

# WIRRAL EVERGREEN

Issue 37 Autumn/Winter 2021

## The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



**We need to reduce our emissions on the Wirral by 13.4% each year to play our part in reducing climate change (Cool2 – Wirral's Climate Change Strategy.). To do this we need to:**

Reduce the overall demand for energy in our homes, businesses and communities & switch to clean energy .

- Do you know the Energy Performance of your home? Are you using more or less energy than the average household? Need help understanding and reducing your energy bill? Are you on a green tariff? Do you need to replace your heating? You can search for your home's energy performance certificate and find the average energy use in your area online. Find out about low carbon choices with your supplier or contact one of our charitable members, Energy Projects Plus for advice. See more at <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/sustainable-wirral/energy>



Completely transition to fossil free local travel by around 2030.

- Do you know the public transport routes for your regular journeys? Try the Merseytravel JourneyPlanner. <https://jp.merseytravel.gov.uk> Does your business use vehicles? Are they low carbon? Contact wirralchamber for help, advice and sign-posting [info@wirralchamber.co.uk](mailto:info@wirralchamber.co.uk)



Make wiser decisions about what we buy and what we eat

- Is your diet seasonal, local, plant-based? Cutting daily intake of meat by half could reduce your overall footprint by 35 per cent. Do you choose to serve mainly plant based options at work? <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/sustainable-wirral/food>



Our climate is changing. We can all help create a climate resilient Wirral.

- Want lower pollution, shade and keeping cool in the summer? How about slowing rainwater to prevent flooding? Be prepared for summer droughts. Look after the trees and hedgerows we have, and plant more. Save water. For information and links to free resources visit <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/sustainable-wirral/water>.
- If you are a business, allocate resources. Contact wirralchamber for help, advice and sign-posting [info@wirralchamber.co.uk](mailto:info@wirralchamber.co.uk)



### Wirral Environmental Network

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

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

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**Facebook:** Wirral Environmental Network

**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.**

**WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK**  
Environmental education charity

presents a pre-Christmas

# WINTER FAIR

at

**The Sandon Building**

**Falkland Road, Wallasey CH44 8ER**

**on Saturday 20th November 2021**

**11am until 2pm**

**Crafts**



**Wood products**



**Bric a brac**

**Christmas gifts**

**Raffle**



**Delicious**

**homemade cakes**



*Donations are welcomed and much appreciated*

*Reg Charity No: 1068306*

# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

## Pallet Christmas Trees

After the high demand last year, the WEN Reclaimers group have started making their wooden pallet Christmas trees again.

Large tree: £10

Smaller tree: £8

If you would like one, please comment below or send us a message. You can collect from our office at Falkland Road, Wallasey, on a Tuesday morning, or on another day by arrangement



## Christmas Wreath Workshop

SATURDAY 27th November 2021

Times 10 am-12 noon or 1-3 pm

Tel: 0151 639 2121

harpercainflowers@yahoo.com

Wirral Environment Network, 100, Falkland Road, Wallasey, CH44 8ER

£15 including materials

Please book a place via telephone, email



## WEN crafters – Christmas Gifts Galore

Made from donated material and items – craft pop up stall at WEN. Tuesdays 10-12



## WHY WE NEED TO COMPOST NOW!

Sales of peat compost to gardeners will be banned from 2024, the government has said. Ministers will also give £50m to support the restoration of 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025, about 1% of the UK's total.

With the proposed ban and a pledge to restore 35,000 hectares of peatland across the country by the year after, retailers and all of us gardeners can no longer delay the transition to peat-free compost.

### Why is peat compost a problem?

Peat has long been recognised as damaging to the environment and the climate - when we dig it up - for what ever reason. When peat is harvested, bogs are drained and the top surface of the peat is gradually stripped away. Not only does this destroy rare and endangered habitats and the flora and fauna that rely on them but also allows the peat to react with the air, releasing vast quantities of carbon dioxide. Recent figures from Natural England show that exposed peat soils can release up to 38 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare every year. By contrast, peat bogs in their natural state soak up around a tonne of carbon dioxide per hectare each year. In addition, they hold huge quantities of water and are a great defence against flooding as well as helping to filter water naturally.

### What do we buy with peat in ?

Grow bags' and multi-purpose compost represents the majority (69%) of peat use.

### So what can we do?

We could buy peat free composts now – there are a small number of products available however changing over to peat free composts needs a bit of research as it acts very differently to most peat based composts

**OR**

We could try and make more of our own compost mix and now is the time to start or at least make something that you can add to any growing medium to increase its volume and water holding capacity, this magic ingredient is

..... **LEAF MOULD.**

### What is leaf mould ?

It is when leaves which have fallen from trees and shrubs in the autumn have decomposed - remember what walking on a forest floor feels like, spongy, that is leaf mould .

### What does leaf mould do for plants ?

There are very few nutrients in leaf mould but it is great at holding water (which will contain dissolved nutrients) so great to add to a sandy soil.

It can open up very heavy soils by not allowing clumps of clay to stick together.

It can also be used to 'dilute' home made compost which is too nutritious for plants (if you plant them into it directly) or mix with other composts to increase volume and water holding capacity.

### How to make leaf mould ?

There are a number of ways to do this but basically collect all fallen leaves – not ones that have fungal disease (look mouldy) put into black bin bags/old compost bags, add some water, tie the top of the bag and then put some holes in the bag to allow air in then place somewhere out the wa .In spring and summer you can check bags, give a mix, add a bit of water and close bag again.

The time it takes depends on what you put in bag – it can take up to 2 years to produce - this takes us to end of 2023 growing season - or if you can mow over the leaves or suck up through a leaf blower to chop leaves up then you will have usable leaf mould by maybe end summer 2022. It has cost you nothing, no compost bin to buy, hide or fill, nothing to attract rats etc – which stops lots of people having a compost bin.

## Composting continued

### Why is this so important now -

Making compost takes time and often people find it difficult to make due to some basic mistakes which are often not highlighted in books/ television/ internet - so we need to start now to get it right because by 2024 the price of the bags of compost will increase dramatically – a personal view only because although there are a number of peat alternatives none are as abundant as peat and they cost more to produce so if nothing else it will be saving you money as well as helping the environment and lowering your carbon footprint as you won't need to go to the garden centre in the car to buy as much compost. There will be no more 3 large bags for £10.00!!!!

WEN will hopefully be running compost workshops - so keep an eye on facebook/ website to cover this subject.

**So, get leaf collecting – if you collect in road just be careful as maybe some hidden dangers/ not nice stuff – leave to your imagination**

## Making the Most of a Small Area to Grow Potatoes

Anne from the green hub community garden didn't know how to grow potatoes and so was advised to grow the potatoes under black plastic which would help with keeping the weeds down , keeping the soil moist (especially as watering could be a problem) and it also warmed the soil so the plastic was doing a number of jobs.



So Anne planted 12 seed potatoes as normal and once covered with soil the area was covered with plastic. Once the potato top growth pushed against the plastic a hole was cut to allow top growth through. The total area was 1.2 metres by 1.2 metres.

12 seed potatoes would have cost approx £2.00

The lady would water under the plastic when she was on site and watched the potatoes grow.

She had put plenty of manure on the plot and a hand full of bone meal but how many potatoes did she get from her 12 potatoes?

On Sept 26th Anne dug up 38lb of perfect potatoes all for £2.00! What a fantastic result!

We have grown a number of potatoes this way in raised beds at WEN and always get good results but none as good as this, well done Anne.



## What A Load Of Rubbish

The Rubbish Season is over - Phew. Well sort of!

For coastal and other places which attract visitors, the period from Spring Bank Hols through to the end of the Summer Holidays can only really be described as, a season of rubbish, and we're not talking about T.V. (well perhaps a little bit!).

From the perspective of rubbish picking groups and individuals, (and we would like to name-check, The Wirral Wombles, at this point) the continuing plague of visitors who leave rubbish all over the beach, green spaces etc., is one that seems impossible to cure. It doesn't matter whether, as we have in New Brighton beach area, that there are Bulk Bins everywhere you look, there is a sector of the visiting public for whom it makes no difference: indeed, we often say that you could hang a bin around some peoples' necks, and they would still drop their rubbish on the ground.

A few years ago, the Council engaged an organisation called Kingdom, to fine litter droppers. Because they made money for each fine imposed, they never went near the beach, but often simply hung around bus stops because when the bus came, passengers would just flick their fag-ends away prior to boarding the bus and POW! - Kingdom would pounce - instant fine.



As an organisation, The New Brighteners have tried a number of things including having a Rubbish Monster on the beach encouraging people to use the bins (partially successful but requiring a day-long presence, 7 days a week - just not possible).



The next step, which is still current, involves graphic signage with fairly blunt wording. You may have spotted these signs in New Brighton, especially the '£1000 Fine' ones. That certainly gets a reaction, but, of course, is virtually impossible to quantify effectiveness.

There is the personal approach by some of our members, but this can be potentially dangerous. On one occasion, a Brighteners challenged two younger visitors during which a young male started to get verbally very aggressive and began reaching round his back (for a knife?). Our Member, who is, shall we say, an imposing figure, persuaded the youth to, 'don't even think about it'.

And then there is the Winter problem of, 'Wash Up'. This is rubbish which has clearly been in the river and sea for some time, that is bought in with the tide. It is estimated that there are some 73 Trillion pieces of plastic rubbish in our oceans, and along every coastline these appear with annoying regularity. Who knows where the originate? So the rubbish cleaning is a 12month task.

Is it discouraging? Yes it is. What can be done? Good question, for which there is no succinct answer at present, despite official verbiage.

So the problem remains. It is of course, only a minority of visitors that cause the problems, as in society generally, but it remains a huge problem.



*If something is beyond our wildest imagination,  
our wildest imagination is simply not wild enough  
(DP)*

*If you want to hear God laugh, tell him about your  
plans (Woody Allen).*

*History repeats itself, has to, no-one listens  
(Steve Turner)*

*I keep six honest serving men, they taught me all  
I knew;*

*Their names are, What and Why and When,  
and How And Where and Who (Kipling)*



**All found on New  
Brighton's Beaches**

*By Dave Peddie,  
The New Brighteners*

### The UK's share of the global carbon budget will be used up in 3.3 years

How urgent is an “emergency”? After the 2019 street protests, many national and local administrations declared a climate emergency but have since failed to implement the “rapid and far reaching transitions” recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 report [1] that sparked the protests.

The urgency of the climate emergency can be quantified by the carbon budget—how much more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) can be dumped into the atmosphere—and by how long this budget will last at current emission rates. The IPCC gives 400 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from January 2020 as the global carbon budget to keep global warming within 1.5°C with 67% confidence [2]. This is 50 tonnes each for the eight billion world population. The UK's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are around 10 tonnes per person [3], so the UK's fair share will last five years, that is until December 2024—just 3.3 years away. The Tyndall Centre has published similar calculations for each UK local authority [4].

Why is the need for annual emission cuts of over 10% not common knowledge? Firstly, the UK government's Net Zero 2050 timescale omits emissions from imports, ignores the Paris commitment to global equity, and relies heavily on unproven technology [5]. The government's claims generally go unchallenged, but youth climate activists have pointed out the deceptions [6][7].

Secondly, many scientists and non-governmental organisations are self-censoring about the urgency of the situation [8]. Campaigning against airport expansion is easier than explaining that leisure flying is incompatible with living within our residual carbon budget.

Another UN climate change conference (COP) might help, but the priorities are that everyone tells the truth about the climate emergency, treats it as an emergency, and calls out misinformation and deceptions, as Scientists for Global Responsibility advocate [9]. We clearly cannot trust governments to act appropriately, and so citizens must become much more involved in policy making.

Ian Campbell

<https://www.carbonindependent.org> - carbon footprint calculator

### References

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- [3] WWF (2020) [https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/FINAL-WWF-UK\\_Carbon\\_Footprint\\_Analysis\\_Report\\_March\\_2020%20%28003%29.pdf](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/FINAL-WWF-UK_Carbon_Footprint_Analysis_Report_March_2020%20%28003%29.pdf)
- [4] Tyndall Centre. The Tyndall carbon budget tool (2019) <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/>
- [5] Climate Change Committee. Sixth carbon budget (2020) <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/>
- [6] Face the climate emergency. Open letter and demands to world leaders (2021) <https://climateemergencyeu.org/>
- [7] Thunberg G (2021) <https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg/status/1385165197350952961> Google Scholar
- [8] Turning delusion into action (2020) <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/turning-delusion-climate-action-prof-kevin-anderson-interview>
- [9] Scientists for Global Responsibility. A science oath for the climate (2020) <https://www.sgr.org.uk/projects/science-oath-climate-text-and-signing>

# Holy Apostles and Martyrs Village Community Garden.

In March 2021 our Common Home group received a grant of £5348.12 from Liverpool City Region Environment Fund to develop an underused side area of the garden into a growing area and Martyrs bed. The funding covered hard landscaping, the purchase of tools, supplies and plants to make raised beds and 10 training sessions. The grant was essential as the hard landscaping was too much for us to do ourselves. By providing the training it also meant we could extend the benefits we had felt by being able to garden during lockdown to others who may not have a garden. Volunteers from the Spider Project joined us, (with others) which enabled us all to attend the training, volunteer, make friends and share recipes and the produce.



It was so beneficial to collaborate with Wirral Environmental Network as we were able to hold the first training sessions there, when the church room wasn't available due to Covid restrictions and also to take advantage of their growing facilities and see the sustainable practices there too. Carol Seery was a brilliant trainer and we all learned from her. The training covered sowing from seed, potting on, propagating, planning and the value of trees. It has enabled us to grow vegetables and flowers. The sunflowers have been amazing! And we have improved our composting methods.



It was important to use reclaimed materials where possible and to promote recycling, sustainable living and biodiversity. We passed on materials we couldn't use to several community groups and acquired reclaimed materials to build a water collection system. In the Martyrs Garden, all the plants chosen are good for pollinators and follow the themed colours of red, white and green.

We were restricted by Covid from having a celebration to start the project, other than a volunteer recruitment day but have had the garden open for the local churches Songs of Praise event, the Catenians BBQ, the Wallasey Village library health walk, Faiths4Change meeting and the Season of Creation. We held the final grant celebration on 2<sup>nd</sup> October when the Mayor, Cllr George Davis, visited and helped us plant the herb garden. We have received support from Angela Eagle MP, who visited at the start of the project.

Eventually there will be information in the garden about the pollinator friendly planting, the modern martyrs who inspire us and it will be an area for the community to sit and relax. Due to delivery issues, the benches on order will not be delivered until November.



Mayor planting herbs with Fr Phil

It is the parish garden, but it is much more than that. It is a place to connect with nature, to grow food and friends and to care for our common home. It is our faith in action benefitting our community. The parish is working towards our #LiveSimply award, an Eco award for Catholic churches and we also work closely with Faiths4Change as part of the Cool Wirral partnership.

We will continue to garden every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, 2-4pm, weather permitting and new volunteers of all backgrounds are welcome. We want to promote Care for Creation as part of our faith but also because appreciation of the natural environment is essential for all of us to protect our common home and mitigate for climate change.



Volunteer open day plant sale



## Tree Planting Group October 2021 update



Tree planting continued throughout the winter season with planting at Wallacre Field, Belvidere Field, Flynn's Piece, English Martyrs church, Elleray Park and Central Park. We received a donation to plant semi mature trees at Central Park and also planted over 120 trees with faith groups there. In all we planted 1,038 trees over the winter 20/21 and so our total since we started in October 2019 is over 1,500.

In April Wirral Council contractors planted over 4,000 tree whips on The Loop, a former horse field opposite Lidl on Leasowe Road. The site was poorly prepared and there was little aftercare planned. In conjunction with Mersey Forest, we worked every Thursday and Saturday to place trees guards and canes on these trees to protect them. Weeds on some of the areas were cut down Later. The site was a major undertaking this year and we were unable to do the aftercare we wanted to on the other recently planted sites.

Also, during this time, we took on a disused polytunnel at Magill's nursery. Thanks to funding from Co-op, we installed new polythene and shade netting. With the help of Wirral Tree Wardens, we cultivated part of the tunnel and heeled in nearly 11,000 tree whips donated by the Forestry Commission as they were surplus to their requirements.



We rescued trees from New Brighton Primary school which the school were unable to plant and have also received donations of trees from various sources. We continue, as individuals, to grow and pot on trees we have cultivated from seed.

Over the winter, we will be planting out many of the whips in the nursery on sites agreed with Wirral Council. In addition to this we will facilitate collection of tree whips for planting elsewhere in Wirral. We will also be supplementing the planting at Wallacre field, Central Park and working with the Eco School officer on a Tiny Forest project at Citrine Park. Mersey Forest also have an event with the Woodland Trust on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Vyners Fields.

Wirral Council have listed public tree planting dates here:

[Community Planting | www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

13 November 2021 at Bentham Close Greenspace, Cloughton

27 November 2021 at Leasowe Playing Fields

11 December 2021 at Carr Bridge Road Greenspace, Upton

8 January 2022 at Boundary Road Greenspace, Bidston

15 January 2022 at Limekiln Lane, Seacombe

22 January 2022 at Flynn's Piece, Wallasey

There will be regular sessions and we need as many volunteers as possible to enable us to do this. We will comply with current Covid guidelines so sessions may need to be booked in advance. We'll provide all the guidance and training on tree planting and health and safety issues arising from our Risk Assessments. All that we ask is that everyone provides their own weather appropriate clothing, stout footwear and gloves. If you have any tools like spade, hand fork, trowel or shears that will be helpful but don't worry if you don't have any. You will also need to bring your own food and drink. We can be contacted via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WallaseyTreePlanting/>

# Support our charity by becoming a member

## WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Individual/Group

#### Membership category subscription rates:

- Individual £8 (waged) £6 (unwaged)
- Household (same address) £12
- Group (voluntary/community) £10
- Businesses £20

Please circle your required membership

#### Payment by:

- Bank transfer (with reference)
- Standing order (with reference)
- Direct Debit
- Cheque (payable to Wirral Environmental Network)

Reference should be your name/group name

Bank Transfer/Standing Order to:

Sort code 08-90-86

Account number 50113675

Name/Name of Group or Business .....

Membership category (eg group/individual) .....

Contact Name and Address: Name .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

Position in Group/organization (if applicable) .....

I/We apply for Membership of Wirral Environmental Network and send payment of £.....

By: Bank transfer/standing order/cheque ..... (Please circle payment method)

Signed ..... Date .....

Please return this completed form to Wirral Environmental Network

email: wen@la21.net or by post to WEN, Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey CH44 8ER

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WEN is an educational charity with 25 years experience of working with community groups and schools. Our aims are to educate the public about living sustainable and healthy lifestyles. We achieve this through running courses on growing your own food, public discussions, organised events, working in schools to support teachers and in many other ways. Our work is supported by a large number of volunteers committed to the charity ideals.

**For Membership information, or for any other information contact us at wen@la21.net or 0151 639 2121**

*Wirral Environmental Network publish 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.*