

Dreaming of a green Christmas

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to dream of a green Christmas to help reduce the amount of festive rubbish.

Tonnes of wrapping paper, cards and even Christmas trees will all become waste by the New Year.

But there are simple solutions available to prevent Christmas rubbish ending up in landfill such as:

- Ensure all Christmas cards are put in the red recycling bags - or send E-cards which means no paper at all!

- Go for gift bags, boxes or stick to tradition and use a Christmas stocking that can be re-used again. Each year, around 83 square kilometres of wrapping paper end up in bins across the country - but remember it can be recycled!

- And so can your real Christmas tree. Simply take it to the Household Waste Recycling Sites in January where it will be turned into compost!

To find out more festive recycling tips, log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/recycling.

Recycling waste is worth the effort!

BY his own admission, Loughborough resident John O'Connell was something of a cynic when it came to Charnwood Borough Council's recycling claims.

So he paid a visit to the Greenstar (Leicester Paper Processors) to see for himself what happens to the recycling we collect. Here is John's story in his own words. . .

BEING somewhat cynical of the Council's claims concerning recycling, I was pleased to accept an invitation from Paul Pearce-Burton, Charnwood Borough Council's Zero Waste Officer, to visit the local facility in Coalville.

Accompanied by Paul's colleague, Charity King, and with another local resident, we were driven to the site of Greenstar (Leicester Paper Processors).

The manager, Dave Marshall, and the staff made us very welcome.

Although the business is a profit centre, I have the feeling that they are all, justifiably, proud of the difference they can and are making to the piles of landfill we've been blithely dumping for years.

We were shown the process from start to finish and all questions were answered in full and openly.

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH: Bags of waste ready to be recycled at the Greenstar (Leicester Paper Processors) and, inset, some of the thousands of bottles that are collected.



Now I realise that to people with already overly busy lives, the extra effort taken to clean and sort bottles, cans, and plastic may seem to be a waste of

time but, believe me, it IS worth it.

Is it such a burden to be aware of the types of plastic we can recycle? Is it such a burden to wash or rinse bottles and cans? Please wash everything

before you put it into the correct bags.

The workers at the facility have an unpleasant enough job to do without having to handle half-full bottles of fizzy drinks and dirty, rotting, cans of food.

As there is so much cross-contamination between the bags it all has to be sorted by hand - a job most of us would baulk at!

I'd like to thank Paul, Charity, and the managers and staff at Greenstar

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- Resident John O'Connell

(Leicester Paper Processors) in Coalville.

I, for one, will be making an effort to help them, and the earth, by recycling all I can. Think! Can the item be re-used? Can it be recycled?

Local councils throughout the country have no continuity between them when it comes to recycling.

It's our responsibility to force them to work together on this but it starts at home.

Do you recycle? Or is it too much of an effort to keep our country clean and beautiful - and healthy?

Please, I urge you to think before you throw it away.

You can recycle a lot more

EVEN more products can now be recycled after Charnwood Borough Council listened to residents on how the services could be improved.

A survey of 3,000 people in the Borough revealed that almost half wanted to put a wider range of materials into the recycling sacks.

Charnwood is making excellent progress in its recycling rates - as the Council recycled 39% of waste collected in 2007-08, up 3.2% on the previous year

Being able to recycle drinks cartons, food trays, fruit punnets, margarine and ice cream tubs will help the Authority reach its goal to recycle 42% of all waste.

Clr Mike Preston, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Environment, said: "It was clear that people wanted to be able to recycle more items and we're delighted to be able to improve the recycling service."

To find out more, call (01509) 634 563, log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/recycling or email cleaner:greener@charnwood.gov.uk.

Unwanted clothes can help others

UNWANTED clothes can now be collected by Charnwood Borough Council - to be exported around the world!

The Council is working with Leicester-based Ragtex UK to recycle clothes by sending them to developing countries, mostly in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Residents should bag, wrap or

seal any unwanted garments to keep them clean and dry - and then place them on top of their recycling box.

They will then be collected by the Council and passed on to Ragtex UK, where they are sorted and shipped around the world.

Kath Kay, Charnwood Borough Council's Waste Policy Manager,

said: "We're delighted to be working with Ragtex UK to help people in developing countries.

"If anyone is clearing out their wardrobe, please think about recycling the clothes rather than simply throwing them away - they will be warmly welcomed by those people that will receive them."



BIG TIDY UP: Clr Mike Preston in the new sweeper.

Vehicle makes a clean sweep!

A NEW vehicle is making a clean sweep of Charnwood's streets.

Charnwood Borough Council has added an applied sweeper to its fleet of refuse, recycling

and cleansing vehicles that help make the area a cleaner, greener place to live, work and visit.

The new sweeper is out and about on the streets of the Borough every weekday picking up litter, leaves and general rubbish that builds up.

Previously, the streets were cleaned by staff wielding brushes

and litter pickers but the new applied sweeper will make the task quicker and easier.

Charnwood has made excellent progress in ensuring its streets are clean with latest figures showing that 89% of the streets in the Borough reach an acceptable level of cleanliness according to Government targets.