

## **A Life Less Plastic - A Proposal**

We are all becoming aware of the effect that plastic is having on our lives, and on those of the other occupants of our planet. This is an attempt to understand why we use it, and what we can personally do to reduce the impact it is having.

I am hoping to set up a time limited group, consisting of probably a dozen or so ad hoc meetings in various venues. Anyone who feels they wish to continue at the end will be invited to set up their own continuation group.

There should be no charge for the group, but there may be some car-sharing for visits and therefore contributions towards petrol may be necessary.

The group should be as inclusive as possible. If potential group size is too large for some venues then we will split into two groups. Alternatively, if group size allows it, then members of other groups can be invited on any site visits.

### **Aims:**

- To understand the facts behind and limitations of plastic recycling
- To see how group members can personally reduce unnecessary plastic in their lives
- To be a source of knowledge for people who are not members of the group
- For the group to be steered by its' members

### **Suggested Potential Objectives (to be agreed upon and augmented by the group):**

A meeting with one or more local shopkeepers, e.g. to see what difficulties they find in stocking plastic-free products, what pressures can be applied to manufacturers and wholesalers (should we be asking, say, vintners to clearly label bottles of wine with plastic corks? or better to label plastic free bottles of wine?)

Group discussions and research about what we can do to target particular areas in our lives, e.g. teeth and dental hygiene, tea and coffee drinking, etc.

A visit to one or both of the plastic recycling plants locally

To report back to the wider U3A group on what we have learnt, and what effect it has had on us at the end of the time limit.