

ATC CONTACTS

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CHILDREN FROM RIVERSIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

making mosaics for the Little Theatre garden. The mosaics have now been installed as stepping stones in the garden and have LED bulbs embedded in them which, powered by a solar panel, will provide a guide at night from the fire escapes at the theatre.

What was a patch of rough land has been transformed into a garden full of unusual features. The design by Susy Feltham and Daniel Collins from the ATC will provide a colourful entrance onto the canal towpath from Holme Street.

WALK FOR THE WATERSHED

THE MOORLAND ABOVE TODMORDEN IS THREATENED BY A HUGE OPEN CAST MINE. If planning permission is given, campaigners believe that the mine would worsen problems of erosion and flooding, inflict heavy lorry traffic on local communities and lead to over 300,000 tones of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to climate change.

On Easter Saturday, 14th April, there will be a Walk for the Watershed. Taking a 12 mile route from Cliviger, through Todmorden to Bacup campaigners aim to raise awareness of the threat posed by the mine and put forward an alternative vision of ecological restoration of the Pennine watershed.

Walk organiser Penny Eastwood said: As the source of the Rivers Calder and Irwell, this area is of immense significance. Yet it suffers from the scars of its industrial past - a legacy of polluted streams and eroding hillsides. Our ultimate aim is to repair this damage, making it once again an area of outstanding natural beauty, with clear streams and wooded hillsides to prevent flooding and erosion.

We would very much like anyone concerned about this issue to join us on the walk. Dont worry if you arent up to the whole 12 miles - we would welcome volunteers joining the support van crew, who will gather petition signatures in Todmorden and Bacup and join us for short

musical processions through the main centres of population.

The Walk will leave the Ram Inn, Holme Chapel at 9.30am on Easter Saturday, with rendezvous points at the Roebuck Inn, Portsmouth (at 10.45am), Adelaide St, Todmorden (at 12.15pm) and the bottom of Bacup Road (1.05pm). There will be a finale outside Bacup library at 3.15pm.

Because of the foot and mouth situation, the walk will be on the road only, with the added precaution of regular disinfection points.

* For more details about the walk, or if you would like to join, ring Penny on (01422) 843222.

Pumping water with water

ATC volunteers test out the Centre's hydraulic ram - used for pumping water uphill.

The hydraulic ram pump is a very simple, self contained and rather elegant little device invented about 200 years ago. It requires no external power source and uses a large volume of water, at a relatively low head, to pump a small proportion of the water to a much greater height. A fall of just 2 feet can pump water to a height of 40-50 feet. They are ideal for use in remote areas, especially in the Third World, due to their simplicity of installation, operation and maintenance and extremely long service life.

The ATC has just completed and sold its first hydraulic ram demonstration kit. This first kit will be going to India to demonstrate the possibility of using rams to provide a piped water supply to remote villages.

There is a permanent working hydraulic ram pump on display at the ATC and kits will be on sale very soon.



GOING GREEN FOR SOFTIES

If you want to re-cycle, but dont want all those bottles, cans, newspapers and the rest hanging around..... buy some storage boxes, or even better make some, funk them up (you could use some of that paint leftover in the bottom of tins in the cellar or old wrapping paper perhaps), label them and stack them, or have them side by side, in the kitchen or other appropriate room. Then stand back in admiration as your friends congratulate you on your recycling, artistic flair. They may even be so inspired that they rush home and try to recreate your masterpieces, whilst rummaging around in their rubbish for the re-cyclables..... Thanks to Kate Lovett from Pembrokeshire who sent us this one

Cartoon comment

Mike Bryson



conditioned to buy

This months nomination for Green Room 101 comes from Myra James, campaigner ?? with Calderdale Friends of the Earth.

My nomination for Green Room 101 is FABRIC CONDITIONER.

What?! you may say. Surely a laundry product cant bring about the end of civilisation as we know it - cant you think of something more worthy of your ire?

Well, perhaps I could, but as I see it, Green Room 101 is an opportunity to voice ones rage about apparently insignificant things in life, especially if they point up some larger areas of concern, and I believe fabric conditioner fits the bill admirably, for the following reasons:

1. It smells awful - not only do we have to put

up with its aroma on peoples clothing but it billows out onto the street from tumble drier vents.

2. It comes in plastic containers that, even given the tremendous efforts of the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre and Kerbside, are unlikely ever to be recycled.

3. It is a prime example of a product, the need for which has been cynically orchestrated by the manufacturers.

4. Heres the science: many fabric conditioners contain artificial musks, compounds that can enter our bodies through the skin and through contaminated food. They accumulate in fat tissue and have also been found in breast milk. For more information on this and a host of other chemicals found in everyday products,

see the Greenpeace (www.greenpeace.org.uk) and Friends of the Earth (www.foe.org.uk) websites.

LETS DO AWAY WITH THE STUFF!

* If you would like to submit a nomination for Green Room 101, please send your contribution (preferably by e-mail or on disc or otherwise by fax / post) to John Brierley at the ATC. It has to have a vaguely green theme and be no more than about 300 words.

* We now have a facility for commenting on the nominations for Green Room 101 on our website. Just go to www.alternativetechnology.org.uk and have your say



A Sideways Look

John Morrison

NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO, we were told that the paperless office was just around the corner. Imagine: no more memos, no more file copies, no more faxes, no more invoices, no more delivery notes, no more statements, no more bumph. It sounded rather splendid. Unfortunately, well have to keep on imagining it, because it never happened. And it probably never will.

Paper will continue to have its uses. As vulnerable as it seems, at least it doesnt disappear into the ether by mistakenly pressing the delete button on a computer keyboard. The society that stores its accumulated wisdom on computer discs is a society that will soon have no history at all.

We can still save huge quantities of paper,

though, and outlawing junk mail would make a good start. It only takes one fool to open a letter and think he might already be a winner to encourage Readers Digest to send out another million unwanted missives.

If theres one thing more irritating than junk mail, its junk faxes. I used to get two or three every day, usually in the night. When I got up each morning, paper had issued from the fax machine, snaked across the desk and - on a bad day - reached the floor. What bugged me most was that I was paying to get them. I was buying rolls of fax paper so that unseen hands could keep sending me unwanted faxes.

They asked me to consider car leasing and mobile phone ring-tones, printer cartridges and baldness remedies. Most of these services I could do without (apart from the last one, of

course) but still the faxes came. And if I wanted to stop receiving them, it would cost me even more money.

The small print at the bottom of each fax informed me that if I had received this fax in error (Please accept our apologies, yeah right...), I could fax the page back and be removed from the companys database. And, in even smaller print, I saw that this would cost me 1.50 per minute, and that faxing the sheet back would take no longer than two minutes. Yes, I would have had to stump up 3 to stop receiving something I didnt want in the first place. Aaaargh... There was, of course, no phone number; no-one at the end of a phone who I could bellow at in rage and indignation.

Then a new kind of fax started to appear. Are you totally fed up with junk faxes? they asked, in all innocence, as though they werent being sent by exactly the same companies that had been bombarding me with junk faxes for months. I had to admit a grudging admiration for such bare-faced cheek. It was like creating a disease with one hand and offering a cure with the other.

Thankfully there is a genuine cure to this irritating problem. You too can stem the tide of junk faxes - and save a few more trees in the process - by phoning the Fax Preference Service on 020-7766 4420 and opting out. Hooray...