



Welcome to Lostwithiel Transition September 2009

e-newsletter

Transition Lostwithiel

News and projects

Wanted Windfall Apples and other Fruits

Does your crop of fruit fall to the ground and go to waste??

In September we will collect your fallen fruit
and pass to people who are looking for fruit

Contact Lesley Bower 01208 873363 for more details – thank you

PLASTIC BAG FREE

DAY 12 September

Ever wondered what happens after you have put out your recycling?

Then join us for a visit to our local Materials Reclamation Facility in Bodmin on October 27th at 10am - no age limit so bring the kids for a half-term activity – contact kat@transitionlostwithiel.org for more details and car sharing

DON'T LET GO

Plastic bags are just one of the deadly hazards for marine wildlife species, balloon litter is also a major problem for many marine wildlife species. Turtles and some seabirds are particularly at risk, as they feed on prey that floats at the surface. They may mistake floating balloons for their jellyfish prey and swallow them, or become entangled and drown.

Some whales, dolphins and fish are also known to have died as a result of eating balloons.

wildlife friendly balloon use

don't let go!

You can enjoy balloons without harming wildlife:

- Don't Let Go of balloons outdoors
- Fill balloons with air rather than helium
- Use balloons made of natural rubber latex rather than mylar (foil) balloons
- When tying balloons, use natural cotton string rather than plastic ribbon
- Securely tie any balloons that are used outside
- Always hand tie balloons rather than using plastic valves

alternatives to balloon releases

- *Prize balloon popping* - air fill your balloons, and hide a few prize tickets inside. Release the balloons indoors and have everyone pop them to find prizes.
- *Balloon art* - hire a balloon artist or, for the big, bold statement, try a giant air-filled-balloon sculpture.
- *Balloon relay* - each member of a team has to run a short distance and sit on a balloon to

pop it before running back to tag the next member of the team. The first team to pop all their balloons wins!

- *Guess the number of balloons* - why not fill a car with inflated balloons and run a competition to guess how many balloons are in car. The nearest guess wins the prize.

Source: Marine Conversation Society

Thought of the month

Ancient Tree Hunt

'Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism.'

Sir David Attenborough

Ancient trees are full of nooks and crannies, holes and dead and rotting wood. As the years go by they provide the perfect homes for thousands of species of plants, animals and fungi, including many rare and threatened species. Clusters of ancient trees are even more important because together all the trees will offer a really wide range of niche homes for lots of different specialist species in just one small area.

What makes ancient trees unique as a wildlife habitat, is the exceptionally species rich communities associated with wood decay and the bare surfaces of trunks, bough and roots.

Ancient trees are living relics of incredible age that inspire in us feelings of awe and mystery

www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/hunt/

Ancient Tree Poem -

Where shall we love? beneath the ancient tree
which spreads its leaves across its lengthy limbs
which shade each spring our momentary whims
as it has shaded for a century
or more before I fell in love with thee
the whispered words of love, the minstrels' hymns,
the flowers strewn across the flowing hems
of women cast in ancient poetry.

But now I hold the flowers in my hands
and weave my words of love into a vow
I vow beneath the ancient tree which stands
as long as God and all mankind allow
its age to tower over all the lands
so we may love beneath its ancient bough.

by **Michael Rew**