

Community Recyclers NEWS

Behind the scenes at Woking Road Depot: 13 June

This is your opportunity to discover the inner working of the Depot! Come along and find out why we've decided to collect recyclables in separated containers, how we service houses down little tracks and just how much rubbish we divert from landfill. It won't all be lectures: we'll be out and about looking at recycling facilities in flats, pop into Slyfield for a behind-the-scenes view of our local waste-transfer station, and watch bring banks being emptied. We want you all to be in the know.

Meet the team

James Howarth will describe our latest commercial recycling services: he's masterminded the new glass-recycling scheme we're offering to pubs and restaurants in the town centre - all without developing a drink problem! Ian Westgate will give us an overview of our residential services and chat about how the food waste trial is going. Finally, Jane Alexander will outline our educational services.

Ask us anything

This is a perfect opportunity to ask James Whiteman and Chris Wheeler any tricky questions you've been harbouring - and if you'd like to dress up as the womble now's your chance! It's a great opportunity to meet other CRs and find out what they're up to. Lunch and all transport will be provided. 10am - 3pm.



Spring is on its way and our thoughts turn naturally to compost! If you've got a half day to spare we'd love some more volunteers to help on Saturday 12 May

at Compost Heaven with teas, giving out bins and shopping bags, as well as offering expert advice. We're not offering a chipping service this year but we will have a live jazz band. What's more, the

cakes should be as good as last years. Don't forget to come on the day to say hello whether you can help or not!

We want to offer more training to everyone. So as well as our fascinating free fact-finding forays we'd like to invite you all to the depot to meet everyone here and see how we administer and operate our recycling services. A chance to see how we deal with on-street separation, contamination of recyclables in flats and wet garden waste bags! If anyone would like other training opportunities, give Jane a call and we'll do what we can.

The newsletter is now available on the web as a PDF so please let Jane know if you'd prefer not to receive a hard copy. But please do continue to display the enclosed posters and leaflets at any display boards in your local area. It really helps to spread the word and it's always great to see you at any events.



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Living in a Material World

By CR Nicky Ford

As a community recycler I was able to visit LM Barry, the London-based company who buys all Guildford's kerbside textiles to see what happens to our cast-offs.

I was initially surprised. I had imagined that textiles were processed into an industrial-standard material. How wrong I was. Most clothes are clean, and in good condition. They are sorted by hand into 160 categories:

for instance, women's dresses are sorted into silk, cotton and polyester, and evening wear. They are baled up and 80% are exported within the week for the burgeoning secondhand clothes markets in developing countries.

Kampala has a thriving trade in second-hand designer dresses and the further you go from the capital the less the clothes cost. People in tiny villages can buy a serviceable pair of shoes for just 20p. And don't be shy about putting in your old bras, because there is huge demand for these essential items! LMB exports to Uganda, Pakistan and Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary.

Waste not

Clothes unfit for reuse aren't wasted. About 10% get torn up and sold as industrial wipes: BA use our old white sheets to wipe up oil when they've fixed plane engines – that way they're sure not to leave one in the engine by mistake! Another 5% is shredded, flocked and used as carpet underlay, in beds etc. The final 5% is waste. Blankets are reused but leather coats are sold to Turkey, where they are refashioned and sold back to us!



Adopt a School Compost Bin

We provide free compost bins to primary schools in the borough but sadly they're often used as a bin. We'd like your help to change this. We want volunteers to adopt a compost bin in a school near you and, with Jane, liaise with the school to set up a monitoring system so the children's green waste gets in the bin. Then we need to make it fun! CR Emma Palmer suggested we paint them with worms, apples, bugs etc so they don't look like bins and the kids feel a sense of ownership. CR Penny Hewitson thought we could devise bells, whistles and chutes to make them both hygienic and fun for the kids to use. Call Jane to adopt a bin near you!

COMING UP Sat 17 March 2007 Onslow Junk Swap

10 -12am

NOTE change of date!!! Dig out your old treasure and swap it for something you do want at Onslow Village Hall.

Sat 12 May 2007 Compost heaven

10am -1pm

Help needed with giving out compost bins, reusable shopping bags and kitchen caddies, serving teas, or offering expert advice etc. Call Jane!

Wednesday 6 June 2007 Compost trip

9.30am - 3pm

Find out what happens to your garden waste after it's collected from your doorstep. Meet in Woking Road Depot to visit Beenhams composting facility. See what it's like to compost on a commercial scale. Free pub lunch and back by 3pm! Call Jane to book.

Wednesday 13 June 2007 Life at the Depot

10am - 3pm

Discover what really goes on at the Depot and get up to speed with our services. See front page for details.

Top Tip NUMBER 4

Diane Maxwell says old tights make great plant ties. Discard the tops and feet, and use the legs whole for tying saplings to supports, or cut into smaller strips for tying in climbing plants to trellis. They're unobtrusive, allow the plant to move, don't damage stems, look better as they weather, and last for ages. Thanks Diane, a set of recycled glasses is on its way!

Call 01483 445085 or email

Jane.alexander@guildford.gov.uk for help with events, with queries, to book tours, or to submit Top Tips.

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