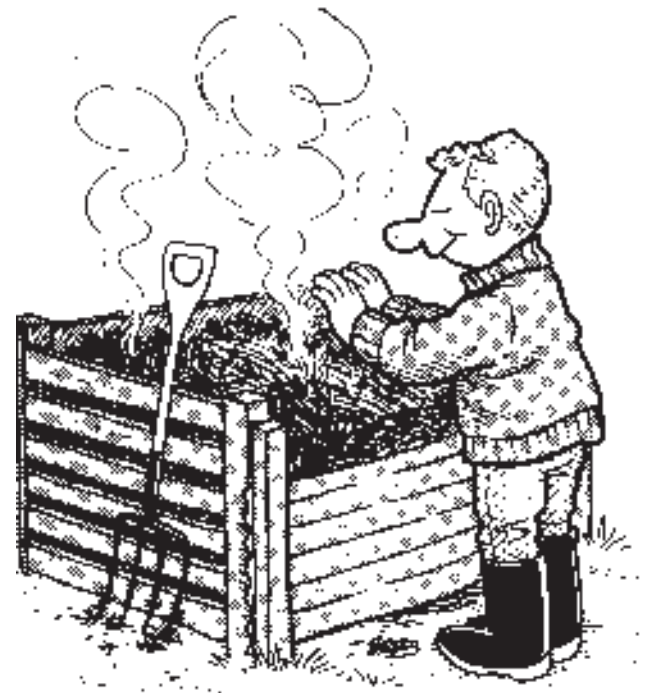


SORT IT

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The environmental newspaper for Babergh District Council residents



Getting greener....

Babergh launches new 'green waste' initiative

Hard on the heels of its introduction of the improved 'Pink Bag' scheme (see our back page) Babergh is launching a campaign to encourage residents to recycle more of their 'green' organic waste.

Surveys have shown that the majority of Babergh residents are strongly in favour of recycling, which is one of the reasons why the Pink Bag Scheme has been so popular.

But while items such as fridges, newspapers and beer-cans tend to make the headlines, green waste can pose even more of a problem. An estimated 6,000 tonnes per year of garden waste is collected in the Babergh District. This is over three times the national average – about 15 per cent of the total waste compared with 5 per cent elsewhere (because 94 per cent of households have gardens and there have been no restrictions on disposal). A further 1,400 tonnes is delivered to the Household Waste and Recycling Centres in the Babergh District. This is less than half the material taken to neighbouring districts.

CHRISTMAS REMINDER

When the festivities are over, Christmas trees can be taken to your nearest Household Waste and Recycling Site where they will be composted. (Wrapping paper and cards can be put in your Pink Bags)

Garden waste collected with normal weekly collections cannot be separated for composting, whereas all the material placed in the green waste bins at Household Waste and Recycling Centres is composted to make valuable soil improver or mulch.

So why doesn't Babergh propose a separate garden waste collection scheme as part of the refuse collection service? As part of the national waste management initiatives councils are required to minimise the waste that is collected. To provide a dedicated scheme would not encourage waste reduction and would probably result in a net increase in waste collected – the reverse of what is needed! This would require more vehicles on the road and more miles travelled resulting in more vehicle pollution and traffic congestion. The Council has therefore decided to promote composting at home (through provision of compost bins), use of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and the Council's bulky collection service.

Each year all the green waste – lawn clippings, leaves, prunings and vegetable peelings – that are put into wheeled bins end up being put in landfill sites. These materials decompose in the landfill and

generate landfill gas (methane), which can contribute to global warming.

The Government's Waste Strategy requires a phased reduction in biodegradable waste such as green wastes from entering landfills. For this reason, following a vote on the issue by Babergh councillors, from January 2003 bins containing garden waste will no longer be collected.

Instead, Babergh is encouraging householders to recycle more of their green waste. Ironically, this is one of the easiest materials to recycle at home – simply by composting. Besides helping the environment, it can offer great benefits to the garden as a mulch and soil improver and save money over 'bought-in' composts. "It really is a win-win situation," said Malcolm Firth, Babergh's Head of Environmental Services.



Over 7,000 composters have been sold to date - have you got yours?

"Because we understand that not everyone is able to compost or drive to the tip, the Council is considering offering two other services to help householders dispose of their garden waste," said Malcolm Firth. "Both of these will be tried out during 2003 so we can gauge demand and effectiveness".

The first is an optional fortnightly dedicated garden waste collection service, between Easter and late autumn for people who, for one reason or another, cannot dispose of their waste by the methods suggested above. Dependent on interest there would be a one-off collection charge in the region of £30 for this service.

The second new service would be designed to help in situations where householders are clearing neglected gardens, are carrying out elaborate makeovers or simply are having a weekend 'blitz'. Such activities tend to result in a large quantity of waste over a short period of time. A large bag-type container that can be filled on-site would be provided and, when filled, taken away for a one-off fee.

All garden waste collected, by whatever system, will eventually be composted, bagged up and sold as a valuable soil-improver. If you are interested in either of these proposed services please complete the enclosed card and return it to us to enable us to gauge interest. The results and scheme details will be published in future issues of *Sort It*. Supplies of finished soil improver are available for purchase at the County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Sites.

Action plan

The Council has drawn up an action plan to help residents to deal with their green waste. It is advising them to:

- Compost as much organic waste as possible. (See our tips on composting on pages 2 and 3 of this issue).
- Take any excess waste to one of the five local household waste recycling centres located at:
 - o **Sudbury**, Sandy Lane off Ballingdon Hill
 - o **Hadleigh**, Crockett Way, Lady Lane Ind. Estate
 - o **Chelmondiston**, Shotley Road on B1456 road 1 mile east of the village
 - o **Ipswich**, Portman Road near the football ground
 - o **Bramford**, Somersham Road, C450 1 mile before Little Blakenham village
- Bag up occasional waste, which can be collected as part of Babergh's bulky waste collection service, at a cost of £12.75 for up to ten bags (see map on page 3).

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Carry on composting



Win a case of pink bubbly



New improved pink bag scheme

