



SUSWOT QUARTERLY

SusWot using less living more

April 2013

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Local Councillor Alistair Watson plants new flowering CHERRY TREE on the corner of Canford Lane and Falcondale Road next to the Library

Welcome to the Quarterly edition

Another Green Capital bid for Bristol, see page 4, is being prepared. Obviously we wish them well - but how much of a positive impact a successful bid will have on the average citizen remains to be seen.

On more local matters Sus-WoT is now selling packets of vegetable seeds obtained from a reputable merchant. The number of seeds are more appropriate for the smaller garden and the price - 50p is good value for money. On sale at the monthly Produce Market and the Community Fair

Diary Dates
Local Produce Market
 9.00am – 1.00pm
 Saturday 27th April
 Saturday 23rd May
 Saturday 22nd June

Saturday 11th May
 Community Fair
 Saturday 8/9th June
 Get Growing Trail

Page 1 photograph in this edition by crabchick

Encourage the Bees

Cultivate Bee-Friendly Plants

Just as many plants need bees for pollination, bees need plants for nectar and pollen. Not anything green will do, however. In fact, bees tend to be attracted to blue, purple and yellow flowers. Consult with your local nursery or garden centre to select appropriate varieties for your area. Research shows gardens with 10 or more bee-friendly plants support the most visitors.

Let There Be Weeds

Many common weeds, such as dandelions and clover, are popular with bees. Go ahead and let some flower, then to keep things tidy, pull them up after they've gone to seed.

Avoid Mulch Madness

Many native bees tunnel and live in the soil, but can be blocked by heavy layers of woodchips or plastic liners. Learn to edge your lawn tastefully without completely shutting out bees.

Abandon Lawn Pesticides and Fertilizers

Many common lawn and garden chemicals are lethal to bees, while others may weaken their immune systems, allowing parasites, disease or other stresses to finish them off. Instead, switch to a strategy of integrated pest management or opt for natural, organic fertilizers and biological controls. www.thedailygreen.com

Forest of Avon - Fruit trees and bushes available in the early autumn watch this space



Annuals

- Asters
- Calliopsis
- Clover
- Marigolds
- Poppies
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias

Fruits & Veg

- Blackberries
- Cantaloupe
- Cucumbers
- Gourds
- Peppers
- Pumpkins
- Raspberries
- Squash
- Strawberries
- Watermelons

Trees

- Alder
- Golden Rain
- Hawthorns
- Hazels
- Linden
- Magnolia
- Maples
- Mountain Ash
- Poplar
- Sycamore
- Tulip
- Willows



Perennials

- Buttercups
- Clematis
- Cosmos
- Crocuses
- Dahlias
- Echinacea
- Foxglove
- Geraniums
- Globe Thistle
- Hollyhocks
- Hyacinth
- Rock Cross
- Roses
- Sedum
- Snowdrops
- Tansy

Herbs

- Bee Balm
- Borage
- Catnip
- Coriander
- Fennel
- Lavender
- Mints
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme

Shrubs

- Blueberry
- Butterfly Bush
- Honeysuckle
- Privet

Harmful Plastic Waste

This should be classed as hazardous because of the threat it poses to humans and wildlife, scientists have said. Many rich countries class plastic as solid waste, which means it is treated in the same way as food scraps or grass clippings, said the experts writing in Nature .

But plastic debris can harm wildlife, such as turtles, sea-birds and marine mammals which can get tangled up in or swallow the waste, while many plastics may be harmful because they are potentially toxic or can absorb other pollutants.

The team of academics argue that classifying the most harmful plastics as hazardous would give official environmental agencies the power to restore affected habitats and drive innovation to find new materials with safer, reusable alternatives. It claimed that if current patterns continued, the planet would hold another 33 billion tonnes of plastic by 2050, enough to fill 2.75 billion bin lorries which could wrap around the planet about 800 times if placed end to end.

But this total could be reduced to just four billion tonnes if the worst plastics were classified as hazardous immediately and replaced with safer, continually reused plastics, the scientists estimated.

One of the international team of academics, Professor Richard Thompson of Plymouth University, said that more than 370 species, including some that were critically endangered, could ingest or become entangled in plastic debris. And as the waste breaks down into microscopic pieces, it can become ingested by fish, invertebrates and tiny organisms, and enter the food chain as a result.

The scientists writing in Nature stated: "We feel that the physical dangers of plastic debris are well enough established, and the suggestions of the chemical dangers sufficiently worrying, that the biggest producers of plastic waste - the United States, Europe and China - must act now. These countries should agree to classify as hazardous the most harmful plastics, including those that cannot be reused or recycled because they lack durability or contain mixtures of materials that cannot be separated."

They urged governments to focus on the most problematic materials as a realistic first step. The four plastics making up 30% of production - PVC, polystyrene, polyurethane and polycarbonate - are particularly hard to recycle and made of potentially toxic material.

PET (*PETE*), polyethylene terephthalate
 HDPE, high-density polyethylene
 PVC, polyvinyl chloride
 LDPE, low-density polyethylene
 PP, polypropylene
 PS, polystyrene **Packaging foam/"peanuts", food containers, plastic tableware, disposable cups, plates, cutlery, CD and cassette boxes. Refrigerator liners, food packaging, vending cups.**
 Polycarbonate (PC) – , **eyeglasses, riot shields, security windows, traffic lights, lenses.** Compact discs
 Polyurethanes (PU) – **Cushioning foams, thermal insulation foams, surface coatings, printing rollers (Currently 6th or 7th most commonly used plastic material, for instance the most commonly used plastic in cars).**

Surprise.. Surprise

The British Plastics Federation (BPF) has said it disagrees with a call for plastic debris to be re-classified as hazardous waste...

However, for example, *Nephrops*, (Scampi)... have been studied to determine the extent they consume plastics in the Clyde Sea and if this intake occurs through their diet. Plastic contamination was found to be high in *Nephrops*, 83% of the animals sampled contained plastics (predominately filaments) in their stomachs. Tightly tangled balls of plastic strands were found in 62% of the animals studied but were least prevalent in animals which had recently moulted. Spectroscopy indicated that some of the microfilaments identified from gut contents could be sourced to fishing waste. *Nephrops* fed fish seeded with strands of polypropylene rope were found to ingest but not to excrete the strands.

Fiona Murray & Phillip Rhys Cowie Marine Pollution Bulletin Volume 62, Issue 6 June 2011, Pages 1207–1217

Worms and garden composting

Worms are nature's composters, and with a garden wormery you will be able to put them to use, efficiently recycling your home's organic waste.

A worm can recycle its own body weight in organic waste everyday; therefore a wormery is one of the most efficient methods of garden composting. A wormery will decompose almost all forms of organic waste and can help you and your family produce less waste for landfill, as well as providing an eco-friendly way to keep your garden healthy.

Wormeries vary in size, typically they are similar to the familiar plastic black garden compost bin. The bottoms of wormeries are sealed, unlike compost bins, so preventing earthworms bringing soil into the system. There are different types of wormeries, some which run at higher temperatures than others and can digest food waste. Some incorporate composting trays than can be rotated to give regularly a fresh source of garden compost.

Other wormeries have a 'sump tray' to catch the liquid produced by the composting process. This would be wasted in other garden composting systems and the nutrient rich water is another great way to keep the garden healthy.

For example, install a wormery in a a shady, sheltered spot and fuel with a few centimetres of garden waste. Then add two layers of food waste for every layer of garden waste. To ensure food waste recycling all year round, use a winter jacket jacket once the average outdoor temperature drops below 5°C.

Prices vary depending on the size and sophistication of the wormery from £30 to over £100. A number of local authorities. Such as Brighton and Hove, have negotiated significant savings on the normal retail prices.



Packaging symbols

These symbols are a guide to how widely different packaging items are recycled, however you should always follow the advice of the local authority. Check and see what you can recycle in Bristol.

"Widely Recycled" means 75% of people have access to recycling facilities for these items.

"Check locally" means 20% - 75% of people have access to recycling facilities for these items.



"Not recycled" means less than 20% of people have access to recycling facilities for these items.

Some plastic films can also now be recycled at supermarket's carrier bags collection points. Look out for the "recycle with carrier bags at large stores – not at kerbside" message on your bread bag, breakfast cereal, toilet and kitchen roll wraps, grocery produce, multi-pack shrink wrap and newspaper & magazine wraps.

The Green Dot



The Green Dot does NOT necessarily mean that the packaging can be recycled. It is a symbol used on packaging in many European countries and signifies that the producer has made a contribution towards the recycling of packaging.

Plastics



Identifies the type of plastic: PET and HDPE bottles are recycled by the majority of local authorities

Glass



Please dispose of glass bottles and jars in a bottle bank (but remember to separate colours) or use your glass kerbside collection if you have one.

Recyclable Aluminium



Can be placed in an aluminium recycling facility.

Recyclable Steel



Can be placed in a steel recycling facility.

Mobius Loop



Indicates that an object is *capable* of being recycled - not that the object has been recycled.

Mobius Loop with percentage



Shows the percentage of recycled material contained in the product.

Paper



To be given the National Association of Paper Merchants mark, paper or board must be made from a minimum of 75% genuine waste paper and / or board fibre, no part of which should contain mill produced waste fibre.

Other labels

Other labels you might see on packaging include:

Wood



The Forest Stewardship Council logo identifies products which contain wood from well managed forests independently certified in accordance with the rules of the FSC A.C.

Tidyman



Dispose of this carefully and thoughtfully. Do not litter. This doesn't relate to recycling, but is a reminder to be a good citizen, disposing of the item in the most appropriate manner

Rigid plastic packaging

WRAP has been working with industry to develop recycling of plastics pots, tubs and trays in the UK and ensure that recycling infrastructure and end markets are in place for this valuable resource.

WRAP awarded a capital grant to Biffa Polymers to open the UK's first integrated washing and sorting facility for rigid mixed plastics.

Around 500,000 tonnes of rigid mixed plastics (pots, tubs, and trays) enters the household waste stream in the UK each year. In the UK in 2011/12 45% of local authorities provided kerbside collections of non-bottle rigid plastics, up from 35% the previous year.



Fracking in the USA

Much of what the United States might have achieved through a visionary energy policy—lower prices, lower carbon emissions, less reliance on dirty coal and foreign oil—is coming to pass as a result of abundant natural gas from hydraulic fracturing, said the recently retired CEO of one of America's largest energy companies.

Natural gas is the only rational fuel for new energy plants and that it can replace archaic coal plants for relatively little expense. It is believed that the fracking process can produce it at something like \$4 per 1,000 BTU, compared to \$8 to \$10 for nuclear power or wind or \$15 to \$20 for solar.

Fracking is the process that uses the hydraulic fracturing wells to extract gas by injecting water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground, shattering the shale to release trapped gas. It has been has been blamed for poisoning nearby wells.

Fracking fluids are believed to contain benzene, ethylbenzene, formaldehyde, methanol, naphthalene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, toluene, xylene, boric acid, hydrochloric acid, isopropanol, and diesel fuel. The chemical used in fracking remain a guarded secret.

John Rowe, who recently retired as chairman and CEO of Exelon Corporation.

The solution is not to make fossil fuels so expensive that nobody wants them - because that will never work - but to make green energy so cheap that eventually everybody wants it

Dr Bjorn Lomborg Director of the Copenhagen Consensus Centre

June 2013 BIG Green Week Festival dates confirmed

Organisers of BIG Green Week, the UK's international festival of environmental ideas, art and culture, have confirmed that the nine day festival will be back in Bristol from 15th to 23rd June 2013.

Visitors can expect some heavyweight environmental talks, discussions and workshops as [Jonathon Porritt](#), one of the UK's leading environmentalists, curates his second year as Festival Chair.

With the likes of Kevin McCloud, Vivienne Westwood, Bill McKibben, Caroline Lucas, Rob Hopkins, Tony Juniper, Prue Leith, Tim Smit, and Polly Higgins as guests in 2012, tickets are sure to sell fast again when they go on sale in the New Year.

Jonathon Porritt says, "BIG Green Week is a giant mixing bowl of experts, innovators, and fresh ideas, finished off with good food, friends, and fun, to inspire change for the better."

Throughout the nine days, organisers are promising even more films, art, poetry, music and comedy than in 2012, when 7,000 tickets were sold for 100 events.

Festival highlights include two great weekends of free family friendly events which will transform the city centre and attracted over 40,000 people this year. Festival Director, [Paul Rainger](#), says he hopes visitors will "start early and stay late for these two mini-break weekends".

BIG Green Week 2013 will start across Bristol's harbour-side on Sat 15th and Sun 16th June with the [Festival of Nature](#), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary as Europe's biggest free natural history festival. This will be combined on Sunday with the Biggest Bike Ride, where families can cycle on traffic free roads under the Clifton Suspension Bridge in one of the UK's biggest free non-competitive cycling events.

The following weekend will feature the BIG Market on Sat 22nd June, taking over the historic city centre and packed with entertainment for all the family. The action moves to Bristol's famous Park Street on Sun 23rd, transformed for the morning into a massive children's play-ground before hosting uphill electric bicycle racing in the afternoon.

Fringe Festival Director, Darren Hall of [Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#), added, "This year we put a call out for community fringe events and some 50 West Country organisations got involved. Early next year we will be challenging green groups right across the UK

Renewable Heat Initiative is delayed for the third time of the implementation of the domestic scheme. It was originally intended to launch in spring 2011, two years ago. By the time it is finally introduced, over three years after this date, it will only be a further year until the next general election and further uncertainty.

Solar thermal installation— rates have fallen, to half of a peak in 2010.

Bristol shortlisted for European Green Capital Award 2015

Bristol has been shortlisted as one of the four finalists for the European Green Capital Award 2015, alongside Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana for the award, with the winner being announced on June 14 in Nantes, France.

George Ferguson said: "This is tremendous news. We narrowly missed out on winning the prize last year but with determination we can do it this time round.

"Bristol is increasingly recognised across the UK and Europe for our work on renewable energy, Green Deal and retrofit programmes, and thriving low carbon economy.

"However, we need to up our game and ambition, and I am determined that Bristol becomes an environmental role model to inspire other cities around the globe. "To win this time we all need to rally round, and I urge people to visit the Bristol Green Capital website and back the bid."

The European Green Capital Award is given to a city which can act as a role model to inspire other cities and share best practices. This is the second successive year that Bristol has been shortlisted for the award, having lost out to Copenhagen last year.



Finance and the Green Deal The Green Deal Mythbuster - Help towards energy efficiency

The Martin Lewis website contains an extensive review of the pros and cons if you are considering the Green Deal

www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/green-deal

The Green Deal Finance Company (GDFC) has now confirmed that the underlying interest rate on the Green Deal will be 6.96%. However, the all-in costs, which takes into account administrative costs, including a set up cost for the GDFC itself, brings the lowest overall rate for a £5,000 loan to be repaid over 25 years to 7.67%. For example the interest rate on the same package over ten years would be 7.96%.

COMMUNITY FAIR



Saturday 11th May, 2013
Westbury-on-Trym

Plant Sale at the Methodist Church from 11am
Other events at the Parish Church, Church Rd and beyond
From 12 noon until 4pm

Music, Stalls, Competitions, Refreshments, Sales, Displays
Tours of the Tower - and more...

Prize Draw for Cash Prizes at 4pm in aid of East West Appeal
Tickets on sale before and during the event

Westbury-on-Trym PCC is a Registered Charity, Number 1128488

Don't forget to
buy your
SusWoT tomato
plants
at the
Community Fair

