British Winter. By next Spring my annual household energy bill could be £4000. I do not have a degree in economics but even I can see the maths simply do not add up.

D A: I came across a colony of puffins. A spokesperson for the puffin community told me,

A spokesperson for the puffin community: 'There are scammers out there trying to get our bank details to syphon off the payments which will never reach us. And have you seen the price of fish? We now have to eat it raw because we cannot afford to cook it any more'.

DA: A couple of seals struggling to make ends meet commented to me,

Seal 1: We are on Universal Credit and Jobseekers Allowance and we would love to work but there just aren't any jobs for seals.

Seal 2: We received a first payment of £326 in July but nothing since and with the cost of food going up by 12% year on year we can no longer afford the chips to go with the fish.

Seal 1 And we take cold baths because we can't heat the water.

D A: Snowy owls, narwhals, killer whales and Arctic monkeys have all reported similar difficulties and are fearful of the long cold dark nights (in case you haven't noticed clocks went back on Sunday) when they will be too frightened to turn on an electric blanket or roast a penguin. I came across a lone reindeer who told me,

Reindeer: I am on my own because I can't afford to start a family. Those who don't live on the extremes have no idea what it is like. Frankly I am not looking forward to Christmas. They ought to swop Westminster for the Antarctic and then see how they like it.

DA: And finally I asked a snow leopard, huddled in a blanket and clutching a Thermos flask, if she thought the new Prime Minister could make a difference to the current energy

crisis. She replied with a shrug of resignation,

Snow Leopard: Brexit, Covid, the NHS, strikes, the Northern Ireland Protocol-don't ask me what that one is about-Putin's war in Ukraine, the time we have wasted recently on daft fiscal thinking..... I used to be a nice orange colour with dark spots but I have gone white overnight with all the worry.

D A: So, join me, David Attenborough, 8pm this evening for 'Living on the Edge .... of a Cliff . How to survive until the next General Election'.

Please note: no animals or humans were harmed in the writing of this piece but both face very real threats of one kind or another that we must address urgently.