

# GARBOLGY

## Issue 5 – January 2019

Welcome to the January issue of the Council's waste team's e-newsletter, dedicated to the subject of recycling. The team will continue to provide you with seasonal information about recycling in Orkney as well as ideas for reducing your waste and how to reuse and recycle more. [The newsletter will be available on the Council's website here](#) or you can subscribe to have it sent directly to your mailbox by emailing [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk) with the subject line 'subscribe'. You can also use this address to let the team know if there is a particular subject you would like to read or know more about.

### A vital service provided by Refuse Collectors

A team member spent some time last week at the Council's Hatston Depot talking to some of the operational staff, those who have the un-enviable jobs of arranging and carrying out refuse and recycling collections. There have been a few recent incidences of vehicle breakdowns causing missed or delayed collections. Your patience is much appreciated as the team work together to resolve this and continue to provide you with this important service.

Whilst at Hatston there was an opportunity to talk in further detail with one of Orkney's longest serving Refuse Collectors, Eric Sutherland.



Eric has worked in his role for 38 years so has built up quite an extensive experience of waste and recycling collections. Eric enjoys all aspects of his job and working as a team with his colleagues, which is a very important part of the job, especially for the safety of all staff and members of the public. He also enjoys the odd peedie wave from watching children and getting

to wave back. When asked what advice he would like to pass onto the public, Eric said to please ensure your bins are out at the collection points on time, this means 08:00 and will help prevent missed collections. Another tip was if your bins are not full and can wait for the following collection, in 2 weeks, to go out, then do take advantage of this. It will allow the teams to get round routes faster with fewer bins to service, especially at this time of year when there is still a higher waste and recycling volume left over from the festive season and all our celebrating.

While collecting Orkney's recycling, Eric does sort the odd thing we pop in the wrong bin on occasion and the one thing that is often incorrect is cardboard in the paper bin. Please do remember that the paper section is for paper and thin card only, if you are unsure have a look below at what goes in the paper section of your bin.

Bin emptying is a service a lot of residents utilise, whether through kerbside collection or at the Household Waste Recycling Centres, therefore please remember it's not an easy job. Next time you see a refuse or recycling truck why not give the guys a smile or wave to let them know you appreciate the service they provide. The team appreciate your patience and understanding, especially at times of strong winds when collections are postponed and when you have to wait for a truck to finish its collection and move on for you to drive past.

## So, what goes in the paper section of the recycle bin?

Within your recycling receptacle there is space for 4 types of recyclates; Metals, Plastic Bottles, Paper and Thin Card and Glass Bottles and Jars. If you have the green bags and box for your recycle collection then use the box for your Glass and the bags for the other 3 recyclates.

The paper section of your bin is for the following items:

- Plain paper.
- Newspaper.
- Magazines.
- Thin card (e.g. cereal boxes).
- Paper envelopes.
- Shredded paper.



Thicker card and cardboard (corrugated card) cannot go in your kerbside recycle collection, these need to be taken to one of our Household Waste Recycle Centres.

Eggboxes are not suitable for recycling as these are made from already recycled paper and card, having reached the end of its recyclable lifespan, but don't throw them in the waste, you

can reuse egg boxes for a variety of things like craft projects, seed and bulb planting, sitting under your kitchen oil bottles or in your compost bin.

## Cinema Advertising

Did you go to the cinema at the Pickaquoy Centre in December? If so did you catch the team's adverts about recycling at Christmas time? What did you think of them?

The team will be doing more cinema advertising over this year to pass on information, hints and tips to help you to recycle as much as you can, so be sure to keep an eye out.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Remember if you had the enjoyment of a real Christmas tree potted ones can be planted out in your garden and cut ones can be recycled. To recycle your Christmas tree you can take it to any of our 5 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs); Hatston, Garson, Cursiter, St Margaret's Hope and Bossack as well as to the small recycling point in Dounby.

These trees will be added to the green waste collected from the recycle centres and made into the compost you can collect for free when available at the 5 HWRCs.



If you are not able to take your tree to a recycle centre yourself the council will be doing the free Christmas tree collection from all homes in the 30mph areas of Orkney's mainland. This will take place week commencing Monday 4 February. The advert will be released prior to this week so you can see what day your area will be collected from.

Or for an alternative, why not have a look through Facebook's Merkit Place or ask about other uses for old Christmas trees. There was one lady looking for them for her goats!

## Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents?

If you received any gifts you do not want or need why not pass them on by donating them to a local charity shop. Likewise, if your children received lots of new toys you could encourage a clear out of older ones they no longer need or play with and pass these onto a charity shop where another child can have the chance to love them.



If you received new electrical items at Christmas, old ones can be donated or if they are broken and can't be repaired, remember to take them to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre and drop them in with the WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) where they will go away for recycling.

## Wondering what to do with leftover food and drink?

Did you shop too much for the festive season and now your cupboards, fridge and freezer are groaning? If so, do you know what's the best way to make sure nothing goes to waste?

Check the dates on your products and remember that there are both 'Use By' and 'Best Before' dates.

The most important of these is the 'Use By' date, these are found on fresh foods, where they must be used by the end of the date on them. If you've not managed to get around to eating or drinking any products before their 'use by' date, check to see if you can freeze them. A huge variety of foods and drinks are suitable for home freezing. If you are unsure from the packaging have a quick look online. Meats, cheese, bread and even milk all freeze no problems to allow you to use them later and save them going into your waste bin and costing both you and the environment!

The 'Best Before' date is more a guideline telling you the product is at its best before then but fine to consume after. You find these dates on tinned items mostly, which have a very long shelf life. Chocolate also has a 'best before' date, so don't worry about gobbling it all up before the date, it will still be yummy after and just as well with the number of chocolate reindeers in one of the team member's house!

There are lots of ways to use up food before it passes its date, why not add your salad bag into a pot of soup, a great way to use up your extra vegetables and make a few cheap, tasty and healthy lunches. Fruit can be made into a tasty dessert, perhaps a crumble or why not try a fruity rice pudding which uses up extra milk too.

Anything that has already passed its 'use by' date should not be consumed, but these don't have to go in the waste bin. If you have a composter you can add vegetables and fruit and their peelings, or with a hot composter or green cone leftover cooked foods can go in also. You can find out more about how food digesters work [here at Great Green Systems](#) and you can get a free green cone from Hatston Household Waste Recycling Centre

## Is there anything new that can be recycled?

With our daily product use growing and expanding, so does the packaging these items come in. Luckily more and more people are realising the importance of not only reducing, but also recycling more of the materials we produce.

There have been a few new nationwide recycling schemes highlighted in the past few months including Walkers crisp bags, Lush bottle tops and plastic aluminium pouch packaging through Enval.

**Walkers crisp bags:** Walkers have partnered with Terracycle, so you can post back your empty packets and they will be turned into useful everyday items including plant pots, watering cans and picnic benches. You can find more information [here on the Walkers website](#).

**Lush bottle tops:** the company Lush announced they will now accept, through freepost, plastic bottle tops which they are then recycling into a variety of useful items including kids' playgrounds, park benches and beehives. You can find more information [here on Lush Facebook](#).



**Enval recycling:** layered aluminium-plastic laminate pouches are now being recycled by this company and they can be posted to them directly. You can find more information [here on the Enval website](#). They accept a large range of packaging items including:

- Baby and pet food pouches.
- Juice and energy drink pouches (e.g. Capri Sun).
- One-serve snack pouches (e.g. Pepperami).
- Most toothpaste tubes (the ones that stay squished when you squeeze them).
- Coffee refill packs.
- Bag inners from boxed wine.
- Sealing films from the top of plastic milk bottles.

## Did You Know?

- 70% less energy is required to recycle paper and recycling it produces 73% less air pollution as opposed to producing it from raw materials.
- The unreleased energy contained in the average dustbin each year could power a television for 5,000 hours.
- If all cans in the UK were recycled, we would need 14 million fewer dustbins.

- On average, 16% of the money you spend on a product pays for the packaging, which ultimately ends up as rubbish.

The new Household Refuse and Recycling Service Policy handbook is now available to download from the waste and recycling policies section of [the Council's website or by this link](#).

At anytime if you are unsure of what you can and cannot recycle here in Orkney, you can find more information on the Waste and Recycling section of the [Council's website here](#). You can also contact the team by email at [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk) or via [Facebook Eco Active Orkney](#), which has continued to gain more likes and followers.