



# brag news

RECYCLE \* REUSE \* REPAIR \* REDUCE

Brentford Recycling Action Group

Spring 2004

## Editorial

Hi there all you braggers!

We haven't forgotten you. In fact, we need you more than ever. Thanks as always for your support, and hope to meet some of you at our events and/or our monthly meetings.

As we can't produce a full brag mag at the moment, here's an oxo cube version of what we're doing: mostly, persuading people to RECYCLE MORE.... (See Emma's thoughts on why we don't : show it to your non-recycling neighbours!) Do have a look at our website, and do contact us with any ideas / info / queries.

by Christie Richens; Committee Member

### Ten reasons you may not have joined Brentford Recycling Action Group

- 1 You have never recycled in your life and chuck your rubbish in the Thames.
- 2 The last time you did anything for your local community was appearing in the local nativity - and the experience has put you off.
- 3 You think that we are a bunch of radical, quiche eating do gooders that should mind their own business.
- 4 Hounslow has one of the country's higher recycling rates so you can just put your feet up.
- 5 You could never promote composting because worms frighten you.
- 6 All of Brentford's rubbish ends up in a huge landfill in Oxfordshire and you've never liked it there.
- 7 The idea of a 'community feel' has a completely different meaning to you.
- 8 You don't want to clean up local areas because they look nice with the rubbish on them.
- 9 You are currently using your green box for oil changes on your Porsche 911.
- 10 You don't want Brentford to look better, feel nicer and continue to be a great place to live.

If any of the above are true then you probably won't want to join the Group. But we suspect that none are. **Come along on the first Tuesday of every month 7-8 pm at the Grand Union Community Development offices at 191 Brentford High Street.** There's only ten of us and we could do with a hand. Free quiche for everyone.



### Horrible facts

The average family produces enough rubbish a year to fill a double decker bus.

We manage to recycle just 12% of our household rubbish in England: the worst recycle rate in Europe

\*  
Weight for weight, the average computer chip does more harm to the environment than a car.

### Nice facts

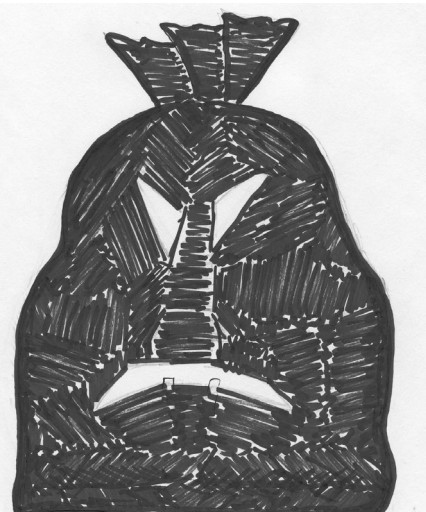
A new sculpture in Newcastle upon Tyne - the blue carpet - is made of thousands of tons of Harvey's Bristol Cream bottles

Since its launch British Gas has received more than 2,000 requests for its Think Energy packs. To order, visit [www.think-energy.com](http://www.think-energy.com) You can now dump your car for free if you live in Hounslow. You just need to provide proof of ownership (e.g. a copy of the registration document) Contact the Council 8583 5555.

Visit our web site for more information about brag events and local recycling issues  
**[bragonline.org.uk](http://bragonline.org.uk)**

## what a waste - your bag revealed

This is probably what you put in your rubbish bag on a weekly basis.  
All this goes into a landfill site - only you can stop this.



- 5% Glass (Green Box recyclable)**
- 10% Paper (Green Box recyclable)**
- 12% Cans / Foil (Green Box recyclable)**
- 33% Organic (compostable)**
- 35% Plastic (bring sites)**
- 5% Small Waste**

## BUY RECYCLED!

There are loads of companies offering recycled and eco-friendly goods. Natural Collection has all sorts, from clothes to glasses: visit [www.naturalcollection.com](http://www.naturalcollection.com).

\*

From the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales comes a wide range of products such as a wind-up solar powered radio, degradable polybags, and a huge range of books on recycling: visit [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk) or call 01654 705950.

\*

The Natural History Museum also has a range of recycled products, from notebooks to coasters, made of everything from carrier bags to juice cartons. Call 020 7942 5494 for mail order.

\*

Now all you need is something to sit on. World of Interiors suggests a "recycled tin can stool" (about £36.30, tel. 0033 144 5455 88) or a chaise longue made from car tyres (£1,450 from Twelve, tel. 020 7613 4878).

## What's on

**brag** meetings: first Tuesday in the month, 7.00 at Grand Union office (191 High Street, opposite Autowise). All welcome.

**5 June** - World Environment Day: For more info on this, and other environmental issues, visit [www.environment.agency.gov.uk/wed](http://www.environment.agency.gov.uk/wed)

**14 June** - Older People's Festival - venue tba

**3 or 10 July** - Funday, Woodlands Estate, Isleworth: date tbc

## Topical tips

\*By recycling your used toner cartridges from printers you can also help charity:

SCOPE receives up to £6 for a recycled toner cartridge - visit [www.scope.org.uk/recycling](http://www.scope.org.uk/recycling) (0845 458 8822).

\*Most printers and suppliers can supply high quality recycled paper, labels, files, flipcharts, storage boxes and post-it notes: visit [www.recycledproducts.org.uk](http://www.recycledproducts.org.uk).

\*Penelope Keith saves the ends of soap bars which she melds together into one big bar, and uses it to wash the dog's bottom.

"Early in my life it was because I was poor. Then because I was mean. Now, of course, it's for conservation."

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### **brag** is :

- a local waste action group made up of local residents
- facilitated and supported by Hounslow Council
- working to raise awareness and advance education in the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste materials of all kinds
- set up to promote activities and facilities which seek to improve the local environment (Brentford) for the benefit of the community.

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