

WIRRAL EVERGREEN

Issue 38 Spring 2022

The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



In Memory of Pete Exley

Pete was a member of WEN since the early 1990s.

He became Director/Trustee in 2001 and took the position of Chair in 2007 and became Treasurer in 2013.



The meetings became a lot shorter with Pete as Chair as he always tried to keep to the tasks at hand and discourage going off at a tangent!

Trustees met in the Stork Inn, Birkenhead and here Pete was well known for keeping order in the meeting as well as orders at the bar!

Pete's professional background was in telecoms and teaching mathematics. He has been involved for many years in various voluntary work joining Liverpool Friends of the Earth in the early 70's and has participated in various environmental activities and groups since then. This provided Trustees and staff at WEN with the benefit of much of his knowledge and expertise.

Pete's keen eye for detail on the accounts proved vital during the 2008 recession and when he retired as Chair, he left an organisation which is continuing to grow strongly.

He always seemed to know everything that was going on in the WEN and had a great memory for what had happened in the past.

He was unfazed by Charity Commission and Companies House requirements and was always on top of the monthly financial figures.

He was also well known for his great homemade wine!

A huge thank you to Pete for all his work over the years, he will be fondly remembered for making trustees and staff lives so much easier.

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.

Registered address: Wirral Environmental Centre, Sandon Building,
Falkland Road, Wallasey CH44 8ER

Tel: 0151 639 2121 **email:** wen@la21.net **Website:** www.wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk

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.

Projects

St Mary's Eco Garden, Liscard



Our Eco Garden has grown out of 'Open House' – a thriving after school community drop-in for local families. In April 2021, after 3 months of home schooling, our families were desperate for face-to-face! Knowing we would have to be meeting outdoors initially, we decided to re-start with a gardening club and were able to buy children's trowels, gloves and watering cans with a grant from the Council's 'Road to Recovery Fund', highlighted to us by Shirley Bowen from Hope for New Brighton.

During lockdown we'd learned from several webinars, such as 'Community Gardens on Church Land' and we had a growing awareness that we were sitting on a huge untapped resource in terms of the acre of grounds surrounding the church, especially in an area where green spaces are such a precious commodity. Annie Merry from 'Faiths 4 Change helped us think about how we could tackle our garden in manageable 'zones'.

Our grassy area at the front of church has always been well used for playing and picnics, but the remaining three quarters were neglected and overgrown, and our children and our grown-ups began dreaming dreams and drawing pictures about what could be. Ruth was often seen walking round the garden, talking to God about it (a bit like Adam and Eve – except she's not naked!) That's usually when we notice things and get ideas.

Hilary Ash, an extremely knowledgeable botanist, formerly with 'The Wildlife Trust', spent a morning with us in April assessing what is growing in our grounds and how to encourage biodiversity.

In the summer term the Eco Rangers group from Liscard Primary School joined us each week to help us to design and develop our environmentally friendly garden, planting sunflowers, a herb bed and wild-flowers and in the autumn, they made bird-feeders and whole classes came down to plant hundreds of spring bulbs.

In September Carol Seery from WEN ran a fabulous free four-week course at the church for over 55's, planting up pots of bulbs, making planters out of pallets, and teaching us about composting. We had 15 attendees, over half being new contacts from the community, who also helped to clear the entire site of brambles and nettles in a single week in October, filling 25 1 ton builder's bags! The group has so enjoyed meeting that we have continued and they created fabulous festive fir-cone decorations from upcycled materials for our Christmas Fayre inspired by Trina from Urban Vintage.

Just before Christmas, Anne Litherland helped the group to plant a native wildlife hedge – a joint project between ourselves and the adjoining Liscard Primary School with free plants from the Woodland Trust.



Current projects include creating a 'Grow your own' area out of old pallets (our thanks to Eze from WEN for his help and to Nicola Wallbank from the Council for fruit trees and loads of woodchip!) We will be starting to compost using our 5 free Council compost bins, enhancing our wild-flower area, hanging our bird-feeders and hopefully installing a wild-life camera for our large sparrow colony with Tony Faulkes from Bee Wirral.

A HUGE 'THANKYOU' to the fabulous network of local environmental heroes, who are so generous with their time and their advice!

Our church members with help from the YMCA, Green Councillors community budget and Magenta Housing, planted over 2000 daffodil and over 300 crocus bulbs along Church Road, Tranmere last autumn and they are now coming up and brightening the area.

Projects

Wallasey Parish Achieves CAFOD LiveSimply Award

Holy Apostles and Martyrs' Parish in Wallasey has been granted the CAFOD LiveSimply Award in response to Pope Francis' invitation in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* to 'work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us'.

The award can be earned by Catholic parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies who can show how they have been living simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation. It is similar to Eco-church and Eco awards for other Christian denominations and faiths.

Parish organiser Anne Litherland said, "The award celebrates what we have already done and inspires us to do more. It helps our community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

We have been working towards this for over two years and have been involved in many different activities: a car idling campaign, growing vegetables in the church garden, working with Wirral Environmental Network, recycling personal pledges to LiveSimply and much, much more.

Late last year we informed CAFOD that we were ready to be assessed and recently two assessors visited our parish to meet us and view the evidence. We were delighted to hear we were going to get the award and surprised that we are only the second parish in the Shrewsbury Diocese to receive the award."

CAFOD assessor Eileen Brennan said of our portfolio, "It is a wonderful record of the Livesimply actions of the parish. You can all feel really proud."

Anna Fraine, the CAFOD LiveSimply Coordinator for said, "It is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates your commitment to living simply as a vital part of the everyday life of discipleship of your community."

On Sunday 20th February this year there was a special Mass to celebrate our award attended by Wirral Mayor, Cllr George Davis and a celebration cake afterwards. The parish was presented with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the award and we will continue in our work to protect Our Common Home. We are working with Faiths4Change and the Cool Wirral partnership to reduce our individual Carbon footprints and will join in CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger during Lent.

As Pope Francis reiterates in *Laudato Si'*, 'everything is connected'. The plan has given our parish a means to tackle the issues of the climate crisis and how it affects the poor and excluded, within the context of our faith and Catholic social teaching. It is a great privilege to work with other faith groups and the local community. There is lots of support so we hope you may be inspired to #LiveSimply in your community.



Mayor cutting the cake at the celebration 20/2/22



Faiths4Change meeting in Church garden Sept 21

We look forward to working with WEN in future and particularly bringing our Fairtrade stall to the Spring fair in May as part of our continuing commitment to living in solidarity with the poor. Faiths4Change are looking for more faith groups to join the Wirral Partnership. The group is open to all faiths and denominations, and we meet, share ideas and expertise and work together engaging our communities in reducing our impact on the planet. Contact Zarah at zarah@faiths4change.org.uk

WEN Projects in the Community

WEN have helped to complete a couple more community alleyway projects in areas off Oakdale Avenue and Seacombe View with funds provided by the council in Seacombe.

The day we chose for both of them to be done was Saturday February 19th - which many might remember was the day after storm Eunice! However, we still went ahead—this is now the WEN motto I think!

After a number of meetings with the council and community groups we started the planning....

- 1) Plants and soil were ordered from The Manor Garden Centre, Leasowe Road.
- 2) Containers made by The Reclaimers and Kenny and Carol from old pallets—most provided by Phil from the council - he picks them up on his travels and drops them off. Also Huws Grey (local builders merchants drop bits off as well).
- 3) Kenny and Phil drop containers off at both sites in the week.
- 4) Cars loaded ready for Saturday.
- 5) Fingers etc crossed for dry weather as the soil component includes moving a tonne of top soil, sand and a large number of bags of compost.



Saturday arrives .

8.00am - wheel barrows etc picked up, Rob (volunteer) picked up and we arrive at Oakdale Ave to start - weather dry at this point.

9.00am - Steve arrives with soil and plants and the big move starts.

9.30am Other residents arrive - including a family of 4 - one in a pram and the oldest is only 6!

We try to get a start moving the top soil in - rain starts - however spirits are so high from the community it doesn't dampen the spirits.

At this point the taking of photos was put on hold due to the rain but a couple were taken as you can see.

When we finished everyone was so pleased and other residents came out to see what we were all doing - there were lots of umbrellas!

Now on to alleyway 2 - Seacombe View - the rain had now gone off a bit but right on cue it starts again when the soil arrived but again spirits not dampened and we all plough on.

Although once we had finished, Kenny, Rob and I didn't have a dry bit of clothing between us we were thanked again so much it made it all worth while. The residents were so thrilled with the transformed area they wondered what else they could do there.

Back to WEN to unload and home to warm up!

We would not be able to do this with out council funding, Phil keeping an eye out for pallets and dropping containers off with Kenny, Steve from Manor Garden Centre(working within our schedule and getting the best for the money) and of course our volunteers, The Reclaimers and Rob (in this instance).



Members contributions

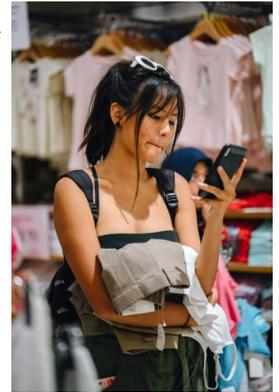
Fast Fashion

Fast fashion is a design, manufacturing, and marketing method focused on rapidly producing high volumes of clothing. Aside from oil and gas, fast fashion is the highest polluting industries in the world. It accounts for 10% of global emissions, as a lot of greenhouse gases are used during the production, manufacturing and transportation of the millions of garments purchased each year. The synthetic fibres which make up a large portion of the material used in fast fashion are made using fossil fuels- meaning that the production of these fibres is more energy intensive than with natural fibres. These synthetic fibres also emit gases like N₂O which is 300 times more damaging than CO₂.

The fast fashion industry also damages the natural environment. As consumers worldwide buy more clothes, the growing market takes a toll on the environment- clothing production has doubled since 2000. 85% of textiles from the fast fashion industry go to waste each year and washing some types of clothes releases tonnes of microfibres into our oceans each year.

Here on the Wirral, young people are leading the way in raising awareness about the environmental costs of fast fashion working with Wirral Councils Eco-Schools programme. Texpop26 is an event at future yard with young people perform in upcycled clothes to raise awareness.

At the end of May, Texpop2 takes place at Future Yard, with Zuzu and Astles and the Balloon Orchestra performing, dressed and styled in the winning upcycled designs from the Texpop design competition. This will launch a wider and outward facing campaign around textile use.



If this inspires you, here are some things that you can do to help combat fast fashion at home:

- **Buy less often and buy high quality**

Due to the rapid changing trend cycles, fast fashion retailers have convinced us that we need to have the newest styles to be happy- however these styles are often made from cheap material and do not last as long, meaning we have to buy more. Buy better quality to ensure that you use it for longer!

- **Donate or sell used clothing**

Once you have outgrown your clothes or decided you want to part with clothing- you could donate the clothes or sell them online on sites like Depop- so your clothing doesn't get wasted. You could also give older clothing to your friends or younger siblings so that the clothes don't get thrown away.

- **Host a clothing swap**

If you are not ready to donate your clothes, you could share your wardrobe with your friends and swap clothes. This is a great way to access new clothes without putting in the money or effort it takes to buy new. This means that you can swap your clothes back too!



- **Buying second-hand**

Buying preloved clothing means that you get to refresh your wardrobe without the effects of fast fashion! Buying in thrift shops and charity shops often means that the clothes you buy are more unique than mass produced fast fashion styles and much better for the environment.

- **Recycle textiles and garments**

Recycling centres can often recycle clothes for other uses.

- **Repurpose old clothing**

Old t-shirts can be made into cleaning clothes for the house, rugs and many more things. Clothes can be made into a variety of things even up to stuffed animals etc. You can also tailor and change the clothes you have to give them a new style or design.

Members contributions

What is Indoor Air Pollution?

Many people, when they think of air pollution think about smog and car emissions. This is what is called outdoor air pollution but it is more dangerous when it becomes indoor air pollution. Indoor air pollution occurs when certain air pollutants from particles and gases contaminate the air of indoor areas. These air pollutants can cause respiratory diseases or even cancer. Removing the air pollutants can improve the quality of your indoor air.

According to The World Health Organisation (WHO) 4.3 million people a year die from the exposure to household air pollution. Think of open fires and wood burners in our houses!

What might be in your home?

Toxic products, e.g VOCs, inadequate ventilation, high temperature and humidity are few of the primary causes of indoor air pollution in our homes. Some effects are given below.

VOCs (Volatile organic compounds)– these are found in many house hold products and items. The constituents of conventional paints may include formaldehyde, heavy metals and other chemical. The VOCs are given out while painting and for up to five years after. They can cause nausea, dizziness and headaches which can arise if you don't open enough windows—the long-term effects aren't great either!

Tobacco smoke that comes from outdoor and indoor areas can also be an indoor air pollutant.

Many contaminants that grow in damp environments can be brought in from outdoor areas. These contaminants such as mildew, mold, bacteria, dust mites, as well as animal dander, can come into the home and make you sick.

There are many objects that you have in your home that also cause indoor air pollution. Objects such as wood stoves, space heaters, and fireplaces, all put out carbon monoxide as well as nitrogen dioxide.

So what can we do about it? - Easy solutions

Easy Ways to Improve Indoor Air Quality

1. Make sure you check the ingredients on any of your cleaning supplies to make sure they are environmentally friendly.
2. Inspect for any mold, etc.
3. Use a good vacuum cleaner that has strong brushes to keep out chemicals and allergens that can accumulate in your home. Areas in your home which are most commonly visited must be cleaned thoroughly by using the vacuum several times.
4. Most of the dirt comes in the home from the shoes. Keep a large mat at entrances to the home that will reduce the amount of dirt, and other pollutants from getting into your home.
5. Grow more house plants – Growing any plants in doors will help but below are really good

Areca Palm (*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*), Lady Palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), bamboo palm, Rubber Plant (*Ficus robusta*), Dracaena (*Dracaena deremensis*), Philodendron (*Philodendron sp.*), Boston Fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata "Bostoniensis"*), Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*) and spider plants.

Just make sure you clean the leaves every now and again to remove the physical particulates which build up on the leaves



Rubber Plant



Peace Lily



Boston Fern



Philodendron



Spider Plant

Welcome to our new Team Members/Trustees



Dave Jones

Dave is a new trustee but has worked in partnership with WEN for over six years when he was a Recycling Officer for Wirral Council. He is a keen up cyclist and believes in zero waste and a fairer society for all. He developed the first Refresh project in Seacombe tackling bulky waste and poverty. He also won an award for the GASP, (Green Air Schools Project) that tackled air quality by planting lots of hedgerow around schools. He is an allotment holder and is working towards a year round sustainable plot that also future proofs old age! He currently works in the third sector developing community engagement.

I have recently retired from a career in IT Project and Programme Management and have spent the last couple of years trying to understand how to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers on an allotment. I have seen first-hand the benefits that the various gardening courses run by WEN can have.

I think it is becoming more and more important to understand the effects our activities are having on the planet and organisations such as WEN have a very important part to play in both educating and helping people to actually make an environmental difference. As I now have more free time, I hope to use it by being a trustee at WEN and helping them deliver their very important objectives



Dave Brown

Volunteer opportunities at WEN

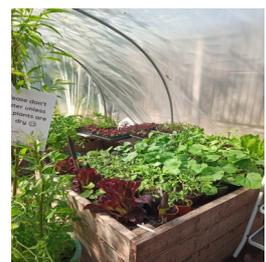
If you are interested in volunteering with WEN on a more regular basis, you would be most welcome and we would love to hear from you. Here are some of the voluntary tasks you could help with:

- Sewing seeds and potting up plants for sale at our fairs
- Join our Craft Group and help with craft making projects
- Using reclaimed timber to make bird tables, planters, and other wooden structures
- Help to paint and spruce up our office, group and teaching spaces
- Office work, helping to make up our packs that we hand out to people at our stalls
- Help with our pop-up stalls and our fairs



Karen Hawthorne
Volunteer Co-ordinator

- Maintaining our community gardens and green spaces
- Ad hoc volunteer events



If you are interested in any of the above, or have other ideas of how you would like to help, please get in touch by emailing Karen: karen@la21.net



**Wirral
Environmental
Network**



invites you to our

SPRING OPEN DAY

On Saturday 21st May 2022

at Sandon Building, Falkland Road Wallasey CH44 8ER

11 — 2pm



Plants - flowering and vegetable

Homemade culinary delights

Handmade gifts

Arts and crafts

Bric a Brac and small furniture items

Refreshments - homemade cakes

Games for the children

Tombola

Eco and sustainable lifestyle hints & tips

Bring your own mug and container



BIG GREEN LIST

WIRRAL ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN
ACTIVITY THAT HELPS THE
ENVIRONMENT

Reg Charity No: 1068306

Updates since the last edition of Evergreen

Centre Support – Recent Winners

Wirral Environmental Network operates a monthly draw to support the work of our Environment Centre.

First prize is 30% of the draw income, second prize is 15% of the draw income and third prize is 5% of the draw income.

Recent winners:

Jan 2022

1st B&A Burton

2nd D.Pye

3rd T.Harney

Feb 2022

1st D.Pye

2nd A&L Bufton

3rd P.Stephens

Mar 2022

1st D.Pye

2nd B&A Burton

3rd T.Harney

If you have won you will be notified immediately by email or phone. Please contact us if you haven't received your notification and send your bank details to our membership secretary, Annie Jackson at annie@la21.net.

Thanks to all those who support us with monthly contributions to Centre Support.

You don't have to be a member of WEN. Anyone can join Centre Support by setting up a monthly standing order from as little as £1 per month.

Download the application form from our website (membership section), contact Annie at annie@la21.net or call us on 0151 639 2121 if you are interested and she will send you the application form.

Eco Art in the Parks

Wirral Environmental Network, Wirral Unplugged and Wirral EcoSchools team have received a small amount of funding to create community driven, nature-based artwork and biodiversity resource packs to encourage people to come to Wirral parks and enjoy the natural world with communities through art and discovery in outside places.

We are creating artwork from recycled materials reflecting nature, a family parks passport with a map of Wirral and the highlights to spot in each of the parks. This will help create a nature trail linking parks across Wirral and information boards or signage.

We are starting with a biodiversity conference to be held at Castleway Primary School. 7 other schools that are linked to a local park are also attending and will take part in activities around nature conservation and the benefits of natural habitats in our parks. Schools have applied to be part of the project and parks are being invited to be involved based on their proximity to the schools involved.

The art will be appearing in parks from June onwards. If any other parks are interested in hosting some nature-based art get in touch with wen@la21.net

Training

Wirral 'Our Environment' - Free

- 4 week course starting Thursday June 9th
- 9.30am - 2.00pm
- Climate change, local initiatives, recycling, Wirral Tree Strategy, Composting, Gardening....

Apply via lifelonglearning@wirral.gov.uk

- 0151-666-3330

Community Gardening - Free

Come to one session or come to them all!

Be active outdoors, meet others, grow food and flowers and learn with volunteers in community gardens at Wirral Environmental Network, Holy Apostles and Martyrs church in Wallasey, Callister Gardens, St James Garden and Bee Wirral in Birkenhead.

- 18th May Callister Garden
- 1st and 15th June St James Garden, Birkenhead North
- 13th and 27th July HAM Garden, Wallasey

Other dates to be added

For more information and to book a place, please email ham.creation2020@gmail.com

Other courses are currently full.

To express an interest – contact Carol Seery carol.seery1@btinternet.com

- Wednesdays – Gardening courses
- Thursdays – Lifelong learning courses
- Fridays – Gardening club/courses.

Regular activities with WEN

- WEN Crafters – Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm
3rd May, 17th May, 31st May.....every 2 weeks
- WEN Reclaimers– Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm
3rd May, 17th May, 31st May.....every 2 weeks
Reusing donated wood to create items (planters, bird-boxes, signs etc), repair outdoor items for reuse and help with ground and building maintenance.
- Falkland Road Organic Gardeners – Wednesdays 10-12pm
Community gardening group. Harvesting the last of the produce, preparing for the year ahead. Gearing up to sow seeds in our polytunnel, tend the raised beds.
- Green Community Hub - Wednesdays 10-1
At St James Garden, other days by arrangement. Gate next to 192 Tollemache Road, Birkenhead North.
- Flowerclub - Monthly Saturdays 10-1
Sign-up required – contact Maria Harper Cain harpercain2019@yahoo.com
- WEN ad hoc volunteer events – Monthly Mondays
Contact Karen Hawthorne karen@la21.net

Other ad hoc events take place – contact karen@la21.net or wen@la21.net if you want to be on the email list as a volunteer or to hear about what is going on.

Membership

Join Wirral Environmental Network and show your commitment to an Eco Wirral!

Members receive:

- Members newsletter – An exclusive newsletter for our members with the latest environmental activities, opportunities and events.
- Content contribution – Advertise, write an article or share a story which can reach environmentally conscious audiences through our quarterly Magazine 'Evergreen', our wider email distribution list and our FB group.
- Connections and network events – meet and learn from other groups and individuals to help you move your environmental goals forward.
- Use of the building and gardens – Want to run a visit or host a class? Subject to availability, we allow our members to book and use the space.
- Reduced education rates – Selected workshops and classes will have a WEN Member discount applied

Join us:

Membership is available to individuals, families and groups from as little as £6 per year.

- Individual Membership £12 (waged) £6 (unwaged) Household (same address) £18 – per year
- Group Membership Voluntary/Community Groups £18 Non Voluntary Groups / Businesses £36 – per year
- Individual Life Membership: by arrangement – £120 minimum
- To become a member please complete the relevant membership application or contact us using the form on the back page and we will send you an application form.

Greater membership gives us a bigger voice when talking to others. Financial support helps us deliver services and projects with communities and groups.

For businesses being a member of WEN is a way to show your support to local community environmental activities.

Other ways to support us:

- Centre support – We operate a monthly draw. You can set up a monthly SO from as little as £1 per month.
- Donate – if you wish to make a one off donation please contact us for bank details or use the donate button on our Facebook page.
- To register for centre support or make a one off donation please contact us for details
- Other ways to support us – we are registered as a charity on the Everyclick search engine and with Amazon Smile.

Support our charity by becoming a member

WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual/Group

Membership category subscription rates:

- Individual £12 (waged) £6 (unwaged)
- Household (same address) £18
- Group (voluntary/community) £18
- Businesses £36

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

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

WEN is an educational charity with 25 years experience of working with schools and community groups. 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 Annie Jackson on 639 2121 or email wen@la21.net

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.