



The Global Goals Gazette



News from Rickmansworth Park's Unicef



Rights Respecting Steering group

May 2022



Welcome to our first edition. The idea for this Gazette came from a discussion in our group about how we could best promote the aims of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of these Global Goals is to end poverty and protect our planet. We specifically chose to focus on Global Goal 12, which aims to foster eco-friendly production, reduce waste and boost recycling .



We have been to find out about a local initiative and want to share our experience with you in this Gazette.



Our first fact-finding visit

In March we went to visit The Green Stores, 125 New Road, Croxley Green.



We had a tour and a Q&A session with Wendy Iveson, the owner. These were the questions and answers:

When did you get the idea for the shop?

I was a teacher for 15 years and then I had twins 7 years ago, so took time off. I found myself driving over to St Albans to buy sustainable products, as I wanted to be kinder to the planet, but driving is not good, so I suggested to my husband that Croxley needed a local Green store. He said to go for it!

Where does the eco-friendly shampoo come from and what is the difference with well-known shampoo brands?

The brand is Miniml. It is British made in Yorkshire and is vegetable based and cruelty free. The products contain no parabens or sulphates (which are chemicals and damage the planet). The company runs a closed loop supply system where-by they send us large containers of product and when these are empty they take them back, wash them and refill them for us.

Where does your flour come from?

It comes in giant sacks from a British cooperative called Infinity. A cooperative is a company where everyone is involved. The sacks are 25kg and reusable, so no packaging.

How do you know where to get your new supplies from?

On FaceBook there is a whole community of companies that all strive for a greener world. We chat and share ideas and products. E.g. Zero Waste Group, Infinity, Suma.

Is palm oil used in the chocolate you sell?

Our products are palm oil free, but there is a place for palm oil in some products, as long as it is sustainably sourced.

What is the difference between your cereal and the cereal in other shops?

We use no packaging at all. Imagine all those boxes of cereal in supermarkets, and all the plastic inner packaging. We have none of that.

“We all really enjoyed our trip to The Green Stores. It was a very interesting experience. We met the Green Stores owner, Wendy, who showed us around and answered all our questions. She has a passion for saving our planet and for helping people become more responsible consumers. We got to try and buy some chocolate and dried fruit, though there was a lot more to buy, such as lip balms, shampoo refills, cereals, flour, pulses, washing up liquid, snacks, gift ideas and so much more. If you ever want to go there, definitely bring your own containers. Wendy and her colleague also showed us how to measure out the food items. It was fun.

We definitely suggest you go there, see it all for yourselves and try some great, sustainable, products.”

From Molly and Belle, Y4

When did the shop open?

April 2020, just at the start of the pandemic, but I was able to open as I sell food.

Are your foods all healthier than the supermarket versions?

They are not necessarily healthier, but they do taste much better, as they are fresher and don't sit in warehouses for months at a time.

How many customers do you get on a busy day?

On a Saturday we might get up to 50 customers. Otherwise it averages at 25-30 customers a day. We are very busy before Christmas too.

Do you think you will ever sell fresh foods, like dairy and veg, as well?

No, probably not. There is not enough room in the shop. Also, there is a wonderful local greengrocer in Croxley already.

Do you have plans to expand your shop or your business?

I feel I am too old. This store takes up a lot of energy and I have four children at home.

How do your prices compare with a supermarket?

Our prices are similar. I try to price match. All our products are organic and are often cheaper than supermarket equivalents, e.g. herbs and spices

What is feedback like from your customers? Do they tell you what they think?

My customer feedback is overwhelmingly positive. People say I am very chatty! They love that the store is local and easy to reach.

What can customers do if they turn up without containers for their purchases?

We can give them paper bags or plastic containers that have been donated.

What is your best-selling item?

Cashew nuts and oats are our best sellers.

Our thoughts on the Green Stores:

"We had a lot of fun during our first investigative outing as a group. Wendy – the owner of The Green Stores - was very friendly, she taught us a lot about recycling, and reusing; she taught us how her store is different from others. The Global Goals Group all got free samples of brilliant banana chips and wonderful white chocolate buttons. Wendy answered all our questions and we found out some things, which surprised us."

Francesca and Jahnvi, Y6



"I really liked how the store was green in the sense that everything in it was environmentally friendly. I enjoyed trying the dried banana chips. I had never had them before. They tasted like bananas!" William Y2

"The store was nice and small, so it was kind of cosy. It gave me a sense of warmth because Wendy is welcoming." Aryanna Y3

"I liked the milk chocolate buttons. I am going to ask my mum to go to the Green Stores." Natalia Y3

"My grandma goes to the Green Stores but I had never been. I thought the shop smelled quite nice. I would recommend going there as they are really friendly and their stuff is nice – plus, it is environmentally friendly! I have been back there with my grandma." Beatrice Y5

"They were really nice in the store and my mum, my sister and I are going to head back up there soon." Ella-Rose Y2

"I liked that it was so close to our school that you could walk up there easily. The people running the shop are nice." Belle Y4

"I really liked the layout in the shop; how everything was in separate areas. It was easy to see things. I have already taken my mum and sister there to do some shopping." Molly Y4

"I liked how you have to bring your own containers and that they don't sell products in plastic bags." Louisa Y4

"I like how you help yourself to things like chocolate buttons, which you then weigh to pay for. I had never been there before but I would like to go there with my family." Hanna Y3

"I like how they weigh all the things they sell. You can buy as little as you need. Or you can buy lots." Madison Y1

Why is Global Goal 12 so important?

Do you know where your food and water come from? How about where the waste goes once you're done eating? Do you know how much energy you use when you leave the lights on in your room for the whole day?

We rely on many natural resources in order to survive. As our economy and society progress, the natural resources that we depend on begin to run out. If the world population reaches 9.6 billion by 2050, we would need three planets worth of resources to keep the same lifestyle we have today.

Did you know that one-third of all the food in the world is wasted or lost? Or that households consume 29% of global energy and contribute to 21% of CO2 emissions? If we don't change our production and consumption habits, we will cause irreversible damage to our environment.

Luckily, small steps can go a long way. We can help our environment by making changes to our consumption and production patterns. Two main ways that every one of us can help is by reducing waste and being thoughtful about where we buy our food and clothes. Simple changes can have a big impact on our society.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MxKrGXAyH8>

This is a link to a great little video for children.

Later this term we are planning a group visit to discover the work of Woodoaks Farm in Maple Cross. Their work on sustainability and environmental protection will be very interesting to learn about.

We will report back on that visit in the summer.