



Message from the Managing Director

Brendan O'Brien Nathans Wastesavers

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of **Renews**. I know it seems like a long way behind us but I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Even though spring has been slow this year everybody's thoughts are turning to better weather and summer holidays. In this issue we leave Africa and in future issues Alan will tell you about how our recent trips to Eastern Europe have been finding destinations for recycled clothing. Also in this issue we introduce Gail MacGregor, Shops Director for the Edinburgh and Lothian

based charity St Columba's Wardrobe and Hospice, tell you how it began and what it does today. It is an amazing story of collaboration that deserves telling. Falkirk features as we welcome a visit from schoolchildren and report the fantastic effects of a Falkirk Council publicity campaign. We also introduce our recent addition to the Nathan's family, Olivia Doyle.

After a safety feature we have a light-hearted moment or two for you. Don't forget, if you have news or a story that you want us to feature, get in touch.

Let's get it sorted!

Brendan



CHARITY FOCUS

ST. COLUMBA'S WARDROBE AND THE HOSPICE  
A CHARITY FOR EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIANS

Even though many people in Edinburgh and the Lothians know about St.Columba's Hospice and how it lives up to the ideals of caring for people with terminal illnesses, many do not and yet it is a fantastic success story with humble beginnings.

In 1971 a group of people had been working together on the idea of starting a hospice. As a means of raising money to buy a suitable building they founded a small company to run a charity shop, christened St. Columba's Wardrobe. The Hospice was finally opened in 1978 and St Columba's Wardrobe has been supporting the hospice ever since.

Thirty years later the hospice is one of the foremost Palliative Care Hospices in Britain. It not only serves its local area but also guides the creation of similar hospices and in-hospital palliative care units throughout the country and trains doctors and nursing staff the skilled techniques of making 'every minute count' for patients and their relatives.



A valuable volunteer and one of the five Edinburgh shops

In the mid 1960's in Britain, the medical profession found it difficult to deal with terminally ill people in hospitals and homes. With resources stretched, as they always seem to be, there was a need to keep such patients comfortable; but in a sense there was a feeling that the staff should devote their major efforts to trying to help others where a cure was possible. At a time when a patient and their loved ones needed more care and help, time could not be spared.

However, amongst nurses and doctors there were those who instinctively knew that something more could and should be done. The real catalyst came in the mid 1960's when a London social worker who was caring for a young male Jewish refugee, recognised that what the person needed was very different to what a hospital could offer.

The young man did not need more distressing attempts at treatment but he needed to belong and to feel at peace before he died. He needed compassion and companionship. In his will he left £500 to his carer, Cicely Saunders, for "a window in your home". Spurred on by that she founded St. Christopher's, a small hospice in London. Dame Cicely Saunders, as she became, saw St. Christopher's offer 31 beds and become one of the foremost hospices in the Hospice movement. After her lifetime of courage and compassion and commitment she died earlier this year.

In 1967, Anne Weatherill was the Matron of Corstorphine Hospital. A person of some religious faith, she had always believed that God would find something special for her to do with regard to terminally ill patients and their sorrowing relatives. By chance she heard a talk in the Royal Infirmary by Cicely Saunders on what she was doing in London and inspired by this, Anne spent three weeks in St. Christopher's, where she found an atmosphere of 'peace, contentment and joy'. She knew this was what she must do for Edinburgh.

Anne Weatherill began by enlisting the interest and co-operation of those around her, a like-minded nurse in her hospital, her lawyer, the Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh, and others and they started by planning the creation of a ward in Corstorphine Hospital.

**Our relationship with Nathans Wastesavers is extremely valuable to us, as what is useful in the field of clothing is often not of good enough condition for us to sell to customers. Nathans Wastesavers take what we could not otherwise use or sell generating valuable revenue and preventing us paying for disposal.**

**These shops play an essential part in helping raise almost £5 million that is required annually to make sure that St. Columba's continues to provide care, freely given to all in Edinburgh and Lothians who need it.**

They took their ideas to the National Health Service but no help came from that source. Undaunted, she organised a public meeting to introduce the idea of founding a hospice and over 150 people attended from all sections of the community.

In early 1969 there was a real groundswell and at this time a second important figure appeared, Dr. Derek Doyle, who took a part time post in Corstorphine Hospital. The whole concept of the Hospice burgeoned, with dozens of supporters running fundraising sales of work, jumble sales, coffee mornings, anything that would raise money.

Their core ethos was that the Hospice would be a place where the relief of pain would become immediate and highly skilled care would be provided by staff who did not take death as a failure. Furthermore, they would be trained specifically to help the dying pass away in peace and with dignity. Openness and truth about a patient's condition would be shared honestly and sensitively with the patient and their relatives.

It took 10 years to come to fruition and many of those who were involved in raising money in those early days still work as volunteers in the Wardrobe Company's five shops. These shops play an essential part in helping raise almost £5 million that is required annually to make sure that St. Columba's continues to provide care, freely given to all in Edinburgh and Lothians who need it.

From the original 15 beds there are now 30, and almost 5,000 day visits a year are made by a team of St. Columba's nurses to out-patients in their own homes, together with a day centre for those who can come in. Over 500 volunteers work in the Hospice and the Wardrobe shops could not exist without some two hundred volunteers working in shifts of two to four hours, a few days a week or just once a week or, in some cases, a fortnight. They and the donations of clothing, textiles, shoes, bric-a-brac, books and furniture have helped us to donate well over a million pounds to the Hospice funds since we became a charitable company.

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**Those who read this and are interested in the Hospice are welcome to find out more by going on to the Hospice website at [www.stcolumbushospice.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbushospice.org.uk) and it would make our day if you would like to raise some money for the Hospice by donating unwanted possessions to us for sale. Just as important, you could offer to volunteer as a helper by phoning our Shops Director, Mrs. Gail MacGregor at 0131 555 0625. The hours are not long but the company and interest is great! And all the money you help to raise is used for the benefit of local people.**

## Another New Addition to the Bank Family

One the most important activities of successful recycling is self-monitoring to ensure that salvage rates are as high as possible. It is important to know what percentage of the materials that we receive actually get re-cycled. In a previous issue we highlighted the difficulties that we have had successfully recycling shoes. Simply keeping shoes together in pairs was a problem and charities have helped enormously simply by using the rubber bands that we have provided to do this. We have now decided on the bolder step of introducing a new bank specifically for shoes. The new baby is born and we are starting to introduce it now. **For information contact the proud father Fraser Cassells!**



## Falkirk Schools Take up the Offer

**Congratulations to Bo'ness Primary School who won the textile recycling competition run by Falkirk Council in November 2005. Pupils from the prize-winning school were invited by Nathan's to visit the factory.**

Factory Manager Jim Marshall showed them around. Jim so enjoyed the experience that he is delighted to extend the offer of a factory tour to any school, big or small. Jim says "It is an interesting experience for children to see first hand what real life volumes of discarded material are like and what the recycling process involves".

A tour can be arranged very simply by visiting our website at [www.nathanswastesavers.co.uk](http://www.nathanswastesavers.co.uk) or calling Olivia Doyle.



## Textile Bank Safety

**It seems almost unnecessary to say that the issue of safety in operating textile banks is important. All of us in the industry and everyone that has to deal with the public in any way cannot be unaware of the moral and legal responsibility that we all have towards the safety of others.**



At Nathans Wastesavers, operating a factory of large machinery and vehicles means that it is something that is always uppermost in our minds. Nevertheless, no matter how much effort we put into safe operations, someone can always find a way round safety procedures if they are determined enough... and so it was recently that we had to deal with an incident where a youth who had climbed into a textile bank in a locked civil amenity site was trapped for several hours. As a result we have undertaken a complete review of safety issues regarding the use of textile banks in conjunction with Local Authority Health and Safety Officers and the members of the Health and Safety Executive. A variety of steps are being taken but one simple thing that we have done is to devise a new safety warning notice that is unambiguous and clearer than before as well as being designed to convey information to those who cannot read.

**Nathans is determined to be at the forefront of safety design so if anyone has any safety issues they wish to discuss please call Fraser Cassells.**

## Announcement

We are delighted to announce that we have recently strengthened our team here at Nathans Wastesavers by recruiting **Olivia Doyle** who has joined us as a Recycling Officer. Previously with the Caledonian Environment Centre, Olivia has a professional interest in recycling and amongst other things she will be responsible for developing a range of new recycling initiatives as well as taking over editing the newsletter.



## Remember On-line Returns!

Don't forget that returns can be made 'on-line' through our website. If you are in any doubt about how to use the site just contact Olivia Doyle.

## Would you believe it?

**From time to time donors get it wrong... very wrong when strange things appear in our banks. Some are less er... pleasant than others.**

We received a phone call from a lady at a well-known supermarket to say that after shopping, she had held firmly onto the bag of textiles she wanted to deposit whilst abandoning her recently bought haddock into the textile bank. As this was for her and her husband's supper she wanted to know what we could do about it. The only polite thing we could think of was to send Fraser in a car to prevent a smelly outcome and rescue the fish and possibly, a marriage.



## Would you believe it?

All of us that work in public places know how aware of safety issues we have to be. Sometimes though it seems that no matter what you do someone will find a way to circumvent any precautions you take.

Whilst emptying a bank recently at a national supermarket site we saw something that made us look around for a hidden camera. Fraser had been called out at short notice to empty a textile bank. Having driven to the site he judged that it was not safe to attempt to lift and empty the bank whilst the car park was busy.

With safety in mind he waited patiently for the car park to empty, or at least for the sections near the recycling banks to empty. As the evening approached he drove the truck into position, surrounded the truck with cones, switched on the flashing hazard lights and steadily lifted the laden, heavy steel bank off the ground.

With the crane just about to swing the bank over the truck Fraser turned towards the bank just in time to see an elderly lady race across the car park, drive around the cones and park her car neatly, directly beneath the swinging bank. Fraser said, "When she got out I didn't dare shout to her to look at the two tons swinging 2 feet above her head in case she panicked.

The thing is I should have been quicker because in a flash she was gone and into the supermarket to do her shopping". Apparently oblivious, she returned after 20 minutes, got into her car and drove away leaving Fraser a more damaged man.

## next issue

### ISSUE 5 DUE AUTUMN '06

If you have any comments or ideas for topics to be covered in the next issue of **renews**, contact Olivia Doyle on 01324 826633.

## Falkirk the Fastest

We are thrilled to report that we are witnessing the fastest ever take-up and usage of newly sited textile recycling points run by a Local Authority. The success of Falkirk Council following a thorough review of existing Council run recycling sites has been stunning.

Brendan and Keith Morton look over the new Callander Park recycling point's first donations



Last year, Keith Morton and team conducted the review to identify appropriate locations for new textile banks. As a result the Council took delivery of 27 new textile banks through December 2005 and January 2006.

"Additional banks on its own was not enough though", says Fraser. "Just adding more banks would not on its own have made the amazing difference that has occurred. What made the difference was the determined advertising and publicity campaign that the Council carried out. This has increased the public awareness of the presence of the points and the importance of recycling".

The campaign included photographs of Brendan and Keith in newspapers alongside the banks in situ as well as radio advertising providing information about the locations. "Within 24 hours of the publicity we started to see a huge increase in usage and within a few days we were having to divert transport to empty banks early" reported Fraser.

## contact us

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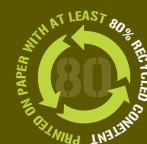
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