

Killhope Green Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

It's lovely to have the museum open again for the 2008 season and we have lots of new and exciting Green stuff happening.

You can now recycle and learn about recycling in our dedicated Green Room.

Even more exciting is our unique carbon offset scheme where your donations go to help Peatland restoration in the area—for more information look on pages 6 and 7.

Thanks Helen

What to do in your garden: April—May

☼ Sow dwarf and climbing beans in deep pots or cardboard toilet roll tubes

☼ Leave daffodil foliage intact for six weeks after flowering

☼ Prune forsythia and flowering currants

☼ Continue planting potatoes, shallots and onion sets

In this Issue

Page

Rubbish	2-3
Craft Corner	4
Buy Organic Milk	5
Household Hints	5
A Step in the right Direction	5
Clean and Green	5
Carbon Offset	6-7
Seasonal Recipe	8

RUBBISH!

Waste production is a reflection of modern consumption and lifestyles. Economically developed countries are producing more and more waste (900 kg a year per inhabitant in the United States), whereas developing countries produce very little (less than 17 kg a year per inhabitant in the Ivory Coast). We produce over 26 million tonnes of household rubbish in the UK and Northern Ireland every year.

The nature of waste is also changing. The materials are synthetic and increasingly complex, resulting in pollution and health problems. Selective waste collection has been introduced in many developed countries. In developing countries, the recovery and re-use of waste materials has long been, and still is, a common activity.

The large quantity of household waste is mainly due to the increase in the amount of packaging over the last 40 years. Other waste such as highly dangerous radioactive waste, which has a long lifespan (several thousand years) or industrial waste, can pose serious health and pollution problems. By thinking about the types of products we buy, how we use them and where we dispose of them, we can dramatically reduce the amount of rubbish our homes produce.

Problems and challenges

Waste, if not properly managed, can cause a change in the environment and its ecosystems.

Globally, only 20% of household waste is treated (incinerated or recycled).

Of all the possible solutions, reduction at source is the quickest and most efficient. However, it requires an effort to be made by governments, industry and consumers, and is not easy to put into practice as it means that everyone must change their habits.

RUBBISH AT KILLHOPE

What is Killhope doing to reduce its waste?

Killhope has introduced some new waste management schemes for 2008.

We have a dedicated green room where you can recycle your lunchtime waste and learn more about recycling. You can even find out how the Victorians would have recycled.

You can now recycle paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminium cans at Killhope. We also have a compost heap for all our vegetable waste.

We have created a 'Lunchbox Challenge' for our school visits.

This encourages children to think about the waste they might produce from their lunch. Teachers then help them to recycle what they can in the Green Room. Any waste left over is weighed. The school with the least waste per pupil at the end of each term wins a selection of recycled goodies from the Killhope shop.

Cash for cans

Recycling aluminium cans is far better in terms of resource and energy consumption than creating new cans. Why not set up a recycling scheme at your office or local school - you can even raise money from collecting them! Find out how at <http://www.thinkcans.com/>

CRAFT CORNER

Recycled Gift Bags

Supplies:

Old gift bag

Handmade paper(s)

Glue or Adhesive

Pencil and scissors

Instructions:

1. Carefully open the old gift bag and unglue the bottom flaps. Don't worry about a little tearing.
2. Place the opened bag on the paper and draw the outlines keeping the length slightly longer than the original bag.
3. Cut the paper to cover the bag all the way around, with some extra paper to fold over the top.
4. Apply a layer of glue to original bag - especially at the folds.
5. Nicely place the cut handmade paper on it and align the bottom edge with the bottom of the bag. Attach to one side of the bag, making sure that the paper sticks on smoothly.
6. Cut a slit at each corner of extra paper fold at the top of the bag for an easier fold. Fold the excess paper down into the paper bag, making sure it is smooth.
7. Glue the bottom flaps.

Tip: If you have a card (thicker) paper, you don't need to use the underlying bag. (You can still use the old gift bag to trace the folds. When the bag is ready, use a drawstring or ribbons to make the handles.

Buy organic milk

A litre of milk takes over three times as much energy to produce than a litre of organic milk. Much of this extra energy is used in the production of fertiliser. So next time you're at the shops, opt for organic.

Household Hints

Clean windows cheaply

Mix vinegar and water together and apply to windows with a piece of scrunched-up newspaper. Once dry, any smell from the vinegar will disappear.

Scourers

Make your own scourers with nylon mesh bags (the kind that oranges etc come in) stuffed inside each other and tied up.

A step in the right direction

Walk It is a walking route planner that helps you get around town on foot. Generate a customised map, get written directions, find out how long it will take - and how many calories it will burn! Although the site is limited to just a few English cities at the moment, there are plans to expand - visit <http://www.walkit.com>

Clean and Green

Get rid of the dust on your houseplants and give them a refreshing drink by popping them in the garden during a light rain. For plants with thick leaves, try a discarded teabag or the inside of a banana skin to wipe the dust off and give them a shine.

CARBON OFFSET AT KILLHOPE

The Killhope carbon offset scheme is running in partnership with the North Pennines AONB Peatscapes Project.

Why peat?

The North Pennines AONB contains about 27% of England's peat-forming blanket bog. Peat is a hugely important habitat for many types of wildlife and is also an asset to the local economy.

Peat is also very important as a carbon store. It is estimated that there is as much carbon stored in the peatland of the UK as there is contained in all the forests of the UK and France combined.

Over the last few decades peatlands have been drained to try and make them more useful for farming. When peat dries out it starts to release its store of carbon into the atmosphere and surrounding rivers.

Healthy peatlands act as a huge sponge. This allows them to store heavy rainfall and then slowly release it into streams and rivers. When peat is drained it stops doing this and can contribute to flooding.

What is my donation paying for?

Your donation will help the Peatscapes Project of the North Pennines AONB Partnership. The Peatscapes Project concentrates on the restoration of our local peatlands through conservation work, supporting scientific research, promoting best practice for peatland management and celebrating the importance of peat.

One of the pieces of work that the Peatscapes Project is undertaking is the blocking of drainage grips across the North Pennines. It costs £1 to block 1 metre of grip. By blocking these drainage grips it allows the peat to re-wet and to revert to a healthy state.

How does this affect climate change?

As peat forms it locks in carbon contained in the plant matter that makes up peat and prevents it from being released into the atmosphere. Because of this peatlands are described as a 'sink' for atmospheric carbon rather than a source. When peat dries out it is no longer able to effectively store this carbon and starts to release it back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a 'greenhouse gas' and too much of these gases in the atmosphere causes the earth to start to warm up.

WHAT DO WE GET?

As well as that 'feel good' feeling of helping to reduce your carbon footprint you receive an information pack that gives you more information on the Carbon Offset scheme and on the Peatscapes Project.

If you would like even more information then you can:

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/killhope

Visit www.northpennines.org.uk

Or give us a ring on 01388 537505

Fridges

Help your fridge waste less energy - and save you money - by trying these tips. Dust down the coils at the back of the fridge - dusty coils can waste up to 30% extra electricity. Defrost your fridge regularly. Let food cool down properly before putting it in the fridge

Seasonal Food—Rhubarb Crumble

Ingredients

2lb rhubarb

4oz golden caster sugar

1 rounded teaspoon grated fresh root ginger

For the crumble:

4oz whole almonds

3oz chilled diced butter

6oz self raising flour

2 level teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 level teaspoon ground ginger

4oz demerara sugar

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400°F (200°C).

Cut the rhubarb into 1 inch chunks. Next, toss them in a bowl with the sugar and freshly grated root ginger, then place them in the baking dish and keep on one side.

In a large bowl, rub the butter into the sifted flour until it resembles crumbs, then stir in the almonds, which should be fairly finely chopped by hand, cinnamon, ginger and sugar.

Then sprinkle the crumble mixture all over the rhubarb, spreading it right up to the edges of the dish, and, using the flat of your hands, press it down quite firmly all over; the more tightly it is packed together the crisper it will be. Then finish off by lightly running a fork all over the surface.

Now bake the crumble on the centre shelf of the oven for 35-40 minutes, by which time the rhubarb will be soft and the topping golden brown and crisp. Leave it to rest for 10-15 minutes before serving, then serve it warm with custard, pouring cream or ice cream.