

## Environment Group, November 2019

### Zero waste

Our zero waste group, chaired by Dave Johnston, is now getting down to business.

Bradford's Recycling and Waste Manager, Edith Grooby attended our most recent meeting. She said that our village recycling rate was good but emphasised whilst recycling rates could always be improved it was **just as important not to create waste in the first place by buying less and re-using more.**

Zero waste initiatives in the village include:

**Increasing recycling locations.** There is a bin for recycling clothes in the Sailor car park. Other recycling bins could be located there courtesy of the Landlord.

**Primary School – Plastic Free.** The primary school is signed up to the Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) plastic-free school programme. The school under the guidance of teacher Jake Duxbury is making rapid progress implementing the scheme, including litter picking in the grounds and reducing the use of plastic in school.

**Yorkshire Water Refill Scheme.** Six village businesses have now signed up to the Yorkshire Water Refill Scheme. Under the scheme, designed to reduce the use of bottled water, businesses agree to fill refillable water bottles with tap water. Sam Makin is our village champion and the businesses signed up are The Swan, The Craven Heifer, The Fleece, The Sandwich Shop, the Ginger Plum and Hamiltons. Look out for the "Refill" poster and download the "Refill" app.



**Terracycle.** Terracycle is an international project designed to recycle the "non-recyclable" such as coffee capsules and crisp packets. For more information see <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>. The Scouts have now set up a crisp packet recycling bin and are busy collecting crisp packets. We are also planning a coffee pod collection system. One idea is to ask members to bring crisp packets and coffee pods to our Speaker Meetings so we can then pass them on to a Terracycle collection point either in the village or elsewhere.

**Plastic 'Free' Village Retailers.** Totally Locally is supporting our war on plastic campaign in the village and has set an example recently by discouraging the use of plastic water bottles on the Addingham Amble. Many businesses have introduced measures to reduce the use of plastic but the co-op and the pharmacists in the village have so far been less eager to change. We continue to have discussions with both.

**Waste-not shop.** The Waste-not Shop in Burley has been much admired. We think such a shop would benefit Addingham. Our plan is to begin by trialling two products, washing-up liquid and liquid-soap refills, using a distribution point at a venue in the village, yet to be decided.

**Food waste.** Bradford Council has no plans as yet to bring in a food waste collection service. Minimising food waste, however, is an important objective. We are currently researching schemes introduced by other communities.

**Annual village/re-use swap event.** Instead of scrapping household items that are no longer needed we are proposing an annual village jumble sale to encourage householders to offer items for reuse. This could be an “open garage” event along the lines of the very successful “open gardens” weekend organised by the Methodist Church. Watch this space!

### **It's that time of year again - Hedgehogs at risk**

As you will know by now this is the second year of keeping hedgehog records in the village. When anyone lets us know about a sighting we add it to our records and to the hedgehog map. Our numbers of sightings are similar over the two years, as are the numbers of poorly hedgehogs and fatalities. There's still a lot to do to reduce the risks, such as avoiding the use of slug pellets, being very careful with strimmers and covering open drains. The RSPCA rescued a good-sized hog from being trapped down a stop-top access hole with a broken cover just a few weeks ago. It's also important to make sure there are holes in your garden fences so hedgehogs can move around freely (they can roam up to one or two kilometres at night in search of food...or a mate).

We are coming up to a particularly risky time for hedgehogs. It is now when hedgehogs should be eating well to put on weight for hibernation and they'll be looking for a safe place to over-winter.

So can you help?

**Feeding** hedgehogs can be really helpful, particularly at this time of year. Put out any of the following: cat biscuits, cat meat (without gravy and fish) and clean water.

**Provide places to sleep** such as underneath sheds, wood piles, sturdy wooden boxes and hedge bottoms. So when you're doing your Autumn garden tidying please take care and don't be too tidy. Maybe you could leave an untidy pile or two of brash at the edge of the garden, or even create a hedgehog house in a quiet sheltered corner of the garden. It only takes a sturdy wooden box or a pile of bricks shaped into a shelter, with an entrance of no less than 13 cm and a ventilation hole near the top.

**Piles of leaves** are also much loved by hedgehogs. So please don't be tempted to sweep them all up. Perhaps sweep them to the back of a border. The hedgehogs take them into their nests as bedding.

Much to our delight, in the late spring this year we saw several hedgehogs in the garden. These must have been the first sightings in our garden for at least twenty years. They didn't come every evening but when they did it was always around 10 pm. We set up a wildlife camera and found them snuffling round the garden and on occasions making a huge racket, grunting pig-like to each other. We put out cat biscuits and clean water. In the morning we knew immediately that they had been drinking as the



water was full of the dirt that had washed off their snouts. Now it might be a coincidence but this year we've had far fewer slugs than normal in the garden.....

Always optimistic, we decided to put a hedgehog hotel in a quiet, sheltered corner at the end of what seemed to be one of their favourite runs. With a handful of dry leaves in the chamber and few cat biscuits in the entrance we waited to see what would happen. For a few weeks the biscuits disappeared and then the leaves seemed to have been disturbed. Hey presto after about six weeks we cautiously lifted the lid and there was a hog - fast asleep. It used the hog hotel fairly regularly over the summer, coming out at dusk and we caught it on camera returning to bed at about 5 a.m. We left it very much to its own devices, but were fascinated to notice how it managed to regulate the temperature of its hotel room by dragging in extra leaves in the colder weather making a completely enclosed ball of leaves to sleep in. In the hot spells it slept in the entrance of the hotel having thrown off all the sheets! A pretty good match to human behaviour!!