

**Upton upon Severn  
Plastic Bag Free**

**Target date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

**Exhibition**  
of alternatives to  
Plastic bags & packaging

10am - 8pm

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Memorial Hall  
Old Street  
Upton upon Severn  
Worcestershire

Suppliers of alternative products

Presentations & information

BBC Natural History programme,  
'Hawai'i - Message in the Waves'

Free entry



**Supported by:**  
Upton in Bloom  
Upton Tourism & Trade  
Upton Community Pride  
Upton Town Council  
Malvern Hills District Council

If you need more information go to  
the following website:

[www.uptoninbloom.co.uk](http://www.uptoninbloom.co.uk)

# UPTON upon SEVERN



## Why go Plastic-free?

For more information visit:

[www.uptoninbloom.co.uk](http://www.uptoninbloom.co.uk)

## Plastic Facts

- The world produces over 200 million tonnes of plastic annually
- At least 8 billion lightweight plastic carrier bags are issued in the UK annually. That's approximately 166 bags per adult each year
- On average we use a plastic bag for 12 minutes before disposing of it
- 80% of marine waste comes from land based sources. And nearly 90% of that waste is PLASTIC
- The ocean is especially susceptible to plastic pollution
- On average 46,000 pieces of plastic debris is floating on or near the surface of every square mile of ocean
- Plastic bag litter kills at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals and turtles each year
- An estimated 1 million seabirds choke or get tangled in plastic nets or other debris every year
- Plastic bags do not biodegrade - they photodegrade - that is break down into smaller and smaller pieces
- 47% of windborne litter escaping from landfills is plastic - much of it plastic bags
- Plastic pieces can attract and hold elements such as PCBs and DDT. PCBs are organic pollutants which have been banned because they are carcinogenic. DDT was banned in the UK in 1984.



Photo courtesy of Ivan Pivovarov, Melbourne Zoo  
Marine Turtle with plastic bag



Seal with tape roll centre



Albatross chick with coat hanger



Albatross chick starved to death with a stomach full of plastic

## Some definitions

### Compostable

These materials will decompose in a compost site - they do not leave a toxic residue and will result in humus which is safe to mix with soil.

### Biodegradable

Materials will degrade in the right conditions - they need oxygen, moisture and bacteria, fungi etc for this to occur. The results may still leave a toxic residue and may take years to occur.

### Photo-degradable

The action of natural daylight will cause the material to break down into smaller and smaller pieces but it still remains the original material.

### Degradable

Most things are degradable  
- the term has no real meaning.

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*Since the 1950's almost every piece of plastic that we have ever made, used and thrown away is still here on this planet in one form or another, whether its in our homes, in landfill or in the environment; and it will be here for centuries to come.*