

ST MARTIN'S ECO CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

NOTE OF 3rd ZOOM MEETING - Thursday 22 October 2020 at 19:15

Present: Felicity, Diana, Bob, Penny, Elizabeth, George, Stuart, Mrs Liz and Ms Liz.

Apologies: Kate, Monika, Chris and Ken.

Opening Prayer.

1. Group catch-up on Eco events, eco tips and items of interest:

Allotments. Excellent harvests reported with excess shared around – veggies, berries and fruits - particularly eating/cooking apples. Hints and tips on preserving – jam, chutney and piccalilli.

Composting. Good practices shared during a lively discussion including - what not to compost, what composts well and..... worms! Lots of expert advice available.

Home improvements. Felicity's DIY skills impressed the group with her use of recycled tiles.

Plastic bags – Yes or No? A good discussion on how the plastic bag has evolved over the years. What is now acceptable for use and for recycling. Local Sainsbury provides reusable bags which can also be recycled at the store.

Plastic bottle tops. There was a query about how to dispose of them if not being recycled for charity. Can be recycled with plastic bottle.

Action: Felicity to check with Choir Chairperson regarding the charity.

Eco tip from Anne Backhouse (St Mary's Cathedral Eco group): **Plastic Pens** can be recycled at Ryman's, 81 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

RSPB – Local Group Meeting. Restoration of the Flow Country – Caithness and Sutherland.

“The **Flow Country** is a beautiful but precarious habitat which is critical in the fight against the effects of climate change. It is widely considered to be the largest area of blanket bog in the world and acts as a giant **carbon** sink, soaking up huge amounts of the greenhouse gas **carbon** dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.”

George gave an excellent report from the RSPB's meeting on the scientific evaluation, of the damage done to the large rolling expanse of peatland and

wetland, by the growing of non-native conifers in the 1970s and 80s. This diversification was encouraged by a government tax concession.

The trees are now gone but sadly the biodiversity of this natural habitat was seriously disturbed and much of the life had been diminished or destroyed. Tree planting dried out the peat, exposing the soil to the atmosphere, resulting in the release of methane. The **good news** is that evidence gathered over the last 10 years is showing a positive recovery. The wetlands are being restored to their natural state and the biodiversity is returning. Grateful thanks to George for highlighting this subject and giving us something to cheer about.

2. SEABINS

Stuart reported back. He has been in contact with Brian Stewart, SB coordinator who hopes we are making progress and encouraged us to:

Contact Harbour Masters

Raise awareness of the benefits of SEA Bins.

Seek funding from Energy Companies, BIFFA, Local businesses etc.

Action: Stuart and Liz to progress this.

Action: George to contact FIDRA

3. Church Frontage - Plants and Flower Boxes

On hold for the now – will revisit later.

4. St Martin's News Letter

Action: Ms Liz Moir to report on Eleanor's Orphanage

Action: Eco Group. If possible please share articles of interest including Photos, Recipes, Top Tips, Books, Films, Harvest goodies, Music, Walks, Talks etc.

5. Next Meeting: 9th December by Zoom. 7:15

Short Business meeting?

Festive quiz/party. More details later.

Action: Ms Liz Moir

Meeting finished by praying "The Grace of our Lord....."

Liz Moir. 17/11/20

