

Action Against Ragwort Group, Regarding the Control of Ragwort.

x Once again the poisonous ragwort weed has been allowed to do untold damage to animals & humans. This vile weed's toxins destroy the liver & cause horses to suffer a lingering death, by eating about 2 lbs of the plant. Humans, esp' children, are at risk by picking the attractive yellow daisy-like flowers, in June, July & August. The

25th July is St James Day & ragwort was called St James Wort previously. You should always wear gloves when handling ragwort as its poison can go through the skin.

x In 1995, M.A.F.F. did an experiment with beehives on ragwort contaminated land & they analysed the honey which gave conclusive evidence that the poison had gone through the bees, honey & into the food chain.

x Under the 1959 Weeds Act, local authorities & statutory undertakers had discretionary powers to control ragwort by ordering the occupier to remove any ragwort off their land. Local authorities are among the worst offenders for allowing it to grow on their land & roadside verges. At the end of Magpie Lane the grass & ragwort, which had not been cut this year, was at least 2 ft & looked more like a safari park, when eventually this area was cut the ragwort had flowered, making it shambolic. P.T.O.

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If there was a gold medal for managerial incompetence, then the handling of the ragwort control act would get 1st prize. The stupidity of it is, not illegal to grow ragwort but it is to flower.

x Back in 1999 August, Leisure services advised me if I told them of specific areas which I was concerned about it would be investigated & appropriate action taken. This appropriate action seems to a leaf out of Lord Nelson's book - What weeds - I see no weeds!

x That applies to local councillors as while they've been having photo-shoots & sending their press releases in to the papers about things like Morley Sports Centre, Morley in Bloom, Bus Station, it's strange that none of em have seen or mentioned ragwort in their self-serving publicity stunts.

x This specimen is from the front of Morley Sports Centre which has grown up under the supervision of the Minister of Sport, Morley's MP, councillors & other invited dignitaries who attended St George's Parade.

x Consider two examples, ragwort isn't like the starving millions in Africa, it won't die off if you close your eyes & ignore it. It's like Yorkshire Water's bill reminder says, contact us, as the problem won't go away if you ignore it.

x On Leeds Council's website in 2003, it claimed Leeds had more green space than any city in Europe except Vienna, I bet Vienna ^{LIVE}_{IT} hasn't got more ragwort than Leeds. ^{LOVE}_{IT}

In 2003 The British Horse Society sponsored Ryedale MP, John Greenway Private Members Bill, calling for an amendment to the 1959 Weeds Act, by introducing his Equine Welfare (ragwort control) Act 2003. X This act gave local authorities a statutory obligation to control ragwort, however, as I look around Leeds I would need convincing that Parks & countryside are taking drastic action with all the available workforce & not squandering our resources on consultants, risk assessment & surveys. The animal world & local folk have been living on hope for the last four years, which is too long, now is the time to replace hope an enforcing statutory obligations X If ragwort had the same devastating effect on this country's wheeled sacred cow - the motorcar - as it has had on horses & other animals, it would not need to be eradicated now, as it wouldn't have been allowed to get into this ridiculous 11th hour situation in the first place. X Ragwort is growing everywhere, in fields large & small, on footpaths, in gardens, over cracks in the wall. The yellow peril is poisonous & it's illegal to let it flower, so let's have some direct action from the corridors of power!