JUNK MAIL

Newsletter of Devon's Community Recycling & Community Composting Networks

Spring 2006

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Kids komposting

Editorial



Apologies for the late arrival of this JUNK MAIL—We keep trying to get it out on time but somehow life and work seem to conspire to eat up all available time! I've been more busy than ever with the roll out of the schools project and Richard never seems to have a moment to spare either. At least we are not sitting around twiddling our thumbs. If

you would like to get involved in the JUNK MAIL we are more than happy to accommodate you.

Just get in touch. Nicky Scott

This Junk Mail was mostly written by Nicky Scott & Richard Gomme (DCRN) and prepared for printing by Nicky Scott (DCCN) with illustrations from Bob Gale (Proper Job!) & photos by Nicky Scott.

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Local Authority recycling info see: www.recycledevon.org

Local Groups news

Wallace and Gromit

West Hill Primary School in East Devon have been awarded SECOND PRIZE out of 700 entries in the Wallace and Gromit 'Great Vegetable Challenge' competition with a set of garden designs.

'We are thrilled and delighted to say the least! 'Says Debbie Miller parent volunteer with the project. "We are going to meet Jacqui Smith, Schools Minister, at Kew to be awarded the prize.

This means that West Hill Primary, in partnership with Devon Community Composting Network , will establish a robust composting system within the school. Now ,we also have a contribution towards creating the gardens designed by the children which will provide even more learning opportunities as well as areas for food production."

See more on the schools projects pages—

Recycling in Ottery's 'RiO Grande' £1,000 award .

RiO, Ottery St Mary's local community based recycling and reuse project has restarted its 'RiO Grande' award, which gives £1,000 awards to a worthy community

based initiative. Lucky winners this time were the 'Young Musicians Collective' which helps musicians involved in the Ottery Festival. Members of RiO started the scheme because they felt that something should be given back to the community from the proceeds of their project which relies on selling donated reusable items from its yard.

Printer cartridge recycling - A1 Positive Recycling Project seeks help.

An estimated 250 million printer cartridges have gone to landfill in the last 10 years in the UK (source MRW), and only a small fraction are refilled for reuse, with large manufacturers such as Canon taking court action to stop refilling of their products. Neil Wintrip, Exeter based founder of an initiative to reuse and recycle printer cartridges and computer equipment, is seeking people to get involved in the Management Committee and become Trustees of the Organisation. Anyone who wants to help please contact Neil on 01392 202779, e-mail: a1p.r.p@blueyonder.co.uk.

The public can now take your used cartridges to Scope charity shops, or for info on what happens to them for de-manufacture go to www.actionaidrecycling.org.uk. There is also a detailed list of which cartridges can be reused.

News

Local Authority update and news.

Trade paper 'Materials Recycling Week' has published a 'State of the Nation Report' on Local Authority views on recycling and waste management. This reveals a wide gulf between LA's and Government on many issues, including adequate financing, variable charging for household waste collections, and the effectiveness of multi £m Government Programmes such as WIP (Waste Implementation Programme) and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme).

On the financial side, LA's feel the average amount of money they each need to meet recycling targets is £958,000 per year, and 53% of LA respondents cited funding as the biggest barrier to improved recycling.

On the waste collection front, 40% of LA respondents support household charging for waste collections, 20% against, and 40% unsure.

Criticism of Government policies is revealed by the fact that only 34% of respondents thought WIP is effective in helping meet recycling targets, and only 18% thought WRAP was 'entirely effective' in delivering all its programmes.

Battery Recycling trials to start.

It is estimated that 600 million household batteries are sent to landfill each year. Now, the UK's biggest household battery collection and recycling trial is to begin in March 2006. 350,000 households from a mixture of urban, high rise and rural areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will receive battery collections alongside their normal recycling collections. Common household battery sizes, button, mobile phone and laptop batteries will be included. G&P Batteries will process them. In Devon, Bampton village in Mid Devon undertook a successful battery recycling trial last year with a container outside the local Spar shop, and East Devon District Council have won funding from WRAP to participate in the battery trial for its residents. Junk Mail anticipates that many Devonians will be rekindling old acquaintances with east devon residents to slip a few batteries in their boxes. Other Devon Authorities are working on establishing their own trial schemes due to public demand. Watch this space.

Christmas Card avalanche.

An estimated 60 million Christmas cards were recycled this year through The Woodland Trust



scheme. The public could take their xmas cards to collection points at Tesco & WHSmith – remember next year! The proceeds will help the Woodland Trust's aim to plant 12 million trees over the next 5 years in the UK.

Virgin sends old trains to Bosnia for reuse.

Virgin trains is to send a fleet of up to 160 decommissioned carriages from its London-Glasgow west coast main line to Sarajevo in Bosnia, as it replaces them with new trains. Bosnia is critically short of rolling stock after the Balkan war of the 1990's. The deal is estimated to be worth £10m. The cost of storing old carriages is more than £1,000 per year, and it would cost up to £3,000 each to have them dismantled for recycling.

LA update and news.

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COMMUNITY DECLINE THE BRUTAL REALITY 1999 to 2004 - 3,700 Post Offices closed (a 21% decline) Postwatch Annual Report 2004 2000 to 2005 - 8,600 independent grocery stores closed (a 25% decline) Institute of Grocery Distribution 1995 to 2005 - 3,757 bank branches closed (a 23% decline) Campaign for Community Banking, 2005 1997 to 2003 - 200 police stations closed Telegraph article 10.08.2004 1995 to 2004 - 13,000 independent newsagents closed National Federation of Retail Newsagents 1994 to 2004 - 700 doctor's surgeries closed Department of Health statistics 1997 to 2004 - 162 green belt developments approved Article in The Telegraph, 09.05.2004 1997 to 2002 - 50 specialist stores (e.g. butchers, bakers and fishmongers) closed per week Clone Town Britain - nef, 2004 1997 to 2003 - 20 independent pubs closed per month Campaign for Real Ale research 1990 to 2002 - the number of apple orchards in the UK halved

Local Food, 2002 70% of rural parishes have no general store: 75% no daily bus service: 83% no GP: 43% no Post Office Rural Lifelines, Countryside Agency 2004

Ghost Town Britain II - nef, 2002

production reduced by 37%

1990-2000 UK fruit and vegetable

INCREASED TRAVEL, AND POLLUTION 1991 to 2003 the average shopper travelled an extra 100 miles a year, the average trip up an extra mile

Department of Transport statistics

The average petrol car driving one mile emits 0.3kg of CO2

Defra, 2005; Tindal Centre, 2005

In urban areas only 42% walk to their new post office, down from 70% before closures Postwatch Annual Report 2004 The following information is taken from the newsletter 'Local works' the campaign for the local sustainable communities bill

Go to the website above for the full version or write to Local works at 94 White Lion Street, London, N1 9PF or phone 020 7833 9898

TWELVE REASONS TO STOP GHOST TOWN BRITAIN

Sustainabl Communities See www.localwork

1. PUBLIC PREFERENCE AND WELLBEING:

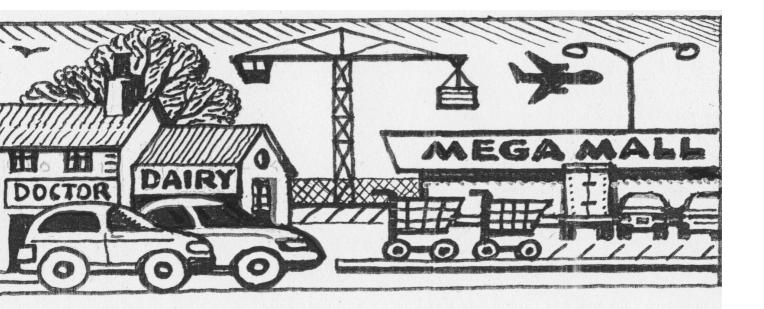
When a post office, school, doctor's surgery or pub closes there are often protests that are usually ignored. If the role of policy is to assist in promoting public wellbeing, people's wishes should not be discounted as nostalgic 'hankering for the past' – especially when there are many other 'public policy' reasons to stop Ghost Town Britain.

2. TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION:

People choose to drive – so why stop them? But the reality is that it is not about choice: the people of Liss, Hampshire (see opposite), did not 'choose' to drive an extra 1 million miles – the closures of their local banks (i.e. Ghost Town Britain) forced them to. 4,000 local banks have closed. Plus all the other facilities listed opposite.Result? Hundreds of millions of miles of extra traffic – because of Ghost Town Britain.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE:

The government is set to fail to reach its target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 2010. Hundreds of millions of miles of extra traffic (caused by Ghost Town Britain) means massive extra emissions of CO2. The achievement of the long term government target of a



60% reduction in CO2 by 2050 will be threatened unless we reverse Ghost Town Britain.

4. AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION:

Add to the closures the problems of 'food miles' (see opposite) and picture the result. Poisonous air pollution and the

noise of lorries rumbling down 'someone else's' quiet street or quiet town and wrecking 'someone else's' peace. That's Ghost Town Britain.

5. SOCIAL EXCLUSION:

s.org.uk Local shops, services and leisure facilities have closed. There's no bus. So what happens to the elderly and those who cannot afford cars? Answer in Ghost

> Town Britain: who cares? Real answer: note the effects on people in deprived areas of London, Liverpool, Manchester and the West Midlands. They are increasingly excluded from society.

6. REGENERATION:

£10 spent on locally supplied goods generates £25 for the local economy (compared to £14 in a supermarket). helping other local enterprises and creating more economic activity and local jobs that in turn make local post offices and pubs more viable (Plugging the leaks, nef 2001). Ending Ghost Town Britain would enable our money to help regenerate our own communities.

7. CRIME:

In Ghost Town Britain the pavements are empty. But as the studies referred to on page 4 show, walking to the post office or chemist or school fills the streets with legitimate street activity and has the effect of denying space to criminal elements and so reducing the fear of crime. In Ghost Town Britain, the abandoned streets

Continued on page 8

COMMUNITY DECLINE (CONTD) LOCAL JOBS LOST

276 average net jobs lost locally when a supermarket opens The National Retail Planning Forum 1998

A new edge- or out-of-town superstore in a market town or district centre causes local speciality shops and convenience stores to lose 21-75% of their market share, forcing many to lay-off staff or close Ghost Town Britain - nef, 2001

Between 1997-2002 the number of UK farm workers fell by 100,000 Ghost Town Britain II - nef. 2002

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

In deprived areas of Liverpool, Manchester and Newham (London) many older people are excluded from involvement in social relationship and civic activities in their communities Help the Aged, 2000

In Sandwell (West Midlands) there are large areas where no shops selling fresh fruit and vegetables exist

Measuring Access to Healthy Food in Sandwell, 2001

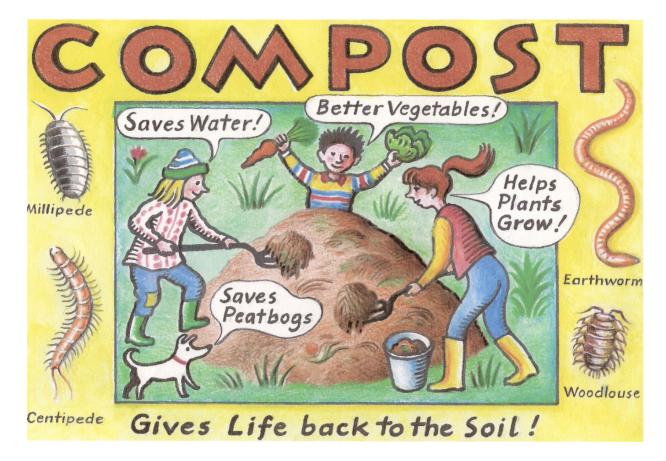
HIGH PRICES: HOW FARMERS AND CONSUMERS LOSE OUT

The supermarket price for pork loin was £4.78 per kg, while the farmer was paid 95p per kg (20 per cent of the supermarket price) Ghost Town Britain II - nef, 2002

Supermarket carrots were sold at 58p per kg, onions at 73p per kg and peas at 98p per kg; while the farmers were paid 16p (28 per cent), 17p (23 per cent), and 17p (17 per cent) respectively

Ghost Town Britain II - nef, 2002 CRIME

Burglars are twice as likely to break into a house where there are no passers-by in view Kirkholt Burglary Prevention Project - Home



Composting in schools

Many schools across the Country are getting into composting. This is for a variety of reasons, some have been involved in 'waste audits' with their local Authorities or other activities to look at how less waste can leave the school grounds. More schools are becoming concerned about food and healthier options are being introduced, sometimes fruit tuck boxes and other initiatives. Garden clubs are popular in some schools - all this means that more materials are being composted on school grounds. Waste Watch audits at schools have revealed that the amounts of potentially compostable waste from schools is higher than the domestic waste stream.

Local Authorities often like to help as much as they can and give out compost bins but with limited funding only standard 'Dalek' type bins are the usual offering and juicy fruit waste soon packs down into a slimy mess attracting flies.

Devon Community Composting Network has now started working with schools across the County to help them improve their composting. Selected schools are helping to trial a few different composters. The most popular one so far has been the Rolypig.

As with any composting system the quality of the compost coming out will depend on the mixture going in at the beginning. I give many talks and workshops on composting and realise more and more that if the key concepts of composting are under-

stood, then anyone can work out what to do. It's not that complex but it is surprising how many people will treat a composter or a wormery essentially in the same way as a dustbin. They will chuck anything in and expect it to be dealt with. So at the risk of teaching grandmothers to suck eggs here are my key concepts of composting.

Conceptual composting!

You must create the right environment for composting to happen in the most effective way. You



The Roly Pig— pictured here with Tom Gamlin who designed it with his brother Roy whilst they were stuck on their farm near Tiverton during the Foot and mouth outbreak



Looking at worms at a Waste Watch training day in Tiverton with some Primary school teachers

need moisture – and air spaces. Think of healthy soil with a crumb structure where every soil particle is coated with water but there are air spaces too.

 You must have a good mix of materials – mainly to achieve the first key concept above. So for instance grass cuttings

Create the Right environment It must be Warm enough Moist enough Airy enough

The right mix of 'greens' and 'browns creates this for you-so

on their own are wet but without air spaces, corrugated cardboard is dry with loads of air spaces. So a thin layer of grass on top of a layer of cardboard will combine very well.

- This also brings in the next key concepts the first one is that you must have your 'greens' mixed with your 'browns'. Greens are wet, often smelly materials which are rich in nitrogen these are also called putrescible because they start breaking down and smelling. Browns are dry, rich in Carbon and are stable they are not putrescible and can be easily stored until needed to combine with the putrescible stuff. So you can collect up cardboard, toilet roll centres, old boxes, scrunched up or shredded paper, envelopes (minus their windows) etc in order to mix in with fruit waste etc.
- This form of 'Brown' material is also absorbent which is also important. Fresh woodchippings will add structure to a heap but they are not good at soaking up the juices that flow from putrescible greens and so you can end up with a kind of mummified compost if you overdo the ratio.
- It must be warm enough most bacteria, and other

compost organisms, like to be above six degrees Celsius. Small compost heaps quickly lose any temperature generated by the process, so insulate them or make them bigger – or both.

- Composting is often cited as a 'natural' system. But nature does not generally make compost heaps. What happens naturally is that things rot. Different specialists break down different items. What a well made compost heap does is bring about the conditions that will accelerate the breaking down.
- Not only are you creating the ideal environment for the composting organisms to thrive and multiply in, but the materials you put in are food to them as well. So if you are putting on plate scrapings for instance you are bound to attract a whole host of undesirable creatures, from rodents and flies to cats and dogs, badgers and foxes. So kitchen waste has to be treated in a system which will keep these creatures out.
- These sealed systems usually called 'in-vessel' systems will generally quickly 'de-nature' 'sanitise'

or break down the foods into something that the undesirable creatures won't be attracted to. Because of this some of the manufactures claim that compost can be made in as little as two weeks, but to be fully stabilised compost needs a longer time to mature, the tougher

woody materials need breaking down by fungi and worms really need to work the heap over. Wormeries are an example of a sealed system containing desirable creatures which will consume your food waste etc – but they are not composting systems. They will only deal with relatively small amounts thinly spread so that they *don't* heat up. If you have bought a wormery with a tap on it – please always leave it open with a bucket underneath, otherwise you may find it filling up with liquid and all the worms drowning. Not nice!

For more information see my latest book 'Composting—an easy household guide' published by Green Books—in glorious Technicolor! See www.greenbooks.co.uk

Nicky Scott

is continuing decline.

eality

Sustainable communities Billcontinue from page 5

become less secure and more attractive to drug dealers and muggers. To end fear of crime we must reverse Ghost Town Britain.

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Local shops or facilities decline: people have to

to shop or work - wrecking someone else's peace or polluting someone else's air and emitting even more CO2. Those without cars



are stranded - excluded. Then having seen their community shattered and politicians powerless to prevent it, people are exhorted to 'get involved in democracy': we should not be surprised if that democracy' is seen as irrelevant. Now note what the studies referred to on page 4 reveal: as communities decline so 'involvement' declines. Politicians bemoan this - but they must tackle Ghost Town Britain rather than dismiss it as 'apathy'.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH:

As walking to shops and other facilities becomes difficult because of distance, public health suffers. The figures for obesity, especially in children, are shocking: doctors have warned that we may be the first generation to see children die earlier than parents because of this. Ending Ghost Town Britain would enable people once again to

choose to walk places and be healthy.



10. PRICE AND CHOICE:

Supermarkets present themselves as offering choice

at cheap prices. The reality can be very different. There are many varieties of English apples and tomatoes for

instance - never seen in supermarkets

because of their demand for 'standardisation'. As for prices compare farm gate prices to supermarket prices. Ending Ghost Town Britain by encouraging local industry and markets would give consumers greater choice at cheaper prices.

11. FARMING: The decline in British agriculture has been a major concern for public policy for years. It results in rural decline, job losses, food miles, pollution and environmental damage. Ending Ghost Town Britain is vital to deal with this.

12. FAMILY LIFE: As local jobs decline people have to travel further for work; the adverse effects begin literally at home with less time for family life and inter-action. Ending Ghost Town Britain is, therefore, a way of allowing greater time for family life to prosper.

Mid-1980s average person made 1.5 trips by car to supermarkets each week; 10 years later this had increased to 2.4 trips

Article in The Ecologist, 01.09.2004

Distance average tonne of UK food is transported: 1978: 82km, 1999: 125km

Sustain report: Eating Oil

1985 to 1998 - 57% increase in distance of weekly car shopping trips, per person from 14km to 22km Sustain report: Eating Oil

Bank branch closures in Liss, Hampshire mean the 6,500 residents travel an extra 1 million miles per year: 70% by car

Campaign for Community Banking

In London, 8% of people visiting high-street shops reached them by car, compared to 60% of those shopping at a Sainsbury's superstore Article in The Ecologist, 01.09.2004

The presence of people on the streets plays a vital role in discouraging violent attacks and in itself deters street crime and denies the space to criminal elements Violence Research Unit, The Guardian 20.2.2000; Crime and Space in Inner Cities, Crime Design Studies Vol 2 1995; Whitzman and Wierkle 1995

As neighbourhoods decline crime control is harder and less effective

Preventing Crime - Report to US Congress, 1997 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Community destruction results in less involvement in local affairs Verba and Nye, Participation in America, p.236

As local activity declines, each additional 10 minutes commuting time cuts involvement by 10% - less attendance at meetings, committees, petitions signed etc. Verba and Nye, (as above);



Uffculme develop new trommel!



Finishing off compost by screening or sieving at the end of the process turns an untidy looking heap into something that really looks professional. But trying to buy a machine to do this is not easy. The large scale professionals have machines which cost tens, even hundreds of thousands of pounds. In Devon we are lucky to have had Sam Seward who for many years made the 'Devon rotary sieve', these sieves have gone all over the Country and have been extremely well received. However not only has Sam now

stopped making them but also they were not fast enough for some of the larger projects, like Uffculme.

(Incidentally Sam will still supply parts lists and full instructions of how to make the Devon sieve for the bargain price of £10 write to him at 'Woodlands Farm, Murchington, Chagford, Devon TO13 8HJ')

Uffculme have now finished making their own Trommel and it is up and working well. It may be hand or tractor loaded, has lots of adjustment for speed and time material is in the drum producing about 40 bags an hour, it is diesel run and towable behind a car, in effect the ideal tool for a group that wishes to produce a fine mulch from the coarser mix that is normally available.



They are prepared to loan it out to other groups for a 1/2 day to a weekend. Or if a group is interested in purchasing one to get in touch. If you have a means of publicising this please would you do so. I can supply photo rates are 1/2day £25 Full day £40

Weekend £75

It is on borrowers insurance, Very welcome to see it, Fridays are best.

Contact the group directly for more information on 01884

MikeP@uffculme.freeserve.co.uk

Also see http://www.wormresearchcentre.co.uk/ As they have also developed a small trommel

Schools Conference Nov 2005



in schools.

composted in schools.

The conference delegates looked at a number of barriers that schools face when attempting to increase the amount of waste that they compost.

Some of the main points that came out of the conference were:

- The need for funding. Schools are on tight budgets and though many would be keen to . increase the amount that they compost, without sufficient funds they will find this difficult. •
- Technical advice and sharing best practise. Schools would really benefit from the expert All the presentations that were made at the conferadvice available from groups like the Com- ence can be found on the CRN UK website: munity Composting Network and the Community Recycling Network. They would also i benefit from networking with other schools and composting groups in discussing what Keith Hatch from Bridport food and land trust has would work best in their particular case.
- Curriculum links. Schools are becoming increasing driven by a curriculum requirements, ways to link composting in with as- Also useful is the free Little Rotters pack which you pects of the National Curriculum would help can download or order free from schools to justify time on composting pro- www. Littlerotters.org.uk jects

This November a conference was held in Exeter, It was also felt that a South West "Composting in organised in by the South West CRN, the Devon Schools" identity needs to be established and that Community Composting Network and the West Dor- a "Composting in Schools" Fund, managed by set Food and Land Trust. Invited were representa- South West CRN, which would enable schools to tives from local authorities, schools and education apply for grants to set up composting projects organisations and community groups involved in would really help grassroots project get started. It composting and waste education from across the was also felt that the production of a CCN / CRN South West, with the aim of discussing composting booklet, aimed at schools, looking at available technologies, covering examples of best practice, links to the curriculum and identifying other funding op-In the morning speakers from organisations and portunities would be of benefit. Networks can really schools talked about their projects and the chal- help share ideas and the introduction of local Comlenges they had faced, while in the afternoon dele-posting in Schools Networks, which could share gates split into workshops to discuss various issues information through newsletters, e-lists and regular relating to ways of increasing the amount of waste skill shares. These could also be supplemented by regular, but less frequent regional meetings and newsletter.

The afternoon workshops looked at -

- What help do schools need to increase the amount they compost?
- What technology is most appropriate to schools?
- Do schools want a network to help them share ideas / advice / best practise?
- Making Composting "cool"?
- How to link into the curriculum?

www.crn.org.uk/networks/regional/southwest.shtm

written an extensive, useful and informative write up of the day which you can download form this

Rockets in Wiltshire



Pupils from Sheldon School, Chippenham, with Yousaf Mirza of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Rocket invessel compost machine

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has been working on a (constantly above 60 c for at least six days) all from funding through the Defra Waste Partner- Thus creating a safe end product. ship Fund. The project is being run through the Trusts Waste Minimisation Team, which has 5 At the moment the trails are going well but there staff and works in conjunction with WRAP (Waste have been problems, not least the increasing and Recycling Action Programme).

vert waste from landfill and to promote recycling outside funding with The Rocket costing between and composting as an educational resource. The £3,000 to £15,000 depending on its size. Project also helps to strengthen the school community and send the composting message home. Meanwhile the Eden Project has a £150,000 Rocket system to compost catering waste.

heating process speeds up composting to 2-3 dust is mixed with it to get the mix right. weeks rather than a few months. Other benefits of the continuous high temperature maintained conditions.

Schools Composting Technology Project with help known animal and plant pathogens are killed.

cost of the system and the need to add extra carbon, in the form of Rocket Fuel to achieve effi-The Trust has been working with schools to di-cient composting. This is a system that requires

There are 140 schools in Wiltshire and the Trust system to deal with all the catering waste on site. has been working with 10 of them using The Manager Tom Keays says the cost is frightening and it is a bit ridiculous the lengths we have to go but it's much better than landfiling the waste and The Rocket is an in-vessel, heated composter, we can then use it on the gardens. These type of roughly the size of an office desk. It works systems are used in blocks of flats in Sweden through a continuous process where food and and as the kitchen waste is added it is weighed carbon wastes are fed into one end. An assisted and an appropriate quantity of pelletised saw-

are that, because it is an enclosed system, rats. What ever system is used the mix must be right and other vermin have no access to it. Because from the start to create the optimum composting

DCCN DCRN conference 2006



Book your diaries now for 30th June. After much discussion we have decided to hold the conference at the Boniface Centre in Crediton again.

again providing a superb lunch.

We will be sending out booking forms shortly Just make sure your keep the date free!

It's difficult to find venues which are as good for the money as the Boniface centre. We were hoping to host it in Chagford and include visits to the recently vamped up Proper Job site but all the available venues are just not adequate for our needs.

However we are aiming to make this year's conference more of a networking opportunity, longer breaks and some more interaction. We still are discussing the programme but with all the work going on in schools it is bound to be heavily weighted towards the topic of waste education. So if you are interested in making links with your local school don't miss this event.

Some community composting projects are now helping their local primary schools with composting advice and visits to their sites. For more on this see throughout this issue. We have a Waste education committee which meets regularly and Devon County Council have been offering grants to allow teachers to go on training days so that they can more effectively teach the three 'R's namely 'Reduce –Reuse and Compost—er Recycle!'

The food will be of course the main reason to attend with Tom Cull yet

