



SUSTAINABLE TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF GREENER DUNS

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Greener Duns at A Heart for Duns Harvest Festival

On Saturday 25th September between 2.00pm and 5.00pm Greener Duns manned their stall at A Heart For Duns Harvest Festival. The event was staged by “Keeping Duns Blooming Marvellous” in partnership with Abundant Borders.

The stall invited people to check their knowledge on which items could be recycled and were encouraged to put the samples in the relevant box. There was also a cardboard tree on which could be posted suggestions to aid sustainability.

The event was well attended and refreshments were available.



An Introduction to Greener Duns

Greener Duns is a collection of like minded individuals aiming to drive action that improves our shared environment in Duns and district.

We want to inspire enduring change to the way we live, our environmental impact and the way we engage with and manage our town and surrounding areas.

As an apolitical organisation, our aim is to generate interest in sustainable action, to create momentum, and to inspire more people from all backgrounds to take action that improves the natural world in our local area.



Greener Duns at the U3A COP26 Event

COP 26 came to Duns on Friday (12th November) in a half-day event designed to capitalise on the discussions held at Glasgow’s climate-change summit.

Called COP 26 Duns Reflects and organised by [Duns & District u3A](#), the event featured a panel of speakers from the worlds of low-carbon transport, sustainable food, geology, engineering and low-carbon business strategies.

- The panelists were:-
- Elizabeth Devon – Geologist and Teacher
 - Paul Minto – Head of Low Carbon Transport, GreenPower Developments Ltd
 - Morag Garden – Associate Director of Carbon Intelligence – Retail and Manufacturing
 - Martin Devon – Consulting Engineer and Scientist
 - Karen Birch – Co-founder of Abundant Borders

Greener Duns took the opportunity to raise its profile and add to the discussion by running the BBC’s six-question Climate Quiz at the event (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58996348>). The Greener Duns stall also proved popular with the audience, and four new members were added to our list.





Repair shop model to be considered for Duns

Eloner and I recently visited a Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Retail shop called The General Store in Selkirk.

The shop is in the centre of Selkirk and is well worth a visit if you are in the area.

The retail side of the business sells locally sourced top quality crafts, clothing and repurposed quirky items.

The repair shop is adjacent & you can take all sorts of things that you'd rather not throw away just because they don't work anymore. Items such as small electrical equipment, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, lawnmowers, garden implements, and more can be left with the team for them to bring life back to much loved items.

If your item cannot be repaired, or it is too costly, you will not be charged anything. They like a challenge & don't like to be beaten! Greener Duns is looking into how we can bring something similar to our town so watch this space.



Julia Wood



Greener Duns and Berwickshire High School to look into an Environmental Film Project

Greener Duns, thanks to Julia has made a useful contact with the new Berwickshire High School Environmental Group.

The group hope to work towards a Schools Eco Award. Their chosen fields of interest are: Litter and waste; Food; Biodiversity. Gillian Morison, a teacher of Biology, will lead and steer the group.

Ms Morison will approach the group to see if they would be interested in working with Greener Duns on an environmental film project and also a Play to be performed at Playfest on May 22nd.

Eloner Crawford

Exploring active travel routes between Duns and Chirnside

In July and November 2021, members of Greener Duns set out to explore possible walking routes between Duns and Chirnside.

Beyond the Core path that goes from Duns Industrial estate to Crumstane, they found a few stretches of the former Berwickshire railway line that were easily walkable, and others that were quite overgrown.



There were also areas of the disused track that had completely disappeared.

Greener Duns are keen to support the proposal being developed by Greener Melrose to identify continuous walking and cycling routes between Tweedbank and Reston railway stations, connecting communities along the former railway.

Rachel Hardie

"No Idling" call for Duns residents



Most days, if you walk across the Square in Duns or the Co-op car park, you will notice parked cars with their engines running.

According to the British Lung Foundation: *In our towns and cities, road transport makes up a big part of our toxic air pollution. So, the best way to cut air pollution is to use cars less. When we do drive, it's important that engines aren't left running unnecessarily – or 'idling' – as this just adds to the pollutants in the air. It's also antisocial as it makes a lot of noise.*

One of our members, Alex Watson, noticed on a recent trip to Kelso Recycling Centre, that there were No Idling Signs there (see photo). This morning, I made a trip to Kelso and I asked a member of staff at the Recycling Centre about the sign.

He told me that the staff had requested the sign because they were having to breathe in the pollution that was being caused by people leaving their engines running while unloading their cars. He added that when asking people to switch off their engines, it helped having the sign there as a reminder. The sign was provided by Scottish Borders Council.

Greener Duns has been in discussion with Duns Community Council who are broadly in favour of "No Idling" street signs in the centre of Duns.

We are also in contact with the Environmental Health department at Scottish Borders Council who are also enthusiastic and who are consulting internally about the form the signs will take.

We hope that signs will be up in Duns before very long and they will contribute to cleaner air and a small contribution to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

James Shirreff



A Merry Christmas to all our readers