

To Members of the Environment Sub Committee
Update concerning Anti Litter Campaign/Art Exhibition

My apologies that we have not met in February. This is mainly because this is an intense phase of negotiations with schools, councils, the CPRE, and a High Street property owner as to the exact part they will play in the campaign.

Lesley Spiers, the MV Arts and Communities Officer, has announced working with artist, Becci Kenning, on art projects in three Leatherhead schools: Therfield, Trinity, and West Hill. Lesley wrote on Friday the 27th that "coordinating with 3 different schools on three different art responses has become quite complex." Another large district wide event will take up her time beginning on 6th March. Therefore, she has had to step back and let the Environment Committee take the lead in the Exhibition as originally discussed.

I could not agree more that working with 3 different schools on three different art projects is quite "complex." However, I struggle on working with St.Johns, Downsend and Polesden Lacey Infants School. After months of email correspondence and phone calls, on Wednesday the 25th February, I met with the Head of Art at Downsend and a group of his students. They will be working on designated artwork during March with at least one further visit on my part. On Saturday the 28th I visited Polesden Lacey Infants School and was delighted with their eco-friendly school and their work. Press release to follow this report. I have an appointment with the St. John's Head of art on Tuesday March 3rd. The details of his students' work will be discussed.

The burning question is: Where will this exhibition take place. Caroline Cardew Smith made contact with the owner of the former Help Shop. He is very happy to let us use his building (free of charge) **IF** it is not let by the end of the month. He has just put it in the hands of Hurst Warne so I am holding my breathe. (note: I just discovered that the office space is full of builder's rubble from its last refurbishment. Apparently the owner's contractor was unable to get permission to hire a skip to place on the High Street. In the meantime, I have arranged with Jackie Lees Howe(JLH) that if we use the space the council will clear the office.)

In preparing for the exhibition, I have tried to arrange with Lucy Hanson the loan of the display boards that belong to the MV planning department. She is making inquiries. The Swan centre has agreed to lend us some tables and they have some display boards(of questionable condition) which we are welcome to use. Lesley Spiers has a small number of display boards and I have arranged with a friend to borrow some as well. I am hoping to set up the exhibition the 14th and 15th of April.

Over a 10 day period in April the exhibition will we open to the public for 6 of the days, four of which are market days. In this way, it is hoped to maximise visitor numbers. Open dates: 16th, 17th and 18th and 23rd 24th and 25th. **Although I plan to be on hand during the exhibition, additional staffing will be required. If you have any availability during these dates please let me know.**

Announcing a "mini litter pick": A nation wide clean up has been announced for 21st March. Caroline CS advised me of the event. Our next clean up day had been discussed for the autumn. However, some of the 2014 litter pickers had shown an interest in carrying on after the autumn effort and Leatherhead is still full of litter so I have arranged with JLH to have the equipment available on the 21st.

Apparently the Rotary Club also heard about the event and have contacted us to see what we are doing. They are in hopes of adding to our number of workers. Hilary Porter has arranged for us to have use of the Letherhead Institute Library as a meeting point on the 21st. The litter pick will take place between 10am and 11:30 will tea/coffee served to volunteers as they return. **Volunteers are needed.**

Press release to follow:

Press Release in way of Publicity:

Eco Friendly School Holds Community Art Day

While focussing on the plight of animals in Brazilian rain forest, the students of Polesden Lacey Infants School held a special Saturday workshop (February 28th). To bring a sense of community, both parents and children worked on designs of rainforest animals using bottle top art. The artwork will become a prominent display in the school's main meeting hall.

The deforestation of large areas of South American jungles would be a natural concern of a school that was awarded the top honours as 2010 Sustainable School of the Year for all of London and the Southeast. Head teacher, Rosie Keedy, explained that recognition has also come through awards as a Green Flag School on three occasions. The Green Flag is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help put, at the heart of school life, sound principles for using our natural resources. To show just how special the school is, the even higher award of Green Flag Ambassadors has recently been given to the 5 to 7 year old students. This is the first time an infants school has been awarded such an honour.

The Leatherhead Residents' Association Environment Committee is pleased to have the Polesden Lacey Infants School participate in their Exhibition of Anti Litter and Recyclable Art in mid April. This Exhibition, with five other schools (Therfield, Downsend, West Hill, St Johns, and Trinity) participating, is planned to heighten the awareness of litter as a local and international problem and the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials as part of the answer. The exhibition will be open on April 16th, 17th, 18th, and the 23rd, 24th, and 25th, at the High Street, Leatherhead. It is fitting that Earth Day, which aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth's environment, falls on April 22nd while the exhibition is in place. Grants from MVDC's Arts and Communities Department and the campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) are making the Exhibition possible

