

## Contents

- 1 editorial
- 2 - 3 landfill site visits
- 4 - 5 junk modelling and news
- 6 - 7 focus on Regions
- 8 teachers' Resource



# SWACnews

The Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) is an environmental education programme linking practical waste management with the national curriculum.

SWAC is a project of Waste Watch, the national charity promoting waste reduction, re-use, and recycling

## SWAC IN THE VANGUARD OF CHANGES TO SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Welcome to the final issue of SWAC News. Early in 2003 all of Waste Watch's school projects will be included in a single publication, the all new Waste Watch Education News. To round off proceedings in the current format we are focusing on school visits, and how these can inspire SWACs to further minimise their waste. We also have some great advice on junk sculpture, and, to finish SWAC News in a suitably festive mood, we have two great classroom activities for Christmas.

**Lisa Cockerton**

Waste Watch Education Manager

Waste Watch has consolidated its SWAC in Cheshire just as the area pilots proposed changes to the national curriculum. Martin Allman has been appointed as the Education Officer for Secondary Schools and will be focusing on the provision of waste education to older children, keeping a keen eye on developments to the curriculum for 14-19 year olds.

The Government's Green Paper '*Extending Opportunity, Raising Achievement*', sets out a strategy for greater coherence in secondary school education. Cheshire will be one of the *pathfinder* areas where the proposals will be piloted from September 2002. The changes place the student at the centre of learning, with provision tailored around the individual's needs. There will be greater access to vocational courses, which will be given equal emphasis to more traditional academic pursuits.

The scheme proposes the introduction of a new award, the Matriculation Diploma, which will assess the student's academic performance alongside achievements within three new areas: *active citizenship*, *wider interests* and *work-related activities*. The Matriculation Diploma will be a nationally recognised award similar to the International Baccalaureate. To SWACs it presents the opportunity to have students' participation in waste minimisation formally accredited.

SWAC activities already match current national curriculum requirements at key stages 1 to 4 and help schools to make real improvements in waste management. Martin Allman is now assessing how SWAC activities might be adapted to meet the new vocational course requirements.



## TIP TRIPS

**If you want to appreciate the importance of waste minimisation there is nothing quite like seeing for yourself where the rubbish in your familiar black sack ends up. A visit to a local landfill site can graphically illustrate the scale of the problem and enable visitors to make the vital link between their rubbish bin at home and environmental problems on a larger scale.**

In July SWAC Norfolk took pupils from East Harling Primary School to see their nearest landfill site in nearby Snetterton. This was the first time a SWAC school had visited the site, which is run by Norfolk Environmental Waste Services (NEWS), so prior to the visit SWAC Education Officers Martina Schneider and Alison Pagan met with site manager Michael Fulcher, to carry out a risk assessment and discuss the logistics of the children's visit.

On the day of the visit the class took part in a practical demonstration of the weighbridge, with the coach assuming the role of a dustcart and the class becoming its load of rubbish.

The coach was weighed on the way in, full of children, and again after they had disembarked. The class was presented with the weighbridge tickets for some maths work back at school.

Then, after donning bright yellow vests and hard hats, the class marched off to a specially made viewing platform where they were able to see dustcarts tipping out rubbish which was then squashed down by a huge compactor.

They could also see the thick plastic liner designed to prevent toxic waste leaking into the water table. Finally, the class were given a demonstration of a special loudhailer which mimics a variety of birds' distress calls in order to scare them off the site.

*pupils and teachers being shown round a landfill site*







pupils being shown round Skibeden

## A HOLE LOAD OF RUBBISH!

One of North Yorkshire's schools recently underlined their commitment to SWAC by visiting a local landfill site.

Pupils and teachers from Settle Primary School were shown round the landfill site at Skibeden, by its operators Yorwaste Ltd.

A site tour enabled the class to see hidden in a nearby hillside, a quarry that was once used for limestone excavation and is now a controlled dumping ground. Every week about 3,000 tonnes of waste is brought to Skibeden, which is the second (out of seven) biggest landfill site in North Yorkshire.

glass forever - glass recycling



**reduce**

**reuse**

**recycle**

## LANDFILL THE FACTS

Most of the UK's waste ends up in landfill sites. But don't blame your local tip for the problem, the real culprit is our wasteful society.

Those of a nervous disposition should avoid reading some of the following facts.

Including domestic, industrial and commercial sources, the UK sends about 120 million tonnes of waste to landfill sites each year.

In 2001, households in the UK produced 28 million tonnes of waste, enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall in London every 38 days.

In 2001 only 11% of domestic waste was recycled or composted. The rest went to landfill or was incinerated.

It is estimated that a plastic bottle takes 450 years to bio-degrade.

A recent excavation at a landfill site near London found newspapers buried 20 years previously, to be completely legible.

In 2001 there were 2300 landfill sites across England and Wales, accounting for nearly 0.2% of the total land area.

The good news is that under current regulations there is a tax levied on every tonne of waste that is buried (currently £13 per tonne), and through the Landfill tax credit scheme a portion of this money is used to fund environmental projects like SWAC.

For further information about Waste related issues, visit the Waste Watch website at [www.wastewatch.org.uk](http://www.wastewatch.org.uk).

A trip to the tip isn't the only way to get young people fired up about waste minimisation. The Rockware Glass Recycling Education Centre has proved so popular with visitors from SWAC North Yorkshire that a purpose built mobile touring unit has been launched to visit primary schools all over the UK. Glass Forever helps pupils understand the

process and benefits of glass recycling through a number of interactive activities linked to the national curriculum.

To book the mobile unit, schools should contact Joanne Hollins on 01977 635405 or visit [www.glassforever.co.uk](http://www.glassforever.co.uk).

## COMPOST AND RECYCLING DAY

SWAC Lincolnshire recently teamed up with the Shaw Trust and Hartsholme Country Park to provide a practical and informative event about composting and recycling. Pupils from Tealby Primary School and Scampton Pollyplatt School visited the park to discover more about what happens to their waste after they put it into the recycling bin.

Shaw Trust is a national charity working with people with all types of disability and social disadvantage, to find routes to employment.

Hartsholme Country Park Project is an employment project based around the composting of green waste and the propagation of trees. The project collects green waste from homes in the local area, the waste is then shredded, composted and graded within a specially built unit.

The end product is sold back to the community or used by the project to plant seeds, cuttings and trees. The pupils were able to get their hands dirty participating in the process of turning green waste into luscious compost!

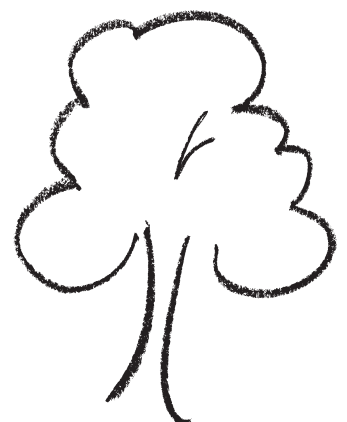
## FUN ON THE FARM

Bexley teachers recently enjoyed a day at Woodlands Farm, with SWAC and Learning Through Landscapes. The event allowed teachers to share in some of the great activities that SWAC has developed.

The day began with a session on how to make recycled paper in the classroom. Each school was then given their own paper making kit. Next, tips were given on running a waste free lunch that encourages healthy eating while doing away with unnecessary packaging.

After a tour of the farm teachers constructed their own artwork in the woods using reused materials.

The event was a great success and teachers were enthusiastic to run the activities back at their own schools, commenting that SWAC provided ideas which were "practical and manageable".







*making recycled paper*

## DANSON FESTIVAL

In July, SWAC and Bexley Council took part in the Danson Festival 2002.

Approximately 50,000 people attended the event and enjoyed a range of exciting activities. Recycled paper flowerpots were very popular. Children made their pots from used shredded paper and were given free compost and seeds to take home. The compost, supplied by Bexley Council was made from local residents green waste.

Visitors to the show also enjoyed trying to match items in the recycled product game. Several lucky children were allowed a ride in one of Bexley Council's dustcarts and were given a free bottle crusher to take home with them.

*a flower made from stones and leaves*



**tips**

**on**

**junk**

## JUNK MODELLING

The contents of your bin can form the raw materials of a work of art. Sally Starborg, sculptress and SWAC Cheshire Education Officer, offers some advice on junk modelling.

There's rarely a need to worry about what to make, children seem to draw inspiration from the materials themselves. If you are trying to hold them to a theme, it's a good idea to do some sort of 'warm up' to concentrate the mind, like drawing a picture of the suggested topic.

Collect an assortment of junk materials well in advance. Make sure you have a variety of interesting shapes (you don't want too many cereal boxes).

Smaller items, like matchboxes, corks, bottle tops and foil, are useful to add detail to the sculpture.

In addition to a supply of children's scissors and pencils, it is handy to have heavy duty scissors, a bradawl (for making holes), secateurs (for cutting the bottom of drinks bottles), pliers (for garden wire), and an indelible marker pen (for drawing eyes on!). Keep these items on your person as they're all potentially hazardous. A workperson's belt will help stop these things going astray.

Sticky tape is good for joining things together. Also useful are garden wire, string, and split pins. The following can be messy or dangerous, and should be used with caution: staples, glue gun, PVA, Pritt Stick.

Above all have fun, and encourage the creativity of each individual.

## JUNK SCULPTURE TIPS OF THE TRADE

- To join a tube to a flat surface, make a hole on the surface. Cut a cross (X) from the central hole. Bend up the 4 triangles and tape them around your tube.
- Nothing beats the glue gun for joining yogurt pots to cornflake boxes.
- Make double-sided tape by making a flat loop of tape with the sticky side out.
- To paint a model made of plastic, or with lots of sticky tape on it, you'll need to cover it in a layer of paper first. Use PVA or Copydex to hold the paper in place and let it dry before painting.

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<http://wastewatch.org.uk>

Registered charity no. 1005417,  
registered company limited by  
guarantee no. 2649156, ENTRUST  
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- Why not recycle to earn money for your school? Accutec will deliver a toner cartridge collection box to your school free of charge as well as a providing a courier service to collect the box when it is full. They even provide a letter to send home to parents and leaflets for your supporting businesses. Every empty cartridge that is placed in the collection box will be awarded points which can be redeemed against cash or prizes.

For details call the Accutec Schools Coordinator, Marnie Welsh on 01992 890934.

**CHESHIRE****Sally Starborg and Martin Allman**

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- SWAC Essex offer five different visits to landfill sites and Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF): Great Blakenham landfill site and MRF near Ipswich, Chipping Ongar landfill site, Braintree MRF, Rainham landfill and MRF, and Lawrence M Barry textile recycling factory in East London.

All our visits are **FREE** and SWAC can offer your school £50 towards the cost of transport. Call Emma or Vanessa on 01245 437169 to find out more.

**LINCOLNSHIRE****Emma Appleton**

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Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, Wren Recycling Environmental and the Environmental Agency.

**LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**



## NORFOLK

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- SWAC Norfolk would like to thank the 1000s of people who came to visit them at the Royal Norfolk Show in June.

Broadland District Council, Breckland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council and South Norfolk Council.



## NORTH YORKSHIRE

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- Remember not only to reduce, reuse and recycle but complete the loop by buying recycled. Further information can be obtained from SWAC including a comprehensive list of products from YPO (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation).

- Please note that Katie has changed her name to Katie Harvey (nee Wright).



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council.



materials Recycling Facilities (MRF)



## what's new

A new SWAC is to be launched in Rotherham in South Yorkshire. The project is funded by Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Waste Watch will be recruiting an Education Officer to take on this exciting new work.

Waste Watch is currently developing the Waste Watch Education Support Programme (WESP). WESP will offer the waste education expertise built up by SWAC, to organisations across the UK. The programme is currently recruiting its first intake and will officially start in January 2003. For further details contact Pete Spriggs at Waste Watch.

# Two great ideas to make from rubbish at Christmas.

## Matchbox Train Advent Calendar

### You will need

- 25 small matchboxes
- 2 to 3 cereal boxes for the cardboard wheels
- a penny coin
- different coloured sugar paper
- a few sheets of white paper for the windows
- glue
- 24 little sweets to go inside the matchboxes
- pencil, ruler and scissors

### Wagons 23 small matchboxes

1. Using a penny as a guide, cut out 96 circles of card for the wheels. If you fold the card over you can make 2 at once
2. Put this template on the cardboard and draw around it, then cut it out. You need 48 of these wheels, two for each wagon, and two for the engine.
3. Paint the wheels black and let them dry, painting on the inside of the cereal box.
4. Cut rectangles measuring 2 x 4cm from the white paper for the train windows. You will need 46 of these, one on either side of each wagon.
5. Glue the wheels on to either side of the matchboxes.
6. Cover the matchboxes with sugar paper, leaving only the wheels visible.
7. Stick the windows on to the wagon.

### Engine 2 match boxes

1. Glue 2 matchboxes together in an L shape.
2. Glue the last remaining wheels to each side of the engine.
3. Cover the engine with sugar paper. Ensure that you can still open the drawer of the vertical matchbox.
4. Cut two squares measuring 2.5 x 2.5cm from the white paper for the windows, and stick these on.

Number the wagons and engine from 1 to 24, alternatively the children can draw their faces on the wagon window. Arrange the wagons in random numerical order on the windowsill and put the engine at the front.

## Snow Globe

### You will need

- glass jar with lid. Smaller jars are better
- plastic or ceramic figures that fit inside the jar - only use materials that will not rust or dissolve in the water
- strong glue or adhesive sealant that is waterproof
- glitter (for winter scenes silver looks good)
- glycerin to make the glitter fall slowly
- some sugar paper to hide the edge of the lid
- normal glue to stick the sugar paper to the lid

### How to do it

1. Wash the jar and lid and let them dry.
2. Arrange the figures on the lid and put the jar on top to make sure they fit. When you are satisfied with your arrangement glue the figures down and let them dry thoroughly.
3. Fill the jar to the brim with water. Add 2 teaspoons of glycerin and a pinch of glitter.
4. Screw the lid with the glued down figures on the jar tightly. Do this over a sink or a big bowl since some water will spill out. If you want, add a bead of your adhesive around the top of the jar rim before screwing on the lid.
5. Cut a 1.5 cm wide strip of sugar paper to go around the brim of your lid. You can cut one side of the strip in a wavy way. Put your jar upside down on the lid and glue the strip around the brim of your lid to cover it.
6. You are done. Just shake the jar and let the snowstorm begin.

### Some tips

- add some colour to dye the water.
- if your figure is too small you can put it on a small piece of polystyrene.
- you can cover the inside of the lid with some coloured plastic from a shopping bag to create a grass or sea effect.