

After a year of lockdown and social distancing Spring 2021 feels like a time of renewal and optimism – lots of new initiatives to engage with at home and in the wider world.



A fantastic new way to support Plastic Free Faversham, your town and your community:

Tickets cost just £1 per week, with a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot every week!

Choose Plastic Free Faversham as your good cause and from every £1 ticket you buy, 50p will go to us as we raise funds for litter picking equipment which can be borrowed by members of the community.

www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk

FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
LOTTERY

**Play today
and support our cause!**

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:

www.FavershamDistrictLottery.co.uk
and search for: **Plastic Free**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Young People: Get Involved!

Your opportunity to learn and share
Thursday 22 April 2021 5pm

Open to 13-17 year olds across the borough of Swale, learn more about our work on climate change and share what you're already doing. Join your local councils to learn about the work being done to protect the environment and reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Hear from local groups and organisations with work experience opportunities, volunteering insights and their tips and tricks for living more sustainably. Share what you are doing to help tackle climate change, as well as helping to write Swale's new climate pledge with your ideas. Quiz our officers on what they are doing to increase recycling rates, reduce single use plastic and help think of ways to combat fast fashion. On the one-year anniversary of Swale's Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan you can find out what we've been up to. Use the Q&A to ask your burning questions and suggest what you would like to see done in the borough.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swale-earth-day-youth-webinar-your-opportunity-to-learn-and-share-tickets-146759155585

**SWALE EARTH DAY
YOUTH WEBINAR**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND SHARE

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL - 5PM
AGES 13-17 ONLY

Support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill

What is the CEE Bill?

www.ceebill.uk

The CEE Bill stands for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. Presented to Parliament by Caroline Lucas in September 2020 as a private member's bill its aim is to provide a legal framework to take this urgent issue of the climate and ecological crisis out of the normal cycle of politics and make it a cross party issue.

Key points for Government support:

1. The UK must play a fair role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to within 1.50 C above pre-industrial temperatures. Historically, the UK, along with the developed Western economies, is responsible for most of the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere. The UK must lead on climate change when it hosts COP26 in November.

2. Commit to natural and ecological solutions to mitigate climate change

The Government must address ecological issues as a way of dealing with climate change. Adopting the bill would provide a legal framework for government to commit to restoring and regenerating depleted soil, wildlife habitats and species populations to robust levels in order to maximise natural absorption of carbon dioxide and thereby resilience to climate heating. So the health of nature should be harnessed in combatting climate change – not wishful thinking on, as yet, untested and unproven 'negative emissions technologies'.



3. No more creative accounting on emissions!

The UK must take responsibility for all our carbon emissions, including those from products manufactured abroad but consumed in the UK, and not just ones created within the UK (known as 'territorial' emissions). The bill asks that the UK counts emissions from imported goods, plus the whole supply chain, including shipping and aviation. Because these emissions are not currently factored in, the UK is creatively able to claim that it has massively reduced its carbon emission. This is true to the extent that the UK is now relying more on renewable energy. But unfortunately, that reduction in carbon emissions is partly due to the fact that we have outsourced industrial production from the UK to the global economy. We have not equally reduced our consumption, for example, of computers and smartphones, so the difference in what we claim to have reduced and what we are actually responsible for may be as much as 50%.

4. Citizens' Assembly

The bill also demands that a Citizens' Assembly is set up, representative of the UK population, to engage with parliament and government in developing the emergency strategy. The climate emergency affects us all. The bill asks for well-informed citizens to take part in a properly democratic process of

continues page 3

Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill continued
decision-making so that no section of society is unfairly left to pick up the cost of change.

What can you do?

The bill has now garnered the support of 100 MPs from across party lines. Write to your MP asking them to support the bill. Do they agree with the substance of this bill? Do they agree that the UK has to take responsibility for all our

emissions, including for imported goods? Do they agree that we need to reverse the decline of natural systems, systems on which we all depend, if we are to stand a chance of keeping global heating to within 1.50 C above pre-industrial levels? And as this is an issue of monumental importance, can they deny people a real say in choosing a fair path to a zero carbon society and a thriving natural world?

Just launched!

A new campaign against the perils of #plasticgrass. As thoughts turn again to the garden & the return of warm weather will you take the fake lawn pledge, say NO to plastic grass and #turfitout? #wildlifegardening #plastics



TURF IT OUT

It's bad for wildlife, pets and people

Will you make the fake lawn pledge?

Please say **NO** to plastic grass

- ✗ Stops birds, insects and hedgehogs finding food and shelter
- ✗ Prevents nutrients getting into the soil
- ✗ Made of fossil fuels and has a high carbon footprint
- ✗ Sheds harmful microplastics into our rivers and seas
- ✗ Worsens flooding
- ✗ Can overheat in the summer - too hot for doggies' paws!
- ✗ Wears out and ends up in landfill

#turfitout

Choose the real thing and make your garden a little patch of heaven for our precious wildlife

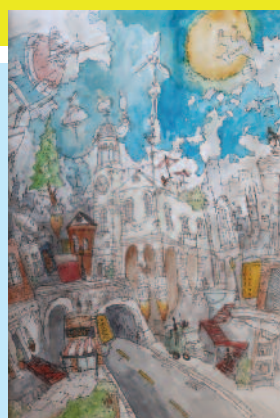
Art Competition Winners:

Thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to:

Winner of young adult category: Arthur, age 13

Winner of child category: Kim, age 9.

Runners up are Matthew, age 7 & Daisy, age 10.



Arthur (left)
Kim (above)

How Green is your Garden? Go plastic & guilt free

Tips and tricks for the garden which are not only better for your pocket, but better for the planet and the soil!

Seeds: Avoid unwanted plastic pots - grow your own from seed. Look out for seed swaps in your local community, or via plant societies.

Buy bare-rooted: by mail order or from your local garden centre. Bare roots can be wrapped in newspaper so there's no plastic pot for you to deal with.

Divide and share plants: in autumn or spring. Set up a plant swap in your neighbourhood.

Soil: A quarter of all known species on Earth call soil their home. Soils are even more effective than forests at sequestering carbon helping to protect us from climate catastrophe. We need to look after them and our wildlife, now more than ever.

Choose peat-free compost: Peat extraction is really damaging to wildlife and releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. See if your garden centres will offer compost bags for life which you refill each time, or look out for locally produced compost and take your own refillable container to collect it. Or make your own compost, by using vegetable scraps, newspapers, grass clippings, and other compostable materials.

Choose plastic-free pots: Every year around 500 million plastic pots and seed trays are sold in the UK, so switching to a plastic-free option could have a MASSIVE impact. You can



Take your plants home plastic free from Edible Culture. Getting rid of single use pots one pop at a time!
www.posipot.co.uk

buy plastic-free pots made from natural coir or harder-wearing terracotta, or even wooden seed trays lined with newspaper. Faversham's very own EdibleCulture sells plastic free pots.

Save water and save money: Install a water butt or reuse greywater from the kitchen, the washing machine or baths and showers.

Natural support: Use non-plastic twine, bamboo canes and plastic-free wire. You can also use coffee grounds or broken eggshells at the base of your plants to help keep slugs and snails at bay and act as a natural fertilizer for your plants. And it removes the need to use harmful chemicals in plastic bottles.

Don't forget the wildlife: With pollinating insects in decline, the birds and bees need extra care. From bird boxes to hedgehog houses and bee hotels there are many choices. Just make sure to choose the plastic-free kind.

www.edibleculture.co.uk

www.citytosea.org.uk/plastic-free-garden-2/

Plastic Free Faversham Fights the Litter Blight!

Since 2018, Plastic Free Faversham's dedicated volunteers have been cleaning up litter in and around Faversham. But since January, we've started organising regular monthly litter picks. Together, our wonderful volunteers have collected a huge haul of waste from the town's pavements and parks, rural lanes and woodland beauty spots.

Sunday 21 March was Plastic Free Faversham's third litter pick of the year. Volunteers took part either solo or as part of their household bubble, managing some gentle exercise while cleaning up our public spaces. In total, we've collected 26 bags of litter from seven locations in and around Faversham.

Local volunteer and PFF campaigner, Sonia Jackson said, 'Sadly, single-use plastics and fast-food packaging are fast contaminating public spaces all over Faversham and surrounding areas. It's disgusting to look at, it poses a huge threat to our environment, animals, our children and ultimately us, as it gradually contaminates soil.'

Much of the litter is packaging from convenience or fast food and drink. Coffee cups and energy drinks



Max and Lucia collect litter from Hernhill village field.



The two bags here, from just 700 yards of roadside verge on the Western Link, contain plastic packaging and polystyrene insulation material which blow out of vehicles and skips, as well as discarded cans and plastic drinks bottles dropped by casual walkers or thrown out of car windows.

are a constant feature of litter picks. This is backed up by research that shows that most litter is from discarded food and drink packaging.

Some people are not aware that coffee cups do not biodegrade in the environment, despite their 'paper' appearance. In fact, the cups either have a plastic liner which won't biodegrade or they are made of plant-based plastic which requires specialised industrial composting to break down. If they escape into the environment, 'biodegradable' cups behave the same way as oil-based plastic ones and don't break down fully. Both oil- and plant-based plastics can last in the environment for 6-700 years! Currently, the UK is getting through 2.5 billion coffee cups a year. And those are pre-pandemic figures so the figure may well be higher now. A well known takeaway coffee chain likes to advertise that it recycles its cups but the sad truth is that the

continues page 6

Fight the Litter Blight continued

vast majority of coffee cups do not get recycled. Even more shocking, much of paper to make the cup is derived from virgin pulp. So takeaway coffee cups are wasteful on every aspect of their production, use and disposal. That's why it is so important to use refillable cups for your caffeine fix.

You can write to your MP, Gordon Henderson or Helen Whateley, about the urgent need to introduce the deposit return scheme. The Government has delayed this scheme twice, arguing more time is needed for consultation, and it looks like the implementation will now be no earlier than 2024. This is extremely disappointing. No matter how hard PFF volunteers work, nor how many there are, the

litter will continue to accumulate. The only chance we have of reversing this trend is to create an 'all-in' deposit scheme with a financial incentive for people to return all sizes of plastic containers, bottles and aluminium cans.

After the 18 April litter pick, Plastic Free Faversham will be organising group picks in specific areas. Go to the home page on our website at www.plasticfreefaversham.co.uk. Or you can look us up on Facebook, Plastic Free Faversham. Send us photos and comments of your litter picking stories so we can publish them on our Facebook page. Of course, there's nothing to stop you continuing to carry out your own individual litter pick in your local area; we'd still love to see your photos!

World Refill Day: 16th June 2021

World Refill Day is a global public awareness campaign to champion reuse over single-use and prevent plastic pollution.

As a result of the pandemic, we've seen a huge increase in single-use plastic – particularly from take-away food packaging, retail and PPE and organisations have backtracked on their commitments to tackle single-use and scale reuse. We've seen retailers, chains and brands ban reusables, despite the evidence from Greenpeace and over 100 scientists publicly stating they are safe to use.

On June the 16th, we'll be calling on individuals, businesses and governments around the world to join the refill revolution and say goodbye to single-use plastic for good. www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/



Refill Faversham

Macknades Café
The Yard
Havishams
Oscar's Kitchen
The Refinery

