



working locally to make a difference

## From the editor

Welcome to the relaunched Sustainable Wallingford newsletter. We aim to produce a newsletter three times a year to keep members and supporters in touch with what's going on.

Since the last newsletter, the various groups have been busy. Activities have included:

- Nappuccino - coffee morning with real nappies
- SwapShops and collection days
- A Wild Waste Show
- Assemblies and recycling activities at four local primary schools
- Stalls at Wallingford's Victorian Evening, the Cholsey & Wallingford Railway, and BBOWT's Sutton Courtenay Nature Reserve
- Production of a 'Buy local' directory

and one or two awards!

There's more planned. Don't forget that in between newsletters you can keep up to date via our website at [www.sustainablewallingford.org](http://www.sustainablewallingford.org). We will post details of meetings and other events so please do check for updates.

We'd welcome feedback on the newsletter. Most of you will have received this by email, so please let us know what is your preferred format (eg Word document, pdf). Do you print this out, or read it on screen? We want to produce it in the most 'sustainable' way!

If you have any items for inclusion in the next newsletter, please contact Penny Kiley. Thanks!

## Coming soon!

**SwapShop and Collection Morning  
Saturday 9th July, Regal Centre,  
10am-12 noon**

July is Recycle Month in South Oxfordshire (further details on [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)). Sustainable Wallingford will be holding another of our SwapShops on 9th July as part of Recycle Month.



The SwapShops are regular items on the Sustainable Wallingford calendar and since last year we have been combining them as a 'double bill' with collection of hard-to-recycle items. These include ink cartridges, mobile phones, light bulbs, aluminium foil, spectacles, computers, batteries, old tools, paint and CDs.

For the July SwapShop we will also be adding tetrapaks to the list - this means people have another outlet for a new material.

The events are getting more and more popular - February's SwapShop had over 200 visitors. Among the items we collected for reuse/recycling: 30 pairs spectacles; 10 kg aluminium foil; 50 CDs; 14 pots of paint; 150 light bulbs; 100 printer cartridges; and hundreds of batteries.

That's a lot of stuff saved from landfill. Join us on 9th July and save even more!

## Buy local

In May 2004, the Local Sourcing group began thinking about producing a directory of sustainable living for local residents. This eventually turned into a directory of where to buy locally produced goods and foods - and a year later it was on the streets. We printed 10,000 directories, with financial help from South Oxfordshire District Council.



On 30th April this year, we launched the directory at the Saturday Farmers' Market in Wallingford. A week later, copies were distributed to each household in Wallingford by 18 volunteers (thank you to everyone who helped). The directory was also distributed to households in the villages around Wallingford with local magazines.

Local shops will be kept stocked with directories as long as supplies last: Down To Earth (Wallingford), the tourist information office (Wallingford), RG Parks Family Butchers (Cholsey), Cottage Kitchen (Benson), the Post Office shop in Dorchester-on-Thames, the village shop in Warborough, and the delicatessen in Watlington. Directories will also be available at Sustainable Wallingford events in 2005. And you can also download the guide from the Sustainable Wallingford website.

Our main objective was to increase the number of purchases that consumers make from local producers and outlets. We also wanted to raise awareness among consumers about locally produced goods and foods, and the benefits of buying locally, and to encourage local producers. We've had some great feedback so far, and we know that some suppliers have had new customers as a result of the directory. If you have any feedback please let us know.

We are now planning the second edition!

## Nappy awards

Sustainable Wallingford's nappy trials scheme has been scooping up awards. In November, Sally Eccleston and Sarah Webb won the National Real Nappy Awards (small scheme category) at the annual Women's Environment Network conference. The prize was £2000 to spend on further nappy work, and they spent the money on providing washable nappies for use in Wallingford Maternity Ward.

And in June this year, the team discovered they had won first prize in the Cleaner County Campaign competition run by the Oxford Mail and Oxfordshire County Council for their latest idea. The £1000 prize money will go to providing antenatal clinics, midwives etc with a nappy display board that they can use to show expectant parents the nappy choices available. Didcot Midwives have already requested a portable nappy display board.

Sustainable Wallingford nappy campaigner Sally Eccleston says: 'Research by the University of Surrey has shown that most pregnant women make their nappy buying decision at between 20 and 22 weeks pregnant. I am hoping to get a big display board up in the John Radcliffe (and possibly the Royal Berks Hospital) as every expectant mum goes there for a 20-week ultrasound scan.'

- If you would like to borrow the free 'Washable Nappy Trial' pack for a week, please call Sally on 01491 834780.

## What the papers say

by Rachel Viney

Sustainable Wallingford's profile is helped immensely by the excellent coverage we get in the local media, both in the immediate Wallingford area and further afield. Being able to publicise our events in local magazines such as the Wallingford Magazine and its equivalents in Crowmarsh, Benson and Dorchester has been invaluable in ensuring that information about our events reaches the people most likely to attend.

We've also enjoyed staunch support from the Wallingford Herald and its sister papers, the Oxford Mail and the Oxford Times. Local reporter Ian Townsend has ensured that regular events like the SwapShop and Collection Day are trailed in advance and reported in the paper. It's not just the Wallingford paper where news of Sustainable Wallingford can be found. 'Bags of interest' was the headline for a story about the cloth bags distributed by Sustainable Wallingford through local retailers, which made it into the Oxford Times 'Cleanest County Campaign' columns. The Oxford Times food writer, Helen Peacocke, is a local food enthusiast. Her interest in Sustainable Wallingford's Buy Local directory led to a full-page feature in the Oxford Times.

Nappies may seem an unlikely subject of media interest, but Sustainable Wallingford's washable nappies scheme has caught the media's eye in a big way. BBC Radio Oxford, clearly intrigued by the name Nappuccino, interviewed organiser Sally Eccleston on its Breakfast Show. As well as explaining that a Nappuccino is a coffee morning at which parents can find out more about cloth nappies, Sally was able to point to the serious issue of the amount of nappy waste going into the county's landfill site. The real nappy campaign gathered further momentum with the Women's Environmental Network award to Sustainable Wallingford (see news item below). The subsequent purchase of washable nappies for mothers in the Wallingford Maternity Ward to try has led to further coverage in the Oxford Mail and Times and to a news item on BBC South Today.

## Good news

South Oxfordshire District Council are launching a new **Garden Waste Service for Composting** (a new kerbside collection scheme). Collections will start from 4th July. Call Public Amenities for more information 01491 823416 or look at the website [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

The Chilterns Conservation Board has introduced **The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)**, which is a new grant scheme to support projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A downloadable application form will be available on their web site shortly. Details: [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org); tel: 01844 355500.

**One hour free parking** has been introduced in the Goldsmiths Lane car park (behind the old Waitrose). In due course long stay parking will be available at Goldsmiths Lane, once new signs can be made up and put in place and the machines can be reprogrammed. This is good news for traders and members of the public concerned about the effect of the new Waitrose on the town who have campaigned for this.

From June, the SODC staff restaurant will be serving **locally produced food** as part of the daily menu for a six-month trial period. This is to show support for local producers, ensure fresh produce and reduce the amount of miles food travels, cutting down on packaging and pollution.

Just Trading of Wallingford is the name chosen for a **new Fair Trade shop** planned for the town. The core group include members of Sustainable Wallingford and other Fair Trade campaigners. They have started the process of setting up a worker's co-operative, and are looking for more members. They need a shop manager, volunteers and people interested in investing in the business. Contact details: Amanda Griffin on 01491 838523 or 01865 337041 (work) or email [acgriff9@fish.co.uk](mailto:acgriff9@fish.co.uk), Jackie Morgan on 01491 837494, or Jan Farrington on 01491 837131.

## **Bunkfest**

Wallingford Bunkfest, the annual weekend of 'music, dance, steam and beer' takes place on 2nd-4th September this year. Sustainable Wallingford will be there on the Saturday so come and meet us. We also hope to be involved with various activities at the event. We need volunteers to help with the preparation prior to the day or help man the stall on 3rd September for a two-hour slot. Contact Sarah Webb on 01491 838618.

## **Help wanted**

### **Your chance to get involved**

#### **SwapShop help**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the SwapShop on Saturday 9th July. There is work to be done between about 9 am and sometime in the early afternoon, but even if you can only help for a short while that would still be useful. Clearing up and taking stuff away is the most labour-intensive part. Contact Mark Palmer on 01491 839 230.

#### **A man (or woman) with a van**

We are looking for someone with a van to transport items after the SwapShop/Collection Morning on Saturday 9th July. We would need you around 12 noon. Please contact Mark Palmer on 01491 839 230 if you can help.

#### **Storage space in central Wallingford**

Can you help? Sustainable Wallingford needs somewhere in central Wallingford to store its display stands, banners and the other materials we use for our events. If you have a garage or a shed you could make available, please phone John Griffin on 01491 838523 or send an email to johngriff9@fish.co.uk

#### **Wanted: Poster distributors**

We are looking for people who would be willing to put posters for Sustainable Wallingford events up in shops/notice boards in Cholsey, Benson, Shillingford and Brightwell. If you live in one of these places and would be willing to distribute

posters via your local shops from time to time, then please contact Mark Rickinson (m.rickinson@dsl.pipx.com; 01491 839586).

## **Who's who**

Sustainable Wallingford is a group of volunteers who share a passion for making a difference locally. Membership of Sustainable Wallingford is free. You can commit as much or as little time as you are able to. You can help us to promote sustainability in Wallingford by receiving our newsletter, helping us organise events or working with a specific action group on initiatives that motivate you.

#### **Contacts:**

**Waste:** Mark Palmer 01491 839 230

**Local Sourcing:** Dorothy Cussens  
01865 891 197

**Schools:** Louise Robinson 01491 835  
420

**Transport:** John Griffin 01491 838523

**Communications group/Media**

**contact:** Rachel Viney, 07980 803969

## **Dates for your diary**

### **JULY - Recycle Month**

Saturday 9th - SW SwapShop and  
Collection Day (Regal Centre, 10am–12)

Monday 25th - SW Bunkfest co-  
ordination meeting, 8pm. Contact Sarah  
Webb, tel 01491 838618

### **AUGUST**

Monday 8th - SW Waste Group meeting

### **SEPTEMBER**

Saturday 3rd - SW stall at Bunkfest:  
information and recycling activities  
(Kinecroft)

Monday 19th - SW Network meeting

### **OCTOBER**

Saturday 15th - SW SwapShop and  
Collection day (to be confirmed)