

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

Did you know.....?

- That milk and juice cartons (Tetrapaks) can now be recycled, but they have to be taken to a bin in Bromsgrove St in Kidderminster?
- That tights are not textiles and so have to go into the wheelie bin?
- That most paper cups and plates that are bought for parties as an easy way of avoiding all that washing up, have to go into landfill?
- That tests on bottled water have shown that in many cases, the bottled stuff is less healthy than tap water?
- That, in summer, at motorway speeds, you are likely to consume less fuel using your air conditioning, than if you open the windows, which increases the drag coefficient?
- That Christmas cards can be recycled via our black boxes, and yet less than 10% of cards in the whole country are recycled each year?

It's a little late to mention this for 2007, but it is something for future years. Do we really need to send all those cards? Think of all the trees and processing costs that are entailed. What about a notice in the parish magazine or sending a donation to an environmental group instead?

There is only one Midland town so far that has totally banned the plastic bag. Remembering that it takes 430,000 gallons of oil to produce 100 million plastic bags, quite apart from the hundreds of year's life of this dangerous bit of waste, could Chaddesley Parish be the next? It is not difficult to do without – think what happened before the bag came into being. We used our own bags and baskets; the shops used brown or white paper bags; often old newspapers were used to wrap things. This might be one occasion when it is good to “be backward”!!

There are plenty of “green” bags available now. We notice that Barnett Hill Garden Centre is now selling them. Good idea to get one or more; better idea to get one that is Fair trade certified to be sure it is as carbon friendly as you can be. But anything is better than plastic.

Down with plastic bags. Let Chaddesley go plastic bag free!!

Martin Kenrick

For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council