

# Creation Care

## Newsletter No.3 - Summer 2015

**'...creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the Children of God.'**

**Romans 8.21 (NIV)**

### Saved by Grace.

**Grace Sodzi is determined to prove that recycling is anything but rubbish. Here she explains graciouslymade – the gift company with a difference.**

*'graciouslymade is a gift company that uses a mixture of new and recycled materials to make handmade gifts that are meaningful, quirky and original. Whether through the use of train tickets as gift labels, newspaper as wrapping paper or the up-cycling of old Ordnance Survey maps into notebooks, I'm determined to prove that recycling is anything but rubbish! The origins of a gift come into being upon the wanderings of the mind as to what objects lying around the house can be reused and made into a thing of beauty rather than that of a wasteland. It's this very feature of the gifts that gives them their original touch, with no one being quite like the other, planting in potential customers an intrigue and fascination with what can be done with 'rubbish.' I hope this intrigue planted in customers inspires them to up-cycle themselves and to use their own creativity to create positive change.'*

**July's Manna magazine . This issue will concentrate on the environment. Christ Church will get a mention so please pick up a copy.**

### Bath hot springs to heat the Abbey.

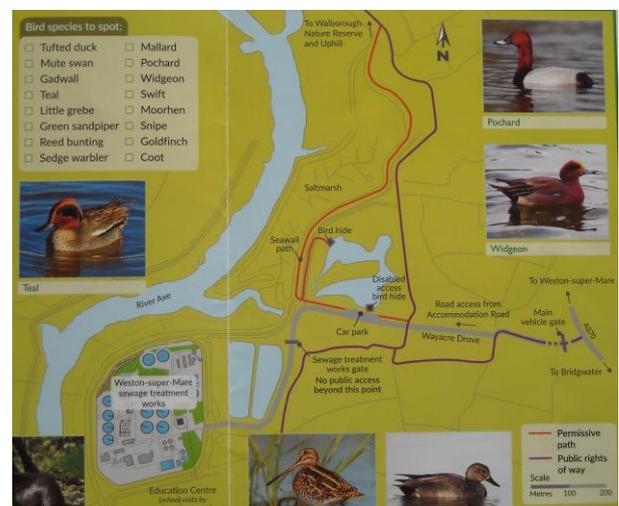
Excavation work is taking place in Kingston Parade (outside the Visitor Information Centre) as part of a joint initiative by Bath Abbey's Footprint project and Bath & North East Somerset Council to determine the feasibility of installing an eco-friendly system using Bath's hot springs to heat the Abbey, and the Romans Baths & Pump Room complex.

Every day, a quarter of a million gallons of hot water flow through the Roman Baths from the thermal spring located at the heart of the site. A large quantity of this hot water eventually ends up in the nearby River Avon via the Great Roman Drain. If harnessed correctly and converted as part of the Abbey and B&NES Council's joint initiative, it could produce 1.5 megawatts of continuous energy – enough to heat the Abbey and the Romans Baths & Pump Room complex.

### All is not lost

Animals and plants new to the UK continue to be discovered. According to The National Trust 300 new insects have been found since 2000. Many have colonised naturally, perhaps because of climate changes, others inadvertently imported. Moths and flies lead the list but 70 new beetles have also been found along with sub-species of plant. Further afield a US university reports that 18,000 new species of animals and plants have been discovered world-wide during the past year; some, like a cart-wheeling spider, with very weird antic.

### New reserve on Bleadon Levels



The site of Weston super Mare's sewage works on

the Bleadon Levels now includes an accessible nature reserve. The 27-hectare site provides a range of wetland habitats for wild life. This includes 19 hectares of salt marsh and tidal habitat separated by a sea-wall from a further eight hectares of grass land, reed beds and fresh-water lagoons. Permissive access to the site is either from Accommodation Road (limited times – Monday to Friday, 8 – 3.30pm - but with parking), or on foot from Uphill through the Walborough Nature Reserve.

## Drake gets a special send-off

In the village of Compton Bishop on the A368 the church flag was flown at half-mast and a wake was being planned in the Ring O'Bells. Desmond Drake, a male mallard that had lived on the village pond for 25 years has died. A fox left only its feathers for disposal. According to The Daily Telegraph Desmond will be the last drake on the pond. The owner plans to return the pond to a more natural state.

## The economics of hope

This is the title of a conference in Bristol (27 November) being organised by Green Christian (former Christian Ecology Link) to look at the potential for sustainable economics or what GC has labelled *Joy in enough*. The conference will seek to form a vision for an economy in which both people and planet will flourish. The venue is St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford. One speaker will be the new Green Party MEP for the South West, Molly Scott-Cato.

## Why do farmers need big macs?



Have you noticed how big farm machinery has got over recent years? Or wondered why? One of the reasons was explained at recent seminar at the Old Deanery (see Spring newsletter) by the farmer and diocesan rural adviser Rob Walrond. It has to do with our changing climate and weather conditions

which are resulting in reduced time limits in which farmers have to plough and sow and harvest. Shorter times call for bigger machines like the one I photographed at this year's Royal Bath and West .

## Church of England commits to investment in clean energy



The Church of England has divested £12 million from companies that derive more than 10 per cent of their revenue from thermal coal and tar sand s companies as part of a new climate change policy. It also commits to increasing its investment in climate change adaption and clean energy. It will also divest from other fossil fuel companies that do not take seriously their responsibilities to assist the transition to a low carbon economy.

## Good news from Somerset Levels – especially for worms.

A report summarising what has happened to wild life on the Somerset Levels since the flooding shows much has survived and is recovering. Established grass land and wildlife in ditches along with the earthworm population have done well; new grassland and mammals less so.

## A date to note:

United Nations Climate Summit in Paris 30 November – 11 December 2015; The aim is to reach a universal legally binding agreement on climate to limit greenhouse emissions from 2020 on to obtain a global average surface temperature rise to less than 2°C by 2050, on pre-industrial levels. Some 40 000 people are expected to attend

For previous stories see the Creation Care page under Activities on the Christ Church website [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

If you have any comments or items for inclusion or you would like an electronic copy please email me at:

[brianckellock@outlook.com](mailto:brianckellock@outlook.com)