



Spring into reuse with the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team!



Welcome to the second round-up of news and updates from the Joint Waste Team! This quarter we look at some of the work we are doing around waste prevention and reuse, which we hope will be an interesting read. We welcome your comments so that we can shape the newsletter as it moves forward. Email waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team provides waste and recycling services on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council.

FoDDC's Cabinet agrees to expand kerbside recycling service

Residents in the Forest of Dean will be able to recycle plastic bottles, cardboard, small electrical items and textiles from this summer. Following the Forest of Dean District Council's Cabinet meeting it was agreed to change the recycling service, which means householders will soon be able to recycle more. The changes will also mean that the recycling service will be a weekly collection - with the exception of textiles which will be collected fortnightly.

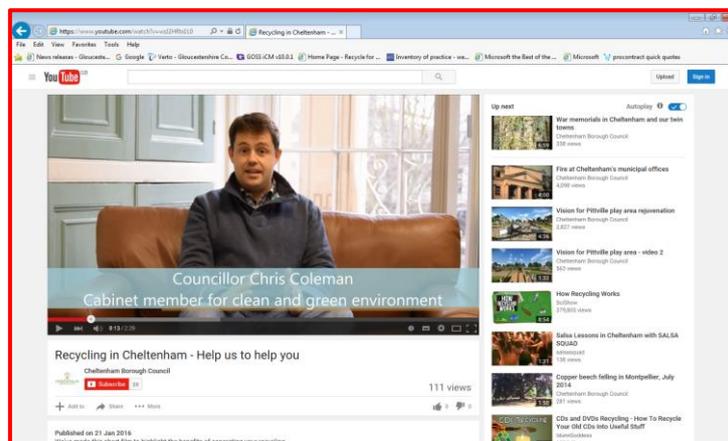
The weekly food waste recycling service and the fortnightly garden waste and refuse collections will remain unchanged.

Currently the Forest of Dean District Council recycles and composts 48% of waste collected from homes in the district and through the network of recycling banks and with these changes, and the support of residents, we are aiming to reach 58% by 2018.

Cheltenham get recycling all sorted!

Councillor Chris Coleman is Cheltenham's Cabinet member for 'clean and green environment'. Chris recently helped in the production of a short video which enables residents of the town to learn more about how separating materials helps the crews, saves money and improves the recycling process. The video can be viewed here:

www.youtube.com/cheltenhamborough



Gloucestershire Real Nappies Project update



Before they are potty-trained, the average child will work their way through almost five thousand disposables! In the county last year there were around seventeen thousand children aged under two and a half, and the cost of landfilling all this nappy waste - which equates to about 5% of the residual waste stream is almost a million pounds per annum.

The Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project, funded by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), is a targeted project aimed specifically at new parents and parents-to-be. It was set up in 2007 in an effort to reduce the environmental and financial costs of landfilling disposable nappies. Currently the project has two part-time outreach officers, Kirstie and Andrea, who give regular talks to antenatal and new parent groups throughout the county. They also have sixteen loan-kits that parents can borrow for free to try out a wide range of reusable nappies before committing to purchasing any.

Eligible parents can claim a £30 cashback voucher as an incentive towards the cost of real nappies, or purchase a rather wonderful starter pack of nappies with an RRP of £90 for just £20 plus their voucher. Each year we see around two hundred parents take advantage of the cashback offer and use real nappies, which ensures the project provides a cost benefit to the County Council.

Recently the project has dipped its toe into social media and is building up a following. Follow them on [twitter](#) or [facebook](#) or look at the project on our [website](#)



One of the Real Nappy loan kits

Waste Education update

The Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team is part of the Gloucestershire Environmental Partnership. GEEP is a network of organisations that offer sustainability support to schools, with a focus on energy, waste and recycling, composting, water, transport, food and drink, healthy living, biodiversity and wildlife and global citizenship. At the recent GEEP quarterly meeting plans were afoot for the next “Fun in the Forest” event which will allow 10 local schools to spend a fully-funded day later this Spring learning about sustainability issues at the Oakraven Outdoor Education Centre in the Forest of Dean.

In December we provided the Prestbury Beavers with a fun evening all about composting and took along a wormery and microscopes, and finished off with an exciting worm-wriggle race!

We have also visited a school in Stroud and attended a Forest of Dean teachers’ network session to deliver practical recycling workshops and made recycled paper.

Please don’t forget, if you have any enquiries from schools we can also put them in touch with their local volunteer Master Composter, or with Andigestion who offer food themed assemblies. Alternatively we have a contact at Bristol Textile Recyclers who are able to offer textile reuse activities to schools.



In December GEEP members visited the Bristol Textile Recycling warehouse in Bristol. They work with around 65 schools, community groups, and local churches in Gloucestershire and 40 staff hand-sort around 20 tonnes of clothing per day and grade it into about 160 different types of material for reuse or recycling. They gave us a link to a beautiful 14 minute film

<http://aeon.co/video/society/unravel-how-india-recasts-the-clothes-the-west-throws-away/> where the Indian women who recycle clothes from the West assume “water is just as expensive as clothes for these people..that’s why they wear their clothes a couple of times then throw them away”

Master Composters

We are fortunate in having a team of 18 dedicated Master Composter volunteers around the county, who can give practical advice about the benefits of home composting. The Master Composter scheme is a partnership between GCC and Garden Organic. All MCs have undertaken an initial two day training course and have ongoing support from Garden Organic and GCC. Here is a brief round up of some of the activities they’ve been up to:

- This year a two-day foundation training course saw eleven new Master Composters successfully commence life as volunteers.
- In November Amanda Godber, one of our Master Composters from Selsley ran a ‘no-dig’ workshop for her fellow MC’s.
- Thomas Keble School had an interactive compost workshop with two MCs, and managed to see some slow-worms benefitting from the warmth of a compost heap!
- Resource Magazine interviewed Vic and Lesley about their experiences as volunteer Master Composters, and the article appeared in the 2016 Winter issue.

- One of our volunteers writes a regular column for her local village newsletter
- A group of Gloucestershire MCs braved a cross-border trip to look around a fellow composter's grounds which she's virtually turned into one vast composting experiment, deep the wilds of Worcestershire.
- We have provided compost bins to a sheltered housing scheme in Cheltenham and to a school in Stroud who plan to grow their own veg next year.



Recently Stroud MC Lesley Greene (who is also a founder member of [Bisley Community Compost Site](#)) was delighted to be given a specially written poem created by local poet [Adam Horovitz](#) to celebrate ten years of successful community composting at BCCS:

A Recipe for Compost

A poem to mark the 10th year of the Bisley Community Composting Scheme by Adam Horovitz

Make room for the worms. Let them build sustainable motorway tunnels through the oxygenated carbon warmth of small mountains built from leek and leaf, carrot, aubergine, tree bark, lost gloves, extracted wallets, tidy clippings from the edges of a hundred exalted lawns. The secret lies in the layering *green on brown on green on brown* in the measure taken of each ingredient, the fine shred, the mesh of waste. There must be space for bacterial aerobics in oxidation chambers carved from pulp of garden waste, kitchen waste, storm damage, weeds.

Let slow worms live in the penthouses of makeshift tower-blocks where mould has all but repaired to earth, families of them curled together between roof and humus in imitation of a crown, their basking undisturbed by the neighbourhood's rampaging cats. Let your hands inhabit soil *the curve of the earth* one crumbling handful at a time as they turn it monthly letting air and water sift nitrates and fungus consume wood. There should be no ashes, just humus to humus. New life from the fruitful dust.

If you know of a school or community group that would like to have some help from a Master Composter please drop us a line at waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Now that we've allegedly gone past the bleak midwinter it's time to start preparing the garden before the weeds wake up! Don't forget; the Recycle for Gloucestershire website offers residents compost bins from as little as £8.49 with a Buy One Get One Half Price offer too! A recent walk round a well-known national DIY chainstore revealed that bins on the high-street are at least £20 dearer than these. From April to December last year our residents ordered a total of 938 items from the website [details here](#).

Reuse

How many times have you bought something only to end up throwing it away when it breaks? More and more community groups in the UK are forming Repair Cafes, or similar projects, designed to help local people to prolong the life of items they might otherwise have thrown away. Fishponds, [Malvern Hills](#) and [Nailsworth](#) all have regular events. All are run in slightly different ways, but all of them have the core idea that by showing people how to mend things, we can help create a more resourceful, less wasteful society.

We have been invited to be on the steering group of a very exciting project taking shape at the University of Gloucestershire. As part of her Sustainable Design course, lecturer Michelle Williams has asked her First Year students to create and deliver a series of Repair Cafes, hopefully to be based at Vision 21's Reclaim facility near Cheltenham train station. The students will be tasked with finding and recruiting volunteers with repair skills, publicising the events, and ensuring the events run smoothly. The first Cheltenham Repair Café is provisionally due to be held on **Saturday April 30th** and then subsequently every last Saturday of the month.

Did you have people round at Christmas and had to dash out to buy larger saucepans, more cutlery or even a tent for those extremely determined houseguests?! And how many of us are now scratching our heads wondering when we'll use said items again? We recently funded three volunteers from Stroud to attend a Saturday workshop which was run by "SHARE - a library of things" in Frome. This project showcases a new way to get people spending less, wasting less and connecting more. Working from an unused shop off the High Street, [SHARE | A Library of Things](#) has over 500 items to loan out, including arts and crafts, power tools, kitchen equipment, children's items, entertainment, and more.

The premise of a Share Shop is a simple one; members donate to, and borrow items from, a resource library for a month in return for a nominal donation. Frome's experience has shown that the two top items people want to borrow are wall-paper strippers, and believe it or not, tents! The volunteers hope to start up a similar 'library of things' in Stroud. They have said that they would then be willing to help seed any future Share Shops around the rest of the county.

If you know of a group of people who might be interested in starting up a Repair Café, Share Shop, or similar reuse project and would benefit from some support to help get their idea off the ground please get in touch waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk or see our web article on [Repair Cafes](#).



Fishponds Repair Cafe

Household Recycling Centre update

We are making some big improvements at Hempsted HRC. The planning application for the redevelopment has been submitted to the County Council planning department and we are awaiting a decision. The improvements involve providing an additional two lanes on the top level of the site. This will increase the throughput of customers and thus reduce their queuing time, something our Customer Satisfaction Surveys have highlighted as an issue for a number of years now.

The site was closed for 5 days in early February so some ground work could be carried out to prepare the area. For safety reasons the work was done without members of public being on site. To complete the surfacing the site is likely to have to close again sometime although no firm dates have been set. Further ground works are continuing on other areas that don't pose any safety issues to customers. These works will give the site a larger operating area and help us introduce a reuse area on site.

There was a comprehensive communications campaign promoting the first closure and this helped minimise the number of wasted journeys by our customers.

Communications projects update

As a result of the bag-splitting exercise that took place at the recycling centres, it's clear that lots of textiles are still being landfilled across the county. In fact, a recent BBC [documentary](#) revealed that in the UK seven tonnes of clothing are thrown away every 10 minutes. Natural fibres, such as wool and cotton, break down in landfill just like food waste does, contributing to unnecessary methane production and additional costs. Obviously as a waste disposal organisation, this is our primary focus. However WRAP's [Love Your Clothes](#) excellent website has some great information about the amount of carbon, water and waste created through the manufacture, transportation and laundry of clothing. Therefore this Spring we are putting together a textile campaign which will highlight some of these issues, as well as tips and advice as to how we can all reduce the carbon footprint of our clothes

Thank you Peter Clegg, Master Composter volunteer!



There's a buzz going on within the boundaries of a dainty organic 'no-dig' courtyard garden in Cheltenham!

As well as being a Master Composter, Peter Clegg is a Natural Bee-keeper; a movement which challenges long-standing methods and processes. Peter strongly believes that adapting his bee care to suit the bees rather than his own needs results in better varroa control, and healthier, happier bees, as a result of his hands-off approach.

Crucially, Peter allows the bees to overwinter on their own honey instead of feeding a sugar substitute, harvesting excess honey only if there is sufficient left, in Spring.

We would like to say a big thank you to Peter Clegg, who has decided to hang up his official Master Composter Volunteer name-badge for good.

During his time as a volunteer Peter has accomplished many things in an effort to help entice the good folk of Cheltenham to take to composting. Peter attended many events and roadshows for us, offering a wealth of knowledge about composting and biodynamic gardening. Peter has given regular composting advice to local primary schools, and notably, was instrumental in the mammoth task of setting up the Lansdown Community Composting Club, and in 2013 was given the title of GAVCA's Volunteer Of The Year in recognition for all the good work that he has done in Cheltenham. Peter has long held an active role in many of Cheltenham's sustainable community projects such as 'Cheltenham Green Doors Open Homes and Open Gardens' and recently became a Trustee to both Vision 21 and also to the Severn and Wye Energy Agency. If that's not enough, you can catch him on a monthly slot on BBC Radio Gloucestershire! We would like to say thank you to Peter for everything that he's done as a volunteer with us, and wish him all the best!

We hope you liked this round-up of news and updates from the Joint Waste Team!
We welcome your comments so that we can shape the newsletter as it moves forward.

Email waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team provides waste and recycling services on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council.