

Community Recyclers NEWS

Colourful critters campaign for compost



Claire Thacker and Joan Wrenn with girls from 1st Guildford Town West Rainbows.

Multi-coloured beetles and worms have been campaigning to get more Onslow Village residents to compost their kitchen and garden waste. The 1st Guildford Town West Rainbows created the animal artwork during a workshop led by Claire Thacker, a member of The Onslow Recyclers. Williams the Newsagents in The Square, Wilderness Road have been kind enough to host the display in their shop window. If other CRs would like to follow suit, call Jane!

Secateur delight

The secateur sharpening course was booked out in October, with over 20 people bringing blunt old secateurs and taking away dangerously sharp ones! Feedback was overwhelming positive: Kevin Mulgrew said it was 'an eye opener to see how easy it is to sharpen secateurs.' Arthur Kinge persuaded us that if we invest in really good secateurs they'll last a lifetime with care and attention: an inspiration in this throw-away age! Book now if you missed it last time!



Arthur and Angela test their work.

As green is the new black, so recycling is the new rock and roll. We've had lots of requests for demonstrations and display materials for events: we've lent tyres to a Stig of the Dump playscheme over half term; Tielke had a display at St Pius' green-themed Parish Day; Diane talked to Pirbright Army Camp about everything from washable nappies to battery recycling (and Kaye provided light relief as the womble!) and the 1st Guildford Town West Rainbows made a wonderful display for Williams the newsagent in Onslow Village.

Just to remind everyone, we have some very colourful banner stands, leaflets, a full washing line of washable nappies, school displays and two games (recycling snakes and ladders and giant jenga) available. If you want to have a recycling stall at your local events, inspire your work colleagues to be ever more green or have an event at a school, call for help and inspiration!

Our secateur sharpening courses was so popular (in fact oversubscribed) that we're repeating it next year. Book up soon if you want to come along!

With the Christmas season upon us, don't forget to reduce your Christmas wish list, buy recycled and take your tree to be composted! Have a happy new year and call if you're inspired to make 2009 an even greener year!

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Onslow Chipping

The heavens opened on the Onslow Recyclers' chipping day but Lesley Goode and cohorts were undeterred! Locals braved the rain to bring their long-abandoned prunings. Resident Paul Walker said, 'I've been meaning to get rid of my prunings for six months and was about to burn it when I got the leaflet. It's fantastic to be able to bring it down the road.' Lesley got two more members for her chipping group and another member for Onslow Recyclers.



Theresa helps load the big chipper.



A lot of hand sorting is necessary at the Materials Recovery Facility.

Leatherhead MRF

The fact-finding trip to the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) was, as Nicki says, 'thought provoking'. This is where commercial waste from our business recycling scheme goes. Paper, cans and plastic bottles are collected together: this makes it really easy for office workers but the waste has to be separated before it can be recycled. Steel cans are extracted by magnetism and aluminium by an eddy current separator. Glass is heavy and rolls off the sloping conveyor belt. Other recyclables have to be sorted by hand: an unenviable and expensive solution.

Schools display

We are lucky enough to have a new recycling display piece made by artist Birgitte Lund showing what happens to some materials once they've hit the recycling bin. There's lots of things to touch and feel. Plastic bottles are shown with the shredded material they become before going on to make fleece material for jackets and so on. The display opens up at the top to show how even five-pound notes are shredded by the bank of England and used to make paper - or even pencils. If you would like to borrow the display for a group or know of a school who would like it, call Jane to arrange.



The funky display for schools.

Ban the Bag's Christmas message

After a summer break when the main team all seemed to be moving house or coping with school holidays, Ban the Bag met with renewed vigour last month. The general consensus was that encouraging progress has been made, with many high-street retailers rethinking their plastic bag strategy and the government poised to add legislation about plastic bags to the climate change bill. However, lunchtime shoppers are still taking a plastic bag in Guildford just to carry their lunch to the office or park. The team have written to offices suggesting they start a bag pool so workers can take a bag and return it after lunch. If you want four free cloth bags to start a pool at your place of work, contact Nicky on 01483 304890.

COMING UP

Saturday 17 January 2009 Swap Shop

11am – 1pm Ash Centre, Ash Hill Rd, Ash. Inspired by our fantastic events, Community Safety Wardens Jo and Lesley are bringing the Swap Shop to Ash. Support them with your presence and your unwanted Christmas gifts!

Saturday 28 February 2009 Compton Bring & Take

10 – 12am

Bring good-quality unwanted items to Compton Village Hall and take away things you didn't know you wanted.

Wednesday 18 March 2009 Secateur sharpening

7– 9pm

Another chance to sharpen up! Bring your secateurs to the Green Ark, Lido Rd, Guildford. Call Jane to book.

Saturday 21 March 2009 Swap Shop

10 – 12am

Come to St Catherine's Village Association's first Swap Shop in the Village Hall, Chestnut Ave.

Saturday 25 April 2009 Onslow Bring & Take

10 – 12am

Declutter, bring your unwanted treasures to Onslow Village Hall and find a wealth of items to take away.

Tuesday 28 April 2009 Furniture Project visit

10 – 12am

Visit Guildford's very own furniture reuse project in its fantastic new premises. Meet at Woking Rd Depot.

Sat 9 May 2009 Compost Heaven

11am – 2pm Burchatt's Farm.

Help needed with giving out compost bins, bags and caddies, serving tea, offering advice etc. Please call Jane!

Call 01483 444499 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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