

WIRRAL EVERGREEN

Issue 40 Summer 2023

The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



Words from the Trustees

With the ever-increasing news of climate breakdown and the huge impact it has on the natural environment and humankind it is increasingly important that we spread the word about the climate and biodiversity emergency and solutions.

On the Wirral, individuals, communities and organisations are joining together to make a difference.

With your help, word is getting out. Not just about the impact of increasing and more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves and flooding, that can be seen on the news daily. But about local solutions available and national changes that we need.

Wirral Environmental Network is speaking to more people, running more courses and workshops, attending more events and welcoming more people to our environmental hub.

Still, we meet people who don't know what they can do about climate change, who think it is just too hard or it is too expensive or what they do won't make a difference. Our job is to demonstrate there are some easy steps, that actions to address the climate emergency can also reduce the cost of living and what everyone does, will make a difference.

We are heading on a path of increasing average global temperatures. But as more and more individuals, communities, faith groups organisations and government begin to make changes we have a chance to turn this around. To limit the increase in global temperatures.

So please, become a climate champion. If you are reading this, we know you already care. Encourage your friends, neighbours, community spaces, faith groups, workplaces to make a change, contact local, national and international organisations and your political representatives to tell them that the environment is important to you.

Follow us, support us, join us. Together we can make a difference.

Wirral Environmental Network Trustees

For information, advice and guidance or resources to help you and others to make a difference contact wen@la21.net

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

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

Buy Local from Markets in Wirral

Birkenhead Farmers Market is due to launch . Check the Birkenhead Market Facebook page to see details of dates. If you're interested in trading, pitches cost £15 per table. Contact bhminfo@wirral.gov.uk for more information.

It joins our other wonderful local monthly and weekly markets:

Wallasey Food Fair & Makers' Market 1st Sunday 10.00 - 2.00
Mosslands School



Wirral Farmers' Market 2nd Saturday 9.00 - 1.00
New Ferry Village Hall



Heswall Food Market 3rd Saturday 10.00 - 12.00
Heswall Hall



and more Markets

West Kirby Food Market 4th Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

St Andrew's Church Hall



Neston Food Market every Friday 8.00 - 2.00

Neston Market Square



Birkenhead Farmers Market every Saturday 10.00 - 4.00



Don't forget Birkenhead Market is also open Monday - Saturdays 9.00 - 5.00 and please also support our Wirral Farmers and your local fruit and veg shops! Details on our Big Green List.

Projects - Tiny Forest

Tiny Forest brings the benefits of woodland right into the heart of our cities and urban spaces: connecting people with nature, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change, as well as providing a nature-rich habitat to support urban wildlife.

Earthwatch is pioneering Tiny Forest in the UK and is conducting a UK-wide research study to help us understand how these super tiny woods have the potential to be super powerful.

You can get involved in monitoring your local Tiny Forest using simple accessible scientific methods and submitting your data using this specially designed platform. Data will be analysed by our scientists to better assess the benefits these miniature urban woodlands can provide over time and between different forests and WALLASEY HAS 2 TINY FORESTS !

1. at Delph off Withins Lane and
2. Citrine Park, Seacombe.



1) Tiny forest - 600 trees on size of tennis court - plants on enriched soil to mimic 200 years of forest leaf litter



2) 600 trees - planted by traditional methods so area around size of football pitch

Carol Seery took 3 groups in June to do some citizens science at the tiny forest site at Citrine Park , Seacombe , where there are 3 projects in one,

The groups found it fascinating and also got to know about the down loadable free app to help them identify butterflies , insects etc - Earthwatch Europe - visit <https://earthwatch.org.uk/> and follow links to tiny forest and eventually Citrine Park .

The results where really obvious to see - the tiny forest area doing fantastic , traditional planting nearly all but a few died and ones remaining very little growth compared to tiny forest planting - and lots more beside was seen.

The groups where so impressed that they want to visit once a season to record results!

WEN will be looking at funding to see if we can do a workshop to identify and re tag the trees in the near future so if you would like to be involved please look out for it being advertised on WEN face book page etc.



3) Area with traditional spacing but enriched soil so grass initially removed

For further information google Earthwatch Europe

Community gardens

In Wirral we are fortunate to have many community gardens. These are places where anyone who wishes to garden can do so with company, even and especially, if they don't have their own garden. Seeds, plants and produce are shared and it's good company and fun. People can work or potter at their own ability level, usually with guidance and sometimes grant funding means that training is provided.

In Wallasey, several community gardens are actively looking for new volunteers.

Village Community Garden, in Wallasey Village and established during lockdown, meets on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 2-4pm at St George's Road, CH45 6TU. There are herb and fruit and vegetable beds, in addition to flower beds full of plants to attract bees and other pollinators. Please contact Anne on 07910 960316 or email ham.creation.2020@gmail.com for more information.



A new garden is planned for Seacombe, near St Joseph's church. Please contact Rick on 07917922207 or email rickp@svp.org.uk

In Liscard, St Mary's Eco Garden is going from strength to strength with nature areas, composting, raised beds, native hedge and fruit trees. They meet on Monday in term time, from 10.00 am to 12.45, with coffee and snacks to start and home-made soup for lunch! They also have occasional task days. Please contact Ruth on 07854208005 or ruthwilliams26@btinternet.com

Claremount Methodist church are also looking for help with their garden on Claremount Road, CH45 6EU. Please contact Viv Gasteen on claremount01@gmail.com or call into the Hub on Thursday 3-5pm or Friday 12:20-3pm.



Many of these gardens are on The Big Green List and Mersey Green Network. To add a community garden to the list [email wen@la21.net](mailto:wen@la21.net)

Activities

- **WEN Crafters** – Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm—every 2 weeks
- **WEN Reclaimers**— Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm—every 2 weeks
Reusing donated wood to create 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 produce, preparing for the year ahead. Gearing up to sow seeds in our polytunnel, tend the raised beds.
- **Green Community Hub** - Wednesdays 10-12
At St James Garden, other days by arrangement. Gate next to 192 Tollemache Road, Birkenhead North.
- **WEN events**—our seasonal fairs and attending local community events

Events

Tuesday, 19 September 10:00 – 11:30 Wirral Environmental Network Visit to the recycling discovery centre at Gillmoss: Gillmoss MRF, Bridgehouse Lane, Liverpool L10 5HA

A unique tour of the Materials Recovery Facility where you'll see recycling in action and discover what you can recycle at home to help you and your group Recycle Right.

If you would like to join us please email wen@la21.net with your name (s), if you need help with a bus pass, need a lift or can offer a lift and any accessibility needs.

Friday 22nd September 7-9pm Make Polluters Pay: at Claremount Methodist church lounge, Wallasey, entrance on Taunton Road. Information evening with Christian Aid and Fridays 4 The Future, Liverpool and banner making.

Eventbrite link [Make Polluters Pay Tickets, Fri 22 Sep 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Successful Launch of Wirral Repair Café

On Sunday 2nd July, the Wirral Repair Café was launched after several months of planning. Since the first planning meeting at WEN in March, Barbara Gleave and Katherine Jenner have led efforts to assemble a talented and enthusiastic team of volunteers who are able to repair items such as laptops and phones, clothing, costume jewellery, toys and electrical appliances. There are also volunteers to welcome visitors and serve food and drink in the café.



Wirral Deen Centre on Borough Road in Birkenhead was chosen as the ideal venue for Wirral Repair Café, being accessible by public transport, having space for the repair work and a separate coffee bar and seating area for refreshments. They also encourage initiatives that bring the community together and run an Eco Club for school children. There was a tremendous turnout, with more than 100 visitors and 42 items brought for repair. Of these, 15 were fully repaired and 13 were partially repaired, or the visitor was given advice or asked to return with a part or when the appropriate tools were available. Only 14 items could not be repaired. An excellent result. Some of the more unexpected items brought for repair were a 48-year-old Teasmade found in a skip and a Star Wars Stormtrooper helmet!

The Mayor of Wirral, Jerry Williams, cut the ribbon to officially open Wirral Repair Café. Also joining the launch event were Mick Whitley, MP for Birkenhead; the three Councillors for Birkenhead and Tranmere – Cllr Pat Cleary, Cllr Amanda Onwuemene and Cllr Ewan Tomeny; and Cllr Liz Grey, Chair of Wirral Council's Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee. Claire Minter, a journalist from BBC Radio Merseyside, visited too and recorded interviews with visitors and repairers, which were broadcast in a feature on Lisa Marrey's breakfast show the following Friday.



Wirral Repair Cafe will take place on the first Sunday of every month from 2pm to 4pm, at Wirral Deen Centre,



with the next event being on 1st October . Take along your broken item and one of the volunteers will fix it or give advice on where to buy parts that are needed to carry out the repair (which can be done at a future session). You can also have a chat with the repairers and other visitors over coffee and cake, and pick up some tips on how to carry out your own repairs. Repairs and refreshments are free of charge but donations are welcome.

Please follow Wirral Repair Cafe on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to see updates and reminders prior to the next event. All contact details can be found on the Wirral Repair Café page on the Repair Café website:

<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/wirral-repair-cafe>

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please email wirralrepaircafe@gmail.com

Pilgrimage for the Planet at Port Sunlight River Park—Anne Litherland

This meditative walk, planned as one of a national day of pilgrimages with Christian Climate Action, took place on Saturday 9th September with over twenty walkers from a range of faith and Christian backgrounds. As part of the Season of Creation, the theme 'Let justice flow like a mighty river' was particularly appropriate for this park on the banks of the River Mersey.

The aim of the pilgrimage was to reflect on our lifestyle with its local impact and how this impacts the Global South and international issues with examples from the park. The site has undergone many changes, from river to dock to landfill and now a public park. The walk started at the car park, the approximate location of the original shoreline, and looked at the Gas2Energy plant which uses the landfill gas, methane, to generate energy. Methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and must be carefully monitored. The Methane Pledge made at COP26 in Glasgow is needed to control global temperature rise but the pledge is still not binding and methane levels are rising globally.

As we sang and walked up towards the summit, the diversity of plant life was apparent, although UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. We lamented the pollution of local waterways and the planning application to build an ash treatment plant nearby so many homes. As we celebrated the rich biodiversity of bird life around us and heard about the Nature2030 pledge www.wcl.org.uk/nature2030 to restore biodiversity and the outcomes of COP15 in Montreal, a rainbow appeared over the Mersey. A sign of hope.

At the summit we reflected on our wasteful lifestyle, how to reuse and repurpose items before recycling and the poor recycling rates in Liverpool City Region. The landfill was only active for 15 years creating a hill 37m high. Now all local general waste is sent to Teesside for incineration.

Walking silently towards the Mersey we hoped to catch sight of the fox, or the river porpoises seen recently, and a kestrel was seen hunting overhead! At the Wastewater Treatment plant, we heard about the poor record of sewage discharge by United Utilities locally and on the Goyt and Tame, both tributaries of the Mersey. As individuals we can use water wisely and lobby through River Action UK for change. [Charter for Rivers - River Action UK](http://www.riveractionuk.org)



Pilgrimage for the Planet at Port Sunlight River Park—Continued

Between the lake and the mudflats, we looked at the wading birds and celebrated the protection of the estuary both as a Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest. But also in our sights was the Tranmere oil terminal where 9 million tonnes of oil are imported annually. The UK is the eleventh highest importer of oil worldwide and this use of oil is, and has, caused catastrophic climate change. Those who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are suffering the most. We reflected further on this as we walked above the pipeline carrying this oil to Stanlow, and contrasted this with the situation in East Africa where a crude oil pipeline is under construction. The East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Lake Victoria to Tanzania will threaten water supplies for millions, displace 100,000 people, and is completely incompatible with the Paris Agreement of holding climate temperature rise to 1.5C. [StopEACOP | East African Crude Oil Pipeline](#)

We finished the walk at the Heritage centre with further prayers, singing and a picnic. It was a moving and empowering experience. It was good to be in the company of others working and praying for a better future.

Extract from Season of Creation Prayer [Season of Creation](#)

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

Thanks to Annette and Anne from North West Christian Climate Action, Faiths for Change, Colin from the Friends of Port Sunlight River Park and Eric, the Ranger for their help.

Many of the Wirral walkers were part of the Cool Wirral Faith partnership supported by Faiths4Change to reduce their carbon impact. Please contact Zarah zarah@faiths4change.org.uk for more information.

To join Christian Climate Action North West network : nwchristianclimateactionnw@gmail.com

Our next events

Saturday 16th September 1-2pm Barclays vigil, Church Street, Liverpool. (3rd Sat every month)

Saturday 23rd September Make Polluters Pay Day of Action. 11.30am gather in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for Creation tide service at 12.05pm. 1pm Banner gathering in the Well. 2pm Pilgrimage along Hope Street to Metropolitan Cathedral with singing, speeches and meditations outside on the piazza.





**Discover Gardening at
Wirral Environmental Network
from September 2023**

**Sandon Building, Falkland Road,
Seacombe, Wirral, CH44 8ER**


**Discover the Past, Present and
Future of Your Garden
Starts Wednesday 6th September, 12 - 2pm**

Discover the history of gardens, with outings to local gardens and parks of interest.

Find out what you should be doing week by week in your garden and have your horticultural puzzles solved in Question and Answer time.

Cost: £60.00 for each 10 week term (20 hours)
You can do one term or as many as you like as all are different!

**For more information, to book on the course or find
out about other courses, please phone 07932
355742 or email carol.seery1@btinternet.com**



...and more gardening courses



**Discover Gardening at
Wirral Environmental Network
from September 2023**

Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Seacombe, Wirral, CH44 8ER



**How to Grow Fruit, Vegetables and Herbs
Starts Thursday 7th September 9.30am - 12pm**

This course will be run in its entirety over 3 terms, with each term covering a specific subject in the classroom and with practical sessions.

The practicals will take place in our gardens and poly-tunnels. Learn what you should be doing in your garden at exactly the right time, practice it with us and then go home and do it there!

In the first term the main theory area to be covered will be fruit, including what to plant, new types, how to prune, feeding and general maintenance.

Cost: £75.00 per 10 weeks (25 hours)

The cost is for each term. You can do one term or all 3.

**For more information, to book on the course
or find out about other courses,
please phone 07932 355742
or email carol.seery1@btinternet.com**

Join WEN's events volunteer team or be a climate champion for your event?

Wirral Environmental Network are regularly asked to attend events across the Wirral to talk about what we do and signpost with information, advice and guidance about local environmental solutions and opportunities.

This year's events have included Earthfest at Neston, Cool Heswall, WEN Spring Fair in Wallasey, Wirral Primary Science Network in Seacombe and the Plastic Pledge Market at a Primary School. Coming up we have a stall at Earthfest West Kirby, Rotary Conference in Liverpool and a WEN pre Christmas Fair.

At some events we run activities, at others we sow or give away items such as seeds and pollinators, provide plant-based food tasters, water saving measures, show and sell upcycled crafts or provide other items to help people protect our environment and live sustainably.

Due to lack of volunteer availability, we have had to turn down requests to attend a number of events. So, we are looking to expand the pool of people who can help out for a few hours on our behalf or use our materials to be an environmental and climate champion at their local event.

Help set up a stall, sit for a few hours and talk to fellow residents about environmental and climate solutions, run an activity, provide information or take contact details for us to follow-up. We have information and exhibits about recycling, water, food, air quality, energy, nature, trees and transport and much more. You may already have knowledge that can help other people or training can be given.

Whatever way you can help, we would welcome you to the volunteer team! Get in touch with wen@la21.net if you are interested.



Wirral's Climate Action Hub Launched



Cool Wirral is Wirral's Climate Change Strategy. As part of Cool Wirral, Wirral Council has launched the Climate Action Hub.

It is where you will be able to engage with Council related climate projects.



Wirral's Air Quality Strategy

Why does clean air matter? Have your say about Wirral's air quality strategy.



Domestic burning

Tell us about domestic burning in your home.



Climate Survey

Please complete the survey to provide us with your thoughts on climate change.



Wirral's Biodiversity Strategy

Wirral Council is drafting a new biodiversity strategy and we would like your thoughts and ideas.

Residents of Wirral are starting to add their Carbon Footprints to a map.

Find out more and add your footprint at

<https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/.../climate-action-wirral>



Carbon Footprint

Do you know your carbon footprint? Calculate it and then place it on the map.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wirral Environmental Network Green pre Christmas Fair - save the date

Saturday 18th November 2023

The next Wirral Environmental Network Green Fair will be at our base in Falkland Road, Ch44 on Saturday 18th November 2023.

With wonderful cakes, crafts, gifts, eco ideas and activities.

If you want a stall at the event contact wen@la21.net for a registration form.

Stalls are free but donations appreciated.

Pictures from the last WEN Fair in May 2023



WEN Annual Survey

If you know us, feel free to skip the next bit and go straight to the questions! Otherwise have a quick read and it may help you decide what our focus should be. Your responses will guide our work in the next 12-18 months and beyond.

Wirral Environmental Network (WEN) aims to "advance the education of the public about the preservation of our **world's natural environment, ecological sustainability, natural resource conservation, waste minimisation, recycling** and the principles of fair trade, within Wirral and the surrounding area".

We do this with

- An environmental hub - visitor centre and classroom for sustainable living on the Wirral and home to local groups.
- Training - sustainability courses from our accredited trainers.
- Network - Big Green List of 280+ Wirral organisations who are doing something positive for the environment, Mersey Green Network Map, fortnightly e-news of local environmental action and events.
- Projects - green and growing spaces, re-use, sustainable communities, environmental food choices, eco pop-ups.
- Memberships - individual, household, voluntary organisations and businesses.
- Volunteering opportunities - both hands on and behind the scenes.

What themes do you think we should or should not focus on?	Must focus	Should focus	Could focus	Should not focus
Air quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change, resilience and adaptation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green and blue spaces, habitat and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connection and engaging communities with nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and well being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy - using less & sustainable generation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transport and travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How do you think WEN should focus on the themes?	Must focus	Should focus	Could focus	Should not focus
Awareness, education and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental hub	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Networking events, promoting local groups, facilitating communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteering opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What specific projects and activities could WEN focus on? (All ideas are welcome, big and small, ones we can do for free or ones we would need to apply for funding for.)

What activities or projects could you or will you do? Do you need any help?

I am responding on behalf of an organisation and/or individual (please tick)

To receive our e-newsletter please leave your email address.....

Responses to wen@la21.net or post to WEN at Falkland Road, Wallasey, CH44 8ER

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)

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

Or go online to <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/membership-donations>

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.