

Distinctly Cumbrian Spring 2008 e-flyer



In this issue:

As a follow up to the successful packaging seminar held in March at Redhills, we have contact information on a range of **environmentally-friendly packaging** suppliers collated from a recent NEC exhibition. There's also a list of the North West Fine Food Award Winners 2008; congratulations to all participants.

While on the eco-friendly theme, there's some brief info on **green pallets**, plus news on the launch of a new **fuel card** comparison web site that could be worth checking out.

Moreover, there's information on a VAC project involving **rural shops**.

Also, there's exciting news on the **Food Technology Centre**, where building and fitting out work is in its final stages; so thrilling it has its own supplement!

Eco-Packaging

On Wed 12th March, EasyFair's® ECOPAK trade show was held at the NEC as part of the much larger Packaging Innovations event to enable businesses identify eco-friendly products and technologies that are currently available:

- Recycling & recyclable materials
- Low-waste packaging design
- Biodegradable and lightweight materials
- Low-energy manufacturing
- Refillable & reusable packaging
- Environmentally-friendly printing, inks & chemicals
- RFID & smart packaging

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Eco-Packaging (cont.)



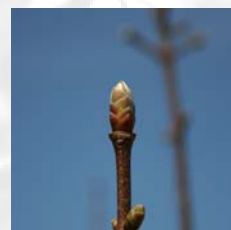
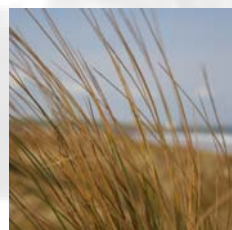
While attending the British Trade and Travel Fair 2008 (see spring newsletter), information was gathered in the adjacent hall from Ecopak on a range of environmental wares deemed suitable for the food production sector here in Cumbria, ranging from biodegradable sealing tape to compostable microwaveable trays.

"With conventional packaging mediums, especially plastic, becoming unsustainable, it is important that all businesses begin the process of identifying environmentally-friendly alternatives. This is not just because legislation may ultimately force food producers and retailers alike into utilising fully recyclable, compostable, or bio-degradable packaging, but there is a momentum building with the end consumer who may in due course determine what is acceptable.

"Naturally packaging has to offer a balance between protection, legal information, marketing/product information and be cost-effective, but such best practice is no longer the territory of the eco-warrior, cosmetic manufacturer, or trail blazing fruit drink [Innocent] producer."

Ian Winchester, Distribution Development Manager, Distinctly Cumbrian.

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Eco-Packaging (cont.)

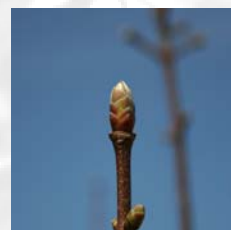
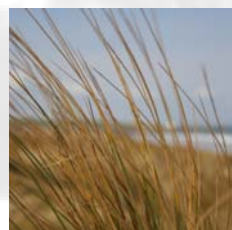
It is worth checking out these 11 businesses by visiting their websites, where more precise product information can be obtained. With notable advances in biodegradable and compostable materials plus increased competition, availability and costing are likely to improve long term.

Company	Web	E-mail	Packaging type
Celebration (Enviroware)	www.celebration.co.uk	Adrian.threapleton@celebration.co.uk (Adrian Threapleton)	Food service products
Dufaylite	www.dufaylite.com	Nigel.west@dufaylite.com (Nigel West)	Transit protection
Green Box	www.greenbox-ep.com	david@greenbox-ep.com (David Rokov)	Innovative sandwich packaging
The Green Plant	www.savingthefuture.com	general@savingthefuture.com	Cartons, bags + food service products
Green Solutions Ltd	www.greenecopackaging.com	kim@greenecopackaging.com (Kim Mackman)	Extensive food range (including bespoke)
London Bio Packaging	www.londonbiopackaging.com	Marcus@londonbiopackaging.com (Marcus Hill)	Food packaging + food service products.
Omni-Pac	www.omni-pac.info	info@omni-pac.info	Egg, fruit and vegetable products.
Paperboard Products	www.boardlinkgroup.co.uk/paperboardproducts/products/	paperboard@hawarden.co.uk	Ovenable board trays.
ProcuraSell	www.procurasell.com	barry@procurasell.com (Barry Reynolds)	Ovenable board trays.
Paper Pulp Solutions	www.paperpulpolutions.co.uk	sales@paperpulpolutions.co.uk	Moulded food protective packaging
Stera Tape	www.steratape.com	info@steratape.com	Sealing tape

Don't forget for general and environmentally friendly packaging requirements closer to home you can contact Westmorland Packaging (Kendal) – Tim Johnston MD www.westpac.uk.com ; Swan Wholesale (Carlisle) – Mark and Kevin James 01228 512190

For further advice on resource efficiency and environmental best practice support: http://www.crea.co.uk/cumbria_environment_network.htm

The future's bright, the future's ~~orange™~~ GREEN!



North West Fine Food Award Winners 2008

Cumbria Producer of the Year 2008:

Furness Fish and Game - Clare Worrall.

Best New Product Winner:

Damson Fruit Gems, Lizzies Homemade - Elizabeth Smith.

Best Jam, Jelly or Marmalade: Blackcurrant Jam, Outreamer Homemade Foods - James Jackson. email outreamer2003@yahoo.co.uk

Best Honey, Curd or Cheese: Damson Fruit Gems, Lizzies Homemade - Elizabeth Smith. email elizabeth.smith57@btinternet.com

Best Cold Meat Pie or Savoury Pastry: Black Pudding Speciality Dinky Meat Pie, Cranstons Quality Butchers - Ashlea Pearson. email: ashlea@cranstons.net

Best Brownie: More's Muddees, More Pud? - Patrick Moore. email: morepud@btinternet.com

Best Hot Pudding or Dessert: Tangy Lemon Pudding, Country Puddings Ltd - Lynne Mallinson. email: info@countrypuddings.co.uk

Best Bread: Spelt with Roasted Garlic & Chanterelles, Munx Lakeland Bakery - Aidan Monks. email: aidan@munx.co.uk

Best Biscuit: Plainjack Flapjack, Kendal Jacksmiths - Julie Thomas/Liz Berners-Lee. email: mailbacked@aol.com

Best Beef: Dexter Beef Sirloin Steak, Deer 'N Dexter - Jane Emerson. email: jane@deer_n_dexter.co.uk

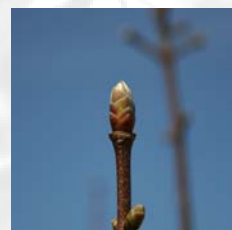
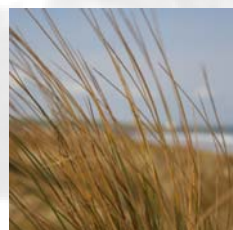
Best Air Dried Meat: Air Dried Beef, Farmerssharp, Andrew Sharp. email: farmerssharp@farmerssharp.co.uk

Best Prepared Fish: Morecambe Bay Potted Shrimp, Furness Fish and Game - Clare Worrall. email: furnessfish@yahoo.com

Best Alcoholic Liqueur: Moffatts Damson Gin, The Bridge Café and Bistro - Michael Hales. email: mail@thebridgecafebistro.co.uk

Best Terrine or Pate: Chicken Liver Pate with Brandy, Brunswick Deli - Susan Bell. Tel: 01768 210500

Best Continental Style Meat: Sliced Cumbrian Smoked Pancetta, Slacks - Dudley Carruthers. Tel: 01524 411611



Miscellany

Fuel Cards



On the 15th April, the UK's newest fuel card online comparison service was launched by Fuel Supermarket Ltd, operating in a similar manner to the insurance, loan etc comparison sites which have become so popular.

The service is free to fleet operators and owner drivers, and can be completed in just four short steps by entering brief details about fuel usage (an online diagnostic determines a range of card options). For each of the analysed options, comprehensive information about the card's features, benefits and charges are highlighted. Moreover, at any time the user can also call on a 24/7 hotline for further assistance.

A major benefit of this online service is that it takes away the mystique surrounding fuel cards while using a format/platform that consumers are now familiar with.

Fuel Supermarket Ltd
www.fuelsupermarket.co.uk
info@fuelsupermarket.co.uk
Tel 0845 051 4648

Green Pallets



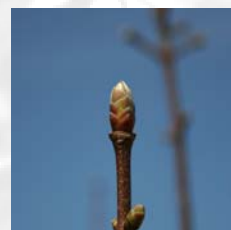
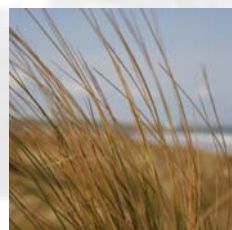
The Green Pallet Company (GPC) has recently launched a range of environmentally-friendly, recycled paperboard pallets. The collection also includes pallet boxes, bearers, and cases, which complement and integrate into the range.

The pallets are manufactured from recycled cardboard, and once used can be compacted into a bale for further recycling, or GPC can arrange for collection, i.e. no penalties if you are part of a pallet pool scheme. Moreover, fragile goods are offered extra protection through cushioning provided by the honeycomb deck.

Apart from the environmental aspect of the materials utilised, the GPC estimates that the reduction in weight and resulting fuel saving for 5.5 and 7.5 tonne vehicles can equate to several hundred gallons per annum.

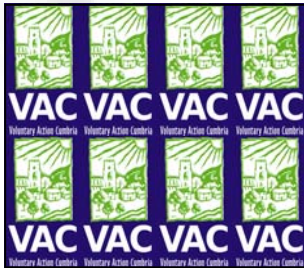
The Green Pallet Company
www.greenpallet.co.uk
Tel: 01778 380793

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Miscellany (cont.)

Rural shops



In late 2007 the Rural Retail Advisory Partnership (RRAP) was initiated by Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC) who commissioned CREA to conduct a mapping exercise and survey to identify issues facing rural retailers.

Now completed the survey highlighted a raft of issues facing independent stores and post offices through out the county, naturally the incredulous proposal to reduce post office counter services was high on the agenda. Moreover the ability to source local produce and crucially how to enable local food manufacturers to supply small geographically diverse outlets was also highlighted.

To develop support further VAC as part of the RRAP has initiated a series of meetings open to all retailers and local suppliers, if you are interested in participating please contact:

Voluntary Action Cumbria
Lorraine Rockminster - Development Officer
lorrainerockminster@ruralcumbria.org.uk

...And finally: David Pigg of Carrock Meats has a surplus mobile 2m counter ideal for show and markets. If you're interested, call 01228 712442 for further info on price etc.

Disclaimer:

Distinctly Cumbrian is part of CREA (Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency) based at Redhills, Penrith, and is a regeneration initiative funded by the North West Development Agency. Every effort is made to present accurate information. Should any of the information presented in this newsletter be incorrect, please contact Distinctly Cumbrian immediately. Please note that Distinctly Cumbrian cannot be held responsible for any situations arising from use of the information contained within the newsletter.

