

# WIRRAL EVERGREEN MAGAZINE

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## 'Insectageddon'



The abundance of flying insects has plunged by three-quarters over the past 25 years, according to a new study that has shocked scientists.

Insects are an integral part of life on Earth as both pollinators and prey for other wildlife and it was known that some species such as butterflies were declining. But the newly revealed scale of the losses to all insects has prompted warnings that the world is "on course for ecological Armageddon", with profound impacts on human society.

The new data was gathered in nature reserves across Germany but has implications for all landscapes dominated by agriculture, the researchers said.

The cause of the huge decline is as yet unclear, although the destruction of wild areas and widespread use of pesticides are the most likely factors and climate change may play a role. The scientists were able to rule out weather and changes to landscape in the reserves as causes, but data on pesticide levels has not been collected.

"Insects make up about two-thirds of all life on Earth but there has been some kind of horrific decline," said Prof Dave Goulson of Sussex University, UK, and part of the team behind the new study. "We appear to be making vast tracts of land inhospitable to most forms of life, and are currently on course for ecological Armageddon. If we lose the insects then everything is going to collapse."

# REFRESH PROJECT

## Project overview

- Working in partnership with WBC Magenta Living and WEN to create a Show house that has been decorated using recycled materials and furniture from their BERT waste collection service.
- Preventing bulky items from going to landfill and encourages residents to reinvent furniture within a designed scheme for a better sense of well-being in their home.
- We will also create a community garden with volunteers to showcase growing your own and latest ideas on composting and upcycling outdoors.

Our aim is an inspirational model in the middle of social housing stock that will become standard practice to minimise waste by upcycling and provide residents with renovated and refreshed furniture to tackle poverty

## Engagement course based on 5 ways to well- being

- Connect
- Be active
- Take notice
- Keep learning
- Give

## Session plan

- 1-Inspiration – walk along Seacombe promenade take photos to inspire interior colour palettes (Be active, take notice)
- 2-Create mood boards (connect, keep learning)
- 3-Paint skills (keep learning)
- 4-Furniture refresh (be active, keep learning, connect)
- 5-Soft furnishings (keep learning)
- 6-Create the space/mood (connect, give)

Volunteers will create a sketchbook / workbook showing the process that they can fill with notes and images and inspiration that they can take back to their own home.

Mood boards and progress reports will be displayed in the flat and then used to show others as an evidence portfolio at the opening event

Residents will be kept up to date via the noticeboard and encouraged to join in any sessions they want

## REFRESH PROJECT

The room in the flat transformed with a paint job from volunteers and recycled paint provided by RECIPRO based on the dock rd. Magenta have rehoused a homeless person in the flat and left all the furniture for them to use. A great outcome all round.

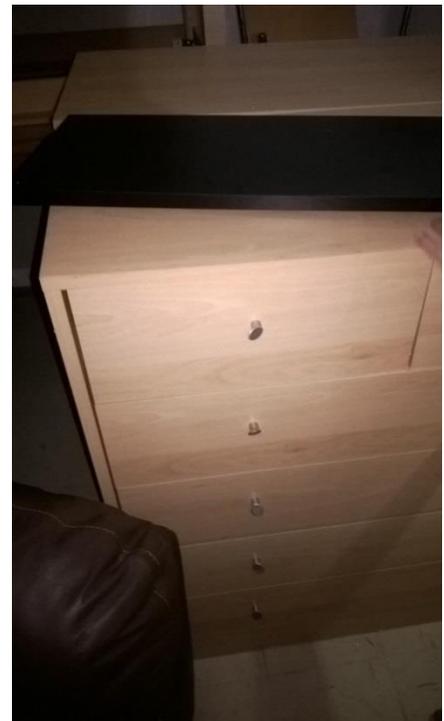


## REFRESH PROJECT

### The project so far

Waste collected from West Kirby and upcycled as part of the skill sharing aspects of the course. The room was then transformed to match the mood board created by the volunteers.

Before and after pictures of renovated furniture



## CHINA REJECTS 'CONTAMINATED' RECYCLABLES



China's crackdown on foreign shipments of recycling has created bottlenecks in Europe after the country said consignments being sent into its ports were an environmental hazard. Backlogs could even be exacerbated by the repatriation of shipments that have already arrived at Chinese ports after a sea journey lasting several weeks.

In recent years cases have come to light involving British recycling exports to Brazil that were found to be contaminated with waste like meat and dirty nappies.

Restrictions on imports of some recyclable materials will have implications for the UK, as anyone who has ever seen the rows of containers full of compacted recyclables waiting to be shipped off to China from Southampton will attest.

While the practice of sending the packaging discarded by households on a sea journey of thousands of miles has long been controversial, it is a key part of the UK's waste management strategy.

Along with its decision to bar all scrap plastics from entering the country from abroad, China is also understood to be intending to prevent certain metals, textiles and unsorted mixed paper from entering the country.

The crackdown, known as National Sword, caused alarm among recycling groups in Europe and North America

because the volume of recyclable material China takes is so vast that it is unlikely any other combination of countries would be able to take up the slack.

According to the UK-based Recycling Association, China often imports more than 200,000 tonnes of cardboard every month from the UK alone. This compares with just 8,000 tonnes taken by the whole of continental Europe.

## Learning in Deprived Communities

### **New growing and gardening courses to suit your organisation !**

We have successfully delivered a variety of courses over the years focussing on community allotments ; designing growing areas ; one metre gardening ( growing in small spaces ) ; volunteering outdoors

Our courses are aimed at unemployed people or those with disabilities looking to get back into a work routine and looking to outdoor activities.

The groups we work with are diverse –from local community groups, people in recovery from drug and alcohol misuse to parents in school

If you are a group or an individual interested in learning about growing your own veg or volunteering work outdoors then why not get in touch and we can deliver a short introductory course – for Free!

### **Details**

Courses last for 10 hrs delivered over 4 or 5 weeks or two mornings – whatever suits you. Because we work to WBC guidelines we require a minimum of 8 learners. The course is free and learners are required to fill in an enrolment form.

We also do short 3hr workshops as taster sessions.

Before we start we hold meetings with potential learners to tailor the course to their needs and specifications

Get in touch and lets have a chat – we are very flexible at designing for your needs

### **CONTACT**

Kenny Peers

Sustainable Living Project Manager

07876726747

kenny@la21.net

## SEACOMBE IN BLOOM



As Part of the Northwest In Bloom competition several areas of Wirral were included to be judged on their displays.

In Seacombe WEN staff and volunteers worked alongside council officers to deliver the Seacombe in Bloom project that covered several sites. Two of the sites included were the roundabouts opposite the ferry terminal and by the four bridges and WEN gardening tutor Carol Seery is pictured above working with WEN volunteers.

Other sites included in the competition were WEN HQ at Falkland rd featuring work done by the independent FROG ( Falkland rd organic growers ) group and students on courses as well as the Green Umbrella volunteer group. Also included was Community Spirit based at the 'place in the park' in central park and Seacombe social club as well as one of the hairdressers on Poulton rd who had renovated their back yard .

The judges visited in July and were very impressed by the standard of work and as such A Royal Horticultural Society community certificate was awarded to the project.

## NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM of Wirral Environmental network will be held on Wednesday evening November 15<sup>th</sup>

Beginning at 7.30pm

The venue will be the Stork pub on Cleveland Street

### PRE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

ON SATURDAY 25 November 2017

DOORS OPEN: 11 AM TO 2 PM

To be held at WEN HQ Falkland rd Seacombe CH44 8ER

Includes : refreshments ; plant sales ; tombola ; raffle ;

Fun activities for the kids ; table decoration workshop

Floral arrangements ; local jams and chutney's

Why not pop along and have a look at our facilities and enjoy the fayre

**World Faiths', Climate Change & Community Influence Event** - offers people of different world faiths facilitated opportunities to engage in dialogue, knowledge sharing, planning, solutions and actions around Energy, Water & Waste and Activism around procurement including local and fair trade purchasing, divestment and investment and other campaigns.

**This Event** is supported by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council, Merseyside Council of Faiths, Merseyside Environmental Trust and individual world faith communities from across Merseyside.

**When:** 14th November [during Interfaith Week 2017]

**Where:** Wirral Change, Birkenhead

**Cost:** Fully funded including refreshments and lunch – free to attend, by invite and booking only.

**Time:** Final timings to be confirmed [venue booked between 9.15 – 2.45]

1. Contact Annie Merry to book a place : [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk)  
T: 0151 705 2162 / 07976 205 629