



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD AND ABBEY CHURCH ARBROATH

ECO-AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

October 11th 2015

Minister Rev. Dolly Purnell Email church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk tel 01241 877068

COOLER, DRIER SUMMERS AHEAD

A recent report has suggested British summers could be cooler over the next ten years.

However, our summers could also be much drier, according to the Met office.

The changes are being driven by north Atlantic sea temperatures, which are expected to drop by around half a degree over the next decade. While this does not sound like much, it could be enough to cool our summers by an average of 1C over ten years.

But higher temperatures elsewhere might cancel out the effect on Britain, the Met Office said.

RECYCLING SUCCESS STORY

Angus residents have been praised for their response to new kerbside arrangements which have seen a 40% drop in non-recyclable waste. The new service was rolled out to approximately 55,000 properties between March and November last year to help the drive towards the national target of recycling 60% of all household waste by 2020.

At present, the authority is collecting some 241kg of residual, or non-recyclable, waste from each household, which equates to 4.63kg per week. Dry recyclables account for 199.9kg and 3.84kg, respectively, and food waste amounts to 89.4kg per year and 1.72kg per week for each property.

The council has also said it is delighted with how quickly Angus residents have got to grips with what should go into each different coloured bin.

The average 'contamination' rate for collected co-mingled recycling– or incorrect disposal– was just 3% in the last three months, one of the lowest rates in the country.

Capture rate for the separate collection of food waste is also known to be one of the highest in Scotland. However, analysis earlier this year revealed that 48% of contents of the purple bin, which is used for all non-recyclable waste, could have been placed in the grey bin or brown food caddy for recycling.

Angus Council will continue to raise awareness about how best to use the bins.

KEEPING ANGUS BEAUTIFUL

Congratulations to Colourful Carnoustie, Monifieth Eco Force and Easthaven Heritage and Garden Group on achieving awards from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

The organisation's annual ceremony recognised the effort of those who improve their environment through horticulture.

Colourful Carnoustie scooped the gold medal for the coastal town category, Monifieth Eco Force the silver in the same category, and Easthaven Heritage and Garden Group won best coastal village and the Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability.

The Carnoustie group also won the first Keep Scotland Beautiful Award for the entry that demonstrates consistency, significant progress from the previous year, and commitment to the three Beautiful Scotland campaign themes.

SAVING THE RED SQUIRREL

Efforts to save endangered red squirrels are set to receive a £1.2 million boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Funding will go to support a four-year programme to secure the future of the native red.

Red squirrels have vanished from most of England and Wales and from parts of Northern Ireland and Scotland as a result of the impact of non-native grey squirrels, introduced from America in the 19th Century.

Grey squirrels outcompete the reds for resources and carry a squirrelpox disease that is fatal to the native species.



FAIR TRADE TOWN STATUS RENEWED

Arbroath has successfully renewed its status as a Fair Trade town.

The town first achieved the status in 2012 and the renewal runs until 2017.

Arbroath Fair Trade Action Group chairman Patricia Miller said everyone in the organisation was 'over the moon'.

'This is a testament to all the hard work that we have been doing over the past few years.' she said.

'We don't rest on our laurels however— we are encouraging people to include at least one Fair Trade item in their shopping basket.

'We must continue to bang the drum for Fair Trade because we rely on some of the world's poorest farmers for products we take for granted.'

OLD AND ABBEY ECO GROUP

The Eco Group will next meet at 7:15pm on Monday October 19th in the church hall complex.

At the meeting on September 17 the agenda included: a) the national beach clean on September 20;

b) the Eco Congregation Scotland Network Seminar on September 26, which no member could attend as it clashed with our Elders' conference;

c) the Climate Change Summit in Paris in December;

d) the talk on 'Should the Church be Investing in Fossil Fuel Companies?' in St Andrew's Church in Dundee on October 8th which most of the group would attend;

e) Recycling at the Old and Abbey.

Potential new members would be made very welcome indeed. Feedback would also be appreciated, as would suggestions which we could follow up.

SOLAR PANELS: BEAT THE CUT

Scots households are scrambling to fit solar panels ahead of a proposed cut in subsidies.

Homeowners can fit around 13 panels, which can generate around 3500KW a year to power their homes.

Any surplus is then sold to the National Grid at 15p a unit.

Quote: *The warming planet demands on our part a serious and responsible recognition of the conditions awaiting today's children.*—Pope Francis

BEACH CLEAN

The Eco Group were part of a band of eleven volunteers who took part in the "Great British Beachclean," on the West Sands, Arbroath, in the afternoon of Sunday 20th September. This is the annual nation-wide survey and clean of Britain's beaches organised by Marine Conservation Society.

By noting what is picked up over the surveyed areas, MCS are able to establish the sources of litter on our beaches. The team were on the beach for two hours and of the one hundred metres in length surveyed they collected five bags of rubbish, weighing eleven kilograms. After this was done the team cleaned much more of the beach and collected many more bags of rubbish.

The weather was fair throughout and refreshments were gratefully received at the end.

Many thanks to those who took part.

By Fay Forge

JOIN MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Join hundreds of thousands of people in capital cities around the world marching for climate action as the UN climate talks in Paris begin.

Take part in the Scottish march for climate action in Edinburgh on Saturday 28th November.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition which is organising this family-friendly march.

They are organising a church service immediately before the march (time and location will be announced soon) so come along and take part.

You could even help carry the new Eco-Congregation Scotland banner! 'From Eco Congregation Scotland website.'

