

Over the past months, we have been working with the newly formed local Committee whose purpose is to inform the residents of North Wirral of the Hoylake Golf Resort proposals and the potential impact on the surrounding townships.

For example although called the Hoylake Golf Resort it is not a Hoylake town centre development but an Out of Town Resort to be built on land between Meols and West Kirby / Newton. The proposals for new roads from Saughall Massie or Newton will mean that the impact of construction and visitor traffic will impact Saughall Massie not Hoylake. As one local resident said recently.. "well its nothing to do with Hoylake really..." exactly! We must remember that this is a proposal to sell land, mostly owned by the Council that for 15 years gained no interest from any developer. It was only last September that we learned of the Jack Nicklaus interest with the Council proposing "Enabling Development" of some 150-luxury houses on Green Belt farmland to accompany the hotel and associated golf buildings. The addition of the housing must be related to the sudden "interest" from a developer after 15 years of nothing. The development of just a hotel and golf buildings have been known to be "inappropriate" in the Green Belt from the Council's own report, we all had to pay for in 2006. Remain engaged as possible with all aspects of this "inappropriate" development in the Green Belt and try to preserve the farmland... we all need food!

The website :- <http://www.hoylakegolfresort.uk/> has many interesting revelations.

The other attack on the Green Belt comes from the proposals by our "Community Fire Service" wanting to impose its "Community Fire Station" on Saughall Massie, just next to the area of sheltered housing! All this effort to move the Upton station a mile down the road, it seems a most strange use of taxpayers' money. Apparently the "Community Fire Service" are still spending taxpayers' money pursuing this plan.

In South Wirral, we believe that the golf course at Mollington is closing, adding yet more concern as to the viability of the local golf courses let alone a new Hoylake Golf Resort!

The Fire service is now busily building its new Fire Station at Saughall and Aldi are busily expanding their depot at Neston.

In Willaston we are awaiting the outcome of an appeal to build 5 "affordable bungalows" off Hooton Road. Redrow are building their houses off Ledsham Rd, we wait to see if they will sell.

Any issues on the Green Belt in the Wirral please email:- planning@wirralsociety.net

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Wirral Matters are available in all libraries and sent to councillors and MPs in the Wirral peninsula. Copies go to the Archives of Wirral, The British Library and Scottish Deposits



Inspired by Michelle Costello's Instagram gallery I went on my own #2minutebeachclean by West Kirby's Marine Lake. I also litter pick on New Ferry beach (Ed.)

The new noticeboard, sponsored by The Wirral Society and designed by Judith Railton is now at Thurstaston Visitors Centre, waiting for the cliff top path extension to be completed

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WIRRAL MATTERS

NEWS and VIEWS from THE WIRRAL SOCIETY - FOUNDED 1928
THE WIRRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)
President: Professor John Tarn OBE DL FRIBA FRSA FRHistS FSA

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT LITTER?

Looking at the people who roll up their sleeves and do something about it

BEACH CLEANING, LITTER AND CIVIC PRIDE PROJECTS ON WIRRAL
Environmental volunteers work with Wirral Council
Contact your local councillor for help with any project you want to run

The New Brighteners regularly collect litter on New Brighton beaches and are extending their work to Wallasey and other areas.

The Black Pearl team not only work to keep the Pirate Ship up to scratch on the foreshore by Vale Park but construct a series of magical miniature homes to entrance visitors to the park.

The Rodney Street Resident Association ran an environmental day with the Birkenhead constituency committee. The Council provided skips, litter pickers, bags, apprentice help. Bulk household unwanted goods were collected; there was a litter picking competition with parents and children, refreshments and children planting spring bulbs.

The Friends of Coronation Gardens in West Kirby meet on the first Saturday of each month at 10am to litter pick and tidy. Join them if you can.

Visit the 'Love Wirral' Facebook group for more good news



The Black Pearl Team



Coronation Gardens



A call to volunteer

The Chairman's Report and Photos

Despite significant reductions in the local government resources of our 2 Councils on Wirral, it would seem that there is still much evidence of good work continuing in a number of aspects.

Sandstone Walls

We have a very special heritage of sandstone walls, which often sustain damage through collisions, vandalism or neglect, many of them being owned and managed by Councils. Prompt repairs to such walling when damage occurs is important. Damage reported following a road accident brought swift action. **Photo- page 2**

Roadside Verges

We have been so used to seeing well-maintained roadside verges on the peninsula, we rather take them for granted.

Column Road, West Kirby



Replacing vandalised trees



Layby - litter soon was cleared



Advertising

As Councils do not allow advertising on street furniture, its removal of such illegal material is a constant problem for their staff, which unfortunately they can only carry out to a limited extent. We try to encourage our Councils to take action wherever possible.

Street Furniture

Over time, many items of street furniture and the area in which they are located, begin to look dilapidated, unless regularly cleaned and maintained. Look out on the main road leading to Shotwick Village, where much needed maintenance was recognized by CWaC.

Wayside Litter

Contractors working for the Council clearing litter that had accumulated in the lay-by of a rural road. This example, *photo above*, was taken on Saughall Massie Road, Larton.

Roadside Trees

Roadside trees, whilst generating much work during the autumn, can themselves offer a significant improvement to areas when they become established. There is evidence of renewed roadside tree planting in Hoylake, following earlier vandalism. *photo above*

Michelle Costello

An inspirational member of the 2 Minute Beach Clean Movement

I am passionate about my environment and the wildlife in it so I've always removed litter when visiting beautiful Cornish beaches. I've also always been a treasure hunter. Seaglass, sea-pottery, drift wood and shells have been my favourite things to collect until a couple of years ago, 14th Feb 2014, I noticed massive amounts of plastic on Perranporth beach. My husband and I arranged some plastic bottles to spell out ""HELP"".



photos Michelle Costello

Later at home I Googled 'lost Lego' and found out more about the container spill of 1997 when 5 million bits of Lego fell into to the sea and are still washing up in our beaches. I started to collect Lego and my daughter found a prized Lego octopus on a south Cornwall beach. I also collect plastic soldiers, vintage hairslides and smartie lids, among other things.

I watched a video about the Laysan albatross chicks dying with their stomachs full of plastic and it had a profound effect on me so I started to clean beaches as often as I could. I also have arranged for my children at the school where I work to clean our local beach and educate them as to why balloon releases are so bad for our environment.

I began to create quirky pieces of art from the bits of plastic that I find and I donate £1 to the Marine Conservation Society for each item I sell.

I am a part of the 2 minute beach clean family, the brainchild of Martin Dorey and have recently been asked to exhibit my art in the National Trust cafe in Boscastle to help raise awareness of marine debris over the summer.

I have 200+ smartie lids. I kept finding them so I created a **Facebook** page about them called "smartie lids on the beach" asking people to look out for them and collect as many as they can, eventually creating a whole alphabet.

Please take a look at my story on **Instagram gallery - smartie_lids_on_the_beach** where I regularly post pics of the funny but tragic side of beach cleaning.

Summer Visit – to Birkenhead Priory by Diana Lane

We had a guided tour round the restored sections of the Priory which has been the subject of repair and restoration in the past two years with the addition of an historical description of the building of the crypt. We admired the newly restored St. Mary's Tower and visited the Scriptorium which now houses memorabilia from the Training Ship, HMS Conway. We heard a description of life there by one of the trainees. This was an interesting and informative visit on a fine day. However as the date was in competition with many other summer events the Committee are considering having the meeting in September next year - 2017. Any observations on this change would be welcomed.

Two and a half Centuries of the Liverpool Pilot Service – a talk by Retired Pilot, Geoffrey Topp

So many ships had foundered on the treacherous sand banks, turbulent waters and unpredictable storms on the approach to the Mersey. Many lives and cargoes were lost. And so The Pilot Service was born in the middle of the 18th century. By 1766 a lot of lighthouses had been added into the frame. There were schooners and cutters - owned by the pilots themselves. A small rowing boat, the punt, was used to transfer the pilot to the ship coming in. Apprentices were trained with a lead weight on a cord to test the depth. This still is the way in yacht races on The Mersey and apprentice pilots are still leadsmen.

Yellow stripe horizontally along the bows, the top of the masts painted white and a flag, white above red, to distinguish the pilot boat from the mass of sailing ships that thronged the Mersey in the days of sail. Geoffrey Topp started as an HMS Conway cadet, painting those same yellow lines and washing up mountains of dirty dishes with the aid of soap in a pierced tin. He became a Liverpool pilot and took on various roles on a British and European stage until his retirement. A pilot's licence was a passport, a folded £5 note within, an emergency fund.

Danger was still out there, and an old scrapbook showed the tale of pilots lost in disasters within sight of land more than 100 years ago. A dramatic drawing showed a pilot swinging on a rope from the yardarm, being hauled aboard over massive waves. In the First World War not all the mines laid in the approaches were found and neutralized in time.

In contrast, the annual inspection at The Bar became a junket with rowing and swimming races. Today, learning and planning is done on a sophisticated simulator at Woodside. The whole Three Queens visit last year was orchestrated on this. Pilots still go out many times daily to bring in the massive ships of all kinds that bring trade and tourists from across the globe.

'250 years of the Liverpool Pilot Service' exhibition at The Maritime Museum until June 2017