



working locally to make a difference

Newsletter Summer 2008

Our New Constitution

We are pleased to say that we've taken another step forward by agreeing our Constitution. You can read it on our web site via 'About Us' in the left hand menu.

This led to the formation of a management group, whose members are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Plastic Bag Free Wallingford

We are privileged to have been invited to join the Town Council working party, which aims to make Wallingford a plastic bag free town. Shop traders in the centre of the town have been approached regarding their views on the idea, and most are very supportive.

Our input has been to advise and source a suitable bag which will be launched in July. This will be printed using water based inks, depicting artwork chosen from a wonderful selection provided by Wallingford School students. The slogan was chosen from many thought up by St. John's School Year 6 pupils, when they chose to concentrate on the bag issue for one of their curricular activities. Their work is displayed in the old Waitrose shop window – do have a look.

It is very encouraging to see more and more people around the town reusing bags and not picking up yet another carrier bag.

Fir Tree School Vegetable Garden

The school governors at Fir Tree school have agreed to create a permanent part-time position for gardener at the school, so Sustainable Wallingford will not have to scabble around for money to support the project as much as it used to. Now we can concentrate on trying to spread the news to other schools, put in a rainwater catchment system, and focus on the new expanded area.

Also, we had over £1100 donated as a result of the town's very generous response to the appeal letter which appeared in the May issue of *Window for Wallingford*.

Children are continuing to come out in number during their breaks to help in the garden, and twelve children have a more formal work session each Friday afternoon for an hour. We now have a stock of perfect-sized spades and forks, which are not toys, but sturdy, well-made tools.

In other news, we had a great garden work party on May 3rd, right at the peak of the planting season. About 25 kids, parents, grandparents and friends of the project from age 4 to 70+ pitched in for the morning, and then had a shared lunch, including the garden's own soup. We are making good use of these work days now and can accomplish lots in a short time with so much help.



The new area has been ploughed and rotivated and is awaiting planting; potatoes, squash, pumpkins and maize have been planted. It will be a little bit under-utilised this season, as it became available at a really busy time of the year, but we hope to have it to full capacity by 2009.

We are not alone



Close to Seattle, there is not only a town called Wallingford, but within that town a group of residents who have set up a group with the name "Sustainable Wallingford"!

They are part of a consortium of towns, which rapidly grew from a core of 3 towns to over 60 towns, all addressing sustainability. We are in contact with them, alive to the

possibility of doing something together somehow, sometime. Our web site home page gives a link to them.

Tetra Paks

As you may have read in the local press at the time, or even seen on TV, Wallingford's mountain of drink cartons was finally sent for recycling on 1st March. We started collecting these cartons – of which the best-known type is the Tetra Pak – at our Swap Shops back in 2005. With no local recycling facilities then available, the cartons were brought to Swap Shops in their hundreds by local residents, and we squashed and packed them ready for eventual recycling. While we researched the best way of doing this, the steadily growing quantity of cartons was stored at the home of our member, Christine Sharrock.

Getting them recycled proved trickier than expected. Although drinks cartons like Tetra Paks are recyclable, the materials in them are hard to separate. As well as paperboard, the cartons contain aluminium and plastic and these different elements have to be separated out in the recycling process. One possible option was to send them to be turned into low-grade paper, but we preferred to get them recycled properly.

Eventually we gathered so many, that Tetra Pak agreed to send a large lorry to collect them, and it was this that you may have seen outside Christine's house or in the Market Place on March 1st. As there is a lack of processing facilities in the UK, the Wallingford Tetra Paks were baled up and shipped to Sweden to be processed in a paper mill and turned into plasterboard lining.

Local recycling facilities have improved since we first started collecting Tetra Paks. A few months ago, Oxfordshire County Council introduced recycling containers at its Waste Recycling Centres such as Oakley Wood; more recently, South Oxfordshire District Council have introduced a Tetrapak juice carton bank even nearer to Wallingford, in the car park of the SODC offices in Crowmarsh Gifford.

See our website for pictures of the Tetra Pak mountain being collected.

Swap Shop and Collection Day

We will be holding our next Swap Shop and Collection Day on Saturday, 28 June between 10 a.m. and 12 noon at the Regal

Centre in Wallingford. It's a great opportunity to pass on some of your unwanted items to a good home.

Just about anything clean and safe that someone else could genuinely reuse is welcome at the Swap Shop, though we no longer take clothes and we cannot accept electrical goods. Large items such as furniture can be advertised on the message board with a photo or description of the item plus a contact name and telephone number. It is best if items for swapping can be brought in before 11.30, to give people more opportunity to take them away.

Sustainable Wallingford will also be collecting (throughout the event) old ink cartridges, aluminium foil, light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, Tetra Paks (washed and squashed, please!), computers, batteries, spectacles and mobile phones. These will be re-used, recycled or if necessary safely disposed of.

This time we hope to have a workshop for people to learn how to make art out of what would otherwise be waste materials.

Note that Christian Aid envelopes for the recycling of ink cartridges in between Swap Shops can be obtained from Just Trading.

More information about Swap Shops and recycling can be found by following the Swap Shop link on our website.

Feedback on your Comments on Waste

At our open meeting in November 2007 some waste issues were raised. This is an update of what we have been able to follow through so far :-

More recycling of what Charity shops can't sell - We are in contact with Choice Textile Ltd (www.choicetextiles.com), who collect all such items from all the charity shops in the town. If you have further ideas please let us know. Don't forget all the charity shops in the town have rag bags for clothes that are truly worn out or spoilt.

Polystyrene: can we recycle it? – Not yet but this is being worked on so we will keep you posted. However why not find a company in the town who uses the chips for packing and arrange to give them what you have collected, saving on energy to produce yet more, and recycling?

Battery collection - This takes place at our

quarterly swap shops and in the meantime they can be put in the collection box in Just Trading in the High Street.

Educate people to reduce/reuse/ recycle -

This is exactly what some of us in Sustainable Wallingford are concentrating our efforts on, so whoever raised this item, please let us know your ideas and come and help us put them into practice.

Rag and Bone man – Whoever raised this one, if you could elaborate on what you were thinking, we would love to hear from you.

Could the people who raised interest at that meeting in car sharing and car clubs please contact Caron Spence on 01491 825034?

Buy Local

The group now has nine members (but would be pleased to welcome more!) and are represented by Jean Semlyen. We support both the Saturday Local Producers' Market and Fir Tree school garden and some members are actively involved with these projects.

The things we want to do this year are:

- produce a new version of the Buy Local Directory to be ready for launch in Spring 2009, and
- work with other local people to set up a community orchard in the Wallingford/Crowmarsh area.

We are seeking national funding for both of these and also would be pleased to hear of any possible sites for the orchard.

A New Group and a Survey

Sustainable Wallingford has established a new Action Group, the Communities Group. The purpose of this group is to reach out, through different community groups, into the wider community of Wallingford and its surrounding villages, to raise more awareness about sustainable issues and stimulate greater community action, in response to the twin drivers of climate change and diminishing energy resources.

We would like to work with these community groups to explore what they might do to support individual and community activity which underpins more sustainable living. We also want to capture what actions are already taking place and help people to build on

them together.

As a first activity, the group is going to explore the possibilities of doing a survey about local people's attitudes to climate change. We believe that this is a piece of work which will give us positive links into the wider community and provide us with a baseline of information for future activity. Before we launch the survey we will be doing some publicity releases about it so that people know it is coming. This is the first one!

If you would like to help us, either to distribute or collect the surveys – maybe to your own community group, or the people in your street - then please let us know. We will also be holding survey sessions in the Market Place and a variety of other activities to get people to participate.

If you would like to become a member of the Communities Group or support its activities please contact Jacinta Thorley 01491 837253.

Biodiversity

To keep track of what's happening around Wallingford, you can now read the diary of our Neighbourhood Wildlife Warden on our website, under 'Biodiversity'. This is provided by Lorretta Waters from the Northmoor Trust, who plans to update the entry in line with the changing seasons as well as publishing local events with a biodiversity flavour.

If you would like more information about the sites and events or are interested in getting more involved with one of the volunteer groups, please contact Lorretta on 01865 409410 or 07982 218493.

Wallingford Local Producers' Market

This takes place every Saturday at the Masonic Hall from 10 am to 1 pm. The Chair of this new market, Mark Gray, writes:

"This must be Wallingford's best kept secret" is how the Local Producers' Market was described to me by a customer the other day. She felt that not enough people knew about the market and that due to its tucked away venue we would remain for the lucky few in the know.

With that in mind I thought I should try even harder to get the word out about our fantastic range of local goods, all from within 30 miles

of the town and most within a couple of miles of the town centre. What better way to bring down your carbon footprint than to shop truly locally?

Every week we have a fruit and veg stall, meat stalls - pork, beef and sometimes lamb, cakes, bread, preserves, eggs and a general stall that sells among other things honey, flour, wine and beers. In addition we have various stalls that come on an occasional basis, including flowers, pottery and jewellery.

Throughout the winter, many market regulars - and indeed my partner and I - have told us that their diet has consisted of little more than locally grown seasonal produce from our market.

Two small, but significant, achievements are that our veg producers have grown salad leaves right through the winter in unheated polytunnels and our free range eggs now come from Vitality Farm in Wallingford - freshly laid that morning.

The market is based in the Masonic Centre at the Waitrose end of Goldsmiths Lane. It's not the easiest building to find, but we are well signposted.

If you would like a weekly e-mail update of stalls at the coming market, please e-mail your details to limasheepdog@tiscali.co.uk.

And if you have some free time on Saturday mornings, we'd welcome you as a volunteer: please contact Mark Gray 01491 651333.

Dates for your diary

EVERY SATURDAY (except 5th Sat of month)

Wallingford Local Producers' Market at the Masonic Hall from 10 am to 1 pm

WALLINGFORD FARMERS' MARKET
3rd Tuesday of each month and 5th Saturday

JUNE

Sat 28th Swap Shop, Regal Centre, 10am-12

Thank you

Many thanks to Penny Kiley, who edited our newsletter for the past three years and is now moving on.

Thank you too to Rachel Viney, who so ably led our Communications team and needs a break.

We gained a lot from their professionalism and will miss their contributions.

Try Two Local Companies

Jumblebaggers 01491 824152

www.jumblebaggers.co.uk

Our aim: To reduce the amount of textiles going into landfill by recreating other useful items from them. It's what Granny used to do! Our bags can then be reused many, many times as they are made from material rather than paper and can be passed onto someone else or reused for other purposes. We aim to give those with a conscience about the environment a real alternative to existing products.

It Must Be Green 01491 836401

www.itmustbegreen.co.uk

We sell environmentally friendly products to help towards a sustainable future. We offer more environmental alternatives to everyday products (such as torches and radios), eco gifts and gadgets, and local and recycled items.

Management Group:

Chairperson	John Griffin
Treasurer	Kevin Harrison
Secretary	Mark Palmer (acting)
Other Members	Mark Gray, Sam Settle
Membership	Chris Cussens

Representatives from each Action Group:-

Buy Local	Jean Semlyen	01491 833320
Waste	Mark Palmer	01491 839230
Transport	Amanda Griffin	01491 838523
Communities	Jacinta Thorley	01491 837253

From the editor

We aim to produce this newsletter three times a year to keep members and supporters in touch with what's going on.

Don't forget that in between newsletters you can keep up to date via our website. We will post details of meetings and other events so please do check for updates. If you would like to join a particular action group, please contact the representative via the details above.

If you have any items for inclusion in the next newsletter or wish to join the mailing list, please contact Chris Cussens on chris@mokescorner.co.uk