

# WIRRAL EVERGREEN

Issue 34 Summer/Autumn 2020

The Magazine of the Wirral Environmental Network



## A very big THANK YOU

*Thank you!*

Just after volunteer groups sowed the first of the seeds for our growing season we had the country wide lockdown due to covid-19.

However Kenny and Carol went in to WEN over lockdown (observing the rules, of course) and did a lot of pricking out/potting on the seedlings and then you all came to the rescue by coming and buying the plants when you could. At one point we had taken over £1,300 and the final total is much more.

This was absolutely fantastic and we can't thank you enough for all of your support.



Is this the biggest sunflower?

This sunflower was grown by a local neighbour who had bought some sunflower plants from WEN—he thinks it measures around 12 or 13ft

Have you grown a bigger one??

If so please send your pictures to us at [wen@la21.net](mailto:wen@la21.net) or prints to our office address below,



### 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](mailto:wen@la21.net) **Website:** [www.wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk](http://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.

## Greening up Gated Alleyways in Birkenhead



Wirral Environmental Network have been helping communities across Birkenhead to transform their alleyways into community gardens and shared space.

### The Plan:

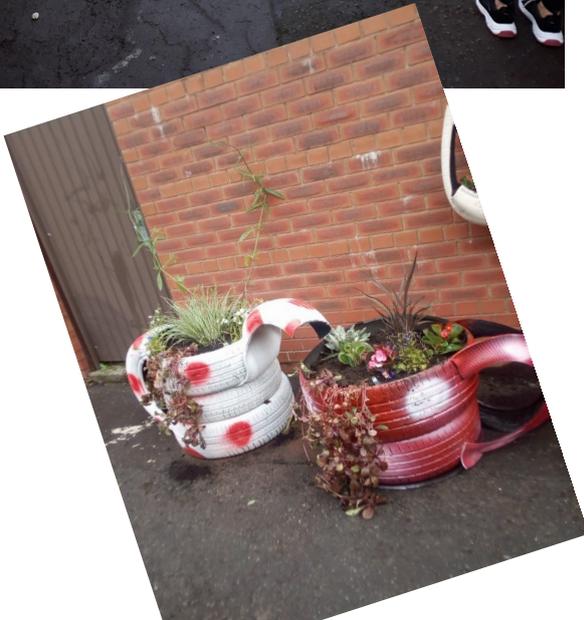
Groups of neighbours work together clearing the alleyway with the help of Wirral Council and then, with the help of WEN, plant up colourful planters made from many different materials including recycled pallets, tyres and even a toilet to create beautiful alleyway gardens.

### [Regional press coverage in the Liverpool Echo](#)

Not only do the alleyway gardens provide additional outside space they also foster a new sense of community and ownership.

The community has to commit to watering the planters and we (WEN) will be going back in 6 months time to see how the gardens are getting on.

WEN have worked with the following groups : Patterson st ; Castle st ; Alverstone Avenue and are planning to work with Shamrock Avenue and Spencer Avenue in the near future.



## Over 200 Wirral Organisations on The Big Green List!

Wirral has a hugely impressive number of community groups, organisations and businesses all with a passion to protect our environment and to reduce our impact on this precious planet that we inhabit



# BIG GREEN LIST

The Big Green List details (currently) 214 organisations covering local enterprises including:

- > 'Friends of..' groups looking after our green and blue spaces
- > Zero waste shops and recycling organisations
- > Water and energy efficiency companies
- > Tree Wardens and Forest Schools
- > Travel & Transport options
- > Campaigning groups

..... and so much more.

We need to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint and using these local organisations can help us to do that.

Find them on the The Big Green List – <https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/get-involved/wirral-organisations>

If you know of an organisation that should be on the list, please send full details to [wen@la21.net](mailto:wen@la21.net). We only publish publicly available information. With permission, we also hold specific contact details for sign-posting purposes when we get specific enquiries.

### Trustee news — PETER EXLEY

After many years of service, Peter Exley is standing down as Chair of Trustees at Wirral Environmental Network (WEN).

Pete has been a member of WEN since 1993 (or maybe even prior to that). He became Director/Trustee in 2001.

He took the position of Chair in 2007 and became Treasurer in 2013 rather reluctantly but signed up because he was worried about the future of WEN at that time. 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! - He was well known for keeping order in the meeting and orders at the bar!

Pete's professional background was in telecoms and teaching and he has been involved in voluntary work since 1970. He joined Liverpool Friends of the Earth in the early 70's and has participated in various environmental activities and groups since then, providing us at WEN with much of his knowledge and expertise.

Pete's keen eye for detail on the accounts proved vital during the 2008 recession and as Chair, he leaves an organisation which is growing strongly. Pete will continue to be involved as a volunteer.

Judith — I would like to say how sorry I am that Pete is no longer the chair of WEN — I really miss him as our chair. In my head he **was** WEN. He seemed to know everything that was going on and had gone on in the past. He seemed to be unfazed by the charity commission and he understood the monthly financial figures. Wow.

He also made some great homemade wine so I'm hoping that we can all get together again when this lockdown situation eases.

A huge thank you to Pete for all his work in the past years and for making trustees life so easy.

# Out and about with Wirral Environmental Network—KOALA

## Practical workshops for container-based grow your own food at home July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

July saw Wirral Environmental Network at the Koala Project in Tranmere showing local residents how to grow edible plants at home. Koala exists to provide children and families with tailored, practical and emotional support that improves well-being, reduces isolation and supports both children and care givers to thrive. They wanted to interest children, care-givers, volunteers and staff in gardening and the wonders of nature and spending time out in it.

With support from the Price Parry Trust, WEN provided containers, growing materials and small plants. A quick talk and demonstration then attendees planted the containers to take home. This was followed by great questions and lots of discussion. Whilst we were at Koala we looked around the garden and saw bay, chives, mint and other herbs that are easy to grow, taste great and, if you grow at home, save money, plastic and food miles...a win-win-win!

It was a great opportunity to get outside in a socially safe way, get involved in a shared activity and learn how to grow your own.

Thanks to Price Parry Trust for the funding, to Koala for hosting the sessions and to the attendees for their enthusiasm



## Innovative recycling projects



Using old tennis balls as cane toppers— health and safety always! (below)

I was given some old gates. I used 2 for beans and climbing cougettes to grow up and placed one on wooden legs. I grew various squash by each leg. As the squash grew (up strings pinned into the ground and attached to the gate) the fruit of the squash rested on top of the gate safe from slugs . It is all swelling and ripening nicely. (Above)



Using old teapots as bird nests/feeders (above)



(Left) - Using old roll on deodorant bottles as cane toppers.— (more health and safety). Ball and cap can also be used—making 3 cane toppers from one deodorant!!

and from the Crafters ..

A wonderful transformation of this traditional style deck chair (found in a skip) using the original frame and some recycled fabric and paint.



Using old jumpers to make dog coats (above)

## All about TREES

### Wallasey Tree Planting Group. July 2020

The Tree Planting Group came together in October 2018 and at the moment there are about ten of us, all keen to plant trees to help climate change, improve local air quality and biodiversity.

The physical task of planting trees and taking care of their long term maintenance has positive health benefits for us and it's also a local action in line with the 'Cool Wirral' partnership. Finally it will help towards Wirral's target of 23,000 trees a year as outlined in the new Wirral Tree Strategy.



WTPG is part of the Wallasey Village Library Friends which was formed in 2014 to support the Library and use the building as a community hub with targeted events for all, from preschool to young mothers and the elderly. All of this to help develop the community by providing a meeting place and organising talks, health and well-being activities including tree planting and walking groups.

We raise awareness and funds for local charities and help keep the Library open for events throughout the day. Since 2018 we have planted and maintained over 500 small tree saplings on the semi derelict site between Emslie Morgan (Solar Academy) and the dual carriageway. All these trees with their guards and canes were supplied by the Woodland Trust, and because we are a community group they were free.



In late March 2020 we were given 400 bare rooted whips from the Forestry Commission via the Wirral Tree Wardens.

Because of the Covid 19 restrictions the Commission were struggling to plant them out and in June 2020 we were given a further 300. These trees came with no guards or canes but we have successfully applied to Wirral BC to fund their supply, together with about 100 whips donated or grown from seed and 210 free trees due from the Woodland Trust.

This Autumn we will now have over a 1000 small tree saplings to plant out in the winter of 2020/21. We intend to plant more on the Emslie Morgan site but we will also start planting out on parts of the Wallacre and Belvidere Road Playing Fields. All tree planting that we do on these sites is with the approval of Wirral Borough Council.

We are in touch with a number of individuals and voluntary groups who have asked to get involved in planting trees but we are looking for more. Whether you want to plant one tree or a hundred trees we are always happy to have help from individuals or groups. Children are especially welcome but they have to be with a responsible adult.



Because of Covid-19, tree planting sessions will have to be organised and booked in advance to ensure social distancing is optimal. We'll provide all the guidance and training on tree planting and health and safety issues arising from our Risk Assessments.

All that we ask is that every one provides their own weather appropriate clothing, stout footwear and gloves. If you have any tools like spade, hand fork, trowel or shears that will be helpful but don't worry if you don't have any. You will also need to bring your own food and drink.

If you are interested or want more information please contact:- Mike 0794 108 5058. [miketh90@googlemail.com](mailto:miketh90@googlemail.com)

## The work of Wirral Tree Wardens

*Wirral Tree wardens took over 6,000 "orphan" trees to share with foster parents and adopters across Merseyside and Cheshire. They also helped the Eco-schools team at Wirral Borough Council do a fantastic job to find homes for over 9,000 trees in Wirral schools despite lockdown.*

*Many of these trees will be kept flourishing until they can be planted out in public locations during planting seasons over the next few years.*

*The trees were grown from seed, mostly in the immediate area and are a precious resource when we want to plant more trees but avoid imported or cloned trees, with less genetic variability to give more resilience and resistance to climate and environmental changes and diseases.*

*The Tree Wardens are part of Wirral Initiative on Trees, which created and collaborated with wildlife, environment, conservation and civic groups and the council in creating Wirral's Strategy for Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands.*

*This is also enabling Wirral to contribute new ideas to the England-wide Strategy for Trees.*

*The Advisory Committee set up by the Strategy in Wirral includes the working group from WIT.*

*They are already at work on further recommendations for the National Strategy and in working with interested parties are creating an action plan for responding to ash dieback, which will lead to the loss of most, but not all, of Wirral's ash tree population over the next 5 or so years."*

## Obituary

### Paul Wiggins

We regret to announce that Paul, after bravely fighting a kidney disease for many years suddenly deteriorated and he sadly passed away in June.

Paul has been a trustee of WEN for a very long time and he was always keen to bring his years of experience as a union officer to contribute to our meetings.

Many of you will also know him as our photographer who was always at events to record them and he also enjoyed providing (rather difficult!) quizzes at our AGMs.

He was very likeable and friendly and he will be very much missed at WEN.

## Total transformation by Urban Vintage New Brighton

From this



To this .....



# Support our charity by becoming a member

## WIRRAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Individual/Group

#### Membership category subscription rates:

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

Please circle your required membership

#### Payment by:

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

Reference should be your name/group name

Bank Transfer/Standing Order to:

Sort code 08-90-86

Account number 50113675

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

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

Contact Name and Address: Name .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

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

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

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

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

Please return this completed form to Pam McCarron (Membership Secretary)

email: pam.mccarron@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 contact P McCarron or for any other information contact Naomi Graham on 639 2121**

*Wirral Environmental Network publish this newsletter as a community information tool. Please note that the views expressed may not be those of Wirral Environmental Network, its trustees, staff or volunteers.*