



07 Edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the St Peter's Green Team Newsletter!!!

We aim to bring you news about what we have been doing, facts and information about climate change, advice on what you can do to help, fun facts and good news stories. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and we can help you to think global and act local!

Should we have trust in Truss?

By Esther Rumsey

Since Liz Truss has been newly elected, the few policies and laws in place for nature have been backtracked. For many people, these policies were a glimmer of hope which has been instantly extinguished within weeks of Truss' first term. There are three main policies that have been abandoned.

Firstly, the habitat regulations, which are crucial to some of the UK's most vulnerable habitats, have been scrapped. These laws could have been the foundations of the restoration of greenspaces that face fatal threats, and some, imminent extinction. Now we have nothing.

Another devastating announcement from the government is their plans to create three more Investment Zones. Whilst this policy creates areas that drive growth with tax incentives and wider support for local economies, it completely disregards the repercussions on nature. The Investment Zones mean planning rules are more easily overcome and, in some cases, don't even exist anymore. Essentially, it is much easier to plan and build, even in areas that would once have been protected because of their vital value to nature and some of the UK's most jeopardized species. We must begin creating ways that people and nature can be supported together, not focusing on one and ignoring the other.

Finally, the innovative and imperative scheme that supported farmers and landowners to manage their land alongside nature has been discarded. This was a guiding light in a storm. The effects of this were already obvious. With over 70% of land in the UK farmed, it isn't hard to see that far too much greenspace is managed, often with a lack of understanding on how this impacts nature or support to farm for nature. With these schemes, farmers and landowners were supported to manage land to enhance nature, create spaces for rare species and habitats and use land to absorb carbon. What is going to happen to that vast 70% now?

The most harrowing fact that reinforces the devastating impacts these actions will have, is that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on the planet. Why are we allowing this to happen?



FUN FACT!!

Mother pigs sing to their piglets.



FRIGHTENING FACT!!

Around 27,000 trees are cut down each day just to produce toilet paper.



Good news stories! (by Joe Kingscott)

This term we are bringing you multiple good news stories! 😊

- Renewables have saved 230 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions so far in 2022.
- World-first nuclear fusion plant could generate carbon free energy by 2040. The plant - which could theoretically provide near-limitless clean energy - will be built in Nottinghamshire, UK.
- Dutch flower growers are cutting costs and emissions by using cow poo instead of buying gas.
- Some of the UK's most iconic chocolates are getting an environmentally-friendly makeover. After 86 years, Quality Street chocolates will no longer be wrapped in colourful foil and plastic packaging. Instead, the treats - manufactured by Nestlé - will be wrapped in recyclable waxed paper.

Make your own bird cakes!

By Esther Rumsey

This term we have made a number of bird cakes which will be hang in our wildlife garden to help support the local birds as we head towards the colder months of winter. You can make them yourself at home with a few simple ingredients.

How to make your own bird feeders

1. Mix lard, bird seed and raisins in a bowl
2. Pierce a hole in a cupcake case and thread string though it
3. Add the lard and bird seed mix to the cupcake case
4. Leave to set over night, ideally in a fridge.
5. Take case off and tie ends of string together
6. Hang from a tree
7. Watch as birds enjoy a tasty snack which you have prepared.



The Green Wall in Africa

By Keylan Joyce

The great green wall in a project in Africa that is attempting to stop the spread of the Sahara Desert. It will be made by planting trees and various other plants over an 8,000Km area across Africa from Senegal to Djibouti. IT will solve various problems faced by both Africa and the world including climate change, drought and famine. Currently the project is 15% done and is still being worked on daily. The Green Wall will be of great help to the Population of Africa and the world, it will help those living near it by stopping the spread of the Sahara destroying their homes and livelihoods.

The Green Wall will also be a global symbol of humanity trying to combat climate change although more will need to be done to fully stop climate change.



10 Top Tips to Save Energy At Home

By Jose-Maria Kimburi

- 1. Switch off items on standby**- you can save around £65 a year by remembering to turn off your appliances on standby when not in use.
- 2. Draught-proof windows and doors**- you can save around £225 a year as you will not need to continually heat your house.
- 3. Turn off your lights**- you can save around £25 a year when you switch them off when not in use and when you leave a room. You can also replace your bulbs with LED bulbs which can reduce carbon emissions by 40kg of carbon dioxide a year!
- 4. Spend less time in the shower and swap your bath with a shower**- you could save £20 a year if you swap just 1 bath a week with a 4-minute shower!
- 5. Fill your dishwasher**- only run your dishwasher when it is full to save water and energy!
- 6. Don't over-fill the kettle**- you can save around £36 a year if you only boil the amount of water you need.
- 7. Avoid using the tumble dryer**- using a tumble dryer twice a week can cost you £300 a year! As a more cost-effective alternative, consider drying clothes outside on a washing line or investing in one of the best heated clothes airers, which usually cost around 6p an hour to run.
- 8. Install a smart meter**- as part of a government scheme all energy suppliers now install smart meters, at no extra cost, to help you keep track of what you are spending. Monitoring your daily household usage will help you be mindful of energy consumption – helping reduce how much we use and therefore costs.
- 9. Fill your fridge and freezer with bottles of tap water**- it takes a lot more energy to keep an empty fridge cold than a full one. If you don't have food to fill it, freeze bottles of water and put them in there
- 10. Close your curtains in winter**- A lot of heat can be lost through windows and walls. Stop the great heat escape by closing your curtains and tucking them behind your radiator in the evenings.



Hedgehog Help

By Evan Hopkins

If hedgehogs chose your garden as a perfect place to rest for winter firstly, take it as a compliment. Secondly, use these tips to help it through the wintry season:

- + Realise it needs a diet of bugs (for example beetles, earthworms or millipedes).
- + Only if needed handle hedgehogs with gloves and care.
- + Leaving out water for them will be very helpful as moving from out of their den area in winter deems a dangerous task.
- + If medical help is needed get in touch your local wildlife/hedgehog rescue centre.



<http://hedgehogrescue.info/> - Hedgehog rescue - Founded in 1999, Hedgehog Rescue is a volunteer-based group of individuals who care for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs from a garden hospital in Yate, South Gloucestershire. They aim to rehabilitate and release of as many hedgehog casualties

<https://www.woodlandsanimalsanctuary.org.uk/> - woodlands animal sanctuary – founded in 2005, they aim to relieve them of hedgehogs and other suffering of animals of any species who are in need of care and attention, and in particular to provide or maintain refuge, secure homes, sanctuaries or other facilities for the reception and care of unwanted animals and the treatment of sick or ill-treated animals

By Jose-Maria Kimburi





Timmy the Turtles Termly Top Tips!

By Keylan Joyce

[1]

You can use leftover banana peels to create fertilizer for your plants by soaking them in water and it will release substances that help plants grow

[2]

Buy second hand clothes at places such as charity shops, or from family members who have grown out of their clothes to reduce waste

[3]

Use re-usable bottles to save sea animals such as Timmy from plastic pollution.

[4]

Try to reduce the amount of single use plastic you use on a daily basis, for example try to use a lunchbox instead of wrapping food in plastic or foil

[5]

Start your own compost using twigs and soil and then you can put your food waste in to create a fertiliser for your plants.



ECO FRIENDLY PACKAGING

By Roxanne Cuativo

The average person in the UK produces around 400kg of waste each year. This accounts for an average of 26million tonnes of commercial waste. 12 million tonnes of this is recycled, while 14 million tonnes are sent to landfill sites. This is 57% of waste generated in the UK.

This waste ends up in landfill sites – which release toxic gases (such as methane and ammonia), suffocate natural ecosystems, and impede the health of local citizens.

To slow down the amount of trash that we produce, we should find alternative ways of packaging:

<p>1. BIODEGRADABLE PACKAGING PEANUTS Entirely plant-based, biodegradable packing peanuts will dissolve in water, making it impossible for them to wind up polluting oceans, lakes, rivers, or waterways.</p>	
<p>2. CORRUGATED BUBBLE WRAP (paper bubble wrap) Being lightweight, highly protective, and cost-effective, paper wrap shares many qualities with traditional bubble wrap.</p>	
<p>3. MUSHROOM PACKAGING Made from mycelium — a fungus found in mushrooms. The result is a sturdy packaging material that can hold products and keep them in place.</p>	
<p>4. GREEN CELL FOAM It's a bio-based foam material made from US-grown corn. You can dispose of it by dissolving it in water or by composting the material at home or at industrial facilities.</p>	
<p>5. CARDBOARD It is biodegradable and recyclable, meaning that it's more eco-friendly than plastic alternatives. In some cases, cardboard can be heavier than plastic, which increases the amount of pollution released during transportation.</p>	

Top 10 ways to help environment

By Ewan O'Loughlin

1. Plant some trees or some plants.
2. Donate your unwanted goods.
3. Walk or ride to school. If you have to, take a bus or ride share.
4. Switch to green power like solar panels.
5. Reduce your carbon footprint.
6. Plant pollinator-friendly plant.
7. Remind teachers to turn off the lights.
8. Stop littering and pick up the litter to make the local environment safe.
9. Buy eco-friendly supplies.
- 10. Educate others about these!**

Iceland turning purple!

By Filip Gaul

Lupines cover 0.4 percent of Iceland's land surface, based on aerial footage estimates. That sounds meagre, but considering the country's afforested land cover only amounts to 400 square kilometres, that's a lot of lupines. And while planted forest cover is predicted to reach about 1.6 percent in 2085 under the current forestation rate, the purple flowers could potentially spread into the double digits, aided by climate change and human activity. "Exponential growth is the nature of invasive species," says botanist Pawel Wasowicz, who is the lupine expert at the Iceland Institute of Natural History. The growth curve, he estimates, will see a dramatic peak in the next two decades.

Few countries are as vulnerable to global warming as Iceland, according to the Institute of Natural History, as invasive species have enormous potential to edge out existing flora and spread into the highland interior, which is currently too cold and dry for most plants. This naturally occurring lunar-like landscape could disappear. In about 30 years, under the current rate of climate change, the lupine could colonize much of the highland. Naturalist Hjörleifur Guttormsson says "Everything but the glaciers are potential lupine land."



Environmental info about Google

By Joe Kingscott



GOOGLE the site we all use to gather valuable information has contributed something for the international environmental every few years, here are the current ones....

2007

For the first time, we purchased enough high-quality carbon offsets for the emissions that we couldn't reduce directly, bringing our net annual emissions to zero.

2010

We were the first tech company to buy renewable energy at scale through PPAs, helping increase the availability of clean energy while driving down the price.

2017

We were the first company of our size to match 100% of our electricity use with renewable energy, and we've repeated it every year since.

2019

We made the largest corporate purchase of renewable energy of its time – a 1.6 GW package of 18 new energy deals – becoming the world's largest annual corporate purchaser of renewable energy.

2020

We became the first major company to neutralise our entire legacy carbon emissions.

By 2022

we're committed to offering one billion people new ways to live more sustainably via our core products.

2025

20,000 clean energy jobs will have been supported by Google's carbon-free energy contracts, clean technology