

# WIRRAL EVERGREEN

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The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



Hardworking WEN volunteers have done it again!

Our open day on 18th May was hugely successful thanks to the hard work of lots of WEN volunteers who give up their time for free. We smashed all previous records by raising over £1100—more than £500 of that was from plant sales alone!

The Green Umbrella Group worked very hard to raise many of the plants from seed—with over 10 different varieties of tomatoes for sale as well as other fruit, vegetables and flowers—so much choice!

Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments, browsing the craft and collectable tables and the 'Owl Experience' too.

The open day is a joint effort—all the volunteers enjoy working together to make these events fun and successful—now we're looking forward to the next one!



## Wirral Environmental Network

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

**Patrons:** Pat Sykes (MBE), John Guilleband, Tina Fox, 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.la21.net

**Facebook:** Wirral Environmental Network(WEN)

**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.

# Year of the Environment 2019

**Wirral Environmental Network**  
Environmental education charity



**Welcoming Year of the Environment 2019**  
**And a year of green action**

**Air quality \* Climate change and resilience**

**Green spaces, habitat and biodiversity**

**Connecting and engaging communities with nature**

**Health and well-being \* Sustainable energy**

**Reduce waste \* Water**

Find out what is going on \* Contact us to get involved

Share what you and your groups are doing

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

[wen@la21.net](mailto:wen@la21.net)

**Cleaner, Greener, Well, Together**

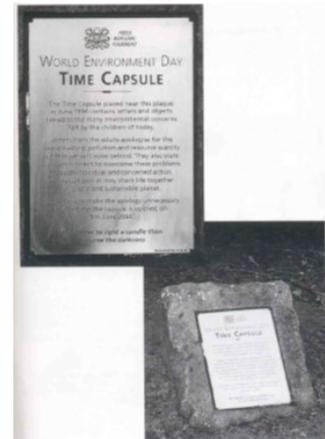
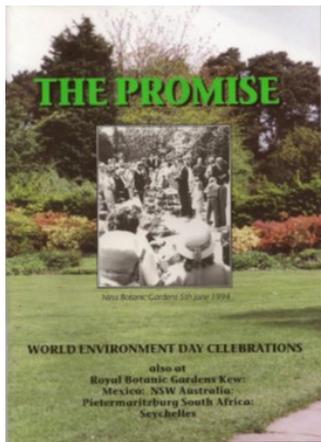


# THE ENVIRONMENT TIMECAPSULE PROJECT AT NESS GARDENS BEGAN 25 YEARS AGO.

## You are (all) invited to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

at Ness Gardens on Saturday June 8th (w/e of World Environment Day).

We plan to meet in the Bulley Room at 1400, starting with hot or cold drinks and light refreshments on arrival. Full details at [www.ecotimecapsule.com](http://www.ecotimecapsule.com)



**The Environment Time Capsules [Eco-TCs] were buried at Kew, Ness, South Africa, Seychelles, Sydney & in Mexico**

They were based on the saying:

**“We have not inherited the earth from our grandparents, we have *borrowed it* from our grandchildren”**

- The project began on World Environment Day in June 1994 and ends in 2044 (ie with our ‘grandchildren’)
- The Eco-TCs contain environmentally-relevant artefacts of the day [whether BAD eg a CFC aerosol or GOOD, such as my cycle pump and of course a pack of PILLS(!) - highlighting how crucial contraception for humans is for the planet’s future]
- There were letters and poems and pictures produced in a competition entered by 100s of schoolchildren: all apologising to the future for our trashing of their ‘loan’ to us, **BUT ALSO:**  
*Pledging action:* so hopefully ‘sorry’ not needed!

Please see/hear Chris’s song “The Promise” - and more at: [www.ecotimecapsule.com](http://www.ecotimecapsule.com)

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If you wish to attend this free event, and also to have free entry to Ness Gardens all day on 8th June, please visit our website, follow the link to Ness and complete the form there. You will be sent a confirmation email.

*John Guillebaud May 2019*

# A Flush of Fresh Water

For years I have pondered how I could use rainwater to flush my downstairs toilet. Well I finally got round to it this year thanks to obtaining a discarded cold water tank.

The main problem has been that the shed roof on which I would need to put the tank to collect rainwater and deliver to the toilet cistern, is a sloping one. I got round this by building up with bricks and using a bracket bolted to the wall to stop the whole assembly making it way down the sloping roof.

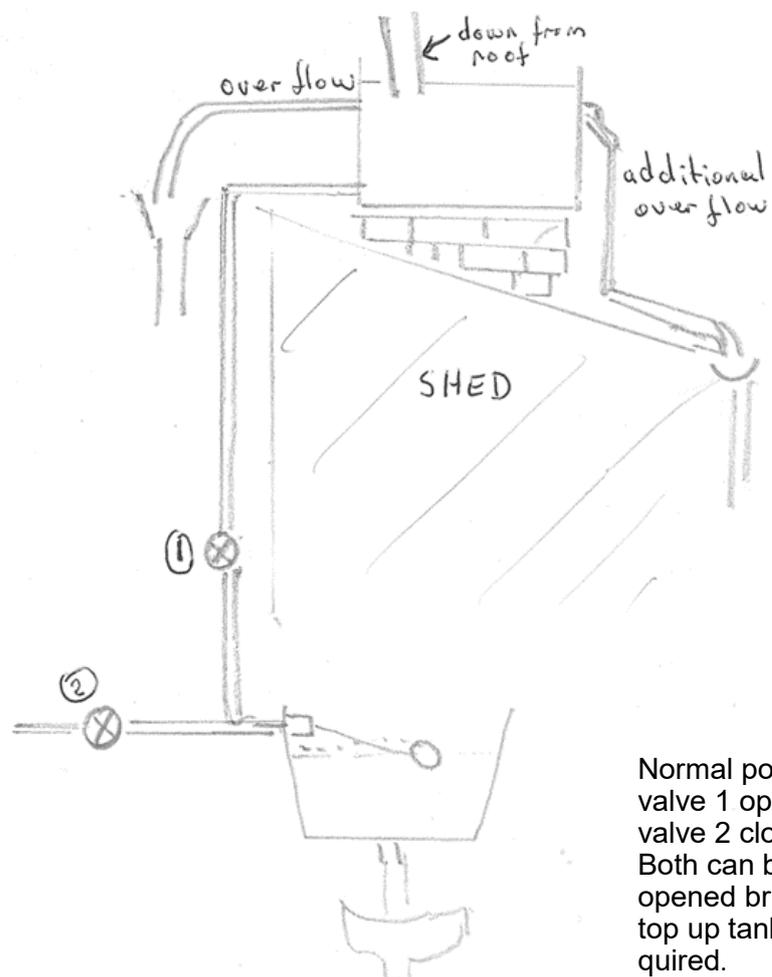
The next issue was the plumbing which I managed to do using 100% recovered pipes and fittings. This was done in a couple of hours but I also had to consider overflow as the tank would soon fill up from the roof downspout. In addition I would have to cater for if there was not enough water in the tank.

Key to my system is the use of two isolation valves which can be turned by hand (rather than a screw driver): one for the mains feed (2) and one for the tank feed (1) in the diagram. These two valves were the only items I needed to buy.

I had doubts about the pressure but the head of 2 meters is sufficient to fill the toilet cistern, albeit slowly. I did have an issue with overflow. The 22mm outlet could not cope with the amount of water entering the tank during heavy rain and it would cascade down the shed roof. The addition of a second overflow seems to have solved this though.

As well as the satisfaction of environmentally friendly flushes there is the bonus that lime scale does not build up in the bowl.

*Peter Exley*



Normal position is valve 1 open and valve 2 closed. Both can be opened briefly to top up tank if required.

# Refill Revolution launches in Wirral

The Refill Wirral scheme launched in February. The plan is to make refilling a water bottle as easy, convenient and cheap as possible, by introducing Refill Stations on every street.

The scheme encourages participating shops, cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses to sign up to the free Refill app and put a sticker in their window alerting passers-by to the fact they're welcome to fill up their bottle for free.

The average adult buys more than 3 plastic water bottles every week\* - a startling 175 bottles every year per person. In total, some 7.7 billion plastic water bottles are bought across the UK each year, resulting in substantial amounts of single-use plastic waste ending up in our oceans.

Here in Wirral we're rightly proud of the area's stunning coast and countryside, as a peninsula surrounded by water, we need to lead the way with projects like this and look after where we live. Plastics, including single-use plastic bottles, are now the most frequently found type of litter on UK beaches.

"It makes good business sense too, customers view businesses that provide free water refills more favourably and are more likely to return to them to make future purchases. I've already started to see this with my own business." said Wirral Community Champion Emily Gleaves from Waste Not Want Not.

Over 40 places including Waste Not Want Not in Birkenhead Market, Birkenhead Park, Central Park, Wirral Country Park Visitor Centre, Wirral Environmental Network, Greggs, Costa Coffee and Premier

Hotels, Fuel Foods, Whitmore and White have already signed up.



More information at [www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk)



# Pictures from our recent open day in May



What's on at WEN .....

WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

*presents their*



# SUMMER TEA PARTY

and

## Art in the Garden .

Local Artists (on site) displaying  
and selling their art work



on **Saturday 6th July 2019**

**1.30pm—4pm**

at The Sandon Building, Falkland Rd, Wallasey CH44 8ER

**Refreshments to include home made cakes, tea and coffee**

**Plants for sale**

**Activities for the children and the OWLS will be there again too!**



Registered charity no: 1068306

No entrance fee but donations would be very welcome and much appreciated

## Discover Garden Courses at Wirral Environmental Network (WEN) from September 2019

### A - Z PRACTICAL GARDENING - (including fruit and vegetable growing)

Discover and practice tasks you can do in your garden in the autumn and winter including pruning, taking cuttings, what to do in your garden week by week, looking at YOUR garden for the following year and much more!

Start Date- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30 - 11.30

### A - Z OF GARDENING - ORNAMENTAL AND PRODUCTIVE

We will look at a new subject every week such as plants for winter, easy plants for gardens, you can choose and much more  
Find out what you should be doing week by week in your garden and gardener's question time

Start Date- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2.15 - 4.15

Cost of each course above is £55.00 for each 10 week term  
*You can do one term or as many as you like all are different!*

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### SCIENCE AND HORTICULTURE -

The science of Plant classification, structure, and function, which will then follow on to plant nutrition and the root environment, maintaining plant health and understanding plant propagation and development (this, in part, can lead to a qualification if you want to go down that route!)

START DATE - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 12.30 - 3.00

COST - £75.00 per 10 weeks, 25 hours (each course)

All to be held at WEN, Sandon Building, Falkland Road, Seacombe CH44 8ER

For more information, book on course or find out about other courses  
phone 0151 639 2121, 07932 355742 or Email [carol.seery1@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.seery1@btinternet.com)

## Volunteer Groups at Wirral Environmental Network

Several new groups have been formed by volunteers working at WEN this year. One group of volunteers has recently formed a Craft Group and they are using their considerable talents to create articles for sale at WEN events (and other times) from recycled materials. E.g. a considerable amount of fabric was donated from a closing down shop and they have made fold-up bags and dog bandannas which sold well at our recent Spring Event.



Another group was very quick to sign up for Willow Weaving workshops run by our own Carol Seery. Many very attractive and useful willow structures were made for people to take home and also to be used in displays for the RHS 'in bloom' competition which will be judged in July.



A Walking Group was formed and several walks have been arranged on beautiful Spring days. These included a walk around Birkenhead Park and Wirral Coastal Park.



*If you would like to join any of the groups please contact us.*

# Wirral Environmental Network Joins Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme

Walkers' free crisp packet recycling scheme launched in December 2018 and Wirral Environmental Network are now an official collection partner.

The free scheme, which is in partnership with recycling firm TerraCycle, allows crisp fans to drop off empty packets at hundreds of recycling points around the country. They will be at supermarkets, schools and village halls.

The packets will be sent to TerraCycle, which will clean and shred them before they are made into small plastic pellets. These can then be used to make items such as outdoor furniture, trays, roofing and flooring.

Walkers currently produces 7,000 crisp packets a minute - or 11 million crisp packets per day - and the firm accounts for 56 per cent of British crisp sales.

Wirral Environmental Network (WEN) has become a public drop-off location and earns points which can be redeemed as charitable gifts or payments.

200 points = £2



Once collected, the crisp packets are separated by plastic type, cleaned, and extruded into plastic pellets to make new recycled products.



Container for waste crisp packets at WEN

# New WEN furniture recycle project



## Up-cycle Market Space

Wirral Environmental Network (WEN) and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority are working with Urban Vintage to reduce land fill waste and encourage people to recycle and reuse.

Remember 'Make do and Mend?' well we can help you to do that...

Merseyside authority has identified 2019 as the Year of the Environment... so why not get involved and help your local area and reduce your landfill contributions?



Planned activities include:  
Advice and information via market stall at Birkenhead Market with staff in attendance.

Furniture swap shop days, bring along your unwanted furniture and take a new item away!  
(Collection can be arranged)

### Upcycling workshop

2 x 4 day workshops learning how to upcycle your furniture to create modern styles.

To be held: June and July  
(Contact Naomi at WEN)



Wirral  
Environmental  
Network



Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority  
COMMUNITY  
FUND  
Veolia

## Wirral Environmental Network 2019

- Jan** Consult, plan, launch Wirral Year of Environment ~ Gardening classes run through the year
- Feb** Reduce single use plastics ~ Plastic free markets ~ Producer responsibility ~ Wirral Together
- Mar** Refill stations & water butts ~ World Water Day
- Apr** Focus on furniture & reducing waste
- May** Sustainable transport & air quality ~ Bike fix-it days ~ Organised walks & cycle rides
- June** World Environment Day & Time Capsule at Ness Gardens ~ Clear the air for Clean Air Day
- July** Go wild in green spaces ~ In Bloom judging ~ Bike fix-it days part 2
- Aug** Healthy and meatless ~ New Cool Wirral Plan
- Sept** Changing *seasons* ~ Homes & habitats ~ Car Free Day
- Oct** Get set for Winter ~ Energy efficiency in the home ~ UN Climate Summit
- Nov** Veg out ~ World Vegan Day
- Dec** Celebrate, reflect and agree the plan for lasting change



**Activities are added all the time. Follow, like & share us. Meet us at your local Wirral event to find out more.**

### *Support our charity by becoming a member*

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 working with community groups and organisations in growing and recycling.

Our work is supported by a large number of volunteers committed to the charity ideals.

Costs per annum:

**INDIVIDUALS £8    COMMUNITY GROUPS £10    BUSINESSES £20**

Contact: Naomi Graham or Pam McCarron (Membership Secretary) on 639 2121

Email: [pam.mccarron@la21.net](mailto:pam.mccarron@la21.net) for a membership form

*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.*