

WIRRAL EVERGREEN

Issue 39 Spring 2023

The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



Vale Park, Wallasey

Photo by Paul Neish (a local resident) - thanks Paul

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 - MINDFULNESS WALL

Wirral Environmental Network



Our Mindfulness wall was collated from our Volunteers and how they were feeling on the day. Some were happy, some were sad, and some just wanted to make a contribution on our wall.

At WEN we like to make people feel part of our Team.

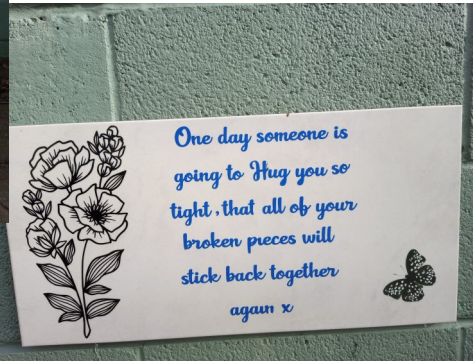
There are lots of activities going on, but without the help of our volunteers none of this would be possible.

If you would like to join our volunteers, whether it be gardening, crafts or upcycling, please get in touch

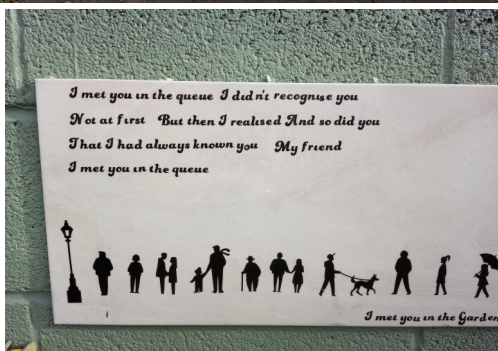
We would love you to contribute to our wall, and you never know, you may even make new friends.

All you have to do is send us one of your favorite phrases or a short poem, and we will make them into tiles, and add them to our wall.

Please send to karen@la21.com or drop them in on paper to WEN at The Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Wallasey CH44 8ER.



The Mindfulness Wall



Members tips and Groups

SPRING ONIONS



Spring onions are easy to regrow on your kitchen windowsill and can be snipped when you need them for a mild onion flavour to salads. I followed the instructions from BBC Morning Live and it worked really well

You can use any left-over onions from the fridge or like me buy a bunch going cheap in the out-of-date shelf in the Co-op. You also need a pot and some potting mix or peat free compost

Cut the spring onions about 2 or 3 centimetres from the root and simply plant the root pieces in your pot with a little bit of stem still visible above the soil. Use up the stems you have cut off in salads or cooking

Water regularly and let it grow. This happens remarkably quickly and, in a week or so, you can snip off onion bits as needed. You can also cut to the base, and they will regrow about 4 times before needing to start again. You can also apparently let one of the stems grow to produce flowers and seed but I've not tried that yet

If you don't have any compost this will also work in a small jar of water, keeping the roots submerged change the water weekly and place in and in a sunny spot

Judith Anton.

CRAFT GROUP



WEN Craft Group

The craft group meets at WEN and upcycles donated materials, wool and haberdashery items into saleable goods to raise money for WEN.

We have created a range of items to sell and at the present time are focusing on Easter bags for children, crochet coasters, gardening aprons and we are going to reupholster some of the chairs at WEN.

We will be selling items on our craft table at the Spring Fayre at WEN on Saturday 20th May 2023.

Projects—WILLOW WORKSHOP 2023

The idea behind running the workshops is to promote reuse of natural materials in the garden,
learn a new skill and promote WEN and its associated works and projects,
promote gardening and wellbeing and just have a good time with others.

We have held 2 willow workshops at WEN over the past few months - one before Christmas and one after.

At both workshops we started by explaining how quickly willow can grow - so plant with care in your own garden and then went on to:

- how to grow from a cutting and what it can be used for in the garden
- after care necessary
- and how to harvest

At the Christmas workshop we made wreaths and hearts to go on doors and in the garden which could then be used to hold birdfeeders etc .

At the workshop after Christmas we made willow wigwams as frame work for climbers and herbaceous perennial supports .

In total we had 30 people attend and many more who applied but we were restricted by the amount of willow available. WEN also made a minimum of £150.00 for the willow alone.



Carol led a very enjoyable willow weaving workshop at WEN on 20th January. Some made a wigwam for peas and others made a structure to support herbaceous plants like peonies.

The sunshine and creativity boosted everyone's mood, and it was wonderful to receive this message from one of the workshop participants:

"Excellent workshop. I arrived feeling really stressed and left feeling joyful, with a much better understanding of willow weaving. I couldn't have asked for more, thank you".

New Ventures 2023—Repair Café

Wirral Repair Café

Can You Help?

Volunteers wanted to repair items and assist with events

What is a Repair Café?

A Repair Café is an event where visitors bring broken items to be fixed, free of charge, or for a small donation. It's a space to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, have a chat with the repairers, and be inspired. Those who are skilled in repair work can show others how it is done, passing on their valuable knowledge. Repairing items instead of throwing them away reduces waste and helps to create a sustainable, circular economy where raw materials can be reused again and again. There is a growing Repair Café movement, with more than 2,600 around the world.

Are There Any Plans for a Wirral Repair Café?

Wirral Environmental Network has teamed up with members of the Joint Rotary Environment Group and Extinction Rebellion Wirral to set up a Repair Café on the Wirral. Once it is established, the Wirral Repair Café would take place once a month on a Saturday or Sunday. The venue is still to be decided.



Can I Get Involved?

Yes, Repair Cafés are run by volunteers and so we are looking for help!

Do you enjoy mending broken objects? Can you repair clothes and other textiles, jewellery, watches, furniture, wooden items, bikes, phones, computers, electrical equipment or toys?

If you don't have repair skills, don't worry. We also need people to assist with running the Repair Café events. For example, welcoming and directing people when they arrive, checking in items, making and serving tea and coffee, or just helping us spread the word.

If you have any questions about the Repair Café plans or would like to discuss volunteering, please email wen@la21.net



What Happens Next?

A meeting for volunteers will be taking place at WEN on 4th March. At the time of writing this article, the meeting is yet to happen. We hope to have more news after the meeting about how we are going to progress with our plans. To keep updated, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or sign up to our fortnightly email newsletters via the WEN website.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WirralEnvironmentalNetwork

Twitter: twitter.com/EcoWirral

Website: wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk



Tree Planting by Anne Litherland Wallasey Tree Planting Group.



We are advised to plant the right tree in the right place. It's part of the Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy produced by Wirral Council in partnership with Wirral Initiative on Trees. It's also part of the Tree Warden Network Training.

But how do you decide?



Thinking about the right place first, if the habitat is more important for biodiversity or carbon capture before planting, then don't plant trees. Examples locally are the wildflower grasslands, sand dunes, further afield, peat bogs. Peat Bog restoration is particularly important. The Caithness and Sutherland peatlands store an estimated 407 million tonnes of carbon – over double the amount in all of the UK's forests. (RSPB Bringing Life back to the Bogs)

Also the soil, local climate and water conditions need to be taken into account as each tree has its own requirements and preferences. Wind exposure on or near our coastline doesn't suit all trees!

With this in mind the next questions to be considered, are how much space is available, how big the trees will be in maturity: a mature oak needs much more room than a mature hawthorn. Also, what maintenance is required, the local climate and whether to plant native or non-

native trees.

At the successful Tree Give on 14th January almost all the 1,500 trees provided by Wirral Council were taken. (photo or flier) The species were chosen as suitable for gardens: Wild Cherry, Holly, Crab Apple, Whitebeam, Guelder Rose- with the exception of Scots Pine! Many of these are attractive all year round with spring blossom, fruit or berries, and autumn colour.

Native trees are those which colonised naturally in the last 12,000 years since the last Ice Age. When the English Channel formed we were cut off from Europe so the number of tree species in the UK is reduced compared to Europe. These original



woodlands were of Birch, Scots Pine, Oak, Ash, Hazel Wych Elm, and Lime, with in southern England Beech and Hornbeam. In wet places, willows, alder and Poplar colonised. Non-natives including common trees like Sycamore and Horse chestnut were deliberately introduced later. Native trees are important because of the biodiversity they support. An oak tree can support around 2,300 species including some 326 which depend upon it for their survival. However in Port Sunlight River Park, Maritime Pine, a Mediterranean tree, (photo) was planted in place of Scots Pine to be more tolerant of climate change. Some non-natives can also support our wildlife, such as planting dense-foliaged conifers in places where there is little winter shelter. It is important to use locally sourced seeds too for greater genetic variability especially in wind pollinated species. (Woodland Trust). Diseases, such as Ash Dieback, have spread from imported stock. More diseases

and pests are at risk of being imported, such as Oak Processionary Moth, so do always use UK sourced and grown plants. (Forestry Research <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/>)

Another consideration is the size of the trees to plant. Whether to plant standard trees or whips. (photo of standard planting in Central Park, Mulching Whips in hedge) Cost around £1 for whip; from £90 for standard! Whips are better for biodiversity as they grow and develop over time. They cost very little, around £1, are easy to plant and so funds would cover a large area. They need tree guards to protect against grazing animals and strimming, and aftercare e.g. weeding, mulching, firming in.

Standards are better for street trees. Aftercare for standards is watering between April and September in growing season- not surface watering but soaking. Wirral Council will be asking for help with this as the number of newly planted street trees increase. Could you help water a tree nearby?

Wirral Free Tree Giveaway

Tree planting is important in urban areas, like most of Wallasey and Birkenhead as there's little possibility of a diverse woodland developing by natural regeneration. Natural regeneration can occur near established woodlands, if it is allowed to by excluding mowers and grazers, and has advantages. It retains local genetic forms, does not usually need tree guards, mulching etc, is cheap, and the trees are stable because they do not have root damage during transplanting. Rewilding is a popular term, but ill-defined. In the strict meaning of the term, it needs wider animal diversity, especially of large grazing animals and predators, than we now have in the UK.

Trees can be planted for their produce, especially fruit trees in and around towns. Norwich was once described as 'an orchard in a city or a city in an orchard'! The orchard at Brimstage, managed by Wirral Tree Warden Network, is important in preserving old varieties of apples which are not available in the supermarkets. The choice to plant fruit trees in gardens and orchards comes with a commitment for future maintenance. (Orchard at Christchurch, Bebington).

Non-native specimen trees may be the choice in other settings. Our beautiful parks and cemeteries are enhanced by trees introduced originally by plant explorers, and made popular by garden designers, like Edward Kemp at Flaybrick. There was an increase in cemeteries of trees associated with mourning, e.g. Irish Yew, Juniper, Holly, Weeping Ash, Weeping Beech and Camperdown Elms and Flaybrick has important collections of special trees.

Street trees enhance the local area, reduce pollution and combat heat excesses but may be unpopular due to leaf fall and pavement issues. The London Plane was planted because of its tolerance to pollution. As it grows and sheds bark the pollution is trapped. In smaller roads, especially in Wallasey Village, there are a number of flowering cherry trees which mark the seasons well.

Further reading [7111_fc_urban_tree_manual_v15.pdf \(forestresearch.gov.uk\)](#) [Tree strategy | wirral.gov.uk](#)

WIRRAL FREE TREE GIVEAWAY



Next week, we will be offering free trees to Wirral residents to help support the council's aim to plant 21,000 trees each year until 2030. The trees that will be available are seedling trees and have been UK sourced and grown. There will be 1,500 available, including Crab Apple, Scots Pine, Wild Cherry, Holly, Guelder Rose and Whitebeam.

Trees will be given out from the volunteer-run tree hubs on a first-come first-served basis on Saturday 14th January between 10am and 2pm. These are located at:

- Central Park - Liscard Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 0BS
- Royden Park - Hillbark Road, Frankby, Wirral, CH48 1NP
- Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale LNR - Woodslee Cottages, Spital Road, Bromborough, Wirral, CH62 2BJ

In return residents will be asked which ward the tree will be planted in, and that they pledge to look after their tree for future generations.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wirral Environmental Network SPRING OPEN DAY

Saturday 20th May 2023

Poster to follow

Anyone who would like a stall at this event please contact
Naomi@la21.net or phone 639 2121 and leave a message

Wirral MakeFest

"Save the Date!" June 3rd 10-4pm

Wirral MakeFest, a free community event that aims to cultivate the public's engagement with makers, inspiring future careers, hobbies and skills in the community and raising the visibility of local makers through the event and its accompanying website. The event will take place at BOTH Birkenhead Central Library and Williamson Museum and Art Gallery.



MakeFest is a fusion between art, science and technology: STEAM, and our makers will be from a wide range of arts and sciences, from plastic remoulding to VR and crafts to drama."

Call for makers <https://wirralmakefest.org/makers/>

Classes and Groups

PRACTICAL GARDENING - including fruit and vegetable growing

Discover and practice tasks you can do in your garden including feeding your plants, taking cuttings, improving your soil, sowing seeds for summer colour, looking at YOUR garden for the following year and much more!

Start Date- Wednesday 19th April, 9.30 - 11.30
cost £60.00 for 10 weeks

To be held at WEN, Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Seacombe CH44 8ER
For more information and book on course

phone 07932 355742, 0151 6392121 or Email carol.seery1@btinternet.com



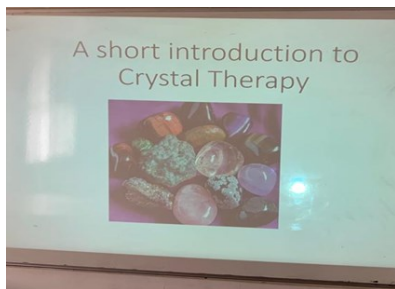
On going at WEN

- WEN Crafters – Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm—every 2 weeks
- WEN Reclaimers— Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm—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.
- 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.

WEN attends events across the Wirral – to learn more about events and activities that are taking place sign up to our fortnightly newsletter via <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/about/newsletter>

Introduction to Crystal Therapy by Julie Marshall at WEN on Saturday 11th February 2023



On Saturday, 11th February I delivered a workshop at WEN which provided a basic introduction to Crystal Therapy. This covered the following topics:

- Origins of crystal therapy- its uses by ancient cultures such as Egyptians and Native American Indians
- Scientific principles behind crystal therapy- the atomic vibration and piezoelectrical properties of quartz and other minerals, the chemical components of minerals, and the importance of colour
- The body's chakra system and its link to colour
- How to use a pendulum to select crystals, and crystal care.
- Environmental issues regarding mining for minerals

A group of nine of us gathered and the first thing we did was to select a stone to see what colour we were attuned to on that particular day.

During the course of the workshop, we looked at the colours that are associated with the seven main energy points in our body, known as chakra system, and how they correspond to certain moods or emotional characteristics. This led on to considering how different coloured stones can be used to work with the chakra system.

The group were introduced to pendulums and how they can be used to obtain a yes or no, which then allows them to be used in order to select crystals.



We all had a lovely morning and due to the success of this event another session is planned at WEN on **Saturday 22nd April**. This session has a particular focus on Spring, Re-birth, and Rejuvenation. I will bring along many of the beautiful green minerals associated with re-growth and renewal; we will look at crystal layouts to boost energy levels and how wands can also be used to boost energy levels for Spring. Participants will also get another go at practicing pendulum skills. More details are available on the WEN website and newsletter.

School Visits



School Visits to Wirral Environmental Network



Visits to our site in Seacombe, CH44 8ER can include
 From plot to plate - explore our community garden, join a fruit and veg hunt, plant salad or veg seeds to take away.
 Reuse and recycling - play recycling bingo, discover the journey of waste, craft from recycled items.



To book contact wen@la21.net



Eco Action

WANT TO KICKSTART ECO ACTION FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

Activities, discussions & money saving solutions

LOW COST AND CREATIVE WAYS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.
PRESENTATIONS, GAMES, LOTS OF CHAT, WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE.

2-3 HOUR SESSIONS AT WEN OR YOUR COMMUNITY LOCATION
NON PROFIT GROUPS PAY WHAT YOUR GROUP CAN AFFORD



Climate Change & Our Community

What's going on with climate and the environment, what's happening on the Wirral, how to get involved locally



Energy & Transport

What can we do? What help is out there?
Reducing energy use. Reducing Transport Costs



Reuse, recycle. Food

What happens to our waste and recycling.
What is a low carbon meal?



Nature & water

Free ways to enjoy our green & blue spaces.
What can we do to protect those spaces?



The last session will include an **free eco meal** as we plan personal or group actions.

Find out more via wen@la21.net



Trustees Update

At our AGM in December we said goodbye to three Trustees – Judith Anton, Nick Drew and Pete Stephens. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and massive contribution they made.

We are extremely fortunate to be joined by four new Trustees – Dave Jones (who is now our Chair), Dominic Jones, Anne Litherland and Ben Shoebridge.



To find out more about our Trustees and team head to <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/about/team>

Support our charity by becoming a member

WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK—MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual/Group

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

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

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

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 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.