



# SusWOT QUARTERLY

*SusWot using less living more*

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## Welcome to the September Quarterly edition

A little different this month, with references to chemicals and biological issues. Many environmental problems have science at their heart. Hopefully you will find these issues of interest.

Mike Crabbe. Editor

### Diary Dates

Local Produce Market every 4th Saturday

Thursday October 13th  
7.30 Scout Hall Northcote  
Top of Great Brockeridge

SusWot Open Meeting.  
Everyone welcome. Come along and find out what we have been doing. We are looking for new projects and we want your ideas.

All photographs in this edition by crabchick unless otherwise attributed

## SusWot acts to improve a local wilderness

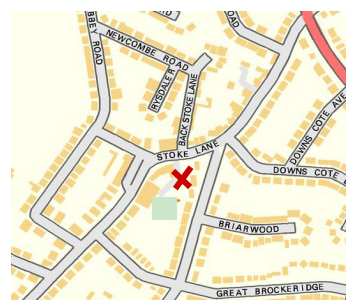


### The Lost Allotment

Take a short walk behind the Stoke Lane Shops and on one side are well tended allotments and on the other it is overgrown and neglected. The project aims to create a shared community allotment behind the Stoke Lane shops, Westbury-on-Trym that is developed and maintained by the local community.

SusWot aims to:

- Improve the natural environment and facility for local residents and visitors to the shopping area
- Improve the quality of life of local residents, visitors, shop owners and passers-by
- Be a productive growing project for local residents and their families
- Improve the aesthetics of this neglected site for local residents and users of the Stoke Lane shops
- Provide a focus for community growing projects and provide local sustainable organically grown food
- Involve the local school and other groups in the design and maintenance of this community growing space
- Provide a safe level green space for local people of all ages and disabilities to be able to enjoy.



This SusWot project is aimed at the local residents in the Stoke Lane/ Reedley Road/Abbey Road/Great Brockeridge area of Westbury on Trym and those who use the Stoke Lane shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs and visit friends and relatives in the area. have offered the plot to be used as a community growing project.

**For more information please contact SusWot and to find out how you can become involved**

**Email [suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:suswot2050@gmail.com)**

## Invasion of the alien species

A recent study has found that the incidence of alien pests and diseases in the UK has increased from about 150 per year in the 1970's to about 370 in 2003. More and more fruit and vegetables are imported from all over the world and they can easily give the interlopers a lift, eg. the spiders used for pest control on vines have been found in bunches of grapes. Plants are also raised overseas where the climate is better and labour is cheaper, eg. bedding plants in Israel and indoor plants in Florida. The increase in the UK winter temperatures here could mean that these visitors will become established in the wild.



Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*)



The Spanish slug (*Arion vulgaris*)

Photographs © European Commission, Nature and bio Diversity May 2009



Red or scarlet lily beetle (*Lilioceris lili*)



Wisteria scale (*Eulecanium excrescens*)

Photographs. The Royal Horticultural Society 2011. Visit the RHS web site at [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

- Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum* was introduced into Britain in the 1893 as an ornamental plant. It escaped from domestication and is now colonising many areas of waste land and river banks. It can grow to 5m high and has a large umbel of white flowers from which it produces 30 to 50,000 viable seeds per year.

- Harlequin Ladybird - Found in the South-east of England and is a danger to native Ladybirds. They also eat lacewing larvae, nibble at soft fruit and there have even been reports of biting people. Given their use on the European mainland as a biological control and the alarming rate of increase in numbers there, it was inevitable that they should arrive in the British Isles. The native species will not be able to compete and could disappear as they have in many parts of North America.

- The Spanish slug- Native to many parts of Europe including Spain, France and Great Britain. It is brownish red and usually about 80 to 920 mm in length. The arion vulgaris is an herbivore, meaning it eats only material. But unlike many species of slug, the arion vulgaris feeds mainly on dead plant matter. The slug is able to recognize the absence of certain chemical compounds found in living plants to detect which plants are dead.

- Red Lily Beetle (*Lilioceris lili*) - Native to mainland Europe and Asia it has spread to the British Isles and due to Global warming, is progressing northwards, reaching Northern Ireland at the turn of the century.

- Wisteria Scale Insect (*Eulecanium excrescens*) - from Asia and the United States, and found in south-west London. A large sap-sucking pest up to 10mm long, which can kill the plant. It also attacks fruit trees

Not illustrated but may appear in a garden near you!

- Horse Chestnut Leaf Mining Moth (*Cameraria ohridella*) - probably from Asia and initially found in Wimbledon and now spreading. It could have arrived via mainland Europe; it was first recorded in Macedonia in 1985. The tiny caterpillars strip the flesh out of leaves causing brown blotches which become holes later. This can cause early leaf fall if the damage is severe. Similar damage can be caused by a fungal attack.

- Berberis Sawfly (*Arge berberidis*) - from central and southern Europe found in Essex; it strips the leaves from Berberis. The adult fly is black; the larvae have a black head on a greyish-white body with yellow blotches and small black dots.

- Cypress Gall Mite (*Trisetacus chamaecypar*) - from North America found in Cheshire. It attacks the shoots on cypress trees, which become yellowish-white then dry up and turn brown as they die.

- Elaeagnus Sucker (*Cacopsylla fulguralis*) - found in Essex, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire; sucks the sap from shoot tips and foliage. They also exude honeydew which covers the leaves, reducing transpiration and it can become colonised with Sooty Mould.



## Nature is worth £19bn a year to the UK economy – report

The UK's natural resources have been valued for the first time as being worth almost £19 billion a year. The figure comes in a National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA), which was commissioned by ministers to try and put a figure on nature's value to the economy as a way of helping to shape urban and rural planning policy.

Nature's economic benefits manifest themselves in food production, health and general well-being. Although it has long been known that living near to greenspace promotes health and increases the value of a property, the report puts a value on this as up to £300 per person per year in health benefits.

A good example of the close relationship between nature and the economy is that the diseases currently affecting honeybees - Colony Collapse Disorder and Varroa - have an immediate effect on food production.

Less obvious connections include the health of soil, hedgerows, waterways and coastlines on production and pollution. "Humans rely on the way ecosystems services control our climate - pollution, water quality, pollination - and we're finding out that many of these regulating services are degrading," said Bob Watson, chief scientific adviser to Defra and co-chairman of the NEA.

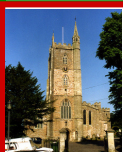
The report is saying 'this has got incredible value, so before you start converting green space into building, think through what the economic value is of maintaining that green space' - or the blue space: the ponds and the rivers.

The findings influence the content of Natural Environment White Paper, which was finally published on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. Chapter 2 of the paper spells out proposed actions. However given all the attention being paid to the new proposed Planning Regulations, how the Chapter 2 proposals fit in with the Planning remains to be seen.



Every day 50 to 100 species of plants and animals become extinct as their habitat and human activities destroy them.

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/earthday/environmental.facts.htm>



### Westbury Parish Church to install PV

Remember the domestic Feed in Tariff rate will drop next April at the same time as electricity prices are increasing dramatically

## Are organic fertilizers safer than synthetic fertilizers?

More and more gardeners are practicing organic gardening. Chemistry is chemistry and, plants can't tell the difference between a naturally derived fertilizer and one that was produced synthetically in a lab. To a plant's roots, a nitrogen molecule is simply a nitrogen molecule. Organic fertilizers (manure, compost, bloodmeal, bone meal, etc.) do offer certain advantages over synthetically produced fertilizers. They release nutrients more slowly, which reduces the chance of over-fertilization. They also improve the overall structure of the soil (adding micro-organisms, texture, air and water absorbing capacity) and in many cases, they can be obtained more cheaply than commercial fertilizers.

There are also disadvantages to organic fertilizers. Because they release nutrients more slowly, they cannot always meet a plant's nutritional needs as immediately as a commercial fertilizer. It's also not always possible to know exactly how much or which nutrients you are applying (e.g. compost), because some types of organic fertilizers lack labels.

## Green House-Hints

Using simple but effective remedies saves buying all those 'chemical solutions' in plastic bottles and avoiding the associated transport delivering them to the shops. Here are a few ideas that are environmentally friendly and with a little science thrown in for good measure.

**White vinegar** - a versatile natural cleaner. Its acidity (acetic acid) makes it perfect for killing bacteria and germs, and it can be mixed with various other natural cleaning products for environmentally friendly cleaning results.

**Lemons and lemon juice** - An effective natural cleaning power containing a weak acid (citric acid), as a disinfectant, and acts as a natural bleaching agent and removes lime scale. Use lemon juice to clean the oven by mixing it into a paste with baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and water.

**Salt** - (sodium chloride) has natural cleaning properties and in white vinegar creates a good all-round household cleaner and good alternative to unknown chemicals in plastic bottles.

**Baking soda** - For cleaning, deodorising, as a mild disinfectant and with fungicidal properties. Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) is useful for removing odours from a washing machine, refrigerator and dishwasher as well as from the carpet. A versatile cleaning paste can be made by mixing baking soda, white wine vinegar and lemon juice.

If white vinegar has been used rinse well to remove the smell.

## Which plastics can be recycled?

Many plastic containers and items can be recycled either through household collections or transporting the waste to the local recycling centre. The Bristol City Website gives some examples of what can be recycled and then follows it with: 1 PET - plastic bottles; 2 HDPE - plastic bottles; 5 PP - plastic packaging such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and food packaging trays; 6 PS - polystyrene, but with no further explanation.

### Type 1 Plastic – Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET, PETE).



The acronym PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) or PET (poly ethylene terephthalate) are often used interchangeably, to refer to type 1 plastic. PET stands for polyethylene terephthalate. The plastic labelled with the #1 code on or near the bottom of bottles and containers and is commonly used to package soft drinks, water, juice, peanut butter, bakery goods, produce, frozen foods, salad dressings and oil, cosmetics and household cleaners and many other products.

Recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) can be used to make many new products, including fibre for polyester carpet; fabric for T-shirts, long underwear, athletic shoes, luggage, upholstery and sweaters; fiberfill for sleeping bags and winter coats; industrial strapping, sheet and film; automotive parts, such as luggage racks, headliners, fuse boxes, bumpers, grilles and door panels; and new PET containers for both food and non-food products.

### Type 2 Plastic – High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)



The acronym HDPE (high density polyethylene) is often used to refer to type 2 plastic. HDPE plastic is often used to make bottles for beverages with short shelf life, such as milk and juice. Because HDPE has good chemical resistance, it is also often used for containing household and industrial chemicals such as detergents and bleach. HDPE is also used to manufacture

grocery and storage bags. Examples of recycling codes for HDPE plastic are seen below. The "PE-HD" symbol is often used by plastic bag industries. HDPE plastic can be recycled into bottles for holding household chemicals such as detergent, shampoo, conditioner and even motor oil. Recycled HDPE plastic can also be made into pipes, buckets and bins, pens, flower pots, film and sheets, benches, and even kennels.

### Type 5 Plastic - Polypropylene (PP)



The acronym PP (Polypropylene) is used to refer to type 5 plastic. PP plastic is used extensively for packaging purposes. Given its high melting point and good chemical resistance, it is also used to contain hot-fill liquids, and moulded in automotive parts.

Recycled PP plastic can be made into brooms, rakes, brushes, signal lights, ice scrapers, and trays.

**Type 6 Plastic – Polystyrene (PS)** The acronym PS (Polystyrene) is used to refer to type 6 plastic. Given its clear and hard properties, PS plastic is often used in protective packaging, such as CD covers or cases. PS plastic can also be foamed, to be made into Styrofoam which are in turn made into disposable plates and cups and take-away containers, etc. Recycled PS can be used in manufacturing rulers, license plate frames, foam packaging, foam utensils, plate and cups, vents, switch boards, and thermal insulation items



### **What about Plastics 3, 4, and 7?**

**Type 3 Plastic (PVC)** - contains chlorine, and in its manufacture, as well as its disposal (e.g. incineration), highly dangerous and toxic gases are released so type 3 plastic are rarely recycled

### **Type 4 Plastic - Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)**

The acronym LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene) is used to refer to type 4 plastic. Given its toughness, flexibility and relative transparency, LDPE plastic is often used in cable insulation, flexible bottles, as well as film applications. LDPE is also used extensively in manufacturing breadbags, tote bags, dry cleaning bags, furniture, carpets, and squeezable bottles.

The "PE-LD" recycling codes are often used by plastic bag manufacturers. Recycled LDPE plastic can be made into garbage can liners, floor tile, film and sheet, bins, and landscape timber.

**Type 7 Plastic – Others** This plastic recycling code indicates that the type of plastic in question is made of a resin other than the six listed above, or is made of more than one resin listed above

Each year in Britain, we throw away 28 million tonnes of rubbish from our homes. This weighs the same as three and a half million double decker buses. A queue of buses that long would go around the world one and a half



### **Neighbourhood Partnership Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym**

SusWot acknowledges, with thanks, the continuing support from the Partnership. This year we have been provided with a grant towards an A3 printer and other office equipment and supplies to improve our communications with the citizens of Westbury

**Dates for Local Produce Market 2011**  
**Primary Care Centre Car Park**  
**Next to the Methodist Church**  
**Westbury Hill**  
**9.00am – 1.00pm Please come and support good local produce!**  
**September Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>    November Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**October Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>        December Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>**