

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

It is post Christmas as I write. I expect we have all finished clearing up the cards, wrapping paper, bottles, plastic cartons and all the other paraphernalia of the festive season. I wonder how many of us have looked at the pile of cards and asked ourselves

- How many trees?
- How much production cost in terms of carbon emissions?
- Did I really have to send so many?
- How much of the paper will get into landfill rather than being recycled?

And all that wrapping paper, particularly within the family circle. An excellent idea came from Jane Stanley of Stanleys Farm Shop, which we adopted this year. Use old magazines to wrap up your presents. It does the job perfectly well, doesn't look too bad, and re-uses the paper. For small children particularly, appearance is irrelevant. All they want is to get at the goodie inside – and if we are honest, that probably applies to most of us too!! If you want to be a little “posher” use a piece of material, which is also re-usable! Try it for birthdays, too.

Jane came up with another excellent idea for cutting down on plastic bag use – make your own!! A Spanish onion sack makes an excellent string bag for fruit and vegetables. Cut the bag in half; stitch around 3 sides; then use a simple piece of webbing for the 4th side and to make the handles. If you do not want to bother doing that, then you could buy a “correctly made” string bag by Turtle Bag.

Anyone got any ideas for a “man bag”. We chaps seem to be embarrassed at being seen carrying a shopping bag/basket, and yet we are happy enough to carry beastly plastic bags. So I think we need a “man bag” which we would find acceptable and be prepared to use when despatched to do the shopping. Perhaps shaped to look like a haversack? Any ideas, anyone?

I saw some jute bags in the village butchers before Christmas. Did you get one? I hope he will refuse to give you a plastic bag now! Well done Mark!

Martin Kenrick

For the Working Group set up by the Parish Council