



Friday 20th May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Billie Harris, I am nine years old and I am very passionate about reducing single use plastics and making people more aware that we need do something! So far, I have arranged beach cleans, got in touch with my local MPs, started an Instagram page for people to start small changes, talked to the COP 26 president (Alok Sharma) and have started helping my school reduce plastics.

I heard about a few Queens' Jubilee parties and I thought that we should give Queen Elizabeth an eco-friendly 70th year on the throne.

I think it is important that we have fun at Queen's Jubilee parties and celebrate but that should not mean that animals and sea life should suffer. Balloons take 6 months- 4 years to biodegrade and are the most dangerous plastic to sea birds. As a result, 1 million die each year. Even biodegradable balloons take 6 months to decompose.

Single use utensils can take up to 1000 years to biodegrade! Even then, it turns into a micro-plastic. England throws away an unbelievable 4.25 billion plastic utensils annually – which equates to 75 items a person a year!

A plastic-coated paper plate can take 5- 20 years to biodegrade or break down. Think how many plates that could be over the Jubilee weekend!

Astonishingly, it takes single use plastic cups a whopping 450 years to decompose! Imagine how long it would take for all of the cups at Jubilee Parties to break down. It is estimated that over 100 million are used and thrown away each year at events.

With a party for 30 people using an average of over 100 single use plastic items for just one event. How will the Jubilee weekend affect our environment? Each of those items could harm an animal in our seas. With this in mind, I hope that you can consider helping our oceans by asking people if they can try some of the simple but effective ideas from the poster attached. While celebrating our great monarch we must save our great planet. We must do something! Let's go green for the Queen!

Best Wishes,

Billie Harris,

Youth Ambassador of the Final Straw Foundation

Penny Mordaunt's Local Community Hero of Portsmouth