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ENVIRONMENT

Rubbish or Resource?

Continued from page 4

One of the major barriers to more recycling is separating different kinds of waste. Havant has adopted the system recommended in government guidelines to address this. Fortnightly collections with recyclable and non-recyclable waste collected on alternate weeks, pushes people into separating their recyclable waste from the rest. The system has been adopted in stages across the Borough with only Emsworth still on weekly collections. Emsworth will go over to fortnightly collections in September.

A straw poll amongst residents of other areas who already have fortnightly collections found that there were few problems once people got used to the new system. A few still dispose of surplus rubbish illegally by leaving it at public bins, and use of the amenity tip has increased. Generally problems are limited to, for example, getting rid of the odd bundle of fish bones that were produced on the first day after the bin was emptied. Once people get used to the system, recycling figures will creep up towards the 30% mark, as it already has in SE Hants. Probably this is about the best that can be done with the 'two-bin' system.

Other places go a lot further, for example people in the City of Cambridge have four different containers and as the material is already sorted far more can be recycled. Their 'green bin' will accept all biodegradable material, which includes all food waste including meat scraps, garden waste, together with any paper and cardboard that is contaminated with e.g. food, too small or otherwise not suitable for high grade recycling. All this waste is composted in a special facility and sold as 'soil improver.'

Havant have followed government guidelines and aimed for the minimum target of 30%. Most of the remaining 70% goes to the new incinerator recently opened on Quatermaine Road in Portsmouth, which virtually eliminates landfill in this area and also feeds electricity into the grid. Residents have supported this as being vastly preferable to landfill.

So everything's OK now then? Well actually NO it isn't!

Incineration has been re-branded as 'energy from waste' or 'thermal treatment' but it's still about burning our way out of a problem and is not the solution.

- Incineration actually discourages recycling. The larger installations have voracious appetites that demand large tonnages to operate. It's too easy to divert recyclables into the monster's mouth.
- It contributes to climate change by releasing CO₂.
- Recyclable materials incinerated are resources lost forever. Biodegradable items should be used to put fertility back into the soil and other items used to conserve scarce raw materials.

Finally, whilst Havant are trying to recycle they are only doing the minimum required by the government. "Could do better" seems an appropriate verdict.

This article includes research by Ray Cobbett, Hampshire Friends of the Earth.

Lumley sluice update

Frances Jannaway

As reported in the July 2005 issue of The EMS, the Lumley sluice is falling into disrepair and is in urgent need of replacement. As a result of this article, a number of residents volunteered to make and install the sluice. The Environment Agency has agreed to provide the wood, supervise installation and once installed operate the sluice in times of emergency.

The Environment Agency have now had a design drawn up. As soon as drainage consent has been given and certain legal procedures have been completed, the work of constructing the sluice can begin. It is hoped that the sluice will be installed and operating by the autumn.

St Aubin - Emsworth Twinning Association celebrates Twentieth Anniversary

A new road, the rue d'Emsworth, puts the Hampshire town of Emsworth on the map of Normandy. The road, on a new housing development in the Calvados seaside town of St. Aubin sur Mer, marks the 20th anniversary of the twinning link between Emsworth and St. Aubin.

An event filled weekend (26-28 May) awaited the 24 visitors from Emsworth which included visits to local attractions, a celebratory dinner and the inauguration of the new road in the French town. The visitors have now returned to Emsworth to prepare for the next visit and consider how the hospitality of the recent weekend can be returned during the next exchange in 2007.

Nore Barn Woods - Two restoration projects

Roy Ewing

Bluebell restoration project

The sight of an English bluebell wood in late Spring is unforgettable. The deep violet drooping flower and the sweet scent combine to give a memorable image.

This experience is lacking at the moment in Nore Barn Woods. At present there are only a few bluebells in the woods, and they are of the Spanish variety which has a pale blue hue and no scent.

As an experiment, a small number of native bluebell bulbs from an accredited supplier were planted in Spring 2006. This work was supported by a grant from the Emsworth Business Association, to which the Friends of Nore Barn Woods are indebted.

If these bulbs establish successfully, a larger recovery programme will be considered to convert the wood to English bluebells.

Several recovery programmes are taking place across Britain because of the threat to the native bluebell. The distinctiveness of the native English bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* is at risk because it readily cross-breeds with its Spanish cousin *Hyacinthoides hispanica*. The UK has 40% of the world's population of English bluebell.

In addition, the horticultural industry is being encouraged to end the misleading sale of either the Spanish or hybrid bluebell under the guise of the native bluebell.

Hedge restoration project

Another project, which the Friends of Nore Barn Woods have been carrying out for the last three years, is the restoration of the hedge along Wayfarers' Walk. We have planted over 300 saplings of native hedgerow trees such as Hawthorn, Beech, Spindle and Field Maple. Gaps in the hedge have been closed with temporary 'dead hedges' made by interweaving dead branches, but even some of these uprights have started shooting of their own accord. Obviously not as dead as we thought! After three years hard work we can now see the results of our labours - the hedge is starting to look really good!



Roy Ewing tending a hedge sapling

Tree Warden scheme update

Frances Jannaway

As a result of the 'Trees, Trees, Glorious Trees' article in the last issue of The EMS, a total of 14 people contacted me about the possibility of setting up a Tree Warden scheme in Emsworth. A meeting with Jamie Gargett, the Tree Officer at HBC, and eleven of these interested residents was subsequently arranged for 19 May in the Crown Hotel. The level of expertise, experience and wide range of interests expressed by the group will be a valuable asset in such a scheme, especially in raising awareness about the importance of trees in our environment, for example by leading tree walks.

Jamie Gargett has arranged a meeting with Jon Stokes of the Tree Council who will give those interested advice about setting up and running a Tree Warden Scheme as well as training and funding. The meeting, which is on Wednesday 28 June, 11am at Havant's Civic Offices, is open to anybody in Havant Borough interested in the Tree Warden scheme.

Once the scheme is set up, Jamie Gargett is prepared to give the group training sessions on 'Trees and the Law' and 'Planning and Development'.

Jonathan Huet of *Walk with Trees* fame and one of the people who wants to be involved in the Tree Warden scheme, is leading a Woodland Walk entitled 'Trees - a different perspective' in Hollybank Woods on Sunday 16 July, 10am. Meet at the main entrance to Hollybank Woods at the top of Hollybank Lane. The walk is suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome.

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