



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD AND ABBEY CHURCH ARBROATH

## ECO-AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

22 November 2015

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# NOTES FROM ACROSS THE POND

by Lauryn Small

**Last month I was one of a group of senior pupils and staff of Arbroath Academy who travelled to the U.S.A to visit Washington and New York, a visit which was highly anticipated and did not disappoint.**



History classes don't come any better than this. The whole experience was wonderful but I will highlight a few points appertaining to things of an eco nature.

- Our tour guide who was born and raised in New York stated that the only place, apart from Central Park, he can look up in the city and see blue sky is at the 9/11 memorial;
- For a city so densely populated and congested with both people and traffic I was somewhat surprised at how clean the streets of New York were! We soon found out what happened to all the rubbish as late in the evening on our route home the edge of every pavement would be stacked to unbelievable heights with black plastic bags of rubbish which I believe are collected each night or in the early hours of the morning.
- A lot of the garbage collected is waste food from the various chains of restaurants which is understandable because of the large sized portions. However, I was not aware of any recycling bins.

I have been selected, along with nine other senior Arbroath Academy pupils, to travel to Rwanda in 2017. This is a dream come true for me and will come at the end of my sixth year at the school. Fundraising will be required, starting with a coffee morning, with a baking stall, in Letham Church Hall, from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday, December 5. Tickets are £3 each and I have left some with my granddad, the newsletter editor, Alex Robertson. If you can, please support the Rwanda trip by purchasing a ticket from him. Thank you.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE PARIS COP21 (CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES) MEETING, 2015.**

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
The world, and those who live in it;  
For he has founded it on the seas,  
And established it on the rivers.*

O God of this earth, as nations gather to meet in Paris,  
We pray for the representatives of the rich and the powerful,  
And for those sent there by the poor and the vulnerable.

Give to them all gifts of wisdom and discernment,  
That they might truly understand what faces your world today,  
And see what needs to be done in days ahead.

Give to them qualities of kindness, justice and determination,  
That they may hear creation's cry of distress,  
And together take binding actions to safeguard the climate.

And stir up in us what we expect from others.  
Make us wise and discerning, kind, and just,  
Determined to play our part in caring for creation, now and for  
ever.

Amen

By Rev Trevor Jamison, Environmental Chaplain, Eco-  
Congregation Scotland.

## **NETWORK MEETING NOTES**

The following are extracts from the Dundee and Angus network meeting of Eco Congregation Scotland held in St Andrew's Church, Dundee, on October 8.

Arbroath Old and Abbey Church are trying to ensure food waste from the church is being correctly separated and recycled. They have just persuaded Angus Council to provide the church with food waste bins and the Eco Group is trying to ensure they are used properly. They also took part in the local Beach Clean in August.

Auchterhouse (linked with Monikie & Newbigging and Murroes & Tealing) struggle to get real interest in caring for creation issues but they are setting up a twinning arrangement with another church, which it is hoped will bring more involvement through global outreach. **They have changed to china cups instead of disposable ones, now they have new facilities in the church to allow washing up.** Their manse and glebe land was sold and

there appeared to be an opportunity to build a new eco manse **but the Church of Scotland didn't seem able to go for it!**

There was a debate on the subject 'should the Church be investing in fossil fuel companies?' which was extremely interesting and the general view was that this is something the church should not indeed be doing and divestment should be the way forward.

This is something we will be hearing much more about in the very near future.

## **KEEPING KEPTIE POND CLEAN**

The next scheduled clean-up of Keptie Pond is on Sunday, November 29, following the previous one on October 25, and additional volunteers would be made most welcome.

The clean-ups commence at 11am and are organised by the Friends of Keptie Pond, which is part of Arbroath in Bloom.

## **GREEN ENERGY FAILURE**

Figures recently published by the EU indicated that only Malta, Luxembourg and the Netherlands used less renewable energy than the UK as a proportion of total consumption.

Just 5.1% of energy used in the UK is renewable, according to figures produced by the EU statistical office.

The UK government has a target of 15% of energy consumption from renewables by 2020, but its record so far leaves it to make the largest improvement of all 28 member states.

### **QUOTE:**

'There is a growing black hole in our energy bills because we prefer the convenience of stand by, but many of us blame each other for leaving things on around the house and it's adding £30 to our bills every year.

'Getting down on your hands and knees and working out what you can and cannot switch off can be a real pain for some of us.

'We suggest simply plugging everything that you can switch off into one extension socket and everything that you can't into another.'

Energy Saving Trust Chief Executive  
Philip Sellwood