

Issue 16

# junkmail

Devon Community Recycling & Community Composting Network News



## REUSE & UPCYCLING

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## Editorial



This issue focuses on reuse and upcycling, and illustrates lots of examples happening around the country, reflecting the great re-skilling, inspiration, enterprise and lifestyle changes required to reduce waste; from repair cafes to workspace provision, from high-end upcycling fashion to everyday reuse. I am pleased to report that upcycling is thriving all over the world, often in places one would not expect, as innovative artists, designers, crafts people and enthusiasts redefine the consumer throwaway age; and of course those in developing countries have been upcycling for years since 'waste' first originated.

Now Devon has its own Reuse Project to run during 2015 to stimulate reuse and upcycling around the county with

workshops and skill sharing events on upcycling furniture, bike repair, creative clothing, and transform your textiles, with repair cafes also to be held for general repair and electrical items. There will be community reuse event kits for loan to make hosting events easier, and a reuse forum set up to network individuals, small businesses, and others involved in reuse. See also the article on the Innovation Fund.

Anyone interested can hopefully use this issue as a resource to see how people are doing it, and I have selected different working examples from around the country. There is also the website [www.repaircafe.org](http://www.repaircafe.org) full of tips to help people set up their own events.

I am amazed by the ingenuity and creativity, there are a lot of inspiring upcycling photos from around the world on Pinterest. I have assembled an upcycling selection at [www.pinterest.com/richardgomme](http://www.pinterest.com/richardgomme). Some that stand out for me are large scale public space sculptures, such as the tin can street pavilion in Israel, the plastic bottle Christmas tree in Lithuania made from 40,000 waste bottles that lights up and is 30ft tall, the plastic bottle giant fish on the beach in Rio, Brazil, the Russian pensioners building décor made from thousands of plastic bottle tops. There is Katie Thomson in South Africa, at [www.recreate.za.net](http://www.recreate.za.net). For an online shop featuring upcycled handmade items see [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com).

[www.upcyclethat.com](http://www.upcyclethat.com) is a natty website full of upcycling ideas and inspiration, some of which are looking for kickstarter funding on

[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com). If you have a worthy enterprise that needs funding to get it going do consider kickstarter.

Other innovative uses include top end fashion belts, bags and other items made from old fire brigade firehoses by Elvis and Kresse, [www.elvisandkresse.com](http://www.elvisandkresse.com). There are flip flop shoe soles from car tyre treads, see [www.tireflops.com](http://www.tireflops.com).

Volunteer groups and social enterprises are innovating with upcycling and repair too, such as Tiverton's Repair café. [www.facebook.com/tivertonrepaircafe](http://www.facebook.com/tivertonrepaircafe).

Refurnish Devon's ReStore is at Dartington Shops, which is hosting regular drop-in **Repair Cafes** on the last Saturday of each month from 10.00am-1.30pm, starting 31st January. The shop has a range of restored and recreated items for sale. [www.facebook.com/ReStoreDartington](http://www.facebook.com/ReStoreDartington).

Exeter's 'The Bike Bank' bike repair and training project includes re-skilling disadvantaged people in bike repair and refurbishment, providing bikes for low income people. [www.facebook.com/BikeBankDevon](http://www.facebook.com/BikeBankDevon).

'Out of the Dark' is in High Wycombe, it restores and revamps salvaged furniture as a means to train, educate and employ young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and steer them away from crime, with an ethos of being an extended family. [www.outofthedark.org.uk](http://www.outofthedark.org.uk)

The 'Goldfinger Factory' in West London is an up-cycling production and learning hub for the training, support and inspiration of London's most disadvantaged residents to create

desirable furnishings and fit-outs for London's trendsetters with a social conscience.

[www.goldfingerfactory.com](http://www.goldfingerfactory.com)

'The Remakery' is a new project in London to provide affordable workspace, tools and access to reclaimed materials destined for landfill for makers to reuse. The aim is for Remakers – local residents, makers, artists and businesses – to reuse materials to create products, enterprises, jobs and opportunities and develop new skills. Any profit is used to subsidise the Remakery social programmes and help those at a disadvantage in the community.

[www.remakery.org](http://www.remakery.org)

'The Restart' project encourages and empowers people to use their electronics for longer, by sharing repair and maintenance skills. The project helps people learn to repair their own electronics in community events and in workplaces.

[www.therestartproject.org](http://www.therestartproject.org)

For community events the Repair Café Foundation says: "Really the most important thing is to have a team of dependable and enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to give up their free time and offer their skills and tools to help others learn how to repair their things. If you have that, your repair cafe will soon grow. It is a fun, social way to combat the general frustration with wasted materials, resources and a loss of skills... it's a community, a space for empowerment and the site of transformation where people's relationships with their things shift from consumer to owner."

## Pop up 'give and take' reuse shop for Crediton



The community group Sustainable Crediton have run a completely free, give and take reuse pop up shop in Crediton High St during February.

Charles Mossman of the waste action group said "our Pop Up Give and Take Shop ... was hard work but a phenomenal success with over 7,700 people coming through our doors in the 14 days we were open and over 7,000kg of household items finding good new homes!! Many people have asked us when we will be doing it again but for now we are taking a break and going back to our normal lives which have been very much put on hold for the past two weeks. However, it won't be long before we pop up again with a new or related project!! Watch this space."

'People could bring unwanted household items including toys, clothes, garden equipment, kitchen equipment, household linens, ornaments, and

furnishings, books, CD's and DVD's. For big items such as beds, tables, wardrobes etc. people were asked to bring a description/picture plus contact details. These were displayed on a special board in the shop. As predicted, there really was something for everyone. The only items not acceptable were paint and household chemicals, opened toiletries, baby car seats and old style computer equipment and TV's.'

Paula Mossman of the Waste Action Group explained how it works.' People can take away up to 5 items completely free, they don't have to bring anything, but we hope people will take the opportunity of clearing out unwanted items at home. We anticipate that fresh goods will be arriving daily, so there will be new items on display regularly to browse through. Our group has been working on waste related issues in the town for over 7 years now and our regular waste plastics collections have become very popular. Our main aim with this is to keep the perfectly re-usable goods that many people have at home, but no longer need, out of landfill. One person's junk is often another person's treasure and so we hope as many people as possible will pop into the shop regularly throughout the fortnight.'

Follow Sustainable Crediton at [www.facebook.com/groups/27626965377/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/27626965377/) or see the website [www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk)

# New reuse, repair and upcycling project for Devon!

**The Devon Reuse project aims to promote and stimulate more reuse, repair and upcycling in the community, in small businesses, charities and social enterprise, and will run throughout 2015. The project will establish a Reuse Forum, an online Reuse and Repair Directory, provide workshops and practical skills training events, and make community reuse kits available for loan to people wanting to host events such as clothes swaps and 'give and take days'.**

Emma Croft is the new Devon reuse project officer, now based at DCC, and she has experience of running reuse and repair events in Wiltshire alongside other waste prevention initiatives, while working at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who ran community waste programmes for the Council. Emma said: "I'm excited by the potential of this project to reduce waste and increase the amount of goods and materials that are reused and repaired. The first series of bike repair events has already been organised in Exeter at Pinbrook Recycling Centre." (Please see other article for workshop details and dates) Work will include identifying and establishing a network of people, small businesses and organisations in Devon interested or active in reusing, repairing, re-making, or re-purposing any item, as part of the Reuse Forum.

The Forum will enable people to network, share know-how, and explore potential partnerships. Are you an individual maker who needs specific materials or do you have an idea for a reuse enterprise but need some help? Are you interested in 'repair cafes'? Are you a business that has reusable materials in your waste that you would like to see reused? Are you a charity or social enterprise that could benefit from marketing and promotion, or anything strategic? Do you want to revive jumble sales in your area? There will be different interest groups with different goals, but it is hoped that all interests can derive benefit in one way or another.

The online reuse/repair directory will enable the public to easily find and connect with useful contacts, such as repair services, in their locality. Reuse enterprises, upcyclers and repairers will be able to market their services through inclusion in the directory. Do you know a repair enterprise that should be included? If so, please send us the contact details. The online reuse directory will be based on the market town areas of Devon. Different reuse and repair initiatives will be broken down into 6 categories: buy, sell, repair, hire, donate, and swap.

The workshops and skills training events will hopefully inspire people to undertake more 'reuse, repair, and

upcycling' in their lifestyles, and the whole project aims to act as a catalyst for stimulating higher levels of reuse in the community. Training sessions will include furniture, bike repair, creative clothing, transform your textiles, and repair cafes for more general items. 12 skills based workshops will be held, initially at Pinbrook Recycling Centre in Exeter, and also elsewhere in the community.

Community Reuse kits will be available on loan to enable clothes swaps events and 'give and take days' to happen more easily. Clothes swap kits will include mirrors, clothes rails, sack truck, hangers, screens for changing, and guidance notes. Give and take event kits will include press release and poster templates, weighing scales to record items, table labels, signs, and other items.

There are lots of ideas being discussed, such as organising a 'Devon Reuse Week' to promote reuse. How can we identify businesses with suitable resources in their waste and connect them with makers who want those resources? Do small makers/repairers need help with a premises hub, or to kickstart their idea, or an online selling platform for their creations?

The project is being funded by WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme), Devon County Council and supported

by DCRN and Sita, who run Devon's Recycling Centres.

If you want to be included in any way please get in touch, either as an individual, business, community group, charity or social enterprise, whether as part of the reuse/repair directory, the forum network, or are just interested in any of the training events, either participating or offering skills.

Please contact Emma Croft via email: [emma.croft@devon.gov.uk](mailto:emma.croft@devon.gov.uk) or phone 07966 566435, or join the free DCRN email list for regular email info about local events and news. Richard Gomme at [info@dcrn.org.uk](mailto:info@dcrn.org.uk)





## Devon reuse project events



**Long forgotten bike sitting in your shed?**

**Want to know how to get your bike on the road?**

**Perhaps it's time to Bring Back Your Bike!**

Recycle Devon in conjunction with Exeter cycling charity, Ride On, are offering five free to attend workshops designed to make sure that your bike can 'Get You Home' These events are **FREE** but they must be booked in advance as we have limited spaces.

### Friday 10th April

9am-11am or 11am-1pm

Ride On, 61 Haven Road, EX2 8DP

### Saturday 25th April

10am-12pm

Pinbrook Recycling Centre, Pinbrook Road, Pinhoe, EX4 8HH

### Wednesday 29th April

10am-12pm

Pinbrook Recycling Centre, Pinbrook Road, Pinhoe, EX4 8HH

### Saturday 9th May

10am-12pm

Pinbrook Recycling Centre, Pinbrook Road, Pinhoe, EX4 8HH

The workshops will cover:

- **The M-check – a simple pre-ride safety check**
- **Bike fitting**
- **Quick brake adjustments**
- **Fixing punctures**
- **Bike Repair Toolkits**

If you're interested in coming on the course but don't have a bike to work on then we will be able to provide a bike for you to practise on.

For further information and bookings, please contact:

Emma Croft, Reuse Project Co-ordinator at Devon County Council:

[emma.croft@devon.gov.uk](mailto:emma.croft@devon.gov.uk) or ee

## Refurnish Crediton's new reuse shop

Mid Devon now has a new furniture reuse service covering the district with free collections provided for unwanted furniture and household items. These items are then available for sale at affordable prices at Refurnish's shop in Mill St Crediton next to Morrison's supermarket. It is open 7 days a week. Refurnish is a charity that aims to provide low cost furniture to people in need, reduce waste, provide community benefit, and create jobs, training and volunteering opportunities. Please contact 01363 774577.

You can now see what furniture is available at all Refurnish furniture reuse shops on their new website at [www.refurnish.org.uk](http://www.refurnish.org.uk).

## Two Exeter bike reuse projects

There are two community bike reuse projects currently happening in Exeter. Both the '**Bike Bank**' and '**Ride On**' aim to get more people cycling and provide affordable bikes.

'**Ride On**' charity offer basic bike maintenance sessions to help people develop skills and confidence. We also offer free rider confidence coaching, group rides with qualified ride leaders, and we sell reconditioned bikes. All our bikes are fully serviced, cleaned and ready to ride away. Our knowledgeable team can offer advice and guidance to make sure you choose the right bike for your needs. Come and visit us at our workshop here on the historic quayside in Exeter. We welcome volunteers from administration to fund raising or preparing our reconditioned bikes. Or can you donate a bike.

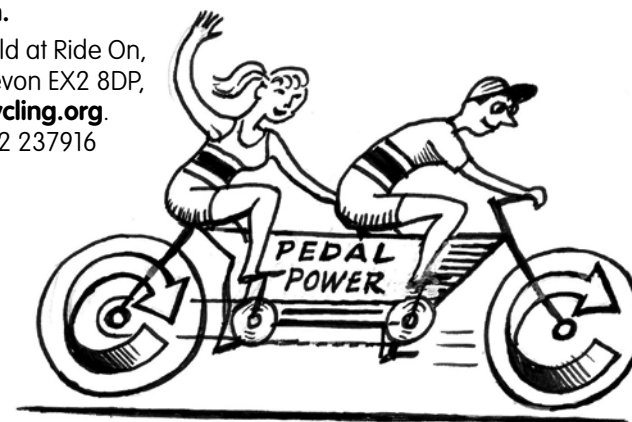
**Ride On workshop opens each Thursday 2pm to 8pm & each Saturday 11am to 5pm.**

Regular courses are held at Ride On, 61 Haven Rd, Exeter, Devon EX2 8DP, UK. See [www.rideoncycling.org](http://www.rideoncycling.org). Contact Adam on 07762 237916

**Exeter Bike Bank** project is a supportive workshop environment where vulnerable adults can learn practical skills in refurbishing bikes for the benefit of others, becoming trainee bike mechanics. They offer refurbished bikes to people on low incomes using a voucher system similar to that used by Food Banks. It's a project of Exeter Community Initiatives. 'We are currently open for two days a week in a shop in the Harlequins Centre and working on securing additional funds to enable us to operate for longer.'

The running of the project is supported by volunteer mechanics who mentor others to learn how to refurbish bikes. We also have salvaged bike parts that can be re-used for home repairs or for creative and technical projects. We will be offering drop in sessions where people can bring in their own bikes and learn some basic skills to help maintain them.

[www.facebook.com/BikeBankDevon](http://www.facebook.com/BikeBankDevon), or contact Andy Richardson on: 07527 363938 or email: [bikebank@eci.org.uk](mailto:bikebank@eci.org.uk)



# Upcycling meets high fashion



**Elvis & Kresse are two social entrepreneurs who have been reclaiming heroic materials ever since they first fell in love with London Fire Brigade's decommissioned fire-hoses. After a distinguished career fighting fires the hoses were destined for landfill. They started to rescue it from waste in 2005 and never looked back.**

More materials soon followed, Kresse has always had an obsession with waste and likes nothing better than discovering and intercepting something new. The challenge is the same every time – 'what can we do to prove value, change perception, and respect these resources.'

'We dream of a time without landfill, when everything is recycled or composted. Between now and then we know there are far too many incredible

materials that will either languish under ground or suffer the indignity of incineration; when that happens we lose, we lose quality, narrative, and the opportunity to do something great. So we intercede, choosing story laden materials of incredible character, and do everything we can to ensure their second life is as long as possible.'

'We are constantly searching for more materials to grow our range of bags, belts and wallets, and have rescued over 200 tonnes so far.'

'Design traditionally begins with an idea, for Elvis & Kresse, design begins with a problem. It is the material and the scale of the problem which dictate what we will make and how we make it. In the case of the hose, we scrubbed away the soot and grease that builds up after 25 years of active duty and discovered a

truly remarkable, truly green textile. We wanted to honour this tough, life saving material, hence our focus on quality craftsmanship and classic, timeless design. We build value into each piece and style them for use beyond single seasons. All Elvis & Kresse products are hand-made and unique.'

It would never be enough to give an old fire hose a somewhat useful life, we must transform it, make it desirable or useful in and of itself; something you would want even if it were not recycled, even without the ethics. E&K spent five years perfecting a billfold wallet - ensuring malleability, strength, and classic, practical styling. This same dedication is applied to everything we do, from how we collect and prepare our materials to how we finish and package the pieces.

Our process emulates kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold. The refurbished pieces are worth significantly more than their new, undamaged counterparts. Our materials are shown this same level of care, they are cherished.

Most traditional businesses are only able to measure their success in one way... the bottom line. At Elvis & Kresse we have 2 additional measures of success; how much waste we are able to divert from landfill and how much money we are able to give back to our charities, of which all 3 have equal importance to us. Elvis & Kresse re-distributes up to 50% of profits to projects and charities related to the unique materials we reclaim.

[www.elvisandkresse.com](http://www.elvisandkresse.com)

## Workshops and repair cafes at the ReStore Dartington



The ReStore at Dartington is hosting a series of public workshops commencing in February/March including seat upholstery, seat caning, mosaic work, wild weaving, 'rag rug' style peg looming, soft toy making and material plaiting, all with a focus on re-using materials.

They are also hosting regular drop-in **Repair Cafes** on the last Saturday of each month from 10.00am-1.30pm, starting 31st January. These provide a chance for people to bring in items needing attention and advice, and enjoy some tea/coffee cake at the same time!

Coordinator Adrian says 'Please let us know if there is a particular skill you would like to learn, or if you have skills you would like to share in future workshops.'

Contact the ReStore if you'd like to participate in a workshop on **01803 868637** or by email: [dartington@refurnish.org.uk](mailto:dartington@refurnish.org.uk)

# Goldfinger Factory

**Goldfinger Factory is an up-cycling production and learning hub for the training, support and inspiration of London's most disadvantaged residents to create desirable furnishings and fit-outs for London's trendsetters with a social conscience.**

'Goldfinger' is located underneath Trellick Tower in Portobello, a London architectural icon designed by Ernő Goldfinger, it houses a sustainable workshop, a retail space and a training school, and is the showcase of their model for social change.

'We are a charitable enterprise without the charity shop feel, mixing quality reclaimed pieces lovingly refurbished with design classics and custom-made pieces to make golden spaces at our stores and in your home, business or pop-up events.'

These spaces are curated by designers, artists and craftsmen, and are all restored by trainees from socially disadvantaged groups, providing skills, support and ultimately jobs, whilst creating value in London's rapidly growing re-use sector, and at the same time saving materials from ending up in landfill.

Goldfinger's mission – 'To create a valuable and socially empowering brand which challenges conventions about charity shopping and the quality of second hand goods by



matching local resources with global design trends.'

We provide workshops for the local community in furniture up-cycling (restoration, upholstery etc), DIY and interior design as well as accredited training, work skills experience and ultimately create new job opportunities. Goldfinger claims 'we are making re-use cool!'

Redemption is their own on-site alcohol-free gastrobar serving classy mocktails, exquisite food and a guilt-free night out.

Goldfinger has also undertaken a high end retail pop-up shop and a commission for a festival event bar. The pop-up shop ran for 6 weeks in Westfield Stratford in London, which offered a high profile sales space to aspiring entrepreneurs and designers under the Community Links programme. The festival and event commission was a fully modular and reusable bar and lighting made from reclaimed materials from Boxer Gin, used at the Secret Garden Party festival.

13-15 Golborne Road, Portobello, London,  
[www.goldfingerfactory.com](http://www.goldfingerfactory.com)

# Workspace hub for reuse and upcycling makers

**The Remakery is a London scheme that provides affordable workspace and access to tools for reuse and upcycling projects, and supplies reclaimed materials for makers.**

The project has refurbished a 1,000 sq m space (a former derelict car park that was a local troublespot), transforming it from garages into workshops, offices, social space and storage for reclaimed materials. It includes spaces for woodwork, sewing and upholstery, bike repair, sculpture and printmaking. "It began life as a project of Transition Town Brixton," explains Hannah Lewis, co-founder of the project. "They spotted the opportunity to make use of the large volumes of waste furniture, wood and other materials that are discarded on the streets of south London, to create opportunities to share practical skills, build community and grow new enterprises."

They have received capital grants totalling £210,000 to enable the workspaces to be created.

"If you're taking on a large space, don't

underestimate the time it takes to get the building work done with a largely volunteer workforce," says Lewis. "We'd suggest getting something going on a smaller scale first, such as a regular event or a pop-up shop, to build up the momentum, the mailing list and a crew who want to help." And if you are relying on donations from the public, be conscious about building up your capacity before you publicise the project widely. Otherwise you might get overrun with more offers of materials than you can handle. "There's just so much waste out there and people love to send it to a good use rather than to landfill." Be as specific as you can about what types of materials you are able to reuse, and plan how you are going to organise the space. "Come and talk to us if you want to learn more about what worked and what didn't!"

The Remakery accepts the following materials: wood, board and sheet materials; DIY supplies including paints, hardware, tools, electrical and lighting fixtures, ceramic tiles and mosaic, wallpaper; gardening tools and supplies; textiles: on the roll, scraps, and soft (clean) furnishings; other art and design materials; bicycle parts and tools.

**REPAIR**



*Bicycles*



*Furniture*

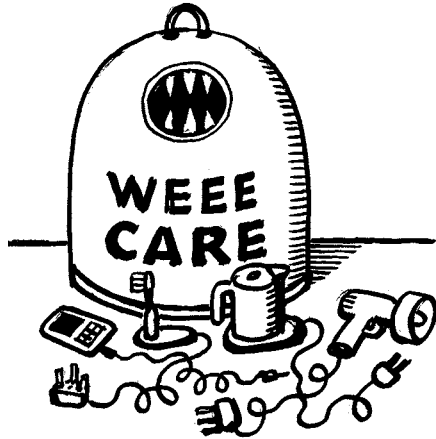
*Electrical*



**RE-USE**



## Extend the lifespan!



### Troubled by your electronic devices? Extend the lifespan!

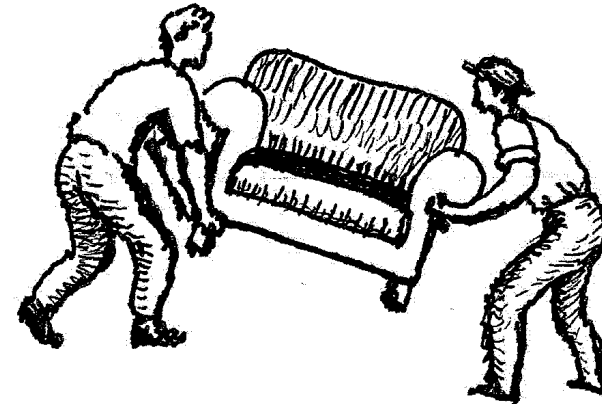
The Restart Project is a London-based social enterprise that encourages and empowers people to use their electronic devices for longer, by changing attitudes and sharing repair and maintenance skills. 'Restart' helps people learn to repair their own electronics in community events and in workplaces, and in so doing helps change people into careful owners of a product rather than throwaway consumers. On their website there are resources on how to do your own 'Restart' event. Restart is now happening globally!

Troubled by western attitudes to technology "where people discard devices because they run slow" or for fashion, compared to the developing world where phones and devices are

fixed and looked after as potentially life saving communication devices, Janet Gunter and Ugo Vallauri realised that the only way to change things was "to simply roll up our sleeves and get started". The Restart Project was founded in 2012. With no funding, they began to throw "restart parties" – free, community events that empower participants to extend the lifespan of their electronics by learning repair and maintenance skills. They host two three-hour parties a month and are actively expanding their community of volunteers and participants. Between them, they have over 15 years experience of working with technology in the developing world. They now speak publicly about repair and resilience.

"Restart parties are a collaborative learning process, not a free repair", stresses Gunter. "We are not competing with professional technicians by offering a better deal." That said, if you are thinking of throwing your own restart party, the participation of local repair professionals is encouraged – by contributing, they can also promote their own activities. Events require a minimum of three to four committed repair volunteers (or "restarters") who can stay for the duration of the event. One person should host and organise a list of repairs. "Skill-sharing and empowerment are absolutely essential," says Gunter. "Repairs should always be done together, explaining the steps as you go." Lastly keep it friendly. "Offer a few snacks and beverages, and play some good music while people learn. They are called parties for a reason." [www.therestartproject.org/](http://www.therestartproject.org/)

## Out of the dark



### 'Out of the Dark' is a charitable social enterprise that recycles, restores and revamps salvaged furniture as a means to train, educate and employ young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

At the heart of 'Out of The Dark' lies the premise of creating an extended family. Not only is the enterprise run as a family business, all young people involved are welcomed into the fold and become part of the family.

Founded by Jay and Jade Blades, and based in High Wycombe, Out of the Dark is an extension to Street Dreams, the charity that they have been running for the past 13 years.

Their charity's projects are all about supporting young people to achieve a better life and steer away from crime, and this project brings in the elements

of reducing waste, craft, DIY and work skills, as well as the development of self esteem and confidence.

The Blades personal experience of rebellion and hardship in teenage years coupled with professional backgrounds in building, carpentry, interior and textile design has been the right mixture to make Out of the Dark a success.

Jay and Jade met at Bucks New University where Jay was studying a BSc in Criminology and Philosophy and Jade was studying a BA in Textiles Design and Art. They started running youth projects and over the years have built a charity that is supported by a board of trustees, volunteers and 13 ex project participants who are now paid workers.

Email: [info@outofthedark.org.uk](mailto:info@outofthedark.org.uk)  
[www.outofthedark.org.uk](http://www.outofthedark.org.uk)





# The Recycle Devon Thank You Awards

## Category: Collection Crew/Operative

- Runner up - Darren Dagnal, Andy Watson, Adam Walsh and Dave Hodgson from Torbay's Garden Waste Collection Scheme
- Runner up - Kevin Newcombe from the Devon & Cornwall Food Association

To date he has helped to collect and distribute over 115 tonnes of useable food, with a value of over £313K, to over 73 user groups and 1660 individual recipients.

- **Category Winner** - Rufus Duffin from Otter Rotters. Rufus is a driver and loader for Otter Rotters, and won for his all round work in the garden waste collection round.

## Category: Recycling Centre Operative/ Site staff

- Runner up – Proper Job Community Recycling Centre, Chagford
- Runner up – Newton Abbot Recycling Centre

- **Category Winner** - Killacleave Recycling Centre, Ilfracombe

## Category: School/Educational Establishment Recycling Hero

- Runner up – Nicola Baker, Exeter University

Nicola has been one of the leads for the 'Green Belters', a Green Impact Team for a number of years at the University of Exeter.

- Runner up – Marie Ozanne, Cambian Group – Devon School

Marie is a busy Mum to a 4 year old, she is a full time teacher and is studying for her Masters degree. Despite this she is passionate to reduce waste and recycling as much as possible.

- **Category Winner** – Charlie Poustie, Stoke Hill Junior School

Charlie works tirelessly to promote and maintain good recycling & composting processes in school and leads a 'green team'. Black bin waste has reduced by 75% in five years The School generates £3,500 from solar panels which he bought with a grant he applied for.

## Category: School Recycling Hero (Group/Class)

- Runner up – Sheila Burford and The Little Rotters, Berry Pomeroy Primary School

Sheila Burford and her team of 'Little Rotters', ensure all food waste in school is composted.



- **Category Winner** – Lyn Wonnacott and The Green Team, St Davids Primary School

Lyn and the school Green Team (an inspiring group of committed children) work hard to make a real difference to the School environment. They are dedicated in their mission to promote sustainable living both in School and at home.

## Category: Your Recycling Hero (Friend, Family Member, Neighbour or Local Recycling Champion)

- Runner up – Mandy Jennings from Ottery

Mandy has has been a champion for Otter Rotters Community Composting and what it stands for. Not just recycling garden waste, but employing people with learning difficulties and helping the elderly in the community cope with their gardens. She has worked for sometime without drawing a salary because she cares a great deal about Otter Rotters and her team.

- Runner up – Diana Hekt, Exeter  
In her work in house removals and clearances, she does her best to ensure that all items she receives are either recycled, sold on or given another lease of life.
- Runner up – Peter Chapman, Newton Abbot

Peter is a compulsive can 'picker upper' and recycler. Whenever he goes for a

walk, he will pick up discarded cans, and has rescued thousands of cans for recycling.

- **Category Winner** – Amy Derbyshire, Newton Abbot

Amy is a Childminder and known as the Recycle Queen, reusing and recycling everything. The children she child minds also learn about recycling.

## Category: Community Group Recycling Hero

- Runner up – Andy Schiach and his Cats (Community Action Team), Exeter

Andy is the leader of the charity youth project WASP (Wonford & St Pauls Exeter ). The "Cats" consist of young people from the Wynstream Primary School in Burnthouse Lane. They help elderly or vulnerable resident's by gardening & composting.

- Runner up – Charles Mossman, Sustainable Crediton

Charles initiated a plastic recycling scheme in Cheriton Fitzpaine in 2013 and has now organised 12 collections to date, as well as helping with the regular plastic recycling collections in Crediton run by the group. 13 dumpy bags full of plastic, weighing 250kg, are regularly collected on a bi-monthly basis.

- **Category Winner** – Delia Kennedy, Uffculme

Delia has been pivotal in raising recycling awareness amongst the people of Uffculme and surrounding villages. She has inspired and galvanised local



## Devon Authorities Recycling Partnership Cont.

people into making efforts to recycle and be aware of green issues as a way of life.

### Category: Small Business Champion

- Runner up – Karen and Steve Woodman, Londis in Woolacombe  
Karen and Steve have recently initiated a carrier bag reuse and recycling policy at Londis, and get involved in community based initiatives and charity events.
- Runner up – Steve Cane, South West Composting

Steve has enabled the community of Brixton to use his Composting facilities and raise money for the local parish. Since 2012 this has generated over £4,000 which has been used in the local community for Environmental Initiatives.

- **Category Winner** – Sonia Hall and Alexander Hosking, Collectrical CIC

Sonia and Alex work voluntarily to collect electronic equipment for recycling. They strip down each computer, laptop, printer, mouse, keyboard and recycle every single piece of it. Where possible, equipment is rebuilt and brought up-to-date with the latest software, which is then donated to a local charity, School, community group or individual in need.

### Recycling Hero for Devon

- **Winner:** Lyn Wonnacot and The Green Team, St Davids Primary School

Sign-up to the newsletter [recycledevon.org](http://recycledevon.org) or find us on facebook [facebook.com/RecycleDevon](https://facebook.com/RecycleDevon).

## Modular phones in 2015

### innovations in recycling and bio-mining to recover dissolved metals

More than 1.8bn mobile phones were purchased in 2013. The recycling challenge is how to recover the precious metals in an old phone, which is made from 20 different materials. This will include silver, gold, tin and platinum group metals. Each phone contains about 300mg of silver and 30mg of gold. Between now and the end of 2020, 10m tonnes of electronic products will be purchased in the UK.

The design challenge is how to extend the life of phones by making them modular. Modular phones will appear in 2015. Components such as battery, screen, motherboard, and memory can be attached to a 'skeleton' and readily replaced if they fail. A plastic material from plant cellulose will be used for the phone's skeleton, and circuit boards will dissolve into sugars in the presence of engineered bacteria. For the recovery of metals, ionic liquids and salts will dissolve specific metals, which can then be recovered from the liquid. In one bio-mining process, gold is dissolved from the residual solids using a chlorine-based process and then filtered in mushroom mats, which recovers up to 80% of the gold.

## Mr & Mrs Green go zero waste



**Rachelle Strauss aka 'Mrs Green', blogger at MyZeroWaste.com, has come top of Resource magazine's Hot 100 list of recycling heroes after being voted as the 'brightest spark' of the waste and resources industry. She said 'the greatest reward I'm given daily is the opportunity to help people feel good about being part of the solution. By making differences in their lives – whether it's a householder or a business owner – they feel positive about their choices and many report to having a lot of fun in the process!'**

'MyZeroWaste.com' is a blog about how we as a family reduced waste and pollution to our environment since 2004. Using simple ideas and available resources, we eventually accumulated just 1 bin in a year! We want to inspire, educate and help householders reduce the amount of rubbish they send to landfill. We show on a daily basis HOW we are reducing our own landfill waste by highlighting the pitfalls and sharing our mistakes and successes. We aim to show that a zero waste UK is achievable through practical, workable and realistic steps. Many people feel overwhelmed about climate change. Our vision is that everybody takes small steps towards a zero waste future and begins to see that everybody doing a little bit can collectively add up to significant change. If everyone in the UK recycled just ONE more item per week, that would be 60 million less things ending up in landfill!' 'We run a friendly, helpful and inspiring website. We welcome lively debate from our readers, and welcome guest posts from individuals who are passionate about reducing landfill and waste companies who are offering zero waste products and services.' Well worth a browse.

[www.facebook.com/MyZeroWaste](https://www.facebook.com/MyZeroWaste) blog is at [www.myzerowaste.com](http://www.myzerowaste.com)

## Devon foodbanks providing vital crisis help

- 3981 people received three days' emergency food from Exeter foodbank in 2013-14, compared to 2886 in 2012-13
- Over 900,000 people received three days' emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks nationwide in 2013-14, compared to 346,992 in 2012-13.
- Foodbank figures are 'tip of the iceberg' of UK food poverty says Trussell Trust Chairman
- Foodbank figures trigger biggest ever faith leader intervention on UK food poverty in modern times.

### Updates from foodbanks in Exeter and Teignbridge

HITS is a local charity (Homeless in Teignbridge Support) re-distributing unwanted or surplus food to those in need across Teignbridge, and helping reduce food waste.

People that have been helped include those in crisis or need, who are homeless, victims of domestic violence, ex-service personnel, the elderly, families in poverty, disabled people, ex offenders and many others.

'We provide toiletry, food and household crisis packs. We also, when needed, provide baby packs and have been

known to help pets of those in crisis and need. Since the start of the project in September 2012, in excess of 19 tonnes of food have been distributed within the local area.'

'We also supply white goods in some cases. We work with local suppliers to provide good clean secondhand furniture free of charge. We will also in certain situations put a small amount of credit on a key meter where possible to ensure cooking and heating facilities. In an emergency, whenever possible, we will also provide immediate overnight accommodation.'

Teignbridge:

**Tel: 07990 515125**

**<http://hitsfoodbank.org/>**

**Email: [hitscharity@yahoo.com](mailto:hitscharity@yahoo.com)**

Exeter:

**[www.exeter.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.exeter.foodbank.org.uk),**

**Email: [info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk)**

**Tel: 07818 226 524 ,**

Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street,  
Exeter, EX4 3AT

Plymouth:

Plymouth Foodbank 28 Manor Street,  
Stonehouse Plymouth PL1 1TW.

**Tel: 01752 254981**

**Email: [plymouthfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthfoodbank@gmail.com)**

## Scotland launches national reuse and 'pass it on' week

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), the body responsible for delivering the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan, launched the first national reuse week which ran between 7-15 March 2015.

During Scotland's 'Pass it on Week', individuals, businesses, schools, shops and organisations were asked to organise dedicated reuse events such as swap shops, clothes swaps, repair workshops and upcycling sessions in order to facilitate and encourage reuse. People were encouraged to donate unwanted items to charity, swap belongings with friends, and purchase second-hand goods in a bid to save money and reduce the number of reusable products that end up at landfill.

ZWS has made a number of resources available online, including a

downloadable toolkit, containing tips and advice regarding event organisation, promotion and registration.

**[www.passitonweek.com](http://www.passitonweek.com)**

The Scottish Institute of Remanufacture based at University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, has been opened, and will be the UK's largest remanufacturing research centre. Remanufacturing is estimated to be worth £2.4 billion to the UK economy. It aims to create a more 'circular economy' (where materials and products are designed to be reused over and over again) and reduce waste through the uptake of remanufacturing. "Reuse, repair, reconditioning and remanufacture are going to be really important ways for us to protect the environment".



## South West Councils join forces with France to help communities save energy

**A new toolkit to help communities in the south west reduce their energy demand has been launched by Devon County Council, in partnership with Dorset, Wiltshire, and two LA's in Brittany, France. 'Sustainable energy across the common place' (SEACS) project includes lots of resources and ideas for communities to start talking about energy, build their capacity to act locally and work in partnership, along with a wide range of energy advice and videos on issues such as lighting, heating, getting the best from your energy supplier, and renewable energy.**

The toolkit, which is available online at [www.en.seacs.eu](http://www.en.seacs.eu), is based on the collective experiences of tackling these issues in Devon, Dorset, Wiltshire and Brittany, and piloting innovative tools and exchanging ideas and experiences.

Almost 50 schools across Devon took part in the project by helping develop energy action plans and awareness campaigns, conducting energy audits, creating curriculum resources and energy workshops and exhibitions for both their class and the whole school, and included some students taking part in exchange trips with schools in Brittany.

Popular resources for schools in the toolkit include the Energy House, which was developed to teach pupils about personal energy use and climate change and to involve them in planning and implementing a low-energy lifestyle at home and at school. The central feature of the programme is to design and produce a model home, demonstrating features of energy good practice, to be used as a tool to inform and engage others.

361 Energy is a new community based organisation that is working with schools and communities in North Devon to reduce energy use. The organisation was set up by a group of sustainability and renewable energy consultants and is supported by the SEACS project.

361 Energy's first project has been to engage with 40 households in Braunton and Ilfracombe in collaboration with local schools. Our partner schools are Ilfracombe C of E Junior School and Caen Community Primary School in Braunton. Pupils and households will be supported to learn about reducing gas and electricity consumption through behavioural changes and technical solutions. The group will also advise those in fuel poverty in Ilfracombe thanks to a grant from the Devon Funding Network.

## The People Who Share



**'The People Who Share' is a global movement that is making sharing mainstream. 'We're on a mission to build a Sharing Economy and we love to help you discover that sharing is... fun, affordable, easy, accessible, mobile and of course social. We bring it all together on-line, on land and on-the-go.'**

'We run big campaigns such as Global Sharing Day previously called National Sharing Day and reach over 60million people in 192 countries.'

'We're building a Sharing Economy one click at a time, you can start sharing at [compareandshare.com](http://compareandshare.com) the world's first one-stop comparison marketplace of the Sharing Economy - See more at [www.thepeoplewhoshare.com](http://www.thepeoplewhoshare.com)

'We're committed to reshaping the world through sharing, harnessing the power of reciprocity to create happier, healthier and more sustainable

lifestyles. We're here to enable sharing, to make it easy for people who need, to connect with people who have, and build a global community of sharers. Our passion is unlocking the sharing potential that exists in each of us. What will you share?'

'Our vision of the future is a thriving Sharing Economy where the need to own is transformed. Everyone is a supplier of goods, services and experiences. Where people share skills, time, resources, knowledge, responsibility, opportunities, ideas, goods, services and stuff.'

'It's a world in which our collective capability meets our collective needs and we collaborate to enhance each other's lives, protect our planet and create wealth from which everybody benefits.'

[www.thepeoplewhoshare.com](http://www.thepeoplewhoshare.com)



## ASDA to launch 'wonky veg' trial to reduce food waste

Following Jamie Oliver's 'eat wonky veg' campaign on his Channel 4 TV show 'Friday Night Feast', supermarket chain ASDA will begin selling misshapen fruit and vegetables at five of its stores later this month, in a bid to reduce food waste (trial not in Devon, but why not ask your supermarket?). Retailers generally refuse to sell 'significant' amounts of fruit and vegetables due to tough quality controls on physical appearance, leading to huge food waste. A survey found that 80 % of British shoppers would buy fruit and vegetables that are 'not perfect in shape or colour'.

Jamie Oliver added: "If most Brits had half an idea of the amount going to waste, they'd be snapping up ugly veg by the trolley load. There's no difference



whatsoever in taste or nutritional value. This is perfectly good food that could and should be eaten by humans."

Asda said "we hope our 'Beautiful on the Inside' campaign will break down some of those barriers and make 'ugly' food more accessible for shoppers and families." The trial will see crooked carrots, misshapen potatoes and other knobbly fruit and vegetables sold at reduced prices to shoppers. A similar trial by French supermarket Intermarché in July 2014 was a success after all of the 300kg of 'ugly' carrots, apples and oranges were sold and footfall traffic increased by 24 per cent in the first three days of the campaign.

## Reuse 'this and that'

Do search through 'Pinterest' on social media to look at hundreds of inspiring upcycling photos, well worth a look. Also [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) acts as an online shop for hand made upcycled items.

'TireFlops' are flip flops that use old tyres for the outsoles. By deconstructing the tyres, the TireFlops team have found a way to upcycle tyre soles into footwear. After all, tyres were created for their grip and traction! [www.tireflops.com](http://www.tireflops.com)

The 'doorbell phone' uses an old telephone to adapt as a doorbell. A battery operated wireless doorbell mechanism is put inside the old phone, the phone rings when someone presses on your doorbell! Brett Pipitone created the prototype as he didn't want his antique rotary phone to go to waste.



## Reuse/Recycling news

### Recycling for good causes and raising funds

The Fundraising Company organise and run recycling projects for schools, charities, groups and charity donors to help them raise money.

'We recycle all unwanted jewellery, foreign currency new or old, and a range of electronic gadgets to raise money for your good cause.'

'We recycle all unwanted jewellery from plastic beads to wooden bangles, odd earrings, broken chains, costume jewellery, and watches. In all materials: plastic, wood, bronze, gold, silver and metal. We have experts in place to ensure that all items we receive are individually assessed and recycled to get you the highest price possible.'

#### Old/New UK and Foreign Banknotes

Any unwanted currency from ANY country and of any age, so all of those obsolete pre-euro notes and coins are a perfect start!

#### Gadgets

Sat Navs, Games Consoles and Games, Tablets, Video Cameras, Mobile Phones, iPods and Laptops of any age.

We are very proud to say that ALL goods received are recycled into cash for your good cause! We have raised over £200,000 for good causes. We now work with over 5,000 good causes, from small local groups to national charities, including RSPCA, Traidcraft, Kidney Research, Marie Curie Cancer Care, RSPB, Hospices and small groups such as the Guides and Scouts, churches and religious organisations.

#### How does it work?

We will supply you with a personalised Recycling Box to collect all your items. For larger organisations we can provide you with personalised envelopes to run a 'Freepost Appeal' for donor newsletter inserts. All that your donors have to do is simply fill in the envelope and post it back free of charge. Once we have received the envelopes back we carefully recycle their contents and send you a cheque - easy! We run the whole scheme for you and deal with all enquiries, therefore there are no staff resources required by you.

See [www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org](http://www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org)



# Reuse/Recycling news

**New York City, following the lead of San Francisco and Portland, has banned styrofoam food and drink take away containers in an effort to change the nature of its waste stream, as the type of styrofoam being banned cannot be recycled. The ban will result in the use of substitute forms of packaging -probably more expensive plastics or card, which can be recycled.**

France is set to become the latest nation to ban single-use plastic bags in shops. The ban is proposed to come into force in 2016, although it will not apply to re-usable or biodegradable plastic bags. The proposed ban will also extend to disposable plastic cutlery and crockery by 2020.

**Waste firm Veolia is to manufacture recycled packaging and insulation products from household cardboard and paper waste which is too contaminated to recycle back into paper. It will be called 'Pro Fibre'.**

South Oxfordshire council has taken the top spot in England's recycling league table with a recycling rate for 2013/14 of 65.71%. Rochford came 2nd with 65.47%, having seen its recycling rate fall from 66.75% in 2012/13, and Stockport was the highest ranking urban authority in England, with 61%. The overall household recycling rate for England has plateaued at the 44.2% an increase of just 0.1% over the previous year.



**Bury in Greater Manchester has become the first local authority in England to collect residual waste once every three weeks, among a number of possible measures to boost recycling levels.**

A £1 million street sweepings recycling plant that could save councils hundreds of thousands of pounds a year has been installed at Eco Sustainable Solutions' Parley site in Dorset.

The 'state-of-the-art' equipment will recycle gully waste and street sweepings including leaves, grit, sand and silt. The plant will have the capacity to handle up to 30,000 tonnes of material per year. Street sweepings can no longer be used for compost after the Environment Agency's ruling on hazardous residues, and recycling rates subsequently fell as LA's had to send street sweepings to landfill again.

'With landfill charges, including disposal, tax and haulage in excess of £100 per tonne, it is estimated that councils could save up to 30% on costs by utilising the new facility'. End products produced by the plant will include 10mm and 20mm secondary aggregates, grit sand and compost. A maximum of 20% of outputs will go to landfill.



# Reuse/Recycling news

## Transition Together



## Devon Re-conomy conference

NEF New Economics Foundation, Transition Totnes & Exeter, and Plymouth Social Enterprise Network were among the social enterprises, community groups and activists who met in Exeter for a day's 'Devon Convergence' conference and networking on developing sustainable local and social economies across Devon. People were involved in a wide range of issues including land, food growing, local currencies and green finance, reuse and recycling, small businesses and social entrepreneurs, housing, technology, well-being economics, permaculture and bio-regional design. Many creative discussions were had to map out a way forward to build on what Devon already has, and forge new ventures, relationships and politics. The potential of having a Devon 'green' finance bank to loan to sustainable businesses was explored. For more info or to get involved contact Jay Tompt: email [jay@transitiontowntotnes.org](mailto:jay@transitiontowntotnes.org)

## NHS recycling in Devon

Recycling firm Viridor has secured a five-year contract to process and treat waste and recycling for three NHS Trusts in Devon.

The work will cover 60 NHS sites across Devon including Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust, South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust.

From 1 February this year, Viridor will recycle plastic, paper, cardboard, tins, food waste, glass, green waste, wood and construction materials, as well as collecting and treating residual waste from all 60 sites.

"Our depots in Plymouth, Newton Abbot, Barnstaple and Taunton will all be working to support this partnership and ensure the three Devon NHS Trusts receive an efficient and cost effective service," added Viridor's regional director Mark Woods.

All NHS organisations have been tasked to monitor, report and set reduction targets on all domestic and clinical waste as part of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Health and Care System 2014 - 2020, published in January 2014, which sets out the NHS's strategy for transitioning to being a low carbon organisation.

# YOUR PLASTICS RECYCLING GUIDE

## PLASTICS ACCEPTED AT DCC RECYCLING CENTRES

### RIGID MIXED PLASTICS - PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEAN

All plastic drink bottles (squash and put lid back on)

Plastic milk bottles (squash and put lid back on)

All plastic household cleaning bottles

Pre formed biscuit or chocolate box trays

Plastic sandwich containers

Yogurt pots, margarine tubs, Ready meal containers etc

Plastic fruit containers (unless made from expanded polystyrene)

Plastic flower pots (must be clean)

Containers for hand and other skin creams (must be clean)

Shampoo bottles (must be rinsed clean)

Plastic bags are acceptable if several are bagged into one bag (except Deepmoor and Macklins Quarry)

Not acceptable: cling film type material, contaminated plastic, any other type of plastic

### BULKY PLASTIC ITEMS NOW ACCEPTED AT RECYCLING CENTRES,

#### (PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEAN)

Buckets, Bowls, Bins, Water Butts, Plastic Garden Furniture, Plant Pots, General Housewares, Plastic Children's Toys (some metal inclusions are acceptable, Collapsible Crates, Clean Paint Pots

### NOT ACCEPTED IN THE BULKY PLASTICS CONTAINER

Items not listed above are not accepted – such as:

Plastic Film, Plastic Bags, Builder Bags, PVC Doors, PVC Window Frames,

PVC Pipes and Guttering, Flexible Plastic (e.g. vinyl flooring and hosepipes),

Video Tapes, Fibreglass (e.g. Bathtub)

[www.devon.gov.uk/bulky\\_plastics\\_acceptable\\_list\\_web.pdf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/bulky_plastics_acceptable_list_web.pdf)

### SOFT PLASTIC WRAP, FILM, BAGS etc SUITABLE FOR SUPERMARKET SHOP FRONT PLASTIC RECYCLING BINS

Plastic bags

Cereal packet plastic inners,

Frozen vegetable bags

### CREDITON AND UFFCULME AREAS - contact local group directly

Uffculme Compost Magic - Contact email: [compostmagic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:compostmagic@hotmail.co.uk)

For Crediton area information see: [www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk)