



10 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!

## **Are electric cars really better for the environment than petrol cars?**

**By Callum Bailey**

You are about to receive the shock of a lifetime readers, but I have a confession to make... I am a car guy and I am interested in cars. I know, shock of the century, a member of Green Team who's secretly a car guy! Ok, so now that I've said this we'll get to the actual problem here.

By 2030, petrol cars will no longer be on sale and only electric cars will, but this raises the question of what is actually better for the environment, electric cars or petrol cars. I can already hear the Tesla fanboys adjusting their ties and clearing their throats to say, "Actually, Electric Cars don't make any emissions and are perfectly safe for the environment." However, they are very wrong because in order to make an electric car they need to make Lithium Ion batteries, which means that small children in Africa are sent into mines to dig up Lithium. All of this Lithium is then shipped to China to be processed and made into batteries which creates a lot of carbon emissions and then the finished batteries are shipped again to be put into each individual car in America, Japan, Germany, Sweden, China, Korea and any other country that makes electric cars. Then, once these cars are built they have to be charged and in most cases the electricity used to charge these cars are produced through coal powered power stations or other pollution producing methods. So, despite the fact that electric cars have no exhaust emissions directly from the car, they make just as much if not more carbon emissions than a petrol or diesel car does in its whole lifetime. Despite everything I just said, petrol and diesel cars aren't much better as they have exhaust pipe emissions, meaning that they are arguably just as bad because rather than having all the emissions in one place (potentially away from populated areas) the emissions would be spread out through an entire city. On top of this, there is the noise pollution (personally something that I don't mind, but you do you I guess) that some people dislike due to it being quite irritating when Brad in his straight-piped Civic drives past your house at midnight redlining it on every gear. Now, you're probably wondering "Then what are the pros of petrol cars?"

Firstly, if you're on a really long motorway journey, it's highly likely that when you go into a service station (likely to go the toilet), you see several electric car chargers with a line of Teslas parked in front of them. Those cars are parked there for often over an hour to charge, and once they are more or less fully charged, at the absolute most they will go another 300 miles (when fully charged that is, these chargers often don't

fully charge the car to save time) before needing to stop again and charge for another hour. Compare this to a 2016 Ford Mondeo diesel which can cover about 730 miles per tank and takes approximately 2 minutes to fill up, it's a clear win for the petrol cars when it comes to how far it can go on a single tank and how long it takes to fill up, and it's also clear that by driving an electric car you will add many hours to an already really long journey.



Secondly, from a design point of view, the car designers of the world do not know what to do at all when it comes to designing an electric car as they do not know what to do with the massive area on the front that would have been a front grille as electric cars do not need a front grille as there is no engine to cool. Because of this we have had such abominations as the 2019 Hyundai Kona Electric, or the 2012 Nissan Leaf, or the 2022 BMW iX (I'm puking just looking at it). On the contrary, just look at other cars from these manufacturers such as the 2020 Hyundai i30 N or Veloster N, the 2012 Nissan GTR or 370z, and of course the 2016 BMW M4 or M2. This new series of horrible designs is also caused by the rise of the SUV but if I start talking about that my article will be scrapped for being far too long and going off topic.

Thirdly, petrol cars are just better from a performance point of view than electrics as they are lighter and feel connected to the road and world around you whereas electrics are really quiet and disconnect you from reality.



Now, you may point out that I haven't mentioned the emissions of these petrol cars and I can see you preparing to send me an onslaught of "Oh, but my electric cars are good for the environment!" but that's where this point comes in... Petrol cars are better for the environment due to a small and cheap modification that should be done to all petrols and has even been tested on a McLaren supercar! This is allowing cars to run on synthetic fuels, something that the German company Bosch has been researching. The basic premise is: Carbon dioxide is captured either directly from the atmosphere, or from industrial plants. (Various methods exist for these processes). Renewable energy sources are used to produce hydrogen; this could be used to power hydrogen cars, but such vehicles are not without disadvantages (later in article). The hydrogen and carbon dioxide are combined into synthetic methanol, which can then be processed into synthetic petrol and diesel. This makes synthetic fuels completely carbon neutral! Oh, and Porsche, Audi, Toyota and McLaren are investing in it already! The best part is, this technology is much cheaper to produce and petrol pumps can be converted to use synthetic fuels much how they were converted from leaded to unleaded fuel. More importantly, this will save millions of pounds in

infrastructure costs to build electric charger stations or hydrogen filling stations and will mean that less electricity will need to be generated, meaning that we will need to rely on fossil fuel powered power stations less.

However, it seems governments have their hearts set on using electric cars as the future of the automobile despite these incredible developments in synthetic fuels. The future of cars should clearly be synthetic fuels or hydrogen as hydrogen powered cars can use the exact same process as synthetic fuels to produce hydrogen. Hydrogen cars use hydrogen combustion to power traditional piston engines and only produce water as waste. The reason I mentioned disadvantages of hydrogen earlier is because hydrogen cars are very expensive to build and hydrogen is very flammable so can be dangerous to store.

So, to summarise, you clearly have 3 choices. Option 1, take forever to recharge, drive a short distance and then repeat. Option 2, risk explosion via dodgy hydrogen storage and bankrupt yourself just to buy it. Or Option 3, exactly what you are used to but now environmentally friendly. Only problem is, governments seemingly aren't investing in this miracle solution to using fossil fuels and will instead use electric cars because that's all they know about. Maybe I should write to the MP about this like everyone else did with the letters?

To conclude and compress the whole article into a single sentence, cars are cool, synthetic fuels need to replace the really old underground plankton juices and electric cars aren't as good for the environment as you first thought.



## **Good news stories!**

**By Filippo Tobias**

- Heat pumps avoided 8m tonnes of CO2 emissions in Europe last year
- New solar technology could cut some people's house bills in half (this was first trailed in Odet Court Cardiff)
- Renewable energy is set to be the world's top source of electricity by 2025
- Australia blocks new coal mine 10km from Great Barrier Reef  
In 2022 wind and solar produced more electricity than gas.

# Frightening Fact!

**By Joe Kingscott**

THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT HAS DUMPED SEWAGE INTO OUR BEAUTIFUL SEAS. Just because they want to save and money and have “greater concerns.”

Why is there raw sewage in UK rivers and seas?

Our sewer system carries rainwater, and wastewater from toilets, along the same pipes to the water treatment works. When there is too much rainfall, water companies are allowed to discharge overflow from these pipes into our rivers and seas. This should happen rarely, but data – and experience show this is happening more and more.

Water companies are not doing enough to tackle this problem. The Environment Agency found that 90% of sewage monitors at sea sides are broken. In many locations, they’re not installed at all. Over summer 2022, dozens of beaches were closed to swimmers due to the high levels of toxic waste. And there may have been many more that went untested.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/15631672848805888>

As Environment Secretary, Liz Truss oversaw £235 million in cuts to environmental funding.



<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/raw-sewage-discharge-water-pollution/>

## Fun Facts!

**By Jose-Maria Kimburi**

If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will eventually turn white.

A snail breathes through its foot

# Water saving tips

By Keylan Joyce

## DON'T WASTE WATER

YOU SHOULD:

- HAVE A SHORTER SHOWER
- USE LEFTOVER COOKING WATER TO WATER PLANTS
- FILL THE DISHWASHER AND WASHING BOWL UP
- TURN OF THE TAP WHEN YOU ARE NOT USING IT



When you waste water

THINK ABOUT THE TURTLES  
THEY NEED WATER TOO



# Water saving tips

By Filip Gaul



## How to save water

- Turn off the tap when you clean your teeth. A running tap uses up to nine litres of water a minute.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A five-minute shower uses about 40 litres of water. This is about half the volume of a standard bath.
- Using a watering can in the garden instead of a sprinkler or a hosepipe. Garden sprinklers and hosepipes left running can use between 500 and 1,000 litres of water an hour.
- Check your property regularly for leaks on your internal plumbing.
- Use a bowl in the sink when washing fruit, vegetables or dishes. You can then use the waste water to water your plants.



# ONLY FLUSH THE 3 P'S

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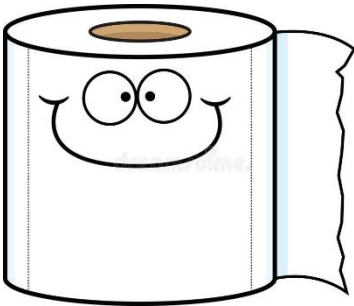
By Jose-Maria Kimburi



PEE



POO



PAPER



**DON'T**



Disinfecting, Baby, or Flushable Wipes

Paper Towels

Facial Tissue/Napkins

Cloth/Towels

Feminine Care Products

Medicine

# Oiled Birds

By Joe Kingscott

'Oiled birds' spotted around Poole Harbour as RSPB warns over damage to migrating birds

A news article reporting a leak of reservoir fluid, including oil, around the internationally important wetlands occurred at a pipeline managed by Perenco.

A major incident was declared after 200 barrels of reservoir fluid - consisting of 85 per cent water and 15 per cent oil.

"The area is home to numerous bird species such as black-headed gull, Mediterranean gull, redshank and oystercatcher which breed on the coastline, and many other water birds which rely on the harbour mudflats for food.

"When it comes to an issue like this there are several areas of concern. One is that any birds that come into physical contact with this substance can see their feathers damaged and become less water resistant.

"The substance will also encourage any affected birds to preen constantly, meaning they could ingest the hazardous liquid.



## Fun Fact.

By Filip Gaul

**There is an estimated total of 321 quadrillion ants on the planet and 8 billion people. The average ant weighs 2.5mg while the average human weighs 62Kg. The combined weight of all ants is 321 billion tons, while the combined weight of all humans is 496 million tons.**



## **Our response to Richard Graham MP for Gloucester**

**You may recall we have previously written to our local MP about environmental issues and we were unsatisfied with the response he gave us. We have written back to him and we have included our letter below for you to read. We will keep you informed if we hear back**

**Esther Rumsey and Maria Ostrowska**

Dear Richard Graham,

We were very pleased to receive your replies to our letters. We appreciate your time and the commitment you made to us.

However, there are a few points you made we would like to discuss further.

Jose wrote to you about eco-anxiety and outlined how it is affecting our younger generation. As young people ourselves, this subject is very important to us and we were disappointed to find that you didn't focus on young people in your response. We did find some hope in the projects you have been initiating locally and are a part of nationally as it is always a source of relief knowing that action for our future is being made and we would love to take up your offer to plant trees at Hempstead. But we want to know more. What commitments are you making to the younger generation? How are you going to get young people involved?

Your response to Evan about renewable energy focused on what has been done regarding this subject. Often constituent members get frustrated at their MPs as they focus on what they have achieved and avoid discussing what needs to be done. We want to know what you think still needs to be attained. There is much more to be attained.

We were very interested in your response to Filip about rewilding and reintroduction. This is a topic with much scope and needs intervention from the government. However, you put this responsibility on us, asking us whether we could collaborate with Gloucestershire Wildlife at Robinswood Hill. This is an idea we would like to pursue but is the epitome of the lack of responsibility within our government around this subject. It is imperative MPs take this responsibility. Reintroduction and rewilding is inevitably going to be a bigger part of the future and is already initiated around England. MPs must realise this and offer the support that is imperative to the conservation of our natural habitats around the UK.

Joe wrote of his concerns about water consumption. We were pleased to read that you understand the importance of taking individual action to make an impact. These small changes are vital and if you, as an MP, can use your influence to motivate people to make these changes themselves, this impact will be bigger. However, we want to talk further about your suggestion that water companies implementing bans is an accomplishment and a positive step towards using less water. This is not correct. We should not have got to the point when we have to have water bans. It shows the inaction from our government regarding water consumption. We should not have got to this point.

As St Peter's Green Team, we are committed to carrying on our action, however we, as many other constituents do, want to see more government action.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Rumsey and Maria Ostrowska, on behalf of Green Team.