

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

Well, Christmas is now well passed and we can ponder on the environmental impact of the festive season.

- Did you cut down on the number of cards you sent out?
- Did you use old paper for wrapping presents, or even off cuts of cloth?
- Was the christmas tree recycled?
- Did you open all your presents carefully so that the paper could be used again another year. Penny pinching? – perhaps. Helping the environment? – certainly!
- Did you give presents that are useful and going to be used, rather than dumped and sent to landfill because they are unwanted? If you really do not want them there are lots of charity shops that do!

There is an enormous amount of waste at this time of the year, though I see several signs for re-cycling christmas trees, which is encouraging.

What can we expect from 2009? More of the same so far as the environment is concerned. More claim and counter claim about global warming. More pressure on governments to do something positive about the climate and sooner rather than later. More pressure on us to think about what we do and the way in which we do it, plus the economic imperative to cut back on spending. More encouragement to take responsibility for ourselves through such actions as recycling, composting, growing our own food stuffs and so on.

As we are all well aware, we are into a period of serious economic difficulty. All the more reason to do what's environmentally good, because it makes economic sense too –

- Turn off those lights in the rooms you are not immediately using
- Turn down the heating and put on an extra sweater
- Don't run the tap unnecessarily while cleaning your teeth or washing your hands
- If you are not already doing so, keep a note of your monthly utility consumption so that you have a target to meet – using less!
- Cut down on those food miles, by supporting your local shops and buying local produce only, which will cut your petrol consumption as well
- Can you give someone a lift, to cut out a car or two?
- Make sure the washing machine has a full load
- Avoid using the tumble drier

All these things can save you money immediately, as well as helping the environment. Let's go for it!

Martin Kenrick

For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council