

# WIRRAL EVERGREEN



Issue 19 Spring 2012

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

Paul Wiggins and Jim O'Neil went to the Scout Stamps Money Presentation in Wallasey Town Hall on the 7th of Feb. WEN was given a cheque for £500— Trustees agreed most of the money will go towards the Fairtrade Project we received and a brilliant Certificate from the Scout Post in the company of Mayor Moira McLaughlin. This is the first time they have produced certificates as it was a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a half-million pounds raised over the years. WEN thanks the Scout post for their help and wishes them many more years of card delivery.

For further information on Fairtrade, please turn to Page 3



Above:  
Jim O'Neil accepting the cheque on behalf of WEN.

Right: Scout Certificate



## WEN grows on

Representatives from 25 community groups and schools descended on WEN HQ last week over the course of two days as part of our development of a community food growers network.

The event consisted of two parts: the first half being an introduction to the concept of creating the communication network managed by WEN to bring together all the various different food growing groups to share information, stories and advice. Kenny Peers did a short talk on the importance of local food in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the example of Cuba was used as a society which grows its own food sustainably, Carol Seery who recently visited Cuba used pictures to describe what goes on there.



The story continues on Page 7

WEN polytunnel with fruit masher and press in view.

### Wirral Environmental Network

Working to advance the education of the public about the environment and its protection.

**Patrons:** Pat Sykes (MBE), John Guillebaud Tina Fox, Jonathon Porritt, Charles Secrett, Dr Joanna Sharples.

**Reg. Address:** Wirral Environment Centre, Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey, CH44 8ER

**Tel:** 0151 639 2121 **Fax:** 0151 639 4826 **Email:** info@la21.net **Website:** www.la21.net

**Registered Charity no.** 1068306

**Co. Ltd. by Guarantee no.** 3462312

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

## Grants Galore

The Community Foundation for Merseyside is a registered charity and part of a national network of community



foundations and the largest grant-maker in Merseyside. It provides grants to local voluntary and community groups to tackle modern social issues. Since The Foundation was established in 1999 it has distributed over £45 million across Merseyside.

The Foundation has a number of grant schemes available including the following:

### Surviving Winter Fund

The Surviving Winter appeal was launched to help older people and the vulnerable affected by the cold winter that lay ahead. Surviving Winter is a UK-wide co-ordinated campaign to encourage those who are willing and able to donate some or all of their Winter Fuel Payment to support those in need, for whom the payment is not nearly enough.

Donations to the appeal go into a fund which targets voluntary and community sector organizations who are working with older and vulnerable people. The aim of the fund is to help people during the winter months. Grants of up to £500 are available and cover things such as:

- Assistance with shopping for those unable to get out
- Winter warmth campaigns
- Advice and information services which maximise income, household energy efficiency and promote healthy eating
- Equipment and resources for luncheon clubs/community centres which cater for vulnerable older people
- Transport to doctor's appointments or to day centres
- Additional food and clothing
- Workshops to help people out of fuel poverty in the long term
- Emergency food hampers
- Winter relief packs
- Food deliveries to housebound residents

The application form is available from the 'Available Grants' section of our website ([www.cfmerseyside.org.uk](http://www.cfmerseyside.org.uk)) and should be completed online.

The fund will also help individuals who are in need of help and support over the winter months. It will not pay fuel bills but will help with other things such as additional heating equipment, transport costs (i.e. to doctors), replacement and repair of equipment, blankets, additional clothing, energy efficient items, etc. We are asking individuals who are seeking support to contact a local agency such as Age Concern, CAB, a voluntary or community group who can help them fill out the paperwork and then submit the form to us. Further information and an application form can be downloaded from our website (as above).

All funding needs to be spent by end of March 2012 so please apply soon



### Mersey Docks and Harbour Company 500 Fund

Funding for this programme has been provided by The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Projects must build the capacity of the community to help itself, be based on real need, show volunteer involvement and demonstrate value for money. The fund targets groups working in Sefton, Liverpool, Halton and Wirral and awards grants of between £50 - £500. Priority will be given to those groups working in disadvantaged areas of the community. Groups should show how their project can be sustained once the grant has been spent and what the long term benefits of their project will be.

This is a rolling grant programme. Further information and the application form can be found on our website [www.cfmerseyside.org.uk](http://www.cfmerseyside.org.uk) Details on our other grant programmes can also be found there.

## Wirral Loves Fairtrade—by Pam Baker

I started at WEN in October 2011 primarily to offer administration support for the Wirral Loves Fairtrade campaign organised by Wirral Borough Council in conjunction with the renewal of their status as a Fairtrade area. This has involved re-activating the Steering Committee to identify local businesses who offer Fairtrade goods, or use Fairtrade in their workplaces. In addition, local schools and faith groups have been contacted to confirm their use of Fairtrade products.

We have successfully identified many new outlets, including cafes, restaurants and retailers, who have been added to the Directory which can be accessed from the WEN website. This work is ongoing.

I am also running the competitions associated with the Wirral Loves Fairtrade campaign to find Wirral's Champions in the categories of business, school, faith group, café, restaurant, retailer, voluntary group and individual. In addition, we are looking for an Ambassador who will visit Ghana in November 2012 to see the work carried out by Fairtrade in action. Winners in all these categories will be announced on 24 March 2012 at Heswall Hall as part of an all day Fairtrade event.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year has the theme of Take a Step for Fairtrade, and runs from 27 February until 10 March.



I have also arranged to give talks on Fairtrade, with two schools and one faith group having made definite bookings.

*If you would like more information about fair-trade, please contact Pam on 0151 639 2121 or email [pam@la21.net](mailto:pam@la21.net)*

## Printer/Toner Recycling

### Printer Cartridges:

Drop them in to Wirral Environmental Network office in the Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey, CH44 8ER (NOT Thursdays) there's a box in the entrance area.

### Toner Cartridges:

Staples <http://www.staples.co.uk> recycle printer and toner cartridges and give a £1 voucher towards new ones and also £1 to Child Line.

### By Post:

Send your printer or toner cartridges to [www.greensource.co.uk](http://www.greensource.co.uk) who sell them on to raise funds for charities. You can ask them to send pre-printed envelopes or arrange collection if it involves a large number of toner cartridges.

Greensource Solutions, 14 Kingsland Trading Estate, St Philips Road, Bristol BS2 0JZ. Tel: 0117 304 2390

**Centre Support winners** were drawn by Les Bufton (Membership Secretary) at this year's AGM and the winners are as follows:

### December 2011

1<sup>st</sup> 80 Barbara Hardcastle  
2<sup>nd</sup> 24 Dave Pye  
3<sup>rd</sup> 39 Perle Sheldricks

### January 2012

1<sup>st</sup> 116 Andrew Lee  
2<sup>nd</sup> 58 Ann Cuffe  
3<sup>rd</sup> 64 Tina Fox

## Prenton Girls' school celebrates successful growing season

Our garden really developed over the spring and summer and our students, led by Miss Barrow, Mrs Larson, Ms Amanda Dunbar and Mrs Glynis Johns, have worked hard to create a wonderful area for us to enjoy.

To celebrate a successful growing season of flowers, fruit and vegetables, Miss Hockenhull arranged for a special garden party to be held in mid-October when we welcomed friends, relatives and our Riviera Drive neighbours. With the rain falling, no-one could accuse our team of horticulturalists of being 'fair-weather' gardeners!

Linked to the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Get your grown ups growing' campaign, in which parents, carers, friends and neighbours are encouraged to be involved in gardening, almost £200 was raised on the day to 'plough back' into future Gardening Club projects. Our students proudly showed guests around the gardens, and favourite seeds, gardening tips and advice were exchanged - over a cup of tea and home-made carrot cake (made with home-grown carrots, naturally).

The RSPB stall encouraged us to care for the birds in our gardens, parents had the chance to 'Sponsor a Bulb', and there was 'Prepared in Prenton' home-made chutney for sale. Raffle prizes included a hedgehog house, a bird house and a propagation kit.

Thanks to Mrs Winter's husband and the RSPB, each student gardener received a special 'Daisy badge', a small gardening logo they can wear on their lapels with pride.

*At least the rain was good for the garden!*

### Trees to please

We planted thirty trees this term, in and around our school garden, thanks to a donation from the liaison between the Woodland Trust and Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme.

Next February we are to receive fifty hedge saplings donated by the Woodland Trust as part of their 50 year Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which we will use to plant a hedge around the perimeter fence.

*Pictured here planting trees and preparing the garden for winter are, L to R: Chloe Gregson, Holly Thompson, Caitlin Cordon, Jade Lee and Elizabeth Knaggs.*



## Orchards are growing again

In the past few years several community orchards have popped into existence, First came Grange Park in West Kirby, planted by TTWK and now three have popped up in Meols and Hoylake.



This is part of Incredible Eddibles Hoylake's commitment to growing food in local spaces for local people to enjoy. Here you can see Wirral Tree Warden, Louise, with Rose from IEH planting in Queens Park.

This comes as Wirral Tree Wardens have been pruning the apple and pear trees in Brimstage Orchard. This beautiful hidden gem is a delight to work in, most of the trees are twelve years old and there are lots of different varieties. It is hoped that this year's Brimstage Apple day by Wirral Wildlife will be the best yet.

If you are interested in trees, community orchards or fruit trees, Please feel free to come along to the next Wirral Tree Warden meeting on Thursday the 19th of April, 7.30pm in the WEN Office on Falkland Road, Wallasey. Call 639 2121 for details

## Wirral's Year of Celebration

2012 is the 50th Birthday of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and it is also Wirral Borough's "Year of Coast and Countryside".

To celebrate both of these events Wirral Wildlife, the Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust, have organised a programme of guided walks exploring Wirral's wildlife and its local history.

They have also set up 5 wildflower plantings to make a lasting contribution to our local area. Booking is essential by telephoning 0151 327 5923 or at [www.wirralwildlife.co.uk](http://www.wirralwildlife.co.uk).

Please bring a trowel if you have one.

Wirral  
Wildlife

### March 11th at 2pm

New Ferry Butterfly Park to plant scabious, harebell, yarrow and meadow cranesbill on the lime meadow.

### April 14th at 2pm

Birkenhead Park to plant 50 wild flowers in the wildflower meadow

### September 9th at 2pm

Dawpool Nature Reserve, Wirral Way to plant 50 wild flowers

### September 15th at 2pm

Bidston Moss Community Woodland to plant 50 wild flowers

### November 11th at 2pm

New Ferry Butterfly Park to plant bluebells

Directions to these sites and details of the guided walks can be found at the following websites :

[www.wirralwildlife.co.uk](http://www.wirralwildlife.co.uk)

[www.visitwirral.com/year-of-coast-and-countryside](http://www.visitwirral.com/year-of-coast-and-countryside)

[www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)



**Cheshire**

## Evergreen's New Assistant Editor



As readers already know, Mike Lowe moved on to another organisation recently following a few years dedicated service to WEN.

It is with pleasure I announce the new Assistant Editor for Evergreen, Ste Wiggins. He comes to us following the completion of his Masters Degree in Consumer Psychology with Business at Bangor University

Ste is in a good position to help with Evergreen as he has a passion for marketing, great presentation skills and has a great help in understanding the work of WEN as his father is long standing Trustee, Paul Wiggins.

Pictured is Ste's introduction to Evergreen in the WEN office, Falkland Road. We also talked about the future of Evergreen and its marketing. We are looking forward to seeing Evergreen take great steps forward and reach further afield than ever before.

As always, if you wish to submit an article to Evergreen please email [info@la21.net](mailto:info@la21.net). 250 words for a full page, 100 words for a half page. Please also send pictures and logos to accompany your article.

*The Editor has the final say on all articles Included in Evergreen.*

## Curl up with a good book (or video, or DVD, or audio cassette or.....well, you get the idea!) by Annie Merry

Here at WEN we have an ever-growing library which includes books, audiotapes, videotapes, DVD's, 35mm slides and teaching kits — there is a full list of the AV materials on our website [www.la21.net](http://www.la21.net)—and with the exception of a few reference-only items they are available for loan. We will need two forms of identification on your first visit — and we usually have the 'donations tin' to hand - but we don't actually charge for use.

We have recently had to completely re-arrange the office — yes again — but much of the library is still in a shared room, so please ring me to make an appointment to make sure that access won't be a problem! Of course, if the door's open please call in, but you may not be able to access everything. Just dial 639 2121 and ask for Jim

During 2010 we loaned out 35 items, 2011 being slightly down at 28, which is a shame as we have some excellent resources. These are kept up-to-date by donations for members and by purchasing new items as they come available and at no cost—often staff and members donate book tokens or gift vouchers which they feel they no longer need which is great, as we have no budget for the library

Annie Merry, the Community Projects Officer in EPP, has written some reviews of some of our new items to whet your appetite, with further reviews in future editions.....



### HOW BAD ARE BANANAS? (Mike Berners-Lee)

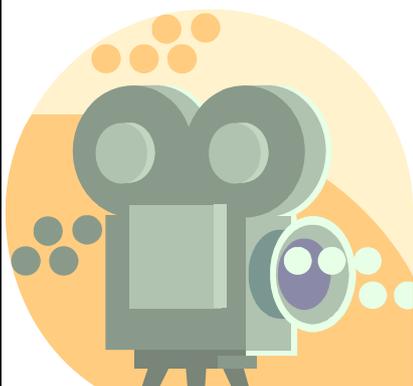
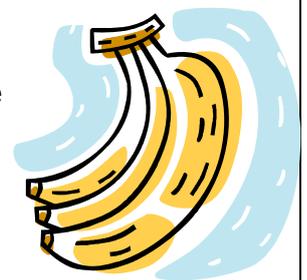
As someone who considers that they live a low impact lifestyle, no flying or car, but still finds they need one and a half planets to sustain it I'm generally left demoralised by 'carbon footprint' books or puzzled by the complexity.

Not so with 'How Bad Are Bananas'. It's straight forward without dumbing down and potentially life changing in a hands on, positive and practical sense. By way of introduction carbon is likened to money in terms of weighing up costs and getting our spending in proportion, but also draws out the valuable differences that make carbon more challenging to deal with.

Berners – Lee defines the carbon footprint as “the best estimate that we can get of the full climate change impact of something” and then clearly explains what carbon dioxide is, the carbon toe print and all relevant aspects to aid understanding in clear, concise language. It sets out items from taking a shower to erupting volcanoes in terms of carbon costs by chapter, much of which makes for useful information on which to act, or anecdotes to astound others with; 50g for a 60g ice-lolly from the supermarket eaten straight away to a carbon busting 500g for a big dairy ice from a van!

It's a great book if you are interested in the world around us and how you live within it as it offers clear information with variations on the carbon

costs of most things from everyday items such as an apple (zero carbon if it's plucked from a tree in your own garden) to the global scale of burning the world's fossil fuel reserves (2.3 trillion tonnes on an estimate of 50 years of current global emissions respectively).



Published 2010 by Profile Books

## Continued from page one

In the second part Gen Woodland from the tree wardens described the new activity at Brimstage orchard and about apple days, events that celebrate the different varieties of apples while Kenny followed with a demonstration of producing your own fresh apple juice using our fruit masher and press. Carol gave a short tour of WEN's growing facilities and then finished the event by presenting a growers question time.

The comments from the evaluation sheets summed up how successful it was :

“ this meeting has been the best I've attended in many years! “



“educational, interesting, professional and a great source for networking”

“inspirational... wonderful opportunity to hear what other people are doing”



The job now begins to create the basis for the information network and all groups and schools details will be circulated shortly and hopefully as word spreads more groups will join. A follow up event is definitely something in the planning for summer.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Carol's colleague Barbara who organised the seed bags and to volunteers Sue and Lena who's help on the days was invaluable.

If you would like more information please contact Kenny on 639 2121 or by email [kenny@la21.net](mailto:kenny@la21.net)

## Plants on Plates

Growing food and sharing the harvest can be very rewarding, and this is so for the voluntary group who work on the WEN Community Gardening Project. The group is made up of beginners and experienced gardeners who support, assist and advise one another. An added benefit of working together is the social side; this can often be witnessed by sudden outbursts of laughter particularly when things go wrong. The joint activity of running an allotment while following organic principles set many challenges. Planning, planting, nurturing plants and finally harvesting them is why the project is aptly called Plants on Plates.

The group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. on the Ilford Avenue Poulton Allotment site, Plot numbers 6 and 7. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Lena Chard; e-mail [helenachard@aol.com](mailto:helenachard@aol.com) tel: 0151 639 2121

## Gardening Classes

General garden classes starting Tues 17th April, finishing, Tues 26th June 2012. Classes run from 9:30 - 11:30 and look at all areas of the garden and how to maintain them, plus a visit to the National Wildflower Centre.

Growing fruit and vegetables - theory of growing herbs and salads and practical exercises on what to grow and maintain from April onwards in the productive garden 12:00- 2:00 and 2:15 - 4:15

You are welcome to enrol on either one of the courses.

Call 639 2121 for details of gardening courses, community gardens or allotments and other green projects



## Wirral Evergreen - advertising rates 2012

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

*Wirral Evergreen* has been reaching people across Wirral for many years and is the primary newsletter for the environmental voice in Wirral. To save trees our print run is only about 150 per issue and those are distributed through members without email, libraries, events, etc. We load it live on the W.E.N. website [www.la21.net](http://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 for the second year running - and 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 [info@la21.net](mailto:info@la21.net)

Please remember that *Wirral Evergreen* is funded completely from members' subscriptions, donations and adverts. The editors would like to thank all the members for their support, as a percentage of membership income also goes to help pay for rent, office supplies, etc.

**CUT HERE.....**

### Would you like to join Wirral Environmental Network?

(Members receive 20% off stall fees at our events  
and 20% off advertising in *Wirral Evergreen*)

**£8 waged      £6 unwaged      £12 whole household**  
**£80 individual life membership**  
**£10 voluntary group      £20 commercial organisation**

**Signature.....**

**Name.....**

**Address.....**

**Postcode..... Telephone .....**

**Email .....**

**Please cut off this slip along the dotted line and send with your cheque to:-  
Les Bufton, 34 Ford Road, Upton, Wirral. CH49 0TF**

*Wirral Environmental Network publishes this newsletter as a community information tool. Please note that the views expressed may not be those of Wirral Environmental Network, its trustees, staff or volunteers.*