

SIR - As a Greater Manchester resident, I support Andy Burnham. As a Tory supporter, I despair.
Carol A Forshaw
Bolton, Lancashire

SIR - Chris Green, the MP for Bolton West and Atherton (Comment,

Dr Claudia Riordan
Luffenham, Rutland

SIR - My wife and I may well propose a family lunch at our house on Christmas Day. Family "business" will be discussed.
Duncan Rayner
Sunningdale, Berkshire

Covid lockd
 we need all
John S Wat
Warrington,

ams Ban the wrong kind of degradable plastic

SIR - From *Blue Planet* to taxes on unrecycled plastic and a plastic-waste export ban, Britain has been a world leader in highlighting and tackling the plastic pollution crisis.

This month, however, the British Standards Institution enacted a new specification (PAS9017), which supports the sale in the United Kingdom of plastic materials that require additives to degrade.

These plastics bear similarities to so-called oxo-degradable plastics, which will be banned across the European Union from next year. These materials contain additives that accelerate the conversion of macroplastics into microplastics after months or years.

Evidence increasingly shows microplastics entering our food chain through animals, vegetables and fruit. The full health implications of this are unknown, as is the impact on soil health and biodiversity.

This does not solve the global problem of plastic pollution but worsens it. By misusing the term "biodegradable", this plastic provides the public with a licence to litter.

Recycling facilities are unable to

differentiate between conventional plastics and these doctored alternatives. This renders recycled plastic useless, as it is contaminated with additives designed to degrade it.

Furthermore, British companies that take up these materials could find they are unable to export their products to the EU once the ban comes into force in 2021.

The United Kingdom voted for the EU ban when it was proposed in 2019. Failing to act now could turn Britain from a leader into a laggard in fighting the plastic crisis.

For these reasons, we call on the Government to protect our environment, our food production and British business by banning these materials immediately.

John Read
Clean Up Britain
Sian Sutherland
A Plastic Planet
Philippa Arnold
National Farmers' Union
Joan Edwards
The Wildlife Trusts
Karen Graley
Waitrose
and five others; see telegraph.co.uk

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Paul Ridgw
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An early love of music will stay with you for life

SIR - From 1945 to 1948 I attended a primary school in Leamington Spa. Mr Gradwell, the headmaster, was a violinist and in his weekly lessons he told stories about the great composers, illustrated by their music, until we could identify pieces without being told the composer. Although most of us did not play an instrument, we learnt a

often think how lucky we were and how much Mr Gradwell contributed to our enjoyment of classical music.
Rosemary Evans
Louth, Lincolnshire

SIR - My daughters received one Malteser for each music scale practised (Letters, October 15). This resulted in

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