



The Romsey Abbey Environment Newsletter



First Edition. January 2020

The Legal Stuff

You are receiving this Newsletter because our records show you agreed to the Abbey sending you information in emails. This is the second such email the Abbey has sent out. To subscribe to future Environment Newsletters, you should reply to the email saying "Yes Please". If you don't want to subscribe to them, just ignore the Email and you won't receive any more Environment Newsletters. In future, Newsletters will only be sent to Subscribers.

What is the Parish Environment Group (PEG)

The Parish Environmental Group advises the PCC on environmental matters relating to Romsey Abbey and St Swithun's. The group also works closely with the Abbey's Fabric Committee.

It is responsible for evaluating environmental issues and initiatives to aid the Abbey in becoming more environmentally friendly and reducing its carbon footprint.

The Group also informs the Abbey Community on environmental issues that affect them and their descendants, and promotes and supports initiatives that encourage us all to be better stewards of our God-given Environment

Present (Jan 2020) members are:

Charlotte Belcher
Patricia Brown (Member of PCC and Fabric Committee)
John Gould - leader (Member of PCC and Fabric Committee)
Hilary Gould
Sarah Hargreaves
Jane Horne
Elizabeth Pratt (representing St Swithun's)
Roger Rowe

Communications

Feel free to reply to our email with your thoughts about what we should do to make our Newsletters more useful for the community. We will be distributing our Environment Newsletters as attachments to emails. So when we refer to "the email" we are referring to the one to which this Newsletter was attached.

The "Environment" is a huge subject. So some of you will know a lot more than we do about it and have been helping it in ways we have not thought about. Please pass us your ideas - to help us to help our community to help our planet. We want this to be a conversation not a lecture.

And please send us your questions on Environment matters. We will include a Question and Answer section in each edition. To get us started – there are a couple of questions below that we have been confused about, and have found the correct answers for them

What we've done already

Among the things done since the Group was set up in 2017 we have

- Encouraged the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products and low energy lighting
- Installed swift boxes on the Church Rooms
- Built a bug hotel in the South Garth
- Held the first PEG-sponsored talk on climate change “What happens the day after tomorrow?”
- Held a “Bee day” to raise awareness of the value of bees to the environment
- Held services of compline followed by a “bat walk”
- Developed a wildflower garden with orchids at St Swithun’s
- Put on a climate-change related tableau at the Harvest service

For these and other initiatives the Abbey and St Swithun’s were awarded first a bronze, and in 2018 a silver, award by A Rocha. These awards reflect how well the Abbey and St Swithun’s perform in the areas of

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global lifestyle

Environment - Questions and Answers

Question 1: What happens to Plastics I put in my Brown Recycling bin?

The only plastic items in your bin that are recycled are your plastic bottles. This includes drink bottles, milk bottles, shampoo bottles, and cleaning product bottles. Anything else gets treated as ordinary waste and is burned to generate electricity. Ignore what the packaging says about “recyclable” – that just means someone, somewhere can recycle it, not that Hampshire County Council will recycle it for you.

Lids and labels can be left on. You should empty any liquid content and squash the bottle before replacing the lid. Rinse them in ordinary washing up water helps too.

Some other plastic items can be taken to local recycling centres. At the area behind the Bus Station, near Aldi, there’s a skip for your

- Juice and Smoothie cartons
- Milk and dairy-alternative cartons
- Soup and sauce cartons,
- Chopped tomato, kidney bean, passata, etc cartons



Question 2: And what about plastic bottle tops?

Different advice has been given at different times. We should follow the current advice of Hampshire County Council - they handle recycling for our Test Valley area. They recommend you empty the bottle, squash it, and put the lid back on. The lid then goes with the bottle to the company that recycles the bottle where the lid is separated and recycled. If you take the lid off and put it in the recycling bin it gets incinerated not recycled.

Some organisations, usually charities, will take bottle tops and arrange for them to be recycled. There is a container in the Abbey for this.

Plastic bottle tops are 5th most frequent plastic items found in our seas! So do dispose of them responsibly.

Question 3: Where did these facts come from?

The answers are from the very informative HCC recycling website

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recycleforhampshire/>

Romsey Environmental Resources

We hope to build a list of organisations in Romsey which directly address Environmental issues. Here is our first:

At very short notice, **Lemon and Jinja** decorated one of our pillars at Harvest Festival. They offer a refilling service to cut down on Single Use plastics – a very urgent problem as the David Attenborough programmes show.

<https://lemonandjinja.com/>.

Other Environmental Resources

We hope to publish links to additional technical information about Environment Issues. Both the easy to understand material and the more technical for those who want to get their teeth into more of the Science and Societal issues. At the heavy end is the United Nations report which most Governments have signed up to, in principle, if not in practice in some cases.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is at:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/>

The UK's Meteorological Office is a world-leader in climate research and it has some web pages that will give you some basic information <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/climate-and-climate-change/index>

You might also like to look at <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/leaflet/nine-ways.pdf> where there are some ideas about an environmentally caring life-style.

Coming up

We look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions, but we are already planning activities for the coming year(s).

These include

- A wildflower area in the North Churchyard to encourage insect life
- Planting shrubs and flowers in the South Garth

- A walk around Romsey pointing out important and unusual trees
- Another compline service and bat walk
- A talk on recycling
- Talks on environmental issues
- More steps towards reducing the Abbey and St Swithun's carbon footprint

And finally, in case you missed it

If you weren't at the Harvest Service, you might like to see the "Journey through time" that the PEG performed. Each balloon released by an "actor" rose to a height that showed our impact on the air we breathe over the past 3000 years – and what it might be over the next 30. The height of the final balloon released by "child of the future" was sobering. It is a PowerPoint attachment to the email. The figures are shown in the 900 Anniversary panel in the Abbey.

Other attachments to the email:

"Journey through time" from Harvest Festival



The Parish Environment Group demonstration at the Harvest service. The balloons show how carbon dioxide has risen in the atmosphere and where it is likely to be by 2050