

WIRRAL EVERGREEN



Issue 15 Winter/Spring 2010/11

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

Award Winning (again)

The good people of Eastham marked 10:10 Day with a Giveaway Day at St. Mary's Church Centre. The concept of 10:10 Day is that we all aim to reduce our carbon emissions by 10% during 2010. At the Giveaway Days we help to find new homes for usable items. It not only saves landfill, but also reduces the need to use raw materials and energy to make new items. The event was jointly organised by Wirral Council and supported by the CRed Campaign, Transition Town Eastham and ourselves.

As part of the afternoon the Council presented several Keep Britain Tidy Business Awards at Gold and Silver levels; Bronze level is now a legal minimum requirement for businesses. The Mayor, Councillor Alan Jennings presented us with a Gold Award, jointly with Energy Projects Plus, which was accepted by our Chairman, Pete Exley, on behalf of both organisations. The Sandon Building has on-site recycling, composting, solar hot water heating and monitors its energy use.



Wirral Council has also kindly granted us some Area Forum money, to be spent in the Liscard / Seacombe area, so we will be running two Swap Days in Spring next year; details will be posted on our website and publicity will go out nearer the time.

www.la21.net

Wirral Environmental Network Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Stork, Price Street, Birkenhead Wednesday 19th January 2011,
at 7.30pm

Apologies

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

Annual Report – to receive a report for 2010

Annual Accounts for 2009/2010

Election of Trustees

Appointment of Auditor/Examiner – to

propose that the trustees are given authority to appoint an auditor/examiner.

Any other urgent business (not for announcements)

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

Communities Helped to go Green

Energy efficiency grants for community buildings are now being provided by Wirral Council.

Community groups across Wirral can now apply for grants to help make their buildings more energy efficient. This can include building insulation, heating and

lighting upgrades and IT energy efficiency improvements.

Information, including application forms and guidance notes, is available on the Council website at:

www.wirral.gov.uk/energygrant

There Can Be No Green Wash at the White House With No Apologies to President Nixon!

The home of the U.S. President is to have solar panels re-installed on the White House roof.

The original solar water heating panels were installed by the Carter presidency in 1979. The administration also then set an ambitious goal of deriving 20% of U.S. energy needs from renewable sources by the turn of the century. Today the U.S. gets about 7% of

its energy from all renewables, with solar providing less than 0.1%!

President Regan had the original system dismantled in 1986, when the White House roof was refurbished.

Both photovoltaic panels, for electricity generation and thermal panels for hot water are due to be fitted by the spring of next year.

WEN Library Update

We mentioned this in issues 12 and 14 of Evergreen and I'm pleased to say that 56 items have been loaned out in the last nine months (and a few duplicate items have been donated to schools and colleges) but it would be great if we could increase use of this collection.

I keep the collection up-to-date using whatever small donations, book tokens and so on that we receive, and although we do not have the space of a public library, it is very focused on environmental matters including, for example, details of courses available and similar material.

The collection includes books, audio tapes, videotapes, DVD's and 35mm slides.

There is a full list of the tapes on discs on our website www.la21.net

We have recently had to completely re-arrange the office, which has meant that unfortunately the bulk of the library is now in a room we share with Energy Projects Plus, which in turn means that you need to ring me

to make an appointment to make sure that access won't be a problem.



Just dial 639 2121 and ask for Jim!

Liscard Swap Days

We are pleased to say that due to the hard work of Jim, our Waste Officer – oops, I mean Waste *Project* Officer! – we will be able to run at least two Swap Days in Liscard next year, on 16 April and 18 June – further details will be available from the office and on our website from March.

He is also able to offer training sessions to any groups who would like to run their own

Swap Days, and these are available on request on Saturdays, at both commercial and charity rates.

The fame of Swap Days – originally an American idea, by the way – is spreading and Jim has recently written the editorial column for "The Waste Paper", the on-line trade journal published by the national Community Recycling Network!

In case you hadn't noticed, winter is coming.....

COMMUNITY REPAINT WINTER HOURS

During the winter we have to close at 4pm as we have no mains electricity outdoors, so winter hours of Mon/Wed/Fri 1pm - 4pm start on Monday 1st November 2010

(Weekend opening can be often be arranged on request.)

639 2121 / 632 2047

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2010

We close at 5pm on Friday 17th December

Office re-opens at 9am on Tuesday 4th January 2011

RePaint re-opens at 1pm on Wed 5th January 2011.

Introducing a New Volunteer in WEN Office

Mike Lowe has been volunteering at WEN since the beginning of the year, after moving from mid-Wales to West Kirby with his partner Hannah.

Mike has had a long (but not particularly distinguished) involvement in most things environmental since the late 1970's, when the "Windscale Enquiry" caught his eye. Over the years he has volunteered or worked for many Green organisations, including the Anti Nuclear Campaign, the Development Education Project in Manchester, Oxfam, Friends of the Earth and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, who produce the *Ethical Consumer* magazine. During this time he has managed to fit in gaining an honours degree in Environmental Studies and Geography, from Manchester Metro' University, run a whole food shop for nearly ten years and become an ordained lay Buddhist! He has also been a trustee of the Knutsford Lectures Association, which organised the Manchester Schumacher Lectures, CARAD a community arts

organisation in mid-Wales and a founding trustee of a Buddhist organisation the Community of Interbeing.

Mike is now Assistant Editor of Wirral Evergreen, a role in which he works closely with Genevieve, the Editor, as can be seen in the photograph.



Apart from his activities at WEN he is currently renovating (or at least paying for!) his house to become more eco-friendly. He also enjoys listening to music - mainly fairly obscure, American, contemporary folk singers - and going to music gigs.

All that probably tells you that Mike has been around a bit

Annual Membership Subscriptions

At the last AGM it was decided to increase the annual subscriptions for individuals, voluntary groups and commercial organisations. These were the first increases in several years.

Membership rates are now:-

Individuals - Waged - £8 Unwaged - £6

Whole Households - £12

Individual Life Membership - £80

Voluntary Groups - £10

Commercial Organisations - £20

All of the above rates are of course minimum donations!

Thank you as always for your support.

We are also able to offer a few places in our monthly Centre Supporters Draw. It costs just £12 per year, of which 50% is distributed in 3 monthly prizes and 50% goes to keeping up the good work of WEN.



Be In-CRed-ible!

Gill has. So has John. Jane has too. More and more people from across Wirral are pledging to cut their carbon pollution by taking part in CRed (Carbon Reduction) Wirral.

With the CRed Wirral interactive website - www.credwirral.org.uk - you can:

- Explore and choose from over 80 carbon cutting pledges to suit your lifestyle both at home and at work.
- See the carbon savings your pledges are likely to generate - and the combined savings from other carbon savvy people in Wirral.
- Get practical information and support to maximise your success putting pledges into practice
- Keep up to speed with access to the latest news and details of local events.

- Play your part in Wirral's growing carbon cutting community

Since CRed Wirral was launched, over 2000 carbon cutting pledges have already been made. These will reduce carbon pollution by over 300 tonnes each year. For further information call Bryan Lipscombe on 0151 606 2206, or better still *be incredible*: join Gill, John and Jane and many others already pledging to cut their carbon pollution via:- www.credwirral.org.uk



We Live in Interesting Financial Times

It seems likely that the management of England's 224 National Nature Reserves will be privatised, after 30% cuts to Defra's budget were announced. We have 3 reserves in Merseyside at Ainsdale Sand Dunes, Cabin Hill, part of the Sefton Coast and on the Ribble Estuary.

The plans for the first new coal fired power station in the UK in over 30 years that was proposed for Kingsnorth has been shelved.

Plans to replace Trident have been put on hold and reductions will be made to our existing nuclear weapons.

Controversial £30bn plans for a Severn estuary barrage tidal energy project have been scrapped. Energy Secretary Chris Huhne said that a study had found there was no "strategic case" for the scheme. In the

same briefing, eight potential sites for a new generation of nuclear power stations were announced. These included existing sites at Wylfa and Heysham.

Investment was announced for "carbon capture" technologies. These are the installations that will capture the carbon dioxide pumped out by fossil fuel power stations, transport it and bury it underground, where it can't drive global warming. However, don't hold your breath; this technology is really in its very early stages.

Plans were announced for a "green investment bank" with £1 billion funding from the Government. However, both green and business groups estimate that at least between £4 and £6 billion is actually needed to ensure it has enough capital to do the job.

Good News

In the next edition of Evergreen, we will be delighted to bring you a write up of our latest gardening project. Run in conjunction with Wirral PCT, we aim to help people with disabilities and health conditions access a healthier life style though gardening. It has closed for the winter but we look forward to

the start of spring and restarting the courses.

If you would like more information on this scheme, you can visit your doctors surgery or call the office on 639 2121.



A new Fairtrade Champion for Wirral

Wirral Borough gained Fairtrade status in 2006. Fairtrade status is granted to towns, cities or boroughs that have made a commitment to supporting Fairtrade and using products with the Fairtrade Mark. WEN and others worked hard with the Council to achieve this accolade, but since then it's fair to say that the Council have been fairly quiet about it.

So it's encouraging to learn that they have recently appointed a "Fairtrade Champion", in the shape of Lib-Dem Councillor Mark Johnston, who represents Pensby and Thingwall Ward. So hopefully, Fairtrade things should be looking up on the Wirral,

Good luck Mark!

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 28th February – 13th March 2011. This year's theme is "Show Off Your Label".

They're encouraging you to:-

1. Get loud and proud showing off about Fairtrade
 2. Talk about the producers behind products
 3. Hold a fun event to get talking about Fairtrade
 4. Download banners and badges to show off online
 5. Order materials to inspire about Fairtrade
- For lots of great ideas about "Showing Off" during Fairtrade Fortnight see their website:- www.fairtrade.org.uk/show_off_your_label/

Great Trees of Wirral Project

Recently the Friends of Flaybrick have launched their "Great Trees of Wirral Project" (enter through www.flaybrick.com). This really is a very nicely designed website, with some absolutely stunning photography.

The project aims to develop understanding of Wirral's trees and give people a sense of ownership of their tree heritage, all of which will hopefully enhance the preservation and protection of the trees. Within the Flaybrick website tree lovers can find a map of the Wirral, click on a tree icon and find images and text about trees in the Wirral that have significance for size, rarity, age or that act as landmarks.

The site has been launched using just three trees. The trees featured so far are the stone pine on Grange Hill, West Kirby, Flaybrick's fern leafed beech and the mimosa at Eastham's Mimosa Tea Gardens. As funding is obtained, it is hoped to expand the site at one tree per month to eventually include about 35 trees.

Each tree has associated text explaining its significance and the medicinal and therapeutic qualities of its extracts. The trees' measurements are also shown providing an accurate lasting record of Wirral's tree heritage.

www.flaybrick.com

Greenhouse Grease

Those of us who catch the bus to work can rest assured that we are inevitably helping the environment by not driving a gas guzzling 4 X 4 through the melee of rush hour. The unfortunate truth, however, is that the vast majority of buses run on petro-chemical diesel fuels, meaning that the environment still suffers from damaging exhaust fumes, albeit a lesser amount.

But we needn't worry as a new initiative from MerseyCare Transport promises to allay our greenhouse guilt once and for all! With a grant from the National Lottery, the charity has bought a new machine which can convert vegetable cooking oil into bio-diesel fuel,

which burns far more efficiently - and is much cleaner than the traditional petro-chemical diesel.

The great news is that we can contribute our waste oil directly from the chip pan to the charity! Cleanliness isn't an issue as the machine cleans the oil before converting it. The MerseyCare team can even collect the oil direct from your home or business place. (2 litre minimum).

So to make a change to your carbon footprint and help the environment at the same time, ring to arrange a collection by calling 0151 678 8467 or email dave.rimmer@merseycaretransport.co.uk.

Apple A-peel

This year brings the 21st celebration of the charity Common Ground's 'National Apple Day' (October 21st). This helps to raise awareness of the rich variety of apples growing in these islands, encourages people to plant apple trees and protect existing orchards, and invites everyone to celebrate the versatility of this excellent fruit.

On 17th October Wirral Tree Wardens and Wirral Wildlife held an Apple Day celebration at Tam O' Shanter Urban Farm, Bidston. This was in addition to Wirral Wildlife's usual Apple Day events at Eastham and Brimstage, and we hope the farm will be added to the list of regular venues in future.



Members of Wirral Wildlife brought along their apple press and boxes of mixed apples to make fresh, delicious juice for people to taste. First the apples were roughly chopped, then pounded to a pulp in a bucket with a sturdy sycamore

staff, after which they were pressed to extract the juice. The liquid came out brown due to oxidation on contact with the air, but the juice tasted delicious and plenty of visitors tried it. Wirral Wildlife also provided a display of apples that, with a couple of additions, meant 24 varieties were set out for visitors to the farm to admire. Members of Wirral Tree Wardens sold bookmarks, fridge magnets and cakes to raise funds, and children had the chance to colour in their own apple and tie it



to the 'tree' which is on display in the farm's activity room.

Finally, here is the appeal! There may be, somewhere in Wirral or nearby, varieties of apple tree growing that Wirral Wildlife would like to add to their annual display. Below are listed the apples shown in 2010; if anyone has a tree of a variety not listed, particularly if they know it to be an old variety, please could they contact us on 0151 639 2121.

Here is the collection so far:

Dessert: Moss Seedling, Discovery, Duchess's Favourite, Ellison's Orange, Ashmead's Kernel, Lord Lambourne, Blenheim Orange, Egremont Russet, Red Windsor, Sunset.

Cooker: Hawkbridge, Costard, Keswick Codling, Bramley, Lord Clyde, Catshead, Newton Wonder, Arthur Barnes, Lord Suffield.
Cooker/Dessert: Howgate Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, James Grieve, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lord Derby.

RePainting Our Communities

In 2009 the 63 Community RePaint schemes all over the country (and now including Eire) collected a total of 313,235 litres of paint and redistributed 209,493 litres to nearly 14,000 beneficiaries, including community groups, schools, youth groups and families and individuals in social need.

What's more; by preventing this paint from going to landfill nationally this saved 545 tonnes of CO2, which is equivalent to taking

185 cars off our roads.

These figures are very interesting; on average it means that each scheme collected 4,973 and redistributed 3,325 litres

Here in Wirral we exceeded both those averages, collecting 5,162 litres (3% above average) and redistributing 5,656 litres (a massive 70% above average!) – wow, what a year – and what a target to beat

Thank you all for your support

Wirral Evergreen – advertising rates 2010/11

	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.

To save trees our print run is about 100 per issue and distribution is through members without email, libraries, events, etc. We 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 a 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 editors via email to mike@la21.net

Please remember WEN Evergreen is funded completely from members subscriptions, 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, 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.

Shotton Paper Mill – Towards Zero Waste?

The UPM paper mill at Shotton annually reuses 640,000 tonnes of recovered paper and is one of the largest users of recycled paper in the world.

The paper mill is also the largest newsprint mill in the UK; producing 100% recycled newsprint for the national and the regional press, with capacity to produce 500,000 tonnes a year.

In a recent new initiative, UPM have struck a long term deal with a waste management company. This will allow them to reprocess all of the material it has to reject into valuable products. The mixed waste materials from the company's pulping process will be cleaned and reprocessed to make recycled plastic products such as railway sleepers, furniture and high quality plastic board.

Other green investments in the recent past at the Shotton plant have included a combined heat and power plant (CHP) which started up in 2006. This burns de-inking residues and biomass from forest waste, enabling the plant to reduce its CO2 emissions by 100,000 tonnes per year. The company is also investing £17 million in a materials recycling facility, to sort co-mingled material which will start operations next year. Internationally the company operate in 15 countries, where 60% of UPM's energy consumption is produced using renewable fuels.

So, it's good to be able to report some positive news from the business world, with whom we often seem to be at odds, in our campaigning towards a more sustainable society.

Free Insulation to homes across Wirral



Wirral Council's free insulation scheme, "Cosy Homes", was launched on October 1st. The scheme, managed by Wallasey-based charity Energy Projects Plus, offers free loft and cavity wall insulation* and is available to all Wirral residents living in private rented or owner occupied properties.

In year one of the four year scheme there will be area based targeting of four wards: Rock Ferry, Prenton, Oxton, and Claughton where assessors will visit every private sector home to advise residents of the benefits of the scheme, arrange appointments for surveyors to assess the property's suitability for measures and arrange installation.

In addition to the insulation referrals Cosy Homes assessors will also raise awareness of the range of other support available to residents including home safety assessments, benefits healthchecks, and advice on saving energy in the home.



Alongside the area based targeting, which attracts 80% of the £1m budget, private sector residents across the rest of Wirral can also receive free loft and cavity wall insulation*. If any residents are interested in finding out more about the scheme they should telephone the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on **0800 512 012**. The advice centre is a partner in the scheme and can arrange appointments for surveyors to call to properties outside of the target areas.



The Cosy Homes scheme has secured the backing of British Gas, who are providing over £1m of funding, and Hillserv, part of the British Gas group, are the main installer. With over 8,000 insulation measures (loft and cavity wall insulation) expected to be installed this year you can expect to see a large number of Hillserv teams across Wirral. This is excellent news due to their commitment to creating local employment opportunities, including apprenticeships, with the scheme overall expected to create up to 30 new jobs.

The new Cosy Homes scheme adds to the range of grants available to residents in Wirral under the Warmer Wirral programme including free TV standby savers and real time electricity monitors to all households, courtesy of British Gas (one per household). Householders can claim their free TV Standby Saver and Electricity Monitor by telephoning the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on **0800 512 012** and quoting the *Warmer Wirral* project.

Any existing or potential new Warmer Wirral referral partners who are interested in finding out more about the scheme can telephone Jude Ugwu at Energy Projects Plus on 0151 637 3686.

**subject to a technical survey and a maximum grant allowance*