

WIRRAL EVERGREEN



Issue 14 Winter/Spring 2010

The magazine of Wirral Environmental Network
Promoting Wirral's environment and sustainable living

What a Wonderful Winter Green Fayre!



I was so very impressed by all the stalls full of cakes, jewellery, plants and books, etc., all with a slightly different theme. It was a marvellous opportunity for people to buy "green gifts" as well as locally produced crafts and at the same time to learn about green issues.

The words of Councillor Leah Fraser, who kindly opened our Winter Green Fair at St. Mary's College in Wallasey in November. This was a venue we had not tried before and it was absolutely huge, allowing us to fit in more stalls than usual. We were also fortunate to get locally-based West African music band *Ibro Soumah*.

The excellent job of organisation was done by our very own Suzi Turnock, without whom it would just not have happened. Overall we had about 160 people through the door, which in a smaller venue would have been rather crowded, but spread over the day worked well. Our thanks go also to all our sponsors, including John Lewis, Chester Zoo and Telegraph Inn, who all donated some top-quality raffle prizes.



The BIG "Thank You" really must go to Unilever, who, through "Green Machine" funding, ably managed by the Community

Foundation for Merseyside, gave us a grant of £346, without which we would simply not have had the money to start even planning on the event.



So what about the next Green Fair? This all depends on time and finances, neither of which we have an ample sufficiency of at present, but watch this space.....

WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Stork, Price Street, Birkenhead.
WEDNESDAY 21st APRIL 2010,
7.30pm

Full agenda on page 7



Kind sponsors of Evergreen, please see the back cover for further information on some of VCA Wirral's good work or contact the Admin Team on 0151 643 7275 or email info@vcawirral.org.uk

We do not inherit the world from our parents. We borrow it from our grandchildren.

EASTER ARRANGEMENTS WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

REPAINT

Summer hours (1-5) on Monday 29 and
Wednesday 31 March
Then closed until 1pm Friday 9 April

OFFICE

Closes 5pm Wednesday 31 March
Reopens 9 am Friday 9 April

WEN's premises are used for gardening classes run by Carol Seery and funded by Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service. Following a recent OFSTED inspection, we were delighted to learn that Carol's classes,

and the gardening facilities on the premises, were judged to be outstanding - which is as good as it gets! The project has also been short-listed for inclusion in national examples of best practice. Congratulations!

Fairtrade Supporters Conference—By Cheryl Buxton-Sait

I was just one of 400 keen Fairtrade supporters who packed into the auditorium at the Fairtrade Supporter's Conference in London in October to hear Douglas Alexander announce that the UK Government were giving £12 million to the Fairtrade foundation to support Fairtrade producers in achieving Fairtrade status.

'The announcement is very timely on the fifteenth anniversary of the Fairtrade Foundation and is a fitting tribute to how innovative producers, campaigners and businesses have created the most dynamic movement for better, fairer trade' said Harriet Lamb, Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation.

There seemed to be an atmosphere of celebration and general buzz around the place as we heard that, despite the recession, sales of Fairtrade had risen by 43% in the UK. As a Fairtrade campaigner and climate change activist one of the areas of discussion that particularly interested me was the publication of the Fairtrade Foundation's discussion paper,

'Egalite, fraternite, sustainabilite, why the climate revolution must be a fair revolution' Many people hold the misconception that Fairtrade products have a large carbon footprint because of air freight. In fact Fairtrade flowers are the only product to be routinely transported by air. All other Fairtrade certified products are shipped, not flown. Per mile, international shipping emits less carbon than trucking within the UK.

The 'buy local' argument is often used frequently too. Whilst buying in season from

sustainable local producers can be a very positive way of reducing impact on the climate, it's important to consider not just where a product comes from, but how it has been produced, including use of land, chemicals, hothouses or natural resources. Research has shown that a flower grown in Kenya and flown into the UK emits five times less carbon than one that has been industrially hot-housed in the Netherlands! Many everyday items such as sugar cane, cotton, bananas, cocoa, coffee and tea are grown in tropical climates of developing countries with minimal use of carbon-producing energy.

So as climate activists we can still eat our bars of Fairtrade chocolate with a clear conscience. Now where did I put that bar of Green and Blacks ☺

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/news_events_and_urgent_actions/supporter_conference_follow_up.aspx

At present we have no Fairtrade worker in post as the funding has almost run out. We are working hard to identify possible funders but the less of us there are the less time we have to do this - it's a downward spiral. Add to this the fact that the schools material for use in Fairtrade Fortnight did not arrive until the first day of that fortnight itself, and it's all been something of a nightmare. We do have resources we can loan or copy on request, and as soon as we manage to get funding for another FT worker we will put it on our website. WWW.la21.net

RePainting the World

Now that we own the containers ourselves, we have been able to spruce them up by removing the rather military-looking lettering and code numbers and replacing them with both the RePaint and the Riverside logos. The inside of the four doors, currently large boring metal panels, will be emblazoned with attractive murals later this year (as soon as the weather is warm enough!) by Zap Graffiti Arts, one of our RePaint members, in return for a year's free membership, barter being possibly the oldest form of trading known to man!

WEN has a long history of 'spawning' projects and after just 3 years 3 months it was felt that RePaint had come of age enough to be an independent project run by Jim on a 'supported self-employed' basis.

There will be some positive changes for clients - the service offered and the donation requested will stay the same, but hopefully we will be able to slightly extend the summer hours to allow working people to get to us while we are open - remember weekends are possible by appointment, too!

Another additional service is that Jim is now able to offer illustrated talks to interested groups, with slides, leaflets and - sometimes! - free sample "tester pots", when available. The talk will last about 30 minutes and there is a charge of £40 to include all equipment, travel, etc. (£50 outside Wirral)

For times and availability, along with details of all the Wirral History talks that Jim already offers, ring him on 639.2121 or 632.2047

A World of Difference



WEN Volunteer and Trustee, Suzi Turnock, has won a competition with The Vodafone Foundation World of Difference Programme UK. She is one of 500 people chosen to work with their

favourite charity for two months. Suzi has followed her passion and is working for the Sumatran Orangutan Society, based in Oxford, for the next two months.

"I was so thrilled when I found out I had won a placement with Vodafone World of Difference UK. For the past few years I have been doing various voluntary work with primate conservation organisations so to get the opportunity to do paid work for two months, is absolutely amazing. To get paid for something I love is a dream!" - Suzi

If you want to find out more about what Suzi is doing you can follow her blog: <http://worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/uk/suzanne-turnock/>

Transition Town West Kirby update

Transition Town West Kirby have been busy as usual for the past year, with film showings, health events, increasing the West Kirby garden orchard scheme and a Lantern Parade through West Kirby.

They are informing and empowering people to take up Bee Keeping, keep chickens, reduce their energy costs, and understand renewable technology amongst many other things. Their website now contains many useful resources including a local shopping guide for all your local and fair-trade needs and some great recipe guides.

Since becoming the first Northern Transition Town, West Kirby has helped and supported many other local towns achieve Transition Town Status, with the latest being Eastham.

www.transitiontownwestkirby.org.uk



New Ferry Butterfly Park By Hilary Ash

On Monday 1st Feb, Cheshire Wildlife Trust sought an injunction in Birkenhead County Court against Brock plc and their associated companies, to prevent damage to the Butterfly Park.

The outcome was a legal undertaking by Brock plc etc. not to damage the Park while they seek a Court Order to get the lease terminated and evict us from the park. That has to go to Chancery Court in Liverpool and will take 15-16 weeks to get heard - which gives the Compulsory Purchase Order time to get some considerable way down its track.

Heave a sigh of relief for the immediate future, continue to pray for the medium term. The longer the courts take and the faster Wirral MBC manage to move the better! Wirral MBC has appointed legal counsel for the CPO and is proceeding as fast as it can.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the New Ferry Butterfly Park. You can find out more about the Butterfly Park at http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/res_new_ferry.htm

SCHOOL CHILDREN HELP CONSERVE RARE TREE

Irby Primary School pupils are doing their bit to help Britain's rarest timber tree, the native black poplar. In January they planted 13 young trees in their school grounds, with help from Wirral Tree Wardens. The young trees have been raised from Wirral and Cheshire stock by members of the Cheshire Black Poplar Biodiversity Action Group.

Mrs Joan Sheery, from Irby Primary School, said "We are pleased to plant these trees in our grounds, where they have room to grow to maturity. As well as helping local wildlife, they will in future provide much-needed shade for pupils and staff when out of doors."

Native Black Poplar has become rare because its natural habitat, unaltered river flood plains, is now in short supply in Britain.

Wirral has about 70 trees, but most are elderly, so it is important to plant new stock to replace them. All those found so far in Wirral Borough are male, though female hybrids do occur.



Wirral's Black Poplars grow mostly in gardens, but one is very visible along the Upton Bypass, on the Cricket Club fence just behind their nets. This is quite a short tree compared to many Cheshire specimens, but shows the gnarled bark, red catkins in April, and habit of growing slanting. For pictures and more information, see www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk.

Wirral Countryside Volunteers

Following a work day at the end of January in Thornton Wood at Heavy Oak Coppice, Wirral Countryside Volunteers cropped the last of the hazel stakes, and removed the last of the coppice residue, using it to enjoying a Bonfire and campfire cuisine.

They are still continuing with their Alder sapling planting project as well as the sycamore removal.

Alder trees form part of the notable features of Thornton Wood mainly because of the associated moths namely dingy shell and small yellow wave, these species are very local in Cheshire.

On Saturday the 24th of April Wirral Wildlife will be paying the woods a visit the first time in 13 years ! If you wish to join them please meet at Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road (GR SJ 328 813) at 10.30

If you would like to join WCVs at any of their task days or other events, please feel free to check for details www.merseyworld.com/wcv

What to bring: your enthusiasm, your friends, stout footwear, working gloves, waterproofs & lunch.

Want to know more...?

Email jpl@liv.ac.uk or call Paul 645 8937 or Allan 653 0956

Friends of the Ferries— By Joan Roberts

'Friends of the Ferries' was formed in 1977 as a result of a proposal by the then M.P.T.A. to close the ferry service from Woodside. A group of dedicated travellers (including Mr Gordon Lindsay, Mayor of Wirral in 1985/86 and our Hon. President) decided to take action. As a bill had been passed by the Parliamentary examiners stage and the second reading was set to take place on the 24th of March by Eric Ogden M.P. For West Derby. Fortunately, this bill was 'talked out' by Sir David Hunt M.P. for the Wirral in a speech lasting nearly three hours.

The ferries were granted a Royal Charter in 1330 by King Edward III, which gave the Benedictine monks at Monks Ferry and their successors the right to carry 'Men, Horses

and all other things whatsoever' across the Mersey forever. This royal charter still stands.

We now have over 700 members, not only here on Merseyside, but throughout the United Kingdom and World-Wide. Members receive two newsletters every year and there is a Christmas draw with Marks & Spencer's vouchers as the prizes. Our most popular event is the Annual Docks and River Cruise normally held in June.

We have many interesting sales items— postcards; prints; books etc. But our star sellers are Don Woods DVD "A Mersey Cruise" and a CD entitled "Songs of the River"

For further information, please call 639 1435

The Eco-Congregation Story—By Jim O'Neil

Eco-Congregation developed from a partnership between the Government funded environmental charity ENCAMS (which runs the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign and the Going for Green brand) and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It aims to encourage churches to consider environmental issues within a Christian context and enable local churches to make positive contributions in their life and mission. In March 2002 the first Eco-Congregation Award was given to Evesham Methodist Church. Two years later in March 2004 the number of Award winning churches had grown to 36. By the end of 2006 there were over 100 Award winning churches in Britain & Ireland. and in March 2007 came under the management of A Rocha UK.

Participating churches are drawn from a variety of denominations and here in Wirral my own Church, Hoylake-with-Meols U.R.C., with an initial boost from Dr Hilary Ash of Eastham U.R.C., started on the process in 2009. Our initial survey showed that we were already part-way along the road, as we are a Fairtrade church, we recycle all our own waste, and we buy locally as much as possible.

There is still a long way to go and it won't all be easy – for example, when the Church was

built in the 1960's the latest technology in the form of lighting/heating elements was installed; today the parts to repair that technology are available from only one source and at some time we will have to replace them all with more energy-efficient equipment. Working on the principle of 'Think Global, Act Local' we are now increasing our recycling efforts and have added used stamps, household batteries, unwanted spectacles and Tetrapaks to the items we handle ourselves. Another item we are considering is secondary double-glazing, as the cost and effort of replacing the windows is out of the question at the moment.

It's not going to be easy and it's not going to be quick, but it will consider every aspect of Church life, from building to pastoral care to worship to musical instruments to, well you get the idea!

For more information on Eco-congregation see <http://ew.ecocongregation.org/>



Everyclick– Charity begins at home (or the office)

Remember, you can help WEN raise money by searching the internet. Simply go to Everyclick.com and sign up to give to WEN every time you search the web. They also have an e-card scheme which runs during all the festive holidays also you can chose to send your cards supporting WEN for Easter and Christmas.

Why not try saving paper through the year

and send E-cards to those you love.

You can also donate through eBay's charity giving scheme as WEN is registered there too.

Thank you to everyone who has taken a fundraising box to their local shop or, alternatively, are using it as the pound a week saving for their yearly RePaint membership.

WEN you're looking for a book...

Since featuring this in Evergreen issue 12 back in the summer, we have loaned out 23 items, mainly to gardening students, and it would be great if we could increase this. Small amounts of funding / donations allow us to keep this collection up to date, and it is open to anyone Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 1pm to 4pm without appointment, and many other times by appointment.

Obviously we do not have the space of a public library but it is very focused on environmental matters including, for example,

details of courses available and similar material.

We have an ever-growing collection of books, DVD's, videotapes, 35mm slidesets and audio tapes, most of which are available for loan, with some items of reference-only material, which can be copied for a nominal charge. On your first visit we will require two written items of identification, and we would welcome donations to carry on the good work! See www.la21.net then go to ABOUT US then to LIBRARY for more details.

Prosperity without growth—a Review

Tim Jackson, Sustainable Development Commission

The modern economy is structurally reliant on economic growth for its stability. When growth falters - as it did dramatically during the latter stages of 2008 - politicians panic. Businesses struggle. People lose their jobs and sometimes their homes. A spiral of recession looms.

The idea of a non-growing economy may be an anathema to an economist. But the idea of a continually growing economy is an anathema to an ecologist. No subsystem of a finite system can grow indefinitely, in physical terms.

We have no alternative but to question growth. It has failed the fragile ecological systems on which we depend for survival. It has failed, spectacularly, in its own terms, to provide economic stability and secure people's livelihoods.

But the economic crisis presents us with a unique opportunity to invest in change. To

sweep away the short-term thinking that has plagued society for decades. To replace it with considered policy capable of delivering a lasting prosperity.

Prosperity goes beyond material pleasures. It transcends material concerns. It resides in the quality of our lives and in the health and happiness of our families. It is present in the strength of our relationships and our trust in the community and in our ability to flourish within the ecological limits of a finite planet. The challenge for our society is to create the conditions under which this is possible.

Tim Jackson is economics commissioner at the Sustainable Development Commission.

This column is a condensed extract from his new book, *'Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet'*, published this month by Earthscan (£12.99) and available from www.earthscan.co.uk/pwg.

ISBN 978-1-84407-894-3

Now Available in WEN Library.

Wirral Evergreen – advertising rates 2010

	BLACK & WHITE	COLOUR – FRONT PAGE	COLOUR – BACK PAGE
Full page	£50	NOT AVAILABLE	£100
Half-page	£25	£75	£50
Quarter-page	£15	£35	£25

Evergreen has been reaching people across Wirral for many years and is the primary newsletter for the environmental voice in the Wirral.

Our print run is 1,000 per issue and distribution is rarely less than 850 copies, through members, libraries, events, etc. We also load it live on the WEN website www.la21.net so that it can be read across the planet.

We are pleased to announce that even though we are in the difficult financial climate, the editorial team have decided not to increase the advertising rates this year.

W.E.N. members can deduct 20% from the above prices.

What you see is what you pay – we are not VAT-registered.

We will accept copy on paper to the office address but it is much easier if you can send it directly to the editor, Genevieve Woodland, at either genevieve_w@msn.com or

Gen.woodland@est-northwest-mc.org.uk and if you could text 07979 754011 with “EG ad sent today” I can check it does not get caught in my spam filter—thanks Ed.

Please remember WEN Evergreen is funded completely from donations and adverts, given to you free of charge. The Editorial team would like to thank all the members for their support as a small percentage of membership also goes to help print Evergreen. (the rest helps pay for rent/ office supplies/postage etc.)

If you would like to join Wirral Environmental Network, you can email janet@la21.net for details or feel free to drop in to the office in Wirral Environmental Centre, Falkland Road, Wallasey CH44 8ER (Single storey building with blue railings, the entrance is straight ahead through the gate) and fill in your application form.

Please avoid Thursdays as the office is closed.

WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Stork, Price Street, Birkenhead. WEDNESDAY 21st APRIL 2010, 7.30pm

1. Apologies

2. Agree Minutes - to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last AGM
(copies of the minutes will be available at the meeting)

3 Annual Report - to receive a report for the year 2008/2009.

4 Annual Accounts for 2008/9

5 Election of Trustees

6 Appointment of auditor/examiner - to propose that the Trustees are given authority to appoint an auditor/examiner.

7 The way ahead for Wirral Environmental Network.

An opportunity for members to express their views and ideas.

8 Any other urgent business (not for announcements)



Wirral Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Wirral Link is an independent network made up of individuals, community groups and organisations working together, to speak as one voice to influence and shape local health and social care services within Wirral.

Our aim is to put people and communities at the heart of health and social care services, making sure that people's views are heard at all levels. Our job is to find out what people like and dislike about local services and work with people who plan and run them to help make them better for everyone in Wirral.

Membership is free and open to everyone. You can join via the website or by post.

For flexibility, there are a number of levels of membership so you can become involved as much or as little as you wish.

LINKs can bring about changes—big and small. We all use health and social care services or know someone who does. By getting involved you could:

- Influence new services
- Identify gaps in services
- Make life better for you and everyone in your community
- Solve a specific problem with a service
- Make a difference

CONTACT THE WIRRAL LINK SUPPORT TEAM FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

By Post:
Freepost RSEE-GSJY-GUUE
Voluntary & Community Action Wirral
65 The Village, Bebington
Wirral CH63 7PLL

Tel: 0151 645 4038

Email:
wirrallink@vcawirral.org.uk

Website:
www.linkwirral.org.uk



Thirdforce Training **Foundation Health and Safety,** **and Foundation Food Hygiene**

These courses are divided into a number of modules. Course duration is 6-9 hours and require no prior knowledge of the subject or any ICT Skills.

DATES Call for more
Information.

COST £99 per course or £175
for both.