

the green page

News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

HB Alternative Technology Centre,
Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ.
Tel: 01422-842121
Fax: 01422 84 31 41
info@alternativetechnology.org.uk
www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

The views expressed by individuals on the Green Page do not necessarily represent the views of the ATC.



GREEN AVENGER BY MIKE BRYSON



George Vickers, from the Booth Centre, a project working with street drinkers in central Manchester, is seen here making stakes to retain the log steps in Primrose Garden, across the Rochdale canal from the ATC. Visitors from the Booth Centre had a thoroughly enjoyable day, including a tour of the ATC's energy room and gardens as well as the building of the beautiful flight of log steps.

Plastic Fantastic

At what is probably the world's (and possibly even the universe's) smallest plastics reprocessing plant here at the ATC, we have just finished producing 1000 promotional keyrings for our biggest order yet – from Harrogate Local Agenda 21 team. Other customers have included the Calderdale Home Energy Team, Emerge Recycling in Manchester, the Skills Gap in Hebden Bridge and Keighley Friends of the Earth.

As well as key rings, we can produce fridge magnets, drinks coasters and letter openers – all handmade with plastic bags, bottles and other consumer packaging from the 25 members of our Plastics Recycling Club. All the products are available in plain or with your organisation's / company's logo and contact details printed on the reverse.

We are now in a position to launch the products nationwide and will be gradually contacting the more than 100 people on the waiting list to join the Plastics Club.

For more details and samples, contact H Gregg at the ATC.

Art d'eco

After the success of last year's environmental art exhibition, the ATC has organised a similar event for 2002. The theme for this year will be *Energy*. A mixed media exhibition, it will cover anything from pieces made from recycled or waste materials to works from natural products.

The theme could include natural energy from the sun, wind, water or other elements or represent the concept of energy in any form.

The exhibition will be open to the public at Machpelah Works during the two weeks of the Arts Festival, Friday 21st June to Sunday, 7th July from 12 – 5pm.

If you wish to exhibit or take part please contact the ATC for a submission form.

Email: art@alternativetechnology.org.uk

BEYOND THE VALLEY

Positive green news stories from outside the Calder Valley.

Bin ban

Wealden Council, East Sussex, has increased its rubbish recycling rate to 53% - a startling success that puts them near the top of the UK local council league table. How did they do it? They took a firm line with people who persisted in mixing their rubbish and not separating it into the correct bins, by refusing to collect from them. The result was almost total compliance. Well done, Wealden!

Zero waste

Bath and North-East Somerset has become the first local authority in the UK to adopt zero-waste as its long term goal. Zero waste means regarding rubbish not as something inevitable, but as something that can be reduced to almost nothing – through recycling, composting and steps to cut the amount produced in the first place.

Councillor Roger Symonds said: "It may not even be completely attainable, but we can get damn close". The council acknowledges that it cannot achieve zero waste alone, but it hopes that by adopting this policy it will encourage other organisations to follow its example and increase the pressure to produce goods that can be easily reused, repaired or recycled.

Canberra in Australia recovers 66% of its waste. Edmonton in Canada has a 70% score. And they have achieved these scores *without incineration*. Calderdale's current waste recovery score is a mere 10%.

Banned wagon

The regional government in Lombardy, has announced its intention to ban all cars running off fossil fuels by the beginning of 2005. They hope that gas-electric hybrids vehicles and, later,

hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles can help eliminate Lombardy's serious pollution problems. The ban will affect 9 million Italians, living in the most densely populated part of the country.

The UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor David King, told a Sunday newspaper that fixing a target date in the same way in the UK would be a good way to force the industry to switch to fuel cell and electric vehicles.

Beach Boy

Energy Minister, Brian Wilson, has granted consent for Britain's largest wind farm at Scroby Sands off Great Yarmouth. A £74 million fund to promote off-shore wind in the UK is now twice oversubscribed, indicating the growing interest from companies in developing wind power projects.



A Sideways Look

John Morrison

Walking past the Calderdale Way to the future

If you see a rather unfit, bearded man labouring over the tops, it'll be me. I'm taking a springtime saunter along the Calderdale Way. This is the perfect time of year for walking, I reckon. The colour is returning to the landscape. It's neither too hot, nor too cold. And, while the swallows are returning to their summer haunts, the more unpleasant insects have yet to muster in numbers.

The Calderdale Way loops around Todmorden and Halifax, taking in some splendid countryside in between. It's familiar territory, of course - though too often glimpsed through a car windscreen as a greenish blur. Walking offers different perspectives, and a chance to slow down. As a world-class dawdler I take every opportunity to admire the views, and catch my breath. From the hills that overlook the

valley, you could write the story of Calderdale. And what a story it is, even if we consider merely the most recent history of the textile trade.

If anywhere can be called the 'cradle of industry' (and there are plenty of candidates), the milltowns of West Yorkshire have as good a claim as anywhere. We've gone from cottage industry to the economy of the mill and (for writers, website designers and Reichian therapists, at least) almost back to cottage industry again.

What struck me, as I gazed down from the hilltops, was the speed of change. The signs of industry are ubiquitous: the causeways, canal, railway and roads; the mills and the towns that sprang up around them. When the valley was helping to meet the world's needs for wool and cotton, it must have seemed as though the trade would last for ever. But when decline came, it came

quickly. The manufacture of textiles round here, on a truly industrial scale, lasted little more than a century: a mere blip in the history books.

The relics of industrial architecture are everywhere to be seen, but already you need to 'read' the landscape to understand exactly what it is you are looking at. All along the Calderdale Way I saw old mills mouldering away in side-valleys; all that remained of some mills was a solitary chimney. A hillside quarry - like a bite taken out of a bread-cake - is gradually becoming less of an eyesore as trees and grass and moss soften its harsh outlines. Mill-dams and convoluted watercourses are quietly 'going back to nature'. You can almost see the land 'healing' itself, like new skin growing where a wound had been. Given time, the uglier traces of our industrial past will simply disappear beneath the soil.

A hundred years hence, Calderdale Wayfarers will no doubt still be enjoying the panoramic views down over Hebden Bridge. But what will they actually see? A tourist brochure of 2102 may supply the answer. "Before the new-age industries went into terminal decline, due to the sudden and disastrous resurgence of common sense, Hebden Bridge was know as an important centre for fortune tellers and tarot card readers. They should have seen the end coming... but, alas, they didn't."

A to Z of recycling

This month we have a selection of 'D's from our A to Z of recycling. The complete A to D listing is now on our website. We will add entries for each letter as it gets published in the Hebden Bridge Times. If you have any suggestions or additions, please send to Sharon at the ATC.

D's

Death - you can be green even in death! Consider a woodland burial or cardboard coffin. For more info visit www.naturaldeath.org.uk. The wire and cellophane that comes with bought flower arrangements takes years to decompose and

becomes an eyesore. Why not take a rooted plant to be planted by the grave instead?

Decorating - 6.2 million litres of paint sold in the UK remains unused - but it can be recycled. Re-Paint redistributes paint to local community projects. For more info see www.communityrepaint.org.uk.

Donate! - Recycle your organs by picking up a donor card from your GP's surgery. There are always people waiting for donors. The ultimate in recycling!

Don't buy it...! If it's overwrapped or packaged in non-recyclable materials.

Don't throw it away...! Whatever it is there must be a more constructive way. If you really are stuck with something and don't want to bin it, contact the ATC for further ideas.

Doors - Every skip, it seems, contains a door. Think about ways in which you could revamp a door without having to dump it - try local stripping / restoration services.

Dustbin - Put as little as you can in it - by recycling and and composting some of your waste you can make a huge difference!