

SUSTAINABLE TIMES

The newsletter of Greener Duns Small Steps to Solve a Big Problem



Alex's pop-up is Duns' new refill

Duns has a new refill outlet, thanks to enterprising Berwickshire High School pupil, Alex Mathieson, 16.

Alex's pop-up shop, Waste 0, is at 6A Market Square (the old Post Office) and offers eco-friendly, plant-based natural cleaning products. You take your own containers and Alex will refill them, helping to reduce plastic in your household recycling and general waste. Alex also sells 'forever' bottles for £1 which can be refilled every time you visit. The shop, which is open every Saturday from 9.30am-1pm, received start-up support from Pounds for Purpose and the Borders Youth LAG fund. Its current range includes washing up liquid, hand wash, surface cleaner, floor cleaner, toilet cleaner, laundry liquid and fabric conditioner. Alex said, "I chose to stock the Minimal brand because they have great products, good ethical credentials and make it easy it return our empties to be washed and reused."

You can follow Alex at Instagram at [waste_nought](#).



Save money and recycle kids' clothes at Berwickshire Swap

New clothes for children can be hard to afford, but now there's an organisation in Duns to help families solve the problem while saving waste. Berwickshire Swap on Easter Street holds local events where you can donate outgrown children's clothes, prams and toys and take away items that you need. Your only cost is a small entry fee to the event. The group also provides emergency clothing parcels and runs the a Cloth Nappy Library.



As Berwickshire Swap Organiser, Catherine Goldsmith, explains, "My daughter grew so fast, I had a mountain of outgrown clothes and needed affordable replacements. It feels lovely to see someone else cherish the clothes your child has made memories in, but outgrown.

"After a swap, any leftover items are stored for the next swap, although some older items will go into the clothing recycle bin. The clothes we store are made available as emergency clothing parcels on referral through Berwickshire Housing Association, schools, health visitors and social work etc. We can provide a seven-day wardrobe for children aged 0 - 12 years old."

Berwickshire Swap is looking for volunteers to help sort, wash and iron clothes, and to help run events.

For more information, email info@berwickshireswap.co.uk



Idling drivers urged to pay attention!
Children to take Clean Air message to older generation.

Motorists in Duns are still leaving their engines running when parked, despite Greener Duns' campaign to reduce toxic exhaust emissions by urging drivers to 'Switch Off When Stationary'. So now GD is turning to school children to take the Clean Air message to their parents and the older generation.

In September last year we worked with Scottish Borders Council to have our own No Idling signs put up in key locations around the town. However, as GD's James Shirreff explains, many drivers are simply not heeding the notices. "If you stroll round town, you are pretty well guaranteed to see idling cars, vans, lorries and buses, with or without a driver, outside the shops in South Street, the pharmacy in the Square and the Co-op car park," James said. "As the message is clearly not getting through to some drivers that they are unnecessarily increasing harmful gases and CO2 in the atmosphere, we have decided to work with the children who will face the consequences of some of the older generation's failure to act. We are planning to encourage children to take an active part in our Clean Air campaign. Greener Duns will be working with Duns Primary School pupils during their Eco Week in May, designing a No Idling banner, stickers, and the wording of a parent contract asking them to remember to switch off their engines."



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Another Make Do & Mend event planned for May 10th

Greener Duns is holding a second Make Do & Mend evening at the Volunteer Hall in Duns on Wednesday 10th May from 7pm to 9pm. It will include expert demonstrations of up-cycling, repairing, re-purposing, zero waste, bike repairs and maintenance and other sustainable activities.

“We want to inspire the people of Duns to have a go at creating beautiful things themselves, whilst saving materials from going in a skip,” said Greener Duns’ Julia Wood. “Some of the stall holders will be selling their unique products, so you can support local artisans or even commission something special. Entry is free, although donations are always welcome to support the work we do in the local area. Refreshments will be available. So please come along to a fun evening & hopefully learn a new skill that will save you money and the planet.”

For more information, email greenerduns@gmail.com

Suggestions welcomed for Berwickshire Green Map

Greener Duns is working with Berwickshire High School to launch the new Berwickshire Green Map in June. The Map lists local outlets offering green services such as recycling, repairing, sharing, reducing food waste, supplying locally-grown food, and refilling (water bottles, coffee cups, food containers etc). It is being put together by environmental umbrella group, Greener Berwickshire. You can use the map to find out what’s available near you to help reduce your carbon footprint.



If you'd like to suggest a green outlet for the map, go to the Sea the Change website, click on Greener Berwickshire on the top menu bar and then click on Green Map, and you can add the details in a few easy steps. All suggestions are checked out before being made public, so don't worry if you're unsure of all the particulars. The map is being launched on 16th June, National Refill Day.

Low ‘n’ Slow is the way to go at Duns Primary

This term Duns Primary Eco Committee have been working with every class, from nursery to P7, to prepare delicious meals using 15 slow cookers kindly donated by community development specialists, Outside the Box. Volunteers from Greener Duns, Outside the Box and the local church helped with this week-long initiative. The recipes were researched and chosen by each class. The international cuisine ranged from Japanese ramen noodles to slow-cooked haggis with winter root vegetables. The meals were prepared in the morning so that each class could enjoy their creations that day. All the children from P4-7 have also had the chance to complete a food hygiene course. The Eco Committee's next project is some family cooking events using the slow cookers.
Louise Adams

SUCCESS FOR DUNS BIKE BANK LAUNCH

Duns’ first Bike Bank has made a successful start, with eight children’s bikes being donated for eventual refurbishment at Duns Men’s Shed. The scheme, a joint venture between Greener Duns and Cycling UK, aims to encourage cycling by providing children who don’t have bikes with refurbished, donated ones. Under the current arrangements, the last chance to drop off a wanted kids’ bike at the Shed was March 7th, as but watch this space for more Bike Bank news.



A Date for your Diaries

Tuesday 14th March, 6.45 for 7pm
 Duns Parish Church Hall

In a public event organised by the Scottish Borders Green Party, John Seed of Woodend Farming Partnership, Duns, will share the highs and lows of a journey towards regenerative farming in a talk entitled: ‘Restoring Rural Resilience with Regenerative Farming and Renewable Energy’.