



Green Centre News

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Latest News

- **IOM FOE** will be writing articles for **IOM Newspapers 'Green Column'** starting **March 2012**
- **ZWM** has invited **Ruth Llewellyn**, who works for **Wales Community Recycling Network CYLCH**, to speak at two events **22nd/23rd March** about her success at getting people to recycle at events held in **Wales**
- Join in with **ZWM** and pledge to '**Give Up Plastic Bags for Lent**': **22nd February** to **Easter Sunday 8th April**. Email: greencentre@manx.net if you would like to take part

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Kerbside Collection set to continue in Douglas & Braddan

The collection of recyclables from households, in the Douglas and Braddan areas of the Island, is set to continue beyond the end of the latest 'trial' period.



The launch of kerbside collection in Oct 2008

The Green Centre understands the two parties have reached agreement to

keep the scheme going for at least another three years, with a strong possibility it will be extended beyond 2015 and become a permanent feature.

This is obviously good news for the supporters of the service, but the valid concern discussed in the article below is one of several issues needing to be addressed by the two authorities in the coming months.

Early indications are that a revised collection calendar will cover the majority of bank & public holidays.

However, there is still going to be a major problem to overcome, with regard to public education on waste matters, as the loss of the government's education

officers makes it harder to 'sell' the benefits of recycling to the general public and certain local authority boards.

It is vital that ratepayers are properly informed about the higher costs of waste disposal compared to recycling: the latter producing an income, whereas the former will always come at a cost; and is set to rise as government subsidies for incineration reduce.



Will it be the week of the 'Kerbside Shuffle'?

Kerbside Shuffle by Muriel Garland ZWM

In Saddlestone, where I live, there seems to be a very high participation in the recycling collection scheme run by the Douglas and Braddan Kerbside Partnership.

Some of us used to recycle our bottles and paper through the bring banks at The Bowl car park or the Middle River amenity site but it's so much easier just to put the boxes out on a Monday. Or it was until we realised how many Mondays are Bank Holidays!

When a collection is due some neighbours confidently put their boxes out expecting them to be collected as usual. But the vehicle doesn't come on a Bank Holiday Monday. And they don't do a

replacement collection. This means we have to go a month without a collection. Over the Christmas and New Year period this year we have had the added complication of not getting a new calendar from Douglas and Braddan telling us the collection dates of our round.

So my neighbours and I have started to do a kind of Kerbside Shuffle where some people put their boxes out on a Monday in the hope that they will be emptied. When they are not some neighbours sheepishly take them back into their garages while others leave them out in the hope there will be some sort of catch-up collection. Eventually

they admit defeat and drag the boxes in again. And boxes full of paper or bottles are heavy to lift.

Zero Waste Mann spent years campaigning for a kerbside collection, which is a good way to collect clean, sorted recyclates. Most people are keen to take part and see the advantage of the scheme.

But it is important that the local authorities sort out this Bank Holiday Monday problem either by paying the operatives to work those days or rationalising the routes so we don't have mounds of papers, glass and plastic bottles cluttering up our garages.

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“Why not resolve to make one or more changes which will pay dividends not just for you, the resolver, but also the planet.”



Cat and the girls doing their bit for the planet

IOM FOE's 2012 'Green' New Year Resolutions *by Cat Turner*

The start of a new year is the time when many people (some of them feeling a combination of *déjà vu* and weary futility) resolve to turn over a new leaf...or ten.

Often enough these resolutions fall at the first hurdle; and they're usually not much fun and the payback doesn't always merit the effort. Common examples include giving up the booze, skipping sweet things and not swearing/ interrupting (those last two are mine, and already I'm not doing so well, even though it's only mid January.

For a change IoM FoE's suggesting a new approach.

Why not resolve to make one or more changes which will pay dividends not just for you, the resolver, but also for the planet; and which might even make life more fun along the way?

Here are a few ideas:

1) Have a 'screen-free' evening once a month. When you get home at the end of the day don't switch on your TV/computer, instead get out the playing cards or a board game. You might discover depths of competitiveness you'd forgotten you had; and you'll certainly have a laugh along the way.

2) Skip the plastic bags at your local shop and supermarket. If they're up for it, suggest they think of incentives to get their customers to bring their own carrier bags - whether recycled plastic ones or better still, fabric. Morsbags are a great idea. If you're not familiar with them, check out the ideas at:

www.morsbags.com

Cotton carriers with lively prints can make for a good talking-point, they last for

yonks and, best of all, they don't create problematic **non-biodegradable** waste in landfills or the world's oceans.

3) Turn down your central heating a notch or two, and have it on for an hour less a day. You'll save money on your heating bills as well as avoiding adding to your household's carbon footprint; and if you feel the chill, cosy up to someone you like and create a few sparks the old-fashioned way.

4) Get a composter or large bucket and start putting your plant-based (fruit and veg) kitchen waste into it. After only a few months you'll have the best-fed veggie patch you've ever seen with the wonderful nutrient rich compost .

5) Whilst we're on the subject, get digging! You don't have to turn into a one-man version of Ground Force, a couple of containers will do just fine to get you started. If you're stuck for space, you can even begin with window-boxes. For those with no more than a patch of sunlit wall, a fantastic permaculture-styled vertical container garden can be knocked up from one and two-litre plastic milk cartons. Wash them, cut the tops off and make drainage holes in the bottom, put in a few stones (for drainage, again) and some decent compost; and you can suspend them from your drainpipe to make a neat array of herb-and flower-containers. Imagine a stack of them with alpine strawberries tumbling out....

6) Change the way you shop. Learn about easy-to-grow leaves which thrive in the kind of soil you have available to you. Eating something you've grown yourself, that's practically still

alive - and which has been grown without the 'help' of any environmentally damaging pesticides or other 'nasties' - is an entirely nicer and more nutritious experience than facing a tasteless, uninspiring bag of chlorine-washed leaves imported from a sweatshop-style greenhouse agribusiness in water-starved Spain. Not that I'm trying to make a big point, here, or anything.....

7) Don't buy something you don't really need and adds to the pointless consumption of stuff:

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/> Instead rope a pal in to go halves with you as what's the point of your drill lying unused in a drawer for most of the year. If you only use it for the odd spot of DIY, could you get creative and share a communal drill with a group of pals (maybe the other residents in your apartment building?). The same can apply to all sorts of things. From cameras to cars, people are coming up with ways of sharing stuff they don't use all the time.

Collaborative consumption is a lower-impact way to live by far (and of course lift-sharing is another good example of shared use of kit:

www.journeymatch.im)

You don't have to change the world in one go. Just choose one or two little changes to the way you live, shop, eat and spend your time, that are good for you and your planet; and that might have some nice social spin-offs too. In a car sharing arrangement, for example, you might meet some nice new folks. Gardening's great for meeting people, especially if you share your garden with other people who don't have one.

Isle of Man Woodland Trust *by Graham Joughin*

The Isle of Man Woodland Trust was launched as a charity and a limited company in 2004, and began the task of planting trees and creating more woodlands on the island. Two of our principle aims are to create more woodland on the IOM for public enjoyment, and to do this by planting predominantly Manx native species. Our first acquired woodland was Eyreton Woods, a 3 acre wood near Crosby with some planted elm trees but the remainder naturally-generated trees, and this small but beautiful woodland was opened in 2005. Eyreton Woods now shows all the signs of being used by children, with dens, hides, ropeways and arial runways being built and played in. In spring the entire floor of the woodland becomes covered in wild garlic, and the smell is absolutely magical and stunning (Please see our website www.isleofmanwoodlandtrust.com for directions on how to find this wood).

The Trust now has an active tree planting programme during the winter months. Tree planting now goes on almost every other weekend during the 6 winter months, and every winter about 2,500 new trees are planted by volunteers, all the trees now coming from our own nursery. Most of these trees are now grown from native seed, and we try to adhere to our policy of only planting trees that are native to the Island.

But we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Victorian forebears. When they started to visit the Island at the beginning of the 19th century, the Island was virtually devoid of trees, having been systematically stripped over the centuries for timber to build houses, boats, furniture, charcoal and firewood. Pen and ink drawings from this time show an almost treeless landscape. They began the massive task of establishing tree cover on the island, and most of the trees that we now see were hand planted by them and with 1/2 million trees being planted.

They established the 19 national glens, and planted trees wherever possible around country houses, roadside verges and town parks. Most of the trees were probably imported from England rather grown from native seed, but this was a massive undertaking that started to rebalance the landscape and encourage wildlife to flourish.

In percentage terms, excluding Forestry Commission land, England has about 12% of its land area covered with broad-leaved trees, and in Europe it is about 44%. On the Island it is only 1.7%. This means that we are way down compared to other countries. After the last ice age, 99% of the island became covered in trees, and tree stumps in the dew ponds high up in the uplands show that even the tops of the main hills were once covered in trees.

Recently we have also begun to identify tiny remaining fragments of the original forest that once covered the Island, usually limited to just a few trees clinging to steep gullies where the sheep have been unable to get to the trees. We are currently encouraging the Forestry Dept. to have these surveyed for species and recorded, and fenced off for protection.

But this is the subject for another article.

In broad terms, woodland encourages wildlife, and the more woodland that a land area has, the more cover there is for wild animals to live and flourish. 'Freedom to Flourish' as some people say.

If you would like more information or would like to come and plant some trees and want to see a list of planting dates, please look at our website:- www.isleofmanwoodlandtrust.com and there is a joining form that can be downloaded if you wish to join.

And if you have some land on which you would like some trees planted then please contact our membership secretary, Vivienne, on 843726.

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IOM Woodland Trust's Eyreton Woods

“In broad terms, woodland encourages wildlife, and the more woodland that a land area has the more cover there is for wild animals to live and flourish.”

Kerbside Collection set to continue

Currently, households in Douglas and Braddan are throwing 210 tonnes of material a week into their refuse bins, thereby adding around £7350 a week to the authorities' costs; and that cost of course is passed on to you in your rates bill.

By contrast, households may only be placing about 20 tonnes a week into their recycling boxes, but that reduces the refuse disposal charges by over £700 a week. Therefore, the more recyclable material taken out of the waste stream the better; and that's before the income from the sale of the recyclable material is taken into account. So start filling those recycling boxes now.

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Carbon Neutral *by George Fincher MEAC*

An option to become carbon neutral is to buy shares in a community wind farm (or similar power generating system). Due to varying factors year to year the following is only an approximation.

Assume the cost of building a wind turbine on a wind farm = £1.5m/MW, so a £1 share = 0.667W of the wind farm. Also assume a capacity factor of 30% (most of the Scottish Co-ops or an IOM based wind farm will be achieving this kind of figure). That means 1 share will generate 1.752kWh of electricity per annum (8736 hrs * .667/1000 kW * 0.30).

Each kWh of electricity generates 0.42kg of carbon (according to the Carbon Trust), so each £1 share can effectively save 0.74kg of CO2 per annum.

If you want to offset your electricity bill, then assuming 4,800kWh as the average electricity bill in the UK, you would need to invest £2,740. If you want to offset the typical average persons CO2 (of around 11 tons) then you would need to invest £13,480.

The big advantages of this method of offsetting your carbon footprint are two-fold. Firstly the wind farm generates the power each year so the offset is applicable to each year of the wind farm operation (typically 25 years), and at the end of the wind farms life you get your capital back. Secondly you get paid a dividend each year, likely to be better than the return from a bank account. So you are being paid to offset your carbon footprint.

Jurby Prison Polytunnel progress report *by Muriel Garland ZWM*

Last year Zero Waste Mann supplied a polytunnel to Jurby Prison as part of Compost Week 2011.

We encourage people on the island to make their own compost and grow their own vegetables thus cutting down the need for imported compost and reducing the 'air miles' from transporting produce to the island.

But when we gave the polytunnel to Jurby Prison we never expected to see such good results so soon.

When Phil and I visited in the springtime they were just starting to dig the ground and prepare the beds for planting.

They began harvesting courgettes, radishes, onions



Prison food is perhaps not all bad



and lettuce from June onwards.

Then it was garlic, potatoes, cucumber, beetroot, tomatoes and more courgettes in July.

Autumn saw bumper crops of potatoes, beetroot, onions and lettuce.

Throughout 2011 the prisoners have supplied loads of vegetables for the kitchen and for use in their education classes.

Apart from the physical work of tending the plots the prisoners have also weighed and calculated and written about the produce.

Best of all they have enjoyed eating the end results. And judging by the photos the quality is superb!

Kerbside Shuffle *continued from front page*

Recycling is very much a habit and we humans like our routines. Unless things change the next Kerbside Shuffle round this way will be in April when Easter Monday could fall on our collection day. But I don't know yet as we haven't had a new collection calendar yet for Route 6. If you find your recyclates mounting up between collections you can get extra boxes by ringing the HELPLINE 696450 or email kerbside@Douglas.gov.im

You can also ask for a new calendar showing the collection dates for 2012.

P.S. We have now got some calendars at the Green Centre but be sure you take the one that applies to your collection route if you want to avoid the Kerbside Shuffle.