



GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 153 – Autumn 2019

Chairman’s Report

Another year has gone by, it is now time for our A. G. M. This years meeting will be on Friday November 1st, at The Baytree Cafe, St. John’s square. Start time is 7.00. After the A.G.M, Jim Nagel will give a talk on the information he has gathered and put on our website.

After nine years of being the chair and about twelve years of being Tree Co-ordinator, I have decided to step down from the committee. So a big thank you to all who have

helped me either with the tree planting or in any other way. I took over the tree planting from Ian Rands once he got over 25,000 plants in the ground, now I have managed to match him. So now we as a Society have planted 51,800 plants, either trees or hedges. I consider that to be a big achievement, well done to the society. The latest planting we undertook at the beginning of the year, at Herbies Field is doing very well, all the trees are looking very healthy, give it another year and

the hedge will look as if it has been there for years. At the time of this newsletter going to print, no one has stepped forward to replace me. So if any of you members wish to help out on the committee, please make yourself known, either at the A.G.M or through one of the present committee members. So a big thank you to you all, it has been a pleasure being the Chairman.

Combe House Gardens

On June 28th of this year, the society were again invited to look around the splendid gardens. This was our 25th year of being invited, so a big THANKYOU, to Alan Gloak and his late partner Colin Wells Brown.

Combe House was bought by Alan and Colin on July 12th 1992. The garden was designed and planted by Colin, hard scaped during the winter of 1992. Planting began in March 1993, the idea of the garden is to reflect the charming view to Bushy Combe. The terrace provides a raised point from which to view the ornamental gardens as a whole. Now with a Temple, to sit in and admire the view to the dark headland of High Ham and the low hills of the Poldens.

When you reach the Gothic arch in the brick wall, go through leaving the neat and tidy flower garden, for the more informal Kitchen garden. As you walk through this garden, you will notice on your left, the now restored buttresses of a very old wall. This is said to be part of Glastonbury Abbey fruit garden. At the bottom of this garden, turn to your right and cross a small wooden bridge, now look to the left, you will see two stone pillars, this is not an actual gateway to the combe but a suggested one. Behind you is another pathway , this takes you through the orchard and back towards the house.

If you have not round to looking around Alan’s garden, then please try your best to get there next year.



The Grange Street

During the week of 16th-20th September The Alfred Gillett Trust opened The Grange in Street to the public. Me and my wife went on one of their excellent tours. If the trust do other tours, it is well worth booking to have a guided tour of the Grange. Just keep an eye on the local What’s On. Here follows a brief history of The Grange.

Around 680 Bishop Haedde gave The Abbot of Glastonbury, three Cassati (Latin name for Hide) in Lantokay (which has been interpreted as Leigh) . By 1168 the Abbey’s main estates was known as Street.

The Manor later known as Street Manor, is probably to be identified with the Domesday Manor of Leigh, held by Glastonbury Abbey in 1086. The Abbey continued to hold Street Manor until the Dissolution, when it passed to

the Crown. Granted to Edward, Duke of Somerset in 1547. Following Somerset’s attainder, it was left to John Rogers in 1552. It appears that Rogers was either a trustee of Robert Hyett or had assigned his lease to him. Hyett could not pay the rent and assigned the manor to John Ewens.

The manor and the demesne remained separate until reunited by William Strode in 1711. The Strode coat of arms features a bear in it , hence the statues and the name of The Bear Hotel. Strode settled into the manor with his wife Jane Langthorne in 1728. By 1753 the manor was in the hands of John Stillingfleet, who claimed to hold in fee simple and conveyed it in that year to Sarah Langthorne and her nephew Joseph Brown, devisees of Jane. The same year Sarah made Joseph her heir. By his will dated 1789, Joseph left the

manor in trust for sale, but although his trustees offered his whole estate in 1791, much remained unsold, including the Lordship. In 1831 it was settled on a surviving heir, also called Joseph Brown, to facilitate the sale. In 1832 it was sold with a coppice to Sir Alexander Hood.

The house ceased to be used as a residence in 1890, having been bought for the redevelopment value of it’s land. The building first became a school and was subsequently a hostel, for Belgian refugees during the First World War, and for Spanish refugees, mainly children in 1937 and 1938, also a sick bay for Armaments workers, evacuees and others until 1946. In 1972 it was restored. In 1999 most rooms were still subdivided, as a result of the former use by Clarks, as a staff hostel and offices.

SWP appoints Suez

As part of the transformation of all waste services, a new contractor has been selected for the new Recycle More collections – full details below. Plus:

- **Holiday Monday** – collection changes but recycling sites on usual schedules
- **One year on** – collecting plastic pots, tubs and trays at recycling centres
- **Home composting** – the best way to deal with organic garden wastes

A new collections contractor for Somerset

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) announced on May 13 that it has selected Suez recycling and recovery UK as its preferred bidder to help deliver a comprehensive new recycling service across Somerset from 2020.

The new contract will see Suez deliver SWP's new Recycle More service, operating new vehicles and collecting a far wider range of recycling every week, including more plastic packaging.

Worth £210m for its initial 10 year duration, with an option to extend for another 10 years, the contract will employ more than 460 people locally with no redundancies expected and extra staff required.

In addition to the dozen or so materials – including food waste – already collected weekly, Recycle More will pick up a wide range of new items, including:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Tetra Paks and other beverage cartons
- Small electrical items
- Household batteries.

Taking far more recyclable household material each week, Recycle More will help empty rubbish bins, which will be collected every three weeks. The new service will start rolling out across Somerset in 2020.

Recycle More is one part of the transformation of all Somerset waste services, with upgraded recycle sites, and a new deal agreed to switch almost all rubbish from being landfilled in Somerset to generate electricity at a brand new Resource Recovery Centre in Avonmouth.

These major changes will ensure that the vast majority of material discarded from homes is either recycled or produces power. Full Recycle More details will be sent to every home well in advance.

Suez currently successfully operates contracts elsewhere that have expanded the range of items residents are able to recycle and introduced three-weekly general refuse collections. These services have been well-received by residents, raised local recycling rates and cut the amount of rubbish sent to landfill.

The current service is provided by Kier, and all staff will transfer to Suez when the new contract begins in March 2020. All current staff were informed of

these changes at a special briefing with SWP, Kier and members of Suez's senior leadership team this morning, which took place at each of the five depot locations in Somerset.

Recycle More has been fully tested in a long-term, large-scale trial in Somerset that saw recycling levels jump, rubbish tonnages fall, very few problems – all of which were easily resolved, no fly-tipping, and overwhelming support: the post-trial survey showed 84% approval rating for Recycle More's extra recycling and less frequent rubbish collections.

Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd was established in 1988 as Sitaclean Technology. Its first municipal contract was in Derbyshire, and Surrey county council was a big win for the company in 1999. In Britain it now operates from more than 300 locations, including Bristol, and employs 5,000 people.

The parent company, Suez, is a French multinational conglomerate that dates back to 1822 and among other things helped build the Suez Canal.

Holiday waste reminder

With no collections on Holiday Monday May 27, all kerbside collections will be one day later, including "Friday collections on Saturday June 1.

But all recycle sites stay on their usual schedules. All 16 sites open Saturdays and Sundays 9am–4pm, and 12 sites open 9am–6pm on Mondays: Bridgwater (Saltlands), Castle Cary (Dimmer), Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne (community recycling site; £2 cash entry), Frome, Minehead, Street, Taunton (Priorswood), Wells (Dulcote), Williton and Yeovil.

Check all recycle site details, including what taken where, at; www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling/centres

You can check all your collection days and dates via the SWP's website; www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collection-day-look-up

Plastic recycling at sites

In the year since SWP began taking a wide range of plastic packaging at all recycle sites, it has proved a big success, with a 69% increase in the tonnage of rigid plastic food and household pots, tubs, trays and bottles sent for recycling.

You can recycle pots for yoghurt, face cream or hair gel; tubs for margarine, ice-cream or laundry tabs; and trays/punnets for meat, ready-meals and fruit, including black plastics.

Keep contamination levels down by removing foil and film covers, absorbent pads and cards and by giving the packaging a rinse to remove food waste. To save space in the banks, squash items before depositing.

Not all plastics can be taken. Not accepted are:

- Thin plastic, such as cling film, bubble wrap, carrier bags, film covers, bread bags, multipack wraps.
- Expanded polystyrene i.e. packaging inserts.
- Plastic paint pots or plant pots and seed trays.
- Other plastics, such as toys, garden furniture, car parts, or CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and cases.

Bag a compost bin to help your garden bloom

As gardens bloom and vegetables grow, gardeners can buy compost bins, food digesters and water butts through SWP's partnership with getcomposting.com.

Compost converter bins cost £18.50 and the "buy one, get one half price" offer offers a second for only £9.25 – great if you share the order with a family member or friend.

Benefits of making compost at home include:

- Turning your natural garden waste into a free nutrient-rich soil improver, as homemade compost contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.
- Sustainable and mileage free, producing this peat-free soil improver is an excellent way to help protect your local environment.
- Home-made compost on your flower and vegetable beds encourages worms and other "mini-beasts" that will aerate your soil; great if you practice "no-dig gardening.
- Adding vegetable peelings, apple cores, fruit peel, tea leaves and coffee grounds into the compost bin helps cut back food waste sent for commercial composting.
- Many of the brown materials needed in the perfect compost mix are easily found at home, including loo roll tubes, and scrunched up cereal boxes and egg boxes.
- Less expected materials can be composted, from textiles that are 100% cotton or wool to sweetcorn cobs, natural corks, hair, herbivore pet bedding and sawdust.

Find helpful hints and tips on home composting at; www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting

More on Somerset Waste Partnership, our services and preventing waste

See our website for lots more information on waste and recycling services and what more you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle. Contact your local council's customer-services helpline if you need assistance with our services.

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