

## WI: A HISTORY OF GREEN CAMPAIGNS

1954 Tidy up Britain: 'To preserve the country side against desecration by litter.'

1971 Save the Planet: 'Research into the production of disintegrating plastic packaging.'

1985 Look After the Planet: To reduce emissions that caused acid rain. 'To fix water pollution; to stop the use of chemicals that damage the ozone layer; and stop deforestation.'

1992 A Fair Price for Food. WI becomes one of the founders of the Fairtrade Foundation.

2005 Care for the Environment: to reduce waste in homes and lobby 'manufacturers, retailers and decision makers to be less wasteful'.

One of the resolutions for 2023 is: Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

## POO CORNER - NO THANKS

It is every dog owner's responsibility to pick up their dog's poo. Bins are provided by our council at a high cost, so please use them.

### Why should you pick up?

Nobody wants to step in it!

It is illegal not to pick up in a public space unless you have a guide dog.

Ecoli and Salmonella plus parasites leach into the ground. These can contaminate and spread disease. It takes up to a year to decompose.

If you are unable to pick up please ask another dog handler. We are very good at 'sharing' bags!

## ARTIFICIAL GRASS

- In 2022 the RHS banned artificial grass from the Chelsea flower show & all others.
- 1 in 10 households in the UK have replaced their natural lawns with artificial grass.
- Artificial grass has to be replaced after maximum of 10 years, then it goes into landfill or shipped across the world.
- It gets scorching hot in our recent high Summer heats.
- Astro Turf is made from: polyethylene, polypropylene and nylon. You **cannot** recycle plastics that are dirtied with soil etc..
- It is an hostile environment for any form of life and contaminates the soil beneath.
- It is non absorbent, cannot regulate rain fall so causes flooding.

### BAN THE STUFF!

**"IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL TO BE EFFECTIVE, YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN BED WITH A MOSQUITO." – AFRICAN PROVERB**

## INHALERS

A Greener NHS: Your Asthma Inhaler. Did you know that some asthma inhalers produce the same amount of greenhouse gases as a 75-mile car journey?

Somerset NHS is encouraging asthma sufferers to choose Dry Powder Inhalers or Soft Mist Inhalers. Help and advice on how best to use your inhalers can be found here: <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/easyhaler/>

## SEG NEWS

We hope you enjoy the bulbs we have planted, more planned for next year.

We had an apple tree grafting workshop in March. Coronation Fete 8th May, SEG will have a table also at Hill Crest open garden for NGS, 13 & 14th May, 1-5 pm.

We have a bat walk planned, also a wild life discovery walk. Look out for our advertising of these events.

We will be rejuvenating the bus stop near Church Close and the telephone box in drier weather.

● *Monkton Elms are taking plastic plant pots you do not want or you may take as many others you do want back home with you.*

**JOIN US AND TURN THE WORLD AROUND!** If you have any have any queries about this publication please contact Karen Housego email: [housego20@yahoo.com](mailto:housego20@yahoo.com) uk. The research and content of the Round Robin is done to the best of our abilities. Let us know if there has been a big blunder, for the little ones please forgive us.

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# STOKE ENVIRONMENT GROUP



## ROUND ROBIN



WELCOME TO STOKE ST GREGORY'S BLOG ON ALL THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL.  
SPRING 2023

### GREEN GARDEN: WILD PATCHES.

The word 'wild' conjures an unruly garden. As I have learnt, cutting long lush grass by hand on my knees, is not a labour of love! We are not talking 'wilding' here!

#### BENEFITS:

Less lawn to mow, saves time, labour and money.

Re-generation of wildlife and plants increases bio-diversity, and improves soil.

Longer grass tolerates drought better. It will hold the rain and dew so those creepy-crawlies can have shelter from the sun and a sip at the same time.

By mowing less often you will produce a 'nectar lawn' of clover and daisies etc for the pollinators.

Tiny garden? You can sow wild flower seeds in pots, old wheelbarrows, or window boxes.

**ANNUAL:** Clear grass and weeds. Sow Yellow Rattle, to suppress the grass. You will have a spectacular show 3-4 months in Summer. Then you will need to cut by hand after the seeds have dropped.

**PERENNIAL:** Weed out invasive plants eg bramble, ground elder (good luck there!). Plant Spring/Autumn bulbs, native hedging, perennials/ biennials such as soap wort, foxgloves and primroses.

**OR:** You can combine the two types of gardens. Gardening is always an experiment, that's why it is such fun!

### WHO OWNS OUR WATER?

The answer is that since privatisation in 1989: nobody really knows.

Wessex Water was sold to US company Enron, but was sold to YTL in Malaysia in 2002, who make billions in profits that are paid out to CEO's and shareholders.

The pollution of our waterways is shocking with companies discharging raw sewage often illegally. Water companies are expected to self report any breaches - now local residents are doing this for them.

**WHY?** because sewage, chemicals, pesticides, micro-plastics, dead fish, dead vegetation, green algae are now in ALL our rivers. Wild swimming is risking your life and so many dogs have become sick and died by ingesting polluted water.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Stop putting down your drain or toilet: Sanitary wear, wet wipes, nappies, medications, chemical household cleaners, animal waste, paints or grease. More Information: TedX Bristol, Natalie Fee talks on plastic pollution, BBC's excellent programme, 'Paul Whitehouse: Our Troubled Rivers,' Matt Staniek's inspiring videos on UTube campaigns for the Lake District, Ed Acteson's campaign to return ownership of our water back to us. Greenpeace have played an enormous role in getting on 4th March a treaty finally agreed by the UN to protect 30% of the planet's oceans by 2030.

### DO NOT FLUSH!

'In the UK wet wipes found along the coastline have increased by more than 400% over the past 10 years,' the Guardian reported in 2016. Goodness knows what that number is now.

The Whitechapel sewer 'fatberg' in 2017, weighed 130 tonnes and was 250 metres long. Made up of grease, condoms, nappies and plastic infused wet wipes. The Museum of London has installed an exhibition of this shameful product. There has been an effort recently by manufacturers to produce non-plastic wipes.



