

Welcome to the first issue of the Green Shop Newsletter. We hope to make the newsletter bi-monthly to keep you up to date with what we are doing here at the Green Shop and Holbrook Garage. Look out for new product reviews and special features along with all our other exciting news. If there's anything you'd like to know more about, (or perhaps think we should know more about!) drop us a line and we'll do our best to include it in a future issue.

“Want to know about Natural Paints? Ask Lynn – she wrote the book”

If you have browsed through our online catalogue you will be aware that we maintain an impressive selection of informative and inspiring books including a number of good interior decorating books. It is a shame that all but one or two of these focus on the use of mainstream, synthetic decorating materials. Customers often remarked that “somebody should write a book about using natural paints”. We hoped that sooner or later just such a book would appear on the market. We never imagined that Lynn would help to write it, but synchronicity and coincidence sometimes takes us down a side-track.



Lynn Edwards in the Green Shop paint department.

In the spring of 2001, a researcher from London based publishers Kyle Cathie telephoned the Green Shop requesting information about natural paints. She was doing initial research for a new book they wanted to commission. Whilst answering her questions Lynn discovered that they did not yet have an author for the work. By coincidence, Lynn knew a local author who had already written for Kyle Cathie and it seemed that Julia Lawless with her lifetimes grounding in the traditions of aromatherapy, herbalism and holistic living might be interested in taking on the project. Lynn thought she would just help with the with the research. Julia, however, suggested that they should co-author the book.

Lynn says “I didn't think of myself as an expert on natural paints but every question I couldn't answer was an opportunity speak to the real experts at our paint suppliers. Helping to write 'The Natural Paint Book' has certainly broadened my knowledge on the subject.”

“We hope the book will answer the questions of all those customers who wanted 'someone to write a book on the subject'.”

“Our paint department is getting busier all the time so I'm also very pleased to be working alongside Jan*. He brings experience and longstanding commitment to using natural decorating materials”.

*see New Faces on the next page

Since completing the manuscript several months ago, interest in natural paint has continued to grow. Conventional paint manufacturers are also responding to consumer demand for safer products and changes in emissions and labelling legislation. Lynn is now embarking on a new project to write a short eco-paint handbook for Bristol based ethical publishers, Eco-logic Books – watch this space!

The Natural Paint Book is released on 24th September : £16.99



The book is an introduction to, and comparison between, natural and conventional synthetic paints, set in their historical context.

It contains recipes for making simple paints at home from raw materials such as chalk, casein, beeswax, eggs and natural earth pigments.

An outline of some of the raw materials used in proprietary natural paints and suggestions of some creative ways in which these products can be applied to achieve decorative effects.

Also interior design advice, combined with feng shui and colour therapy theory.

Green Paints comes top in Which Magazine test.

The April 2002 issue of Which Magazine published the results of a long term test of external paints entitled “Weather Beaten”.

Awarded the ‘best on test’ gloss paint for external woodwork was Green Paints Novocoat, now just called Green Paints, and available exclusively from the Green Shop.

The tests which were conducted over a two year period gave Green Paints top marks for durability beating the performance of many of the conventional gloss paints.

As Which points out “you can now protect your property and the environment”. It's also more pleasant to use than most gloss paints since it has no odour and brushes can be washed in water.

New Product!

Locally Sourced Natural Earth Pigments.

For over 4000 years natural earth pigment (ochre) from Clearwell Caves in the Forest of Dean has been valued for its decorative properties. The pigments are still dug by hand, using simple tools as ancient miners would have done.

These natural ochres are ecologically sound as well as being low impact as they require no chemical processing and are completely harmless to living things.

They also produce great colours which are subtle and vibrant at the same time and are light fast and permanent – customers and staff alike have been really impressed.

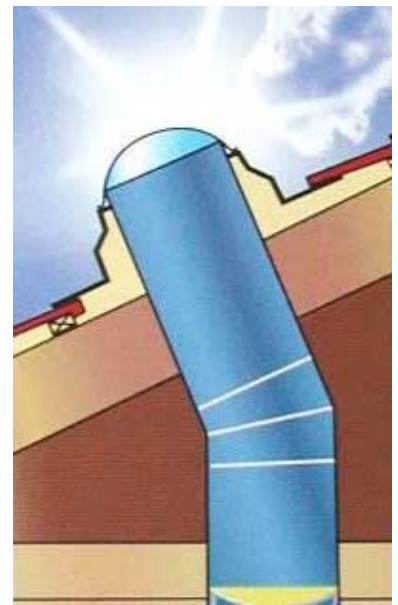
Colours available: **red**, **yellow**, **brown** and **purple** (purple ochre is a particularly rare natural pigment!)

Where the Sun Don't Shine

"Sunpipes are a brilliantly simple example of sustainable technology and they're selling like hot cakes" says Eddie Tottle, our resident energy advisor. They work by piping natural daylight from your roof to those dark corners of your house or office, the upstairs landing or downstairs loo perhaps? The dome captures the sunlight, a reflective tube (that even bends around awkwardly placed rafters) directs the light down and finally it is diffused evenly in the room below. Hey presto! - a simple and sustainable way to brighten up your living or working space.

Sunpipes come in different sizes and are easily installed on any roof type without having to make any structural alterations. Even better is that they require no further maintenance. Once in place they offer an 80% energy saving as the need for electric lighting is eliminated. As well as being good for your bank balance they are also really good for your health as they can help in the prevention of Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.)

To see some sunpipes (and some smiley Green Shop staff) in action, pop in and have a look at the ones we've installed in the shop, or for more information give Eddie a call.



Green Shop News

Green Car Park

Our new car park is growing well and will need a trim before long. Built from recycled plastic and sown with grass seed, it'll soon be as green as the field it was built in. Bugged down vehicles will now be a thing of the past! Future plans include planting a range of native shrubs to attract the wildlife as well as extending our willow 'fedge'.

The First UK Garage to Sell Global Biodiesel

On 11th July 2002 Holbrook Garage and the Green Shop became the first garage in the UK to sell Global Biodiesel to the general public. The opening of the new pump marks an important milestone in the fight to reduce carbon emissions, with a guaranteed 5% reduction.

Global Biodiesel is made from 5% rapeseed oil, the maximum currently permitted by British standard specification. It is also supported by all vehicle manufacturers so there's really no reason for not giving this part renewable fuel a try. Many customers already have and their responses so far have been very positive.

For more information contact www.greenenergy.com or see our website for the full article.

The Mail Order Catalogue

After two long years of gestation we finally released our new catalogue. With over 200 sustainable products, from bodycare to garden fountains we can supply the goods you need for that low impact lifestyle. If you haven't got a catalogue give us a call or order one online at www.greenshop.co.uk - and whilst we're on the subject...

The Green Shop Website

We are changing our website to give you a lot more background information on what we're up to at the Green Shop and why. We have regular news updates and are busy adding pages on all the innovative technology in use as well as features on new and exciting products.

New Faces

For those of you that visit the shop you may have noticed two new faces (for those of you who don't visit the shop - why not?!). Okay so you live in Scotland, I guess you're forgiven but for the rest of you why not pop in sometime and say hello, we're all very friendly! Back to the new faces - Jan and Beth joined us this summer and bring with them, well, colourful CVs to say the least along with bags of enthusiasm! They both look forward to either seeing or speaking to you in the near future.

Greenshop Products

We stock a wide and varied range of 'environmentally friendly' goods including cleaning products, local produce and fair trade, body care, organic items, energy products, books and magazines and lots, lots more. We are constantly sourcing new products, particularly those which offer the best in terms of their eco-friendly and ethical reputation so watch this space!

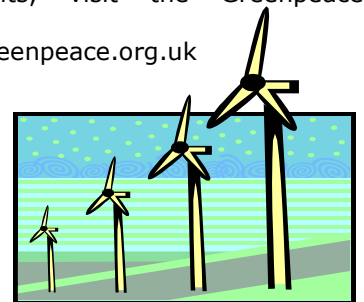
Also look out for exciting Christmas present ideas in the Nov/Dec issue of the Green Shop newsletter.

Global News

Speak Out!

No to Nuclear, Yes to Wind

By the end of year the government will decide whether to use renewable energy from the wind, waves and sun or go ahead with building a whole new generation of nuclear power stations. They want to hear the views of the public so make sure to have your say. For more information, including contact details for your comments, visit the Greenpeace website www.greenpeace.org.uk



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Open from 9am to 5.30pm on Monday to Saturday and 9.30am to 1.00pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays
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