

Issue 13 2013

junkmail

News, views and ideas on composting, reuse and recycling in Devon



Re-cycle – Bicycle aid for Africa • Phoney gold rush • Don't buy it – save waste and money with peer to peer rental • Wedding ring 'found on carrot' after 16 years • Men in Sheds..? Tools for Self Reliance...

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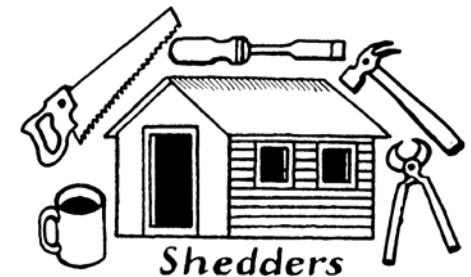
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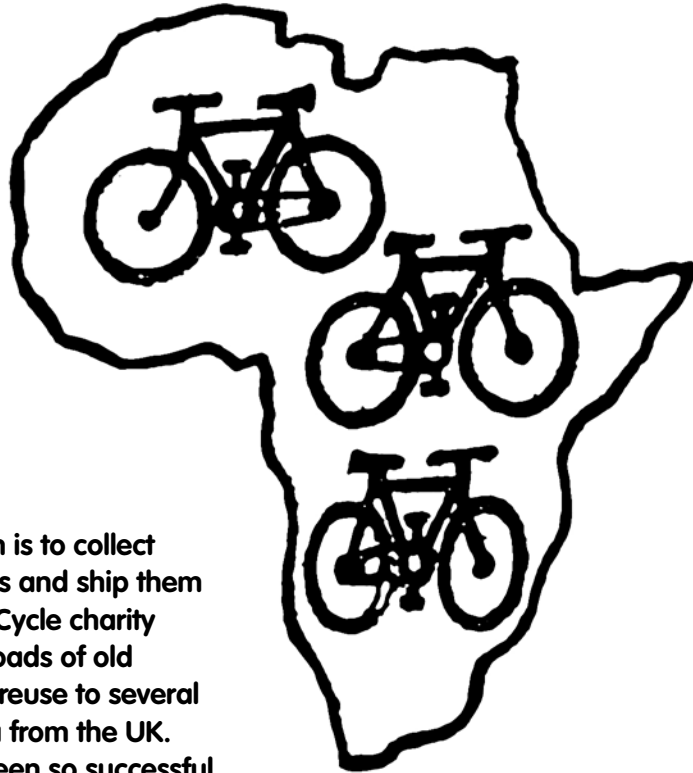
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Editorial

Last issue we highlighted the 'gift economy' where growing numbers of people are thinking beyond money. This issue we highlight the 'sharing economy' and reuse and repair, and give examples of how resources and items can be shared, loaned, hired, or mended to reduce waste and save money, such as with 'men in sheds' and website facilities like 'the savvy earner'. In this sense 'less is more', as we can all reduce what we buy but still have access to things we need but may only use occasionally. Landfills and Recycling Centres are full of household appliances and items cheaply and poorly made that break quickly and rapidly become waste. The 'Story of Stuff' reminds us that 99% of what we buy becomes waste within 6 months of purchase. People might choose to buy fewer better quality, more durable items, and share or rent them locally.



Re-cycle – Bicycle aid for Africa



Re-Cycle's mission is to collect unwanted bicycles and ship them to Africa. The Re-Cycle charity sends container loads of old bikes suitable for reuse to several countries in Africa from the UK. The project has been so successful that there are now several regional centres around the UK involved, and Re-cycle is also in talks with Halfords to potentially use its network of 460 stores as bike collection points.

Donations of unwanted bikes are collected at Re-cycle's depots from individuals, businesses and organisations such as the Royal Mail, Rotary Clubs, Schools and Churches etc. These are

checked over and sound bikes are prepared for shipment before being loaded into containers (approx. 400 each time) and sent to Re-cycle's various partner organisations in Africa. There, they are refurbished before being distributed by our African partners. Many of our partners also teach repair and maintenance skills, providing a community resource which keeps people on their bikes and mobile. Damaged bikes or bikes in poor condition are stripped down and the spare parts are also sent out.

'Set up in 1998, Re-cycle is a UK registered charity committed to improving life prospects through the provision of cheap, sustainable transport in Africa. We currently work in Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya. We believe that bicycles offer people a route out of poverty and a means to improve their lives, giving them opportunities to travel to work and school. They can also be adapted to carry goods and passengers giving small scale farmers and traders the opportunity to reach customers further afield or take more produce to market. They are also an invaluable resource for travelling health workers coping with the AIDS epidemic.'

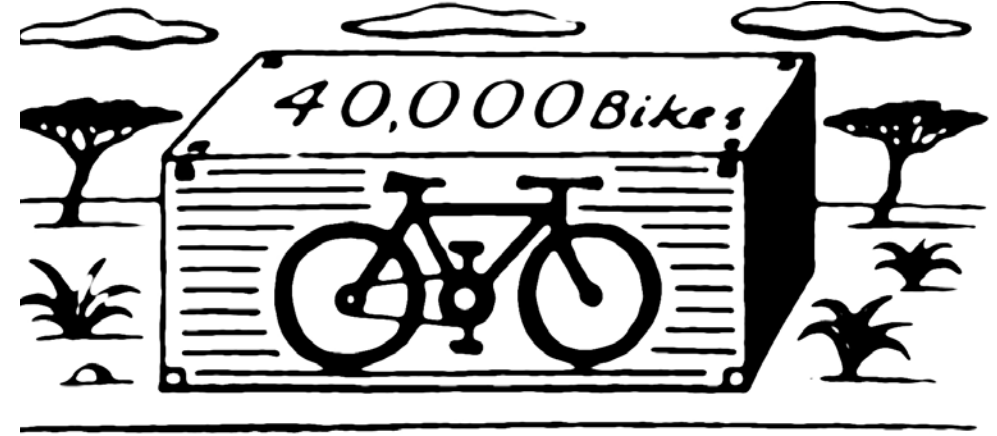
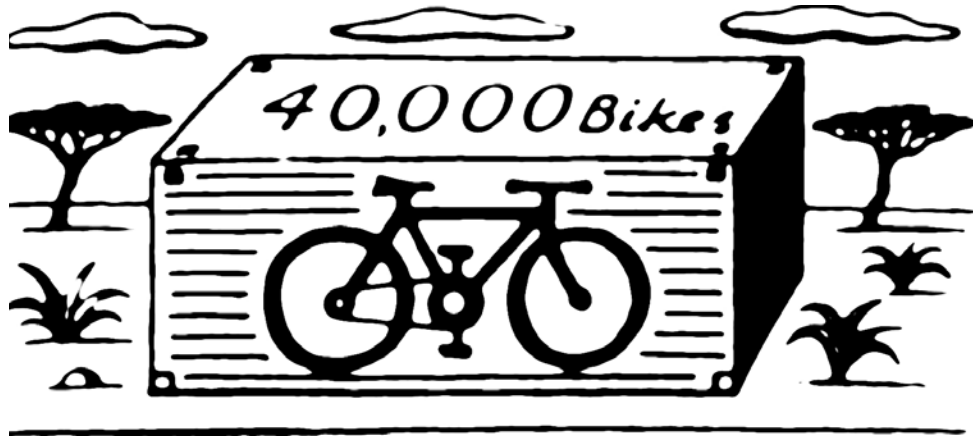
What a waste...

In Britain, millions of bikes are thrown away due to neglect or lie unused in

sheds, whilst many people in Africa have no access to transport of any kind. People spend hours each day walking to collect water, firewood or to access health care, school and employment. A bicycle lightens this burden and dramatically improves their wellbeing as well as work and education opportunities helping to bring social change. A bicycle cuts travel time to a fraction and can carry passengers and heavy loads. Bikes give families the extra time to earn, learn and enjoy life. In rural Africa where there is no public transport, people have to walk long distances to access education, health care or employment. For many people, a bicycle can be a first step out of poverty and towards a better life.

Transport and development go hand-in-hand. Virtually everything traded, must be transported, and almost everyone needs wheels to get to work or school. Simple, affordable transport generates income opportunities in developing countries, as well as saving lots of time and back-breaking work.

'We have now sent more than 100 container shipments and over 40,000 bicycles to Africa, all thanks to the donations of bikes, time and money from our many wonderful supporters. The new year got off to a great start with 420 bikes loaded over 4 days that left Felixstowe for our partner The Village Bicycle Project in rural Ghana.



Their Field Worker, Jason was in the UK over Christmas and came to visit us. Our volunteers were pleased to hear his stories of life in Ghana and of the great impact that bicycles have in improving people's lives. We have shipments upcoming for Malawi, Zambia and South Africa that will go as soon as we have enough bikes so please, keep them coming.'

Re-cycle has bike collection points in:

- **Cambridge**
- **Chelmsford, Essex**
- **The Isle of Wight**
- **Ipswich**
- **London - 5 locations, central and SW**
- **Newcastle**
- **Sheffield**

'You can also sell your bike through Re-cycle's Ebay shop and donate the proceeds to the charity. See www.re-cycle.org.uk. If it is reasonably clean and not rusted up, we can strip most cycles down for spare parts - these are shipped to Africa alongside the cycles. Spare parts are vital to ensure that bikes can be repaired and kept going. There is a map of UK bike re-use projects on the website'

'Re~Cycle is excited to announce a developing partnership with Halfords which could see Halfords' 460 stores across the UK utilised as bike reuse collection points'. CSR Manager for Halfords, Emma Thomas said: "we're really excited to be partnering with Re~Cycle, working with them to help collect more bikes and also raise funds, benefiting more people in Africa in the long term. This does NOT mean take your bike to Halfords' just yet, we're

working on the best way to roll this out. More details will be announced shortly."

'Fancy a cycling challenge? Re-cycle is an official charity partner with three bike events in 2013: Moonriders - 100km night rides, Ride24 - a 24 hour, 300 mile bike ride, UK End 2 End - the ultimate UK cycling tour, and the Orbital Cycling Festival.

A new bicycle recycling project has been set up in Oxfordshire which sees the county council working with homeless charity Emmaus to get bikes back on the road.

Old bicycles dumped at Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre are set aside by site contractors. Emmaus staff call by every week, taking any bikes that are suitable for reuse or spare parts. Volunteers are then trained to refurbish them

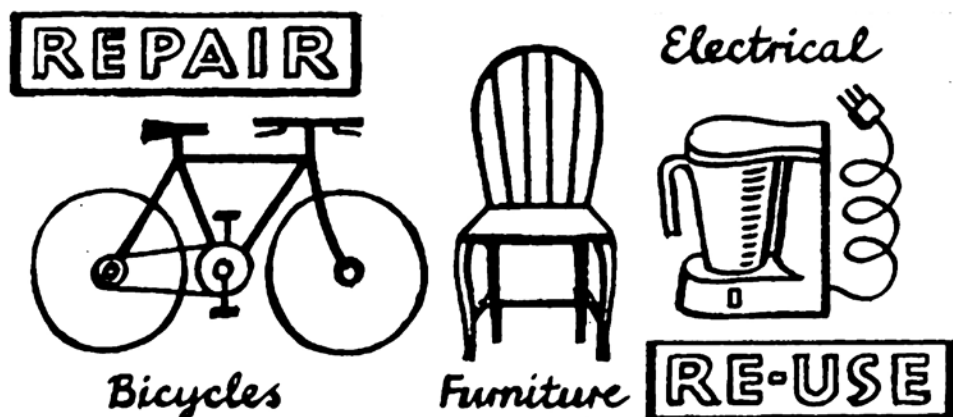
before they get sold from the 'Emmaus Secondhand Superstore'. Eddie Blaze from Emmaus explains: "Working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council has not only helped to reduce landfill but to equip volunteers with skills on bike maintenance. We sell refurbished bikes for much less than the cost of a new one meaning more people can have access to a good quality bike and we raise money for our charity at the same time." So far over 150 bikes have been taken by Emmaus saving at least two and a half tonnes of waste.

There are 2 Devon bike local reuse projects in the pipeline, one in Exeter and one potentially in Ivybridge. Wouldn't it be great if old bikes from Devon's Recycling Centres could be diverted for reuse?

www.re-cycle.org

Getting active in your community?

Oxfordshire sustainability centre opens



Oxfordshire's community action group project was a case study at Devon's recent waste prevention conference. The council (Oxfordshire CC) provided £90,000 funding through Resource Futures for community based workers to support events and the formation of groups to get active around issues in their communities, tackling issues like waste, renewable energy, and

local food. Devon is very fortunate in that we already have so many active, vibrant, diverse and enterprising groups and individuals taking action in their communities, and we also have DCRN, DCCN, Transition Network, CCD (Community Council of Devon), DARE (Devon Association of Renewable Energy), DASH (for smallholders) and many others are around to provide

networking, information, advice and support to people.

Many people are finding that setting up an online community hub or running a facebook group page are very effective ways of networking, communicating, sharing information or organising one-off events without the need for formal groups.

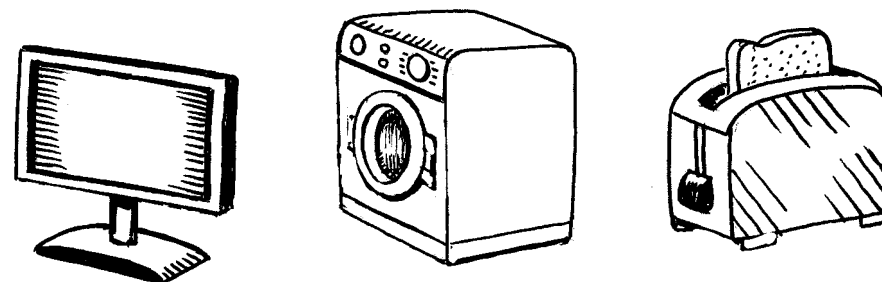
At DCRN and DCCN we get regular enquiries and hear about people wanting to set up reuse initiatives, such as bike repair, electrical, clothing and textiles, school uniform reuse, wood reuse such as making things from wood pallets, and composting projects.

A social enterprise has been set up in Bicester, Oxfordshire, in a bid to encourage reuse in the town by accepting goods for repair by volunteers and eventual sale.

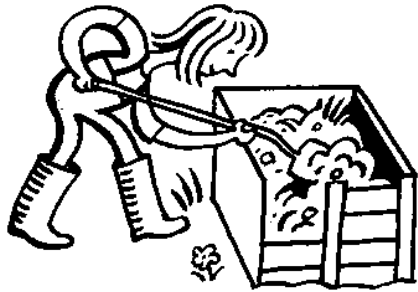
The Bicester Green Centre for Skills, Sustainability and Secondhand Stuff,

which opened in June, will initially focus on renovating bicycles, wooden furniture and electrical appliances. It is hoped to become a hub for sustainability as it will also host the Cycle for Bicester bicycle loan programme as well as a series of talks and demonstrations. The centre's premises share a retail warehouse with Sobell House Hospice Charity where items repaired at the centre will be available to be purchased.

Councillor Lawrie Stratford, chairman of Cherwell district council, said: "Staff and volunteers have been working hard over the last year to set up the project and it's really exciting that the doors are nearly ready to open to the public. We hope that this will be a valuable resource for Oxfordshire, diverting waste from landfill and bringing together the local community."



Nicky's top compost tips



It was suggested by Ben Bryant our new management team member that I could write some inspirational top compost tips for each issue of Junk Mail. Well I've been scratching my head a great deal to try and stimulate the grey cells and thinking about what I have been doing recently. In a way a lot of it is what not to do.

Top tip 1

Firstly I don't put any organic matter out for collection by my local Authority. Now interestingly this was the subject for debate at the latest DAWRRC (Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee's meeting (I was there to give a presentation but more of that later). Councils have to increase their recycling rates and they have done

this, in part, by adding on the organic fraction. Some of the Authorities, like my own, (West Devon) previously would not pick up bins with garden materials in, now they supply us with dumpy bags to fill with as much as possible. Now I don't blame the council for this – it's a central government driver to up the recycling rate and in that respect it's been very successful, but, it does mean that now we have more lorries driving around with garden 'waste' in, (I'm always reluctant to call this wonderful resource, 'waste'). So in order to meet a government / EU target we are forced to add a new waste stream on where there wasn't really a pressing need. Ok we don't all have gardens we can compost in and it may have lessened fly tipping and it certainly is a useful and welcomed service by many people. It has also had the unintended effect of making redundant certain community composting groups.

Another matter discussed at DAWRRC was the lifespan of the in-vessel composting facilities and the need to be aware that they do have a finite lifespan and to be aware and be prepared for the next generation. Members were assured that there was plenty of life in the facilities but it did make me think again that these expensive facilities are

mostly being used to compost garden waste. They are a great facility for food waste, and of course that needs a certain percentage of 'roughage' in the form of garden materials but I seem to remember a figure of 80% Garden waste to 20% food waste (perhaps someone can correct me if I'm wrong on this?) Of course for all kinds of reasons sometimes food waste and garden waste are collected together and so



the green waste is 'contaminated' by the food waste in terms of Animal by-products legislation and so it all has to be composted in-vessel under strict guidelines to meet time and temperature requirements.

So my top tip to save on all the above is to home compost – but don't tell everyone or Devon will slip down in the recycling league table! Ironically it could have the best environmental credentials and be beaten by a County that collected masses of green waste. The real challenge is to up the recycling rate of dry recyclables eg, paper, card, glass, plastics, tins etc. particularly from hard to reach communities, mostly urban and also from transient populations such as students.

Top Tip 2

Take the grass box off the lawn mower. British men (I think it's just the men) are unhealthily obsessed with lawns, it's probably something to do with football or rugby or even golf, seeing large expanses of beautifully mown striped grass with not a weed in site. (Insert cartoon of the groundsman finding a dandelion in the centre court at Wimbledon by Bateman) Taking away grass cuttings constantly has the effect of impoverishing the soil, meaning fewer blades of grass can grow and so gaps appear, in which weeds can colonise, and so garden centres are full of products and tools to poison the weeds, rip them out (scarifiers), and special rakes and rollers with spikes in to aerate and help the lawn drain. Unless the grass is rather long, in which case thick clumps can kill off grass

struggling underneath, it's best to just leave it on the lawn. Better still let the grass grow really long until it flowers and then cut it for hay and gradually over years of doing this all the wild flowers will return and you will create a wonderful flower rich meadow, as was created at the Olympics.

If you simply must compost grass cuttings then what you have to do is have a supply of dry, airy, brown materials. Layer or mix well so as you don't get thick mats of grass cuttings, save up dry plant stems in a pile, or get hold of some tough shreds, woodchips, twiggy material etc and then mix this with the grass cuttings and hey bingo you have the magic mix of air and water, which is the mantra to remember with composting at all times.

Tip 3

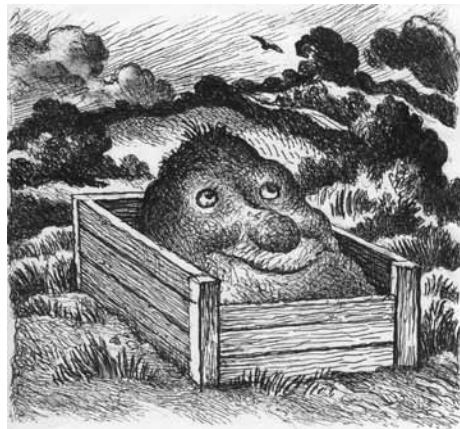
Woody stuff – every few years I have to cut the trees which grow up on the bank at the top of our garden where it borders the allotments. This is because many of the trees are elms and when they get to a certain size they die off because of Dutch elm disease. If I let them get too big then they are also liable to damage my sheds and greenhouse both on the allotment and garden. I've just finished that job and what an enormous amount comes out. So what to do with it all? Well I now have a wonderful lot of pea sticks and bean poles also some larger poles so I can replace the supports on the raspberries and also some of

the misshapen ones I can saw up for firewood once it's properly seasoned of course; but there's still masses! What I do is cut it down with saw and loppers and lay it on top of the bank around the stumps that are left. The stumps regenerate and send out fresh shoots and soon screen it all anyway. And it becomes a haven for beetles and other creatures. If you can stack this 'brashy' material as neatly and tightly as possible excluding as much air space as possible it will break down more quickly and give a lovely material in a few years. The top layer will take forever but underneath will transform to be like leafmould.

Tip 4

Watch the Teignbridge compost film on you tube – follow this link www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYHHhLi0b3Y

And of course do buy my books! They are all available from Green Books www.greenbooks.co.uk



Wasted food alert - waste prevention



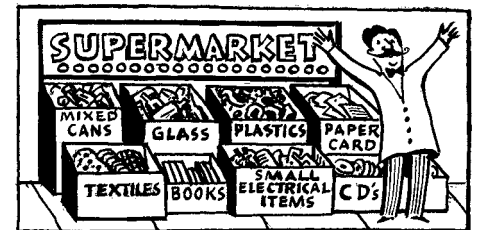
DCFA (Devon and Cornwall Food Association) is a charity that currently works in Plymouth and Exeter to redistribute surplus food from food businesses to organisations that help people in need, and prevent surplus food from being thrown away. See website www.devonandcornwallfoodassociation.org.

Various independent 'food banks' also operate throughout Devon to help people in need - look out for food collection points in supermarkets where food can be deposited by householders.

Notably absent from the DCFA list of food sponsors are the supermarkets,

who it would appear would mostly rather truck their surplus unsold food long distance to compost it, instead of giving it away. All the supermarkets are in the process of diverting surplus food from landfill and sending it to energy from waste plants such as anaerobic digestion.

The Co-operative Group is set to divert all waste from its 2,800 UK food stores away from landfill. A waste back-haul scheme is being rolled out to all Co-op's stores this summer to bring back waste to central depots to recycle or recover energy from the stores waste, in partnership with Biffa. Previously 225,000 waste skip collections were made each year, now its waste management costs will halve. 34,000 tonnes of store food waste will go to anaerobic digestion in Staffordshire, a huge UK wide haulage operation. UK food waste charity FareShare is also working with the Co-op to send surplus foods from distribution depots, such as oversupplies and products with damaged but intact packaging, to disadvantaged people in the community.



Jora home food waste composter seven years on



I originally wrote a review of Jora's home food waste compost tumbler for JM about 7 years ago when I bought one for my family's food waste – including meat and all cooked food waste. Well, the Jora is still going strong and has produced lots of the highest quality, weed free, worm rich compost over the years, which I must say is better quality compost than can be bought anywhere. So if you buy in compost for your garden, potting and seed planting, and are disappointed in peat free shop bought composts, and send your cooked food waste off in your kerbside bin, then think again.

The Jora also acts as the best wormery I have ever come across. As if by magic, worms are attracted and take up permanent residence in the composter. The worms stay insulated even during the coldest winter periods, and multiply

all year round in either of the twin composting chambers – one chamber is active and hot composts, while the other side is cooler and matures slowly with worms accelerating the tertiary composting processes.

When the active side is full, harvest the 'done' side, which can be added to your heap for final maturation, teeming with hundreds of worms to enrich your compost heap and garden soil. The Jora needs added sawdust, wood shavings, or chippings to mix with the food waste, and works best with a wooden pallet or similar compost bay heap next to it – so the contents can be easily transferred from Jora to heap, to be used when required. There has never been a rat problem either. It will digest animal and sausage fat leftovers, baked beans etc, you name it, with no problem. Make sure you get the mix right – food and sawdust/chippings.

If my family of 4 produces over one bucket, or at least 9kg per week of veg/ fruit peelings, leftovers, plate scrapings etc. then that works out at over 460kg per year. Multiply by 7 years, then I have reduced my family's waste arisings by 3.27 tonnes over the period, which would have cost the taxpayer and Local Authority over £327 to collect, treat and/ or dispose of at £100 per tonne.

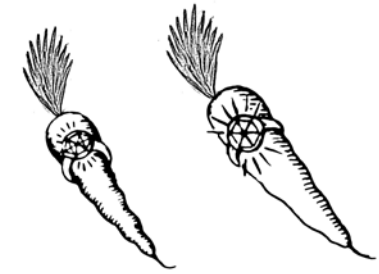
If one takes into account the £ value of the home produced compost in shop bought equivalent, or the price of worm supplies, I leave you to place your own value on that. The Jora cost me less than that and will carry on for several years yet – the only thing that has needed replacing is the metal closure plate that shuts off one chamber, this was easily replaced with a thin plywood offcut. It could be made of plastic and then it wouldn't rot. www.smartsoil.co.uk

So, in the future, do you think every household with a garden should have a Jora type insulated tumbler composter? It seems to make financial, environmental and carbon sense to me.

Richard Gomme

Nicky Scott adds:

Some of the schools in Devon have Joras and they will process up to about 15 kgs of food waste a week but we do not advise they use one side as a wormery. It's fine on a domestic system, I also seem to be breeding heat seeking worms but it's not advisable for larger volumes. As the compost is worked by the worms it gets denser and heavier and we have had the Jora's frames starting to buckle under the weight! So we always advise using a separate maturation bin, the Scotty's HotBox is ideal and that becomes a big wormery. If your school is not composting get more info on the systems we use on the website www.dccn.org.uk and download the special schools compost booklet.



Wedding ring 'found on carrot' after 16 years

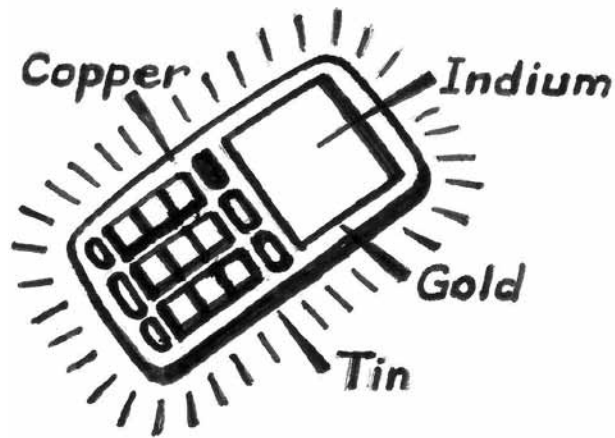
A Swedish woman has discovered her wedding ring on a carrot growing in her garden, thanks to home composting, 16 years after she lost it, says a newspaper. Lena Paahlsson had long ago lost hope of finding the ring, which went missing in her kitchen in 1995. She took the ring off to do some Christmas baking with her daughters, but it disappeared from the work surface where it had been left. The family searched everywhere and years later took up the tiling on the floor during renovations, in the hope of finding the ring.

It was not until 16 years later when Mrs Paahlsson was pulling up carrots in her garden that she noticed one with the gold ring fastened tightly around it.

"The carrot was sprouting in the middle of the ring. It is quite incredible," her husband Ola said to the newspaper. The couple believe the ring fell into a sink back in 1995 and was lost in vegetable peelings that were turned into compost or fed to their sheep.

Funnily enough I also found my lost wedding ring in my compost – so there you have it, compost is real treasure!

Phoney gold rush



There is more gold in a tonne of mobile phones than there is in a tonne of mined rock from a gold mine, and it is far easier to extract it from a phone than from a gold mine. Yet there are an estimated 80 million old mobile phones lying unused in peoples cupboards and drawers in the UK, and there is no data on phone recycling rates, or how many end up in household rubbish going to landfill.

As a society, we seem to have very little knowledge of what goes into making the products we consume, or what happens to them afterwards. Take our love of the mobile phone. In 2011, when the world's population was 6.8 billion, there were 5bn mobile phone subscriptions globally. In the UK, there were 80m subscriptions, with 1,000 mobile-phone

replacements sold every hour. At the same time, an estimated 80m working mobile phones were retained in UK households, forgotten in drawers and cupboards.

Every mobile phone is made from approximately 40 different elements, including copper in the wiring, indium in the touchscreen, and tin and gold in the circuit boards. As the price of metals

and minerals rises, it increasingly makes financial sense to recover these elements. Other elements could also be extracted, if mobile phones were better designed to facilitate material recovery. Around 80% of a phone's components can be recycled.

Phones can be recycled at phone shops, many charity shops, and Recycling Centres.

Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace have recently highlighted the high environmental impact of tin mining in Indonesia, and are campaigning to make smartphone manufacturers Samsung and Apple come clean about their resource trail – ethical resource extraction and production. But we also need better awareness, behaviour change, incentives, dirty MRFs which sort through residual waste to recover recyclable materials, and more comprehensive recycling collections to make it easy for people to recycle their small gadgets such as phones, ipods, electric toothbrushes, and hand held appliances.

Circular economy

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimates that the EU could save at least £220bn a year if we were to design

products in a way that supported resource recovery and eliminated waste streams. This model of a circular economy is a shift from the old "take, make, waste" linear business model to one of "lease the resource, make the product, recover the resource and then remake it".

Don't buy it – save waste and money with peer to peer rental

Many people are familiar with the concept of making money by renting out a spare room to a lodger, or driveway to a motorist looking for a place to park. However, a new wave of websites are taking this much further. Peer to peer rental websites help individuals match surplus or underused items with others needing them for short term use, saving unnecessary purchases and waste. They are being dubbed as part of the sharing economy, as people seek to use resources more efficiently, save money, and earn more.

Six UK peer-to-peer rental companies have joined forces to promote their services via a website, **thesavvyyearner.com**, and a free downloadable guide, in which they claim it is possible to earn hundreds of pounds a week in extra income. Ten thousand households in Bristol will become the first to receive copies of the guide. Partner rental websites include:

- storage space with **Storenextdoor.com**
- spare room with **SpareRoom.co.uk**
- driveway with **ParkatmyHouse.com**
- car with **Gocarshare.com**
- tools and equipment, with **RentMyItems.com**
- time and skills, with **Taskhub.co.uk**

Listings are based around postcodes with conversations between users on a secure messaging platform. Commission charges vary. Deposits are required. Items up for rent included lawnmowers, tools, tents, campervans, carpet cleaners, spare storage space in lofts or garages, sea kayaks, fancy dress costumes, birthing pools, bicycles, barbeques etc

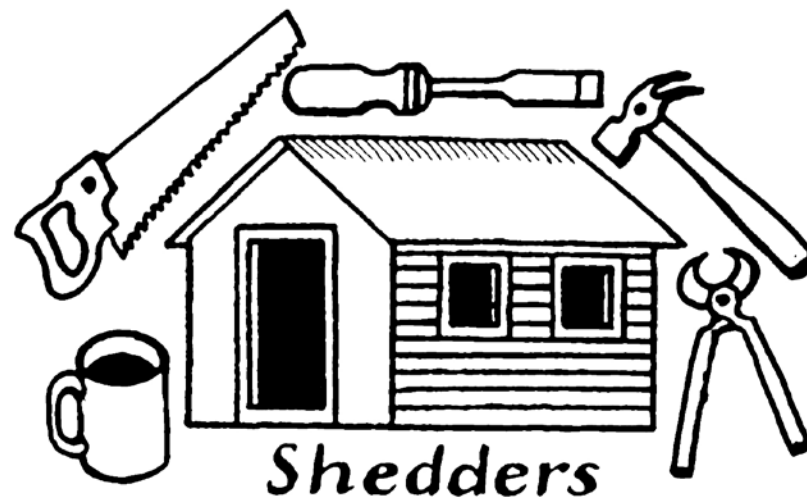
On www.Storenextdoor.com, it's free to register and make a listing – the site fee and cost of insurance are included

in the payment made by the person storing their belongings. If, for example, someone agrees to rent your space, you can set up a contract and payments through the site and the website pays you on a monthly basis. StoreNextDoor hosts secure messaging and payment platforms, the legal contract and the insurance. Any commission is added on top of the rental amount you specify when listing your space.

www.taskhub.co.uk connects people who need assistance with jobs and errands to those in their area who can help. "Task requestors" list the task they want done and the price they are prepared to pay, while "task doers" search the posts for jobs they would like to do and bid for those they want, saying how much they would like to be paid. The website processes the payments.

Websites certainly help, but we could also do things independently, such as neighbours sharing better quality purchases, such as home composters, lawnmowers, strimmers and tools.

Men in Sheds..? Tools for Self Reliance...



Many of us know that men have an affinity with their sheds, beavering away mending and making, or as somewhere to get away from it all down the end of the garden.....

'Men in Sheds' is an idea to support older men who want to get together, to share and learn new skills such as woodwork and reuse and repair skills - all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'.

First started as a pilot project by Age UK, Men in Sheds provided the 'Shed' (a workshop), tools, and equipment and a co-ordinator for support - the day-to-day management of the Shed was up

to each Shed member, with 'Shedders' deciding on activities they wanted to follow. This gave 'Shedders' control and ownership of their Sheds.

Now there's a group in Brixham and Exeter. A Brixham member described it as "somewhere a group of men can go and have a chat and a cup of coffee. We'll get some tools in there and then we can work on any broken furniture from home, or any repainting that needs doing. Anything that needs doing, we will attempt it." Another shed group mends and renovates garden tools to be sent to Africa.

If you would like to get involved or set up your own men in sheds group, and

need help, contact: Jessica Cohen at Age UK on 01392 202092 or j.cohen@ageukexeter.org.uk. Or visit the website www.menssheds.org.uk.

In addition Tools for Self Reliance are offering support to the 58 tool renovation groups around the country to diversify their activities towards the 'Shed' model. TFSR groups send refurbished tools to Africa. Ian Limbrick TFSR Groups Development Officer says that 'a good mix of activities seems to be the ideal.' There is a group

in Exeter. If anyone is interested in getting involved in setting up a new group please contact the Tools for Self Reliance Group Support Officer, email: gso@tfsr.org or call 023 8086 9697.

We would love to hear about any other shed groups or TFSR around Devon who might want to network or share skills with others. Wouldn't it be great if old tools could be separated for reuse at Devon Recycling Centres for men in sheds to refurbish?

Don't waste it – WARP IT!

WARP IT' is a recently set up online website to facilitate reuse for businesses, schools, organisations, local authorities, community groups and others. It aims to match surplus or underused resources and items within and between organisations with those who need them, to either borrow or buy. In this way people and businesses will reduce the amount of stuff they buy, which is often little used and then discarded or wasted, and use resources much more efficiently. Things might include office furniture, business equipment, school equipment and furniture. A good example we heard was a college who had bought several hundred desks and chairs for exams but found they didn't stack up very easily. Rather than pay for storage for 50 weeks of the year, they used 'Warp It' to lend them out to other local schools who had exams on at other times.

Devon County Council is looking into getting DCC schools involved so they can donate/ swap/loan/borrow equipment and furniture.

Once an organisation is registered, individuals within the organisation can use the facility. There were around 20,000 items listed when we looked, and there is a search facility. 'Warp-it' claims to have diverted over 70,000 tonnes of waste already, with lots of positive feedback from clients on the website.

People can register at www.warp-it.co.uk. 'Warp-it' is free to all charities, not for profit groups, social enterprises, community groups and groups which are not commercial but have a social service.

Prices vary for small to very large businesses.

www.warp-it.co.uk

New waste electrical item reuse and recycling in Plymouth area

WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) is the fastest growing waste stream in Europe, with the UK responsible for producing around 1 million tons of WEEE each year – most of which ends up in landfill.

However, the range of businesses and organisations collecting and recycling WEEE in Devon is growing.

'**Surplus WEEE CIC**' is a recently set up not for profit organisation specialising in the reuse and recycling of redundant electrical equipment. As a Social Enterprise, Surplus WEEE CIC is dedicated to supporting good causes and providing funds for schools, donating free computers to charities and those in need.

Surplus WEEE CIC provides a completely free of charge collection service on all non-hazardous WEEE to businesses and others. After refurbishment, some items are sold and a percentage of sales goes to a school within Surplus WEEE's network. Other refurbished items are donated to local charities, or underprivileged people.

The collection process is straight forward, please contact SW on:

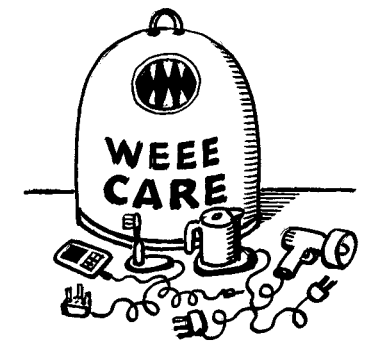
Phone 01752 781295 or 07543337340

Email: info@surplus-weee.co.uk, website: www.surplus-weee.co.uk

Address: Unit 3, Porsham Close, Plymouth, PL6 7DB.

Refurnish Devon continue to offer free collection of white goods for refurbishment and resale in their shops across South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay, West Devon, and Plymouth. Contact 01752 897311

Absolute Recycling, also based in Plymouth, claim to be the largest waste electrical WEEE Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF) in the South West. They will collect waste electrical items from businesses and households, and re-use or recycle 100% of the equipment received. Their collection teams operate a household electrical recycling service in Plymouth.



Absolute Recycling, 9, Burrington Way, Plymouth, PL5 3LR

Phone: 01752 775961 or 07760 785145

www.absoluterecycling.co.uk

Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 (SCAP)



The recent Rana Plaza factory building collapse in Bangladesh killed over 1100 textile workers and caught media attention, forcing many popular UK high street retailers such as Primark to promise to clean up their supply chains and ensure their clothing is produced in safer and fairer conditions.

Shoppers are generally not aware of the environmental impacts or un-safe conditions in which their clothes are made. Greenpeace have been running a 'De-toxify textiles' campaign which highlighted the dangerous levels of toxic chemical pollution in waterways in

China directly related to textile garment production areas.

Both these illustrate the shocking hidden costs of the high street disposable mass clothing business, where low quality, cheap clothes are bought by the majority of the public, much is then discarded after little use, with at least 75% of UK used clothing and textiles ending up as waste in landfills. A small portion is reused through charity shops, community projects and specialist small businesses, however, most clothing collected for recycling is sold overseas to developing countries, where it has a big impact on local markets and damages

local indigenous textile production.

Now, UK textile businesses are to commit to reusing and recycling more clothing as part of a voluntary initiative set to be launched by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

The initiative, called the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan 2020 (SCAP), will see more than 20 organisations within the textile sector, including leading retailers, reduce the environmental impact of clothing throughout its lifecycle. This follows on from the Sustainable Clothing Roadmap which has been bumping along rather slowly since 2009.



About 75% of UK textiles end up as waste in landfill.

The Action Plan will be achieved through collective targets for reducing carbon, waste and water footprints of clothing by 2020, against a 2013 baseline.

Focus will be on seven action areas which include extending the useful life of clothing and developing schemes to keep the material out of landfill. There are four working groups within the SCAP Plan which focus on different areas - design, reuse and recycling, influencing consumer behaviour and metrics. The new commitment is for the whole textiles industry, including recyclers, retailers, charities and suppliers.

Action areas:

- Increase re-use and recycling to recover maximum value from used clothing;
- Develop actions that help keep clothes out of landfill.
- Develop effective messaging to influence key consumer behaviours
- Use a common assessment tool to measure our baseline position and track changes over time;
- Reduce the environmental footprint of clothing through fibre and fabric selection and supply chain processes.
- Extend the useful life of clothes and reduce the environmental impact of clothing in use through product design and services;

Sofa so good

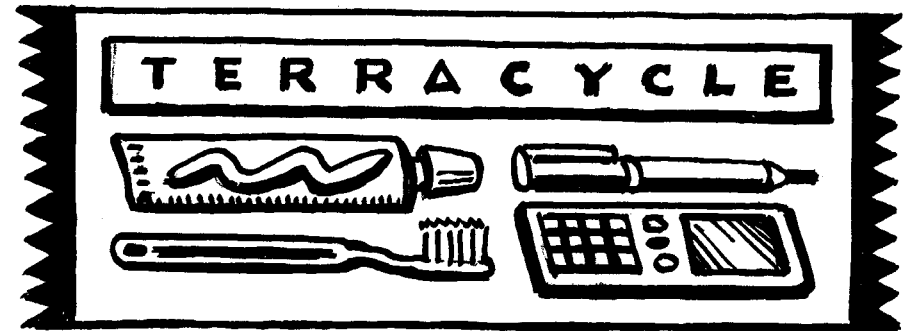
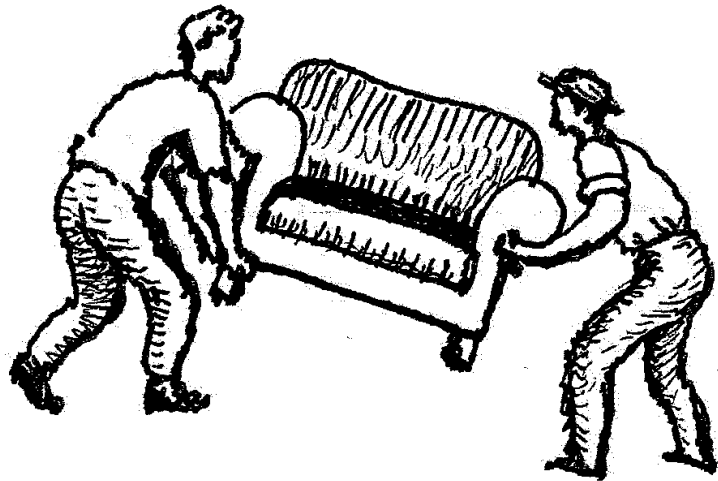
Retailer John Lewis has launched a nationwide sofa reuse scheme following a successful trial in the North West of England. John Lewis will collect 'end of first life' sofas at the same time as delivering new sofas to customers' homes. Sofas will then be reused or recycled in conjunction with local charities to support disadvantaged communities. Customers will pay a fee of £27.97 to participate in the scheme, which covers the basic running costs incurred by the retailer while the remainder is donated to the reuse charity to help support its activities.

It is anticipated that the scheme will result in 65% of returned sofas being reused, 20% repaired or refurbished

and then reused and 15% broken down into component parts and recycled.

John Lewis worked with the Furniture Re-use Network (FRN) to launch the scheme, which is the retailer's first not for profit service. Four million children in the UK live in households that cannot afford to replace worn out or broken furniture, while 10 million items of furniture are thrown away every year in the UK, of which 3 million could be re-used.

Devon furniture reuse groups will collect sofas and all household furniture suitable for reuse free of charge from people's homes throughout most of Devon, items are available to the public through a network of shops. Full contact details of projects are on the DCRN website www.dcrn.org.uk



Terracycle - hard to recycle update

As reported in earlier newsletters, 'Terracycle' runs schemes in partnership with manufacturers to recycle hard to recycle packaging from products, including pens, toothbrushes, yoghurt pots, baby food pouches, coffee pouches, biscuit wrappers and other items. You can see the full range of items that can be sent in freepost, and how to join the scheme at www.terracycle.co.uk.

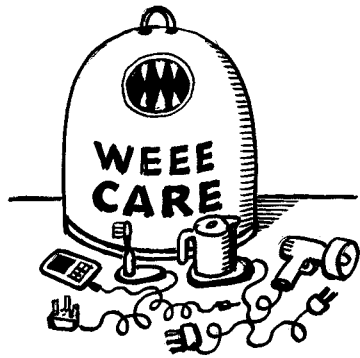
Now the baby food pouch recycling scheme has diverted more than 500,000 items of packaging from landfill, collected 4,500kg of pouch material since it was established in March 2010, which has raised £13,425 for schools, charities and non-profit organisations.

Consumers, nurseries, and child centres are encouraged to collect their used

baby pouches in a box or envelope, which is then sent to 'Ella's Kitchen' via freepost. For every pouch received, two pence can be contributed to the school or charity of the collector's choice. Waste material received at Ella's Kitchen is used to make recycled plastic products including garden benches, watering cans or waste bins.

Plastic Surgeon

Devon-based business Plastic Surgeon Ltd have won a **Gold Zero Waste Award for their commitment and innovation in reducing waste and recycling**, with its innovative solution for repairing damaged surfaces—including those made of glass, plastic, wood, brick and enamel—without replacing them. Since 2005, the company has saved over 19,000 tonnes of waste from going to landfill by carrying out 750,000 repairs in new builds and existing buildings.



WEEE collection recycles 19 tonnes in Cherwell

Cherwell District Council in Oxfordshire has recycled more than 19 tonnes of small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in around 3 months, since it began kerbside collections of the waste stream from residents in March this year.

The council is offering householders small pink plastic carrier bags large enough to hold items such as hairdryers, mobile phones and mp3 players, which can be left out alongside recycling collections at the kerbside. The collections are in addition to the council's dedicated WEEE collection facilities at Recycling Centres.

DCRN DCCN Facebook page

Do join the DCRN DCCN joint Facebook page which is regularly updated with novel and unusual news, ideas, photos, clips and links about reuse, recycling and composting, which you're unlikely to find anywhere else, and its fun! Search facebook for DCRN DCCN.

The coffee powered car

Well I've seen lampshades made from used coffee filter paper, but I was interested to hear that a car can now run on coffee, and has set a land speed record of 66 mph for a coffee powered car. The car has a gasifier built into it, which generates gas from coffee beans and can run in a similar way to lpg. Its been making a nationwide tour of Co-op stores, so look out for it coming to Devon. See www.coffeecar.org

Search google for best reuse ideas

If you type in 'best reuse ideas' images into google you will get lots of photos of some fantastic reuse ideas for making all kinds of useful things from old stuff.



Disposable paper cup recycling 'first' in UK

Deemed unsuitable for papermaking in the past, some 2.5 billion single use paper cups are disposed in landfill sites each year. Now, specialist paper firm James Cropper has unveiled a 'world first' process to recycle disposable coffee cups at the opening of its £5 million Reclaimed Fibre Plant in the Lake District.

The technology separates out plastic incorporated in cups at the facility in Kendal, Cumbria, leaving paper pulp that can be used in the highest quality papers. Cup waste is softened in a warmed solution, separating the plastic coating from the fibre. The plastic is then skimmed off, pulverised and recycled, leaving water and pulp.

A spokesman for the firm said: "Cup waste is a rich source of high grade pulp fibre, but until now the plastic content made this product a contaminant in paper recycling. Our technology changes that and also addresses a major environmental waste problem."

Plastic packaging recycling

Plastic packaging recycling in the UK may need to double from the level recorded in 2011-12 if the UK is to meet its 2017 packaging recycling target, according to a survey by plastics recycling body Recoup. Waste plastic now forms the largest portion of residual waste in many areas of the UK.

Plastic recycling collections have dramatically improved in the last few years, with the collection rate for plastic bottles having broken the 50% barrier for the first time in 2011-12, and the recycling rate for pots, tubs and trays reaching 20%.

However, Recoup estimates that plastic packaging recycling collections from households will need to double from 426,000 tonnes to 828,000 tonnes if the government target to recycle 57% of plastic packaging by 2017 is to be met. This means Local Authorities will have to improve plastic recycling facilities and collections.

You can recycle plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays at Recycling Centres and various types of plastic bag can be recycled at supermarkets. The mid Devon community group Uffculme Compost Magic have collection facilities for plastic bottles, tubs, trays, pots, bags and polystyrene at their site for members use. **See back page for full plastics recycling guide.**

YOUR PLASTICS RECYCLING GUIDE

PLASTICS ACCEPTED AT DCC RECYCLING CENTRES

RIGID MIXED PLASTICS - PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEAN

All plastic drink bottles (squash and put lid back on)

Plastic milk bottles (squash and put lid back on)

All plastic household cleaning bottles

Pre formed biscuit or chocolate box trays

Plastic sandwich containers

Yogurt pots, margarine tubs, Ready meal containers etc

Plastic fruit containers (unless made from expanded polystyrene)

CD's & cases

Plastic flower pots (must be clean)

Containers for hand and other skin creams (must be clean)

Shampoo bottles (must be rinsed clean)

Plastic bags are acceptable if several are bagged into one bag (except Deepmoor and Macklins Quarry)

Not acceptable: cling film type material, contaminated plastic, any other type of plastic

BULKY PLASTIC ITEMS NOW ACCEPTED AT RECYCLING CENTRES, such as

Plastic garden furniture eg tables and chairs

General plastic housewares such as buckets, boxes and bins, flower pots, and plastic children's toys (except Deep Moor and Macklins Quarry)

Plastic mushroom basket trays and vegetable trays (commonly in circulation)

Not acceptable: PVCU windows, guttering and pipes.

SOFT PLASTIC WRAP, FILM, BAGS etc SUITABLE FOR SUPERMARKET SHOP FRONT PLASTIC RECYCLING BINS

Plastic bags

Cereal packet plastic inners,

Frozen vegetable bags

MID DEVON, UFFCULME COMPOST MAGIC, UFFCULME AREA (requires membership of UCM to use facilities, which is free. Contact email: compostmagic@hotmail.co.uk)

All household plastics including plastic bags, packets, liners, plastic wrap cellophane and cling film, tubs, trays, pots, etc, cd's and cases, flower pots, polystyrene, rigid plastic items. Plastic must be clean and not contaminated with food please.