

## TURN LYME GREEN ANNUAL REPORT June 2022 to 2023

I am delighted to be presenting once again a report of TLG activities over the last year.

I am using a different approach this year by **highlighting and summarising** our activities and also **attaching four mini reports** from our family of projects. This feels necessary given the expansion in activity overall and allows readers to find more detail in areas that interest them in particular. All reports will be available on the website after the AGM.

News from **Plastic Free Lyme Regis** is attached as one of those reports, presented by its chair Grenville Barr to whom we also give thanks as our hard working Treasurer, pulling together all the figures and raising funds for us all.

The combined **steering group for TLG and Plastic Free Lyme Regis** has been working well and met four times in the last year. A **programme of five Talks** took place starting with an exhilarating adventure in Flight Free Travel from Fiona Woods. This was followed by a stimulating presentation on the Common Ground Project which proved to be a controversial subject for some. The unique Chalk River Itchen and its environmental challenges were described by Graham Roberts, retired freshwater ecologist; the Great Big Dorset Hedge project by Julie Leah and finally Farming in the Dorset ANOB was illuminated by Ian Rees & Nick Gray. Thank you to all our excellent speakers and to the Baptist Church for the **Driftwood Cafe venue** that we continue to use for most of our Events and Talks.

In August 2022 **TLG had a stall again during Carnival week** and at the **Uplyme Village Fete** and the **Uplyme Horticultural Society** and participated in the **Greener Homes event in October 2022**. We continue to work productively with other eco groups in the Axe valley plus Bridport, Charmouth & Chardstock. We welcome continuing **collaboration with Dorset Climate Action Network and Lyme Regis Town Council and its Environment committee**. We are very appreciative of the grant we received again from LRTC and also for the generous further grant of £6000 to support the work of River Lim Action.

The **River Monitoring group** I mentioned in last year's report developed rapidly in the autumn 2022 and became **River Lim Action** which has been busy on all matters to do with pollution of our river and beaches. A report on its activities is attached and the regular RLA Newsletter keeps supporters updated throughout the year. Our river work in particular has drawn in many new supporters, activists and funders. Welcome and thanks to all.

And our other projects have also expanded horizons and supporters.

**Boomerang Bags** (now called the **TLG Sewing Group**) have now expanded into Draught Excluders (in response to the energy crisis) to help conserve energy in local homes and have also designed Big Bags for sale locally to raise funds. With nearly 1000 bags produced and distributed to 40 shops and other outlets and much fun had at every Wednesday's sewing session I encourage you to look at the impressive figures in the attached report from Liz Davis.

**Beach Clean & Litter Free Lyme** have also gained more active supporters who are out there almost every month on well organised litter picks followed by ice cream or coffee as a thank you from local businesses. An exciting new **Bin Your Butt campaign** is getting

established with a £600 grant from Litter Free Dorset (many thanks) and another funding application just submitted to the COOP. Well done Janet Breeze and Caroline Aldridge. Report attached.

Our **Soil & Seed project** started in 2020/21 by Suzy Gallina is into another successful year. Seed Swap took place on 4<sup>th</sup> March with more seed offers, attendees and financial donations than the previous year. **Sunflower Planting** for the children took place on 15<sup>th</sup> April at Lyme Library (many thanks for their support) and attendees enjoyed sowing seeds, participating in crafts including colouring in and making paper sunflowers. Children took home their seed pot with a specially prepared TLG leaflet giving guidance on how to care for the sunflowers as they grew. Children will come again to plant their named sunflowers in the Library garden on 17<sup>th</sup> June. It was a great display last year so we hope for the best.

**Communications** is all important and our Newsletter continues successfully with 567 subscribers, about half of whom read the newsletter regularly. This is a high rate of interaction. Since April, it is sent out bi-monthly with shorter notices and updates sent as needed. To keep costs down, we left Mailchimp and are using Mailerlite to distribute news. Our thanks go to Emma Brice for helping us through this transition and Vicki Elcoate who produces our user friendly, informative newsletter.

We run two **web sites** – Turn Lyme Green and Plastic Free Lyme Regis. Over time, the PFLR site has been used less frequently and a new website is being considered, combining the two into one site which will give space to all the projects, including PFLR. This makes economic and practical sense. The River Lim Action group is an increasingly popular section on the TLG site.

**Facebook** continues to be an excellent way to publicise our events and activities and what's on in the local area. Many thanks to Fiona Wood who has done this work for the last year and has built up links with other local FB groups to spread and share news and interests. We regularly sent information to Marshwood Vale and LymeOnline and are building up links with other local newspapers. Posters are displayed locally to publicise activities. Radio and TV have been involved in covering River Lim Action news which has been a hot topic during the year.

For the coming year we do **need to recruit** someone to look after our Facebook page and web site. This would be an excellent way to become involved with TLG.

**Finally I welcome this opportunity to thank Polly Benfield** for her tireless work over the past 15 years at the heart of TLG. After the last AGM in June 2022 Polly was obliged to relinquish the TLG secretarial role due to ill health and I want to acknowledge everything she has done since TLG started in 2007; always available to help, inspire, contribute ideas, network and support. I am pleased to say that Polly is feeling better these days and is still an active member of TLG and the sewing group. I am also **delighted to welcome Ruth Rose** as our new TLG Secretary and 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer for TLG and I very much look forward to working with her on the next years activities.

Laura Noel, Chair Turn Lyme Green

June 20<sup>th</sup> 2023

