



## Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

OK, here's a real challenge!! Can you shop without collecting non-recyclable plastic containers or wrappings?

There has been publicity recently about the "plastic soup" that exists in the Pacific Ocean; that covers an area significantly larger than the USA. It is made up of 100 million tons of rubbish, some 90% of it plastic. This soup kills hundreds of thousands of birds and animals every year, as well as introducing toxic waste into the food chain.

We need to stop our terrible love with all things plastic; but how, you might say, because it actually means doing without so many things to which we have become accustomed? Suppose you tried to live without buying anything packaged in plastics that are not truly recyclable?

This means –

- No supposedly recyclable plastics other than those marked with a 1 or a 2, which the local authority will remove. (Why do we have so many items marked as recyclable, but with a different number, meaning they go into landfill anyway??)
- No yoghurt in plastic pots; butter/margarine in plastic tubs; ice cream in plastic tubs; milk in plastic bottles
- Nothing frozen (all in plastic bags)
- Nothing wrapped in shrink wrap
- No prepacked cheese if in plastic – many places have a nice cheese counter these days (and fresh meat and fish too)
- No cereal if the inside container is plastic, which most of the are

And so it goes on – and that is the challenge! If we genuinely want to decrease the amount of rubbish in the world and our own back yard, then we have to make changes to our life style, at least in part. Supermarket shopping means that everything has to be pre-packed so that a bar code can be stamped on it, and that means their packaging and not ours.

However, all is not lost, with a little creativity. Home made yoghurt is easy; ice cream a little more difficult but not impossible, to name but two. Loose fruit and veg from one of our local farm shops, in a jute or string bag that you bring with you – easy. The local Butcher rather than pre-packed meat, and it will taste nicer too.

There will have to be some compromises – milk for example. Our milk is delivered in a glass bottle so that is easy. If it isn't, there is probably no other source of milk except in a plastic bottle or carton

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For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council