

## Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

By the time you read this, Christmas will have passed. I wonder how many trees will have been “sent” out this year as cards or used as wrapping paper? As I write I am trying to send an electronic card, from the RSPB web site. If I can be sure it works, I think we will use it next year for many of our friends in Chaddesley and further afield.

There was a fascinating, and very encouraging, newspaper report recently in The Independent, about reductions in the use of plastic bags for shopping. Apparently targets were agreed between the relevant government department and 22 leading shopping chains, to reduce plastic bag usage by 25% by the end of this year. The majors will have done better!!

Tesco – down 40% on two years ago –2 billion fewer bags

Asda – down 30% on February 2007

Waitrose – down 30% on Feb – Oct 2007 – 68 million fewer bags

Sainsbury – down 27% up to June 2008

The same report said that

Asda had stopped 99% of operational waste from going to landfill in two trial stores, by using all biodegradable waste to generate electricity, and by removing recyclables.

Tesco is cutting out unnecessary road miles by using other transport such as rail and canals.

Waitrose is aiming to cut CO<sub>2</sub> from deliveries by 15% from 2005 levels by 2013

All of this is excellent news. The plastic bag reduction has to be because we, the shoppers, are saying No to plastics in ever increasing numbers. Keep it up!

All good news then? Well, no, not quite. The report also tells that the proportion of textiles going into landfill has risen from 5% five years ago to 30% now! Quite apart from suggesting an incredible level of wastefulness, just think of all those people in the world with little clothing who would love our cast-offs.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank all the scribes who have written articles over recent months, saving me from having to do so. If anyone has a burning desire to write an article for future magazines, please step forward!

Happy New Year to you all.

Martin Kenrick

For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council