

renews

The newsletter of Nathans Wastesavers

reducing waste
reusing textiles
helping people

issue one

01

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Message from the Managing Director



Brendan O'Brien Nathans Wastesavers

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of Renews, the newsletter of Nathans Wastesavers Ltd.

For a company with a long established track record in reducing, recycling and reusing waste materials, clothing and footwear it has taken us a long time to get round to producing a newsletter. It is a familiar story – other things seemed to get in the way and needed dealing with first. **No longer!**

In an industry and world where 'putting it off until tomorrow' is not good enough, we thought we'd better make this a priority and so.....here we are. We are sure the newsletter will be both of interest to you and useful at the same time. We will try to let you know something of what drives us as a company working in one of the most important and increasingly vital activities in today's world; what we do and how we go about it; what is happening in our recycling world and who we are co-operating with and the partnerships we are forging. Co-operation and partnerships are themes that run

throughout this issue. Why?.....because at Nathans Wastesavers we understand and believe that the global problem of waste that faces the future of our children and our world will only ever be solved by companies, organisations and individuals **working together.**

It has been estimated that as many as 80 people are involved in the production and distribution of a woollen pullover or jacket; 34 in the production and distribution of a pair of leather shoes; 90 in the production and distribution of a man-made fibre suit. In other words

we go to enormous lengths to co-operate to produce the things we need. How can we imagine that recycling is going to take anything less? **It doesn't!**

At Nathans we passionately believe that and that is why we want to tell you about who we are working with to 'get it sorted'. If you have any questions about any of the articles or about how you can get involved don't hesitate to get in touch.

Let's get it sorted!

Brendan



Capability Scotland

Launched in 1946, Capability Scotland is now Scotland's leading disability organisation working for a fair and just society. The organisation has nearly 60 years experience of providing flexible services that support disabled people children, young people and adults in their everyday lives in Scotland. It also campaigns to change legislation, policy and practices.

To carry out its work Capability Scotland relies on income from a variety of sources. One of these is the network of twenty-one charity shops located in high streets throughout Scotland whose staff handle thousands of kilograms of unwanted clothing, household textiles,

toys, bric-a-brac and books handed in each week. Whilst the majority of this is sold through the shops, there is always a quantity that remains unsold. These unsold items are a problem for the charity because local authorities charge them for disposal in landfill sites....**and that is where Nathans Wastesavers are able to help.**

Nathans currently buy over 12,000kg every week from the charity and over 95% of this is re-used. That is 11,400 kg every week that is not going for disposal into landfill sites. As both Nathans Wastesavers and Capability Scotland still have to pay for the disposal of donated items that remain unusable

the charity is keen to make clear to its generous donors that electrical goods and items of furniture should not be left with the charity.

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CAPABILITY SCOTLAND
TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY

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The powerful recycling and fundraising partnership between the two organisations is further underlined by an agreement on the use of textile recycling banks. The agreement allows Nathans recycling points carrying the Capability Scotland logo, to collect donations on behalf of Capability Scotland. There are currently 183 such recycling points across Scotland... just another way to make it easier to reduce, reuse and recycle whilst helping keep Scotland's largest disability organisation in the public eye.



Dorothy Blair, Trading Manager of Capability Scotland says "Partnerships and collaborations such as this such as this are essential. It is the sophistication of our organisations that enable us to work together to have such a big impact on raising money for Capability Scotland, whilst at the same time, promoting recycling through both our shops and Nathans".



Council and Schools Provide an Early Start

It is often said that the most worthwhile things in life are best started early. With the help of North Lanarkshire Council and several schools in the council area, Nathans Wastesavers launched an initiative that has seen school children setting an example for us all by recycling over 2000kg of textiles since April this year.

The money paid by Nathans for these textiles has been donated to Capability Scotland who then give each participating school a certificate recognising their achievements. The schoolchildren simply take any unwanted textiles into school for collection by Nathans Wastesavers Ltd on prearranged dates. The textiles are weighed and a cheque is passed to the charity on behalf of the schools. Apart from the many benefits of recycling the textiles, this activity is recognised by the Eco-School award scheme.

Seven schools are participating and it is hoped that more will join in the programme over the next few months. The children at the schools have been told that clothes, shoes and hats need not be "thrown away" with other household waste; that someone, somewhere can make use of them. The children are delighted to find out that the money donated for the textiles they save is then given to charitable causes to help others.



Fraser Cassells
Manager of Nathans
Textile Bank Operations

Fraser Cassells, manager of Nathans textile bank operations, said "Apart from the obvious

benefits of raising money for charities that we work with, this initiative is important because it gives children the chance to get involved with something that will become increasingly important in their lives. All it has taken is willingness from the Council and schoolteachers to co-operate and the kids do the rest! North Lanarkshire Council re-cycling officer Mr Alec McLaren has been a great help and support in this and we will be trying to expand the scheme over the coming months".

Anyone wishing to get involved in the scheme could contact North Lanarkshire Council Recycling Officer, Cleansing Services, Scomag House, Crosshill Street, Motherwell O1698 302777 or contact Nathans Wastesavers Ltd directly.

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Keeping up Appearances

The Scottish Office is dedicated to increasing participation in recycling activities and Nathans Wastesavers is joining with them to try to increase public awareness and recognition of recycling points. Working in conjunction with Waste Aware Scotland to do this, Nathans is subscribing to the Scottish Office initiative to standardise the appearance of textile banks. We will be investing in co-ordinating the look of our points in line with the national initiative by adopting the new signage and logos of Wascot. Over the coming months we will be looking further at how we can work with partner organisations to co-ordinate appearances and strategies and will let you know what is happening.

www.wascot.org.uk



reducing waste. reusing textiles. helping people

Nathans Wastesavers
operate **textile-recycling banks**
for **26/32** local authorities
in **Scotland**

did you know?
Nathans Wastesavers
collects from and maintains over
600
textile recycling banks
across Scotland

COMING SOON

Meet the Bank Family

Over time it has become clear that we need to make some changes to the process of collecting and recycling waste. One of those changes is to the banks that we use because up to now we have relied on our standard textile bank to do it all

Well, our only child is about to get a big sister and new parents. In response to comments from charities, councils and supermarkets we will shortly be introducing a range of modified banks adapted to different usage levels. All of these banks will incorporate improvements such as:

- bigger chutes giving easier access
- better durability to keep them looking smart
- safety features to prevent accidents
- vandal resistant openings

First up is the new **'Maxi'** with 50% greater capacity than the standard bank. For busier, high use sites the 'Maxi' will ensure cleaner operation.

Joining the 'Maxi' are the heads of the family, the **Top Unloading Banks or TUBS**. Designed for use on high waste-producing industrial sites or very busy public sites the TUBS have several distinct advantages

- 3 x capacity means less chance of overspill and fewer collections will be necessary

- Unlike roll-on roll-off banks or standard top-lift banks, **Top Unloading Banks** are static and so require much less room to empty and service
- Because TUBS are static we can avoid the risks normally associated with lifting and emptying a bank
- Because TUBS are static there is no risk of damage to pathways and roadways
- TUBS will be very fast to empty... less than five minutes for the whole operation
- A Top Unloading Bank uses bigger chutes so there will be no more jammed plastic bags blocking the chutes
- The bigger chutes have enabled us to improve soundproofing resulting in much quieter operation

Aiming for introduction from October this year, the TUBS are coming your way. What is more Fraser tells us that the TUB may come in two sizes as well, with an extra large 'daddy of them all' designed for special sites.

Watch this space!

TUBS are coming...

The new bins should be here in October, allowing us to recycle even more!



new Web Site UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Web site design and functionality has advanced enormously in recent years and the available technology makes it possible for web sites to perform a huge range of functions. At Nathans we have been re-thinking both the objectives and appearance of our web site and a complete re-design of function and appearance is on the way.

We can tell you that one of the features will be a 'protected area' where local authorities will be able to access collection and recycling data relating to the textile recycling points and charity shops in their areas. This will save time, phone calls and paper returns making the administrative process much simpler. Councils will also be able to log any bank defects or issues relating to bank operation that they want us to deal with. This information will be on Fraser's desk immediately!



CHARITY SHOP AND TEXTILE BANK RETURNS NOW ON-LINE

Although textile bank recycling volumes are increasing month by month, 85% of all textiles recycled by Nathans are through charity shops; that is over 2,000,000 kg every month from shops. The detailed breakdown of these and textile bank recycling volumes will be available to councils on our new web site by fax and email making the process of completing their waste recycling returns much easier.

Leading by Example

The number of recycling banks that councils have now requested for placing on their own premises and office car parks has increased to fourteen. Not only that but these banks for use by employees for both domestic and work related waste are showing a significant increase of usage too.

did you know?

Every week
Nathans Wastesavers
process **600,000** kgs
waste materials
much of which is
exported
and less than **1%**
of this is sent for disposal!
5000 kgs
of **plastic bags**
are returned for
re-processing
wet and spoiled
clothing has to be dried.

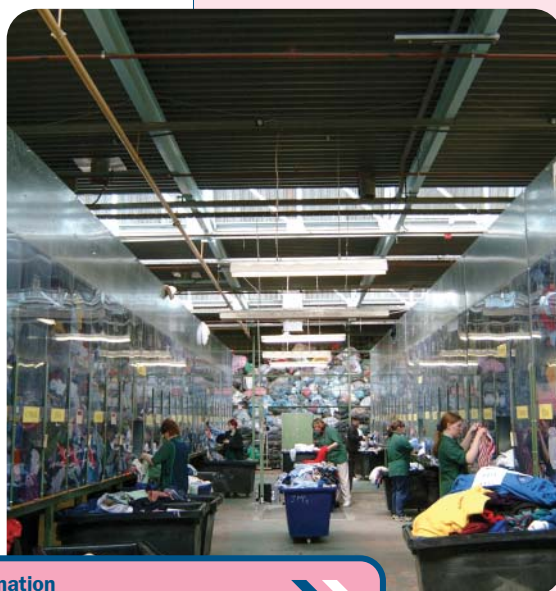
Much of this **material**
is destined to be
re-processed into
mattress filling,
soundproofing
or even
industrial
wipers!

Fancy a trip?

Maybe you have never sat and thought about what goes into recycling the things that we discard almost every day of our lives. Maybe you have but have never had the chance to see what it really entails.

Well, now you can.

We at Nathans believe that the more people realise what goes into such an operation the more effective we will all be in the long term. For that reason we offer tours of our recycling factory in Central Scotland for groups of up to 20 people. If you have an interest, come and see for yourself and join some of the local authorities, charities and schools that have already been to see us.



Contact Alan Florence for information
about arranging a visit.



contact us

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renews

next issue

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If you have any comments or ideas for topics to be covered in the next issue of **renews**, contact Will Goodall on 07966 802229.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



www.wascot.org.uk