

# THE PROMISE

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The Environment Time Capsule Project 1994 – 2044

([www.ecotimecapsule.com](http://www.ecotimecapsule.com))

A new edition based upon the original 1997 publication of the  
Wirral Green Alliance – renamed since August 2003 as  
Wirral Environmental Network ([www.cesul.org.uk](http://www.cesul.org.uk)).  
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***Wirral Schools' Brass Band making their debut entrance, June 2003 at Ness Botanic Gardens.***



***The empty Capsule destined for Ness, on display February 1994 at The Williamson Museum and Art Galley, Birkenhead.***

Note: Photograph on front cover taken at Ness on 5th June 1994 with an enquiring 10-year-old trying to retrieve an item, a few moments before the Capsule was sealed and buried.

## *A letter from 1994 Eco-Person to 2044 Person*

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Ness Botanic Gardens, Ness, South Wirral – 5th June 1994

### *Dear 2044 Person*

Greetings! I am writing to you to say 'sorry'! When after 50 years you open this Time Capsule and examine its various environmentally relevant objects, I am very afraid that you will be living in an overcrowded world which is seriously damaged by pollution, and whose natural resources have largely been consumed by us who came before you. I am conscious of your disapproval as you look back on us who lived during the latter half of the 20th Century. We must appear the worst generation ever – because we had the opportunity and the means to prevent you inheriting the planet in such a state – yet we did too little, too late. We should have been so much more careful with our technology, so much more gentle with the environment, so much more kind to so many animals and plants, which for you are now presumably only museum fossils or video recordings. And we let down the tens of millions of people who wanted smaller families, by failing to make available rapidly enough the choices they deserved, resulting in far more competing human being on the planet in your time than there might have been.

As for me, I was one of a minority who did our best (not enough perhaps) to stop it happening. We kept warning everyone who would listen, though there were too few of them. Our culpability is less, though few can claim to be blameless. We wish you every possible success as you clean up and try to give all three – animals, plants and humans – a decent life, at least from now onwards.

Yours sincerely,

*1994 Eco-Person*

PS: Though fearing the worst, we plan and strive for the best. Even as we write, I and my co-signatories are continuing the battle on numerous fronts, to preserve this fragile Earth and its diverse flora and fauna. We pledge ourselves never to despair, never to give in – for your sake. Our aim is to make you wonder why we ever made the above apology.

*Author: John Guillebaud.*