

# Creating the 'Litter Critters'.



# The Aim Behind The 'Litter Critters'.

## The Concept

- Having now looked at a whole range of creative approaches in raising environmental awareness of the hazards of littering in relation to wildlife, the aim is now to make a range of crafted animals from waste materials to be used in an educational setting as a visual resource.
- These objects will make reference to the work of the craftivists and dialogue with Sarah Corbett at the Craftivist Collective (2022). The objects will be non-threatening, engaging and appeal to a very broad range of learners.
- Reference will also be made to the work of the Hubbub Foundation and in particular their campaign- Love Your Forest (2019). This engaging family- friendly campaign used craft activities in conjunction with litter picking, sports events to see a drastic fall in littering in the Forest of Dean.
- With consultation from university, we shall also reference several children's series from the 1970's, which used animals and other characters to often deal with moral, environmental issues in a very calming, quiet way. These include Bagpuss, Trumpton and Camberwitt Green, all the work of Oliver Postgate and Gordon Murray.



Oliver Postgate with the 'Clangers'

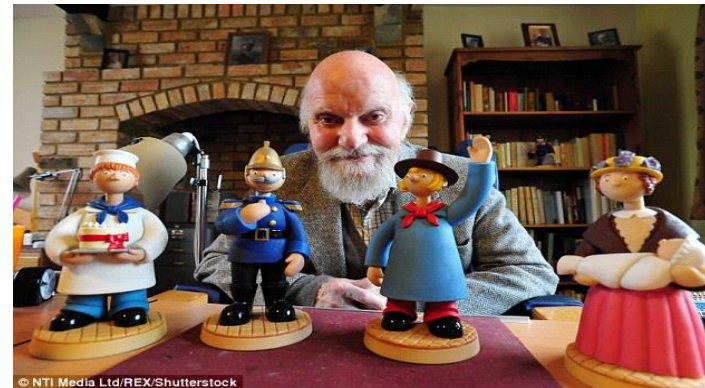


A puppet mouse from 'Bagpuss'

**Richard Oliver Postgate** (12 April 1925 – 8 December 2008), generally known as **Oliver Postgate**, was an English animator, puppeteer and writer.<sup>[1]</sup> He was the creator and writer of some of Britain's most popular children's television programmes. *Bagpuss*, *Pingwings*, *Noggin the Nog*, *Ivor the Engine*, *Clangers* and *Pogles' Wood*, were all made by Smallfilms, the company he set up with collaborator, artist and puppet maker Peter Firmin. The programmes were originally broadcast from the 1950s to the 1980s. In a 1999 BBC poll *Bagpuss* was voted the most popular children's television programme of all time.'(Wikipedia 2022)  
Many of his stories have a moral/environmental message and spoke directly to children about numerous important matters in a quiet, engaging way.( All images courtesy of BBC Archives)

# Gordon Murray- Creator of Trumpton.

- **Gordon Murray (Puppeteer)**
- Gordon Murray (3 May 1921-30 June 2016) was a pioneering British television producer and puppeteer. He created some of the most popular and repeated children's television programmes in Britain. They included Camberwick Green, Trumpton and Chigley. (Wikipedia 2022)
- Often these stories conveyed moral/environmental messages in a quiet, gentle way.
- In the 'Rag and Bone Man' episode first screened on February 21<sup>st</sup> 1967, The Mayor launches a 'Tidy Up Trumpton' campaign prompting Mrs Minton to clean up Chippy's workshop. She gives an old rocking horse to the rag and bone man but doesn't know that Chippy's has been saving all their money in it.
- Narrated by Brian Cant, Chippy says of the objects in his workshop they 'look like rubbish, but they are very important'.
- 'Raggy Dan' deposits all he has collected in Mr Craddock's shed, not knowing that the Mayor has suggested it should all go on the bonfire.
- Chippy finds out what has happened and calls the fire brigade and the rocking horse is saved.



'Raggy Dan' (Top left) says to the Mayor 'that's good quality rubbish' before the items are put on the bonfire. Luckily the bonfire is put out and 'Raggy Dan' is awarded the 'Tidy Up Trumpton Cup'.

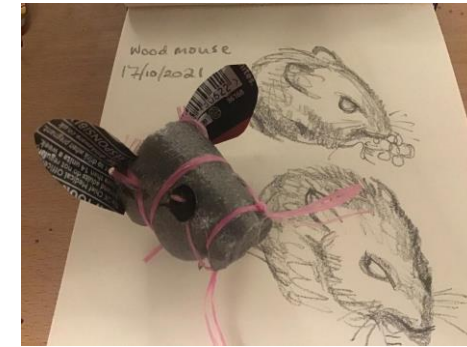
Top Right- Trumpton Market Square.  
Bottom Left- Gordon Murray surrounded by some of his puppet creations. ( All images courtesy of BBC Archives)

# Creating a Wood Mouse from Litter.

- **The Concept behind creating a Field Mouse from Litter**
- Based on the evidence provided from the RSPCA Animal Killed by Litter Report (2019)- the concept behind each animal is to use litter that directly consequents to their demise in construction.
- Materials selected included plastic bottle, aluminium can, repurposed wire and industrial foam, all litter picked from the hedgerow in the last twelve months.
- The process started by constructing a wire framework for recycled wire.
- Using a small amount of construction foam to make a body. Elements are sewn together using strands of industrial rope.
- Finally elements of drink cans are used to create legs, feet, ears and eyes.
- A tail was created using a found piece of green wire.
- All the 'litter critters' were made on a very small scale. The idea being they can be examined and handled.



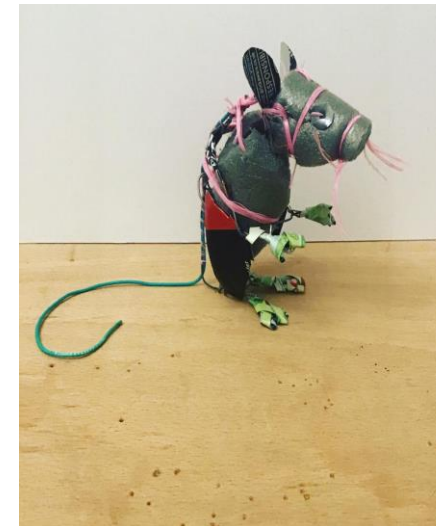
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Various stages in the construction of the Wood Mouse:

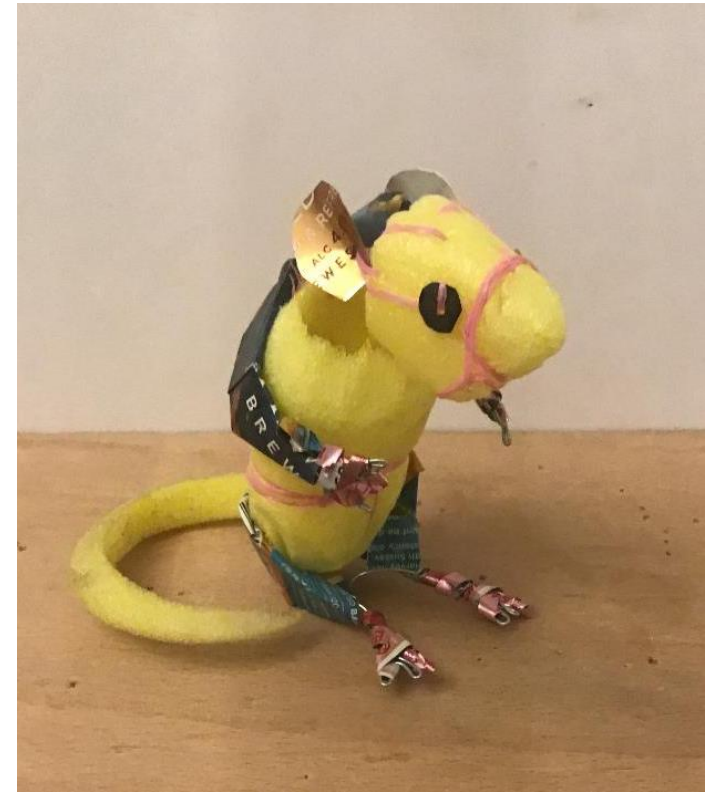
- 1) Sourcing the litter
- 2) Making a series of drawings from you tube clips of wood mice
- 3) Initial wire structure
- 4) Finished mouse

# Creating a Dormouse from Litter.

- **The Concept behind creating a Dormouse from Litter**
- Further based on the evidence provided from the RSPCA Animal Killed by Litter Report (2019)- the concept behind each animal is to use litter that directly consequents to their demise in construction.
- Materials selected included polypropylene rope, drink can, repurposed wire and industrial foam, all litter picked from the hedgerow in the last twelve months.
- The process started by constructing a wire framework for recycled wire.
- Using a small amount of construction foam to make a body. Elements are sewn together using strands of industrial rope.
- Finally elements of drink cans are used to create legs, feet, ears and eyes.
- A tail was created using a found piece of industrial foam.
- All the 'litter critters' were made on a very small scale. The idea being they can be examined and handled.



3



2

Various views in the construction of the Dormouse:

- 1) Initial repurposed wire and industrial foam.
- 2) Adding pieces of drink can
- 3) Finished Dormouse



1

# Creating a Hedgehog from Litter.

- **The Concept behind creating a Hedgehog from Litter**
- Because hedgehogs are so inquisitive animals they are very susceptible to getting trapped in litter. As a result it is important to create a range of 'litter critter' hedgehogs. To use drink tabs because unfortunately these are swallowed by hedgehogs.
- Again the RSPCA Animal Litter Report (2019)- informed the concept behind each animal is to use litter that directly consequences to their demise in construction.
- Materials selected included polypropylene rope, drink can, repurposed wire and industrial foam, all litter picked from the hedgerow in the last twelve months.
- The process started by constructing a wire framework for recycled wire.
- Using a small amount of wire to make a body. Elements were attached ( drink can tabs) using strands of thinner wire. These represented the 'spikes.'
- Finally elements of drink cans are used to create legs, feet, ears and eyes.
- All the 'litter critters' were made on a very small scale. The idea being they can be examined and handled.

3



2



Various views in the construction of the Hedgehog:

- 1) Initial repurposed wire and drink can.
- 2) Adding pieces of drink can
- 3) Finished hedgehog

1

