

Two poems to ponder for the new year

Climate Change

Climate change is no fun at all,
It's all blamed on mans pollution.
He points, discusses and argues,
And yet he still has no solution.

He collects his waste in boxes,
Black, Green and Brown.
But secretly behind his back,
Much is still buried underground!

His conscience is quite clear,
He has done his little bit.
His Green box is filled right up,
And that's not going to the tip!

Man dumps his rubbish anywhere,
Just take a look around.
There is hardly any place left,
Where his rubbish can not be found.

We are all polluting the world in which we live,
And we must have more than we need.
It will be painful in the long run,
Because this world is run on speed and greed.

Maurice Shepherd**The Heritage**

I see young children playing in the open air,
Healthy and carefree,
And as I watch, I wonder,
What will their future be?
Will they one day watch their children,
Growing healthy and strong,
Play in clean, fresh air?
This is their right, and we,
Guardians of this earth,
Must protect their heritage.

There is pollution now in the air they breathe
From cars and factories,
Fouled are the rivers and seas,
Meadows and woods where flowers bloomed and
birds sang
Are lost forever.

And the dwindling rain forests
That help to maintain the climate of our world,
Teeming with life,
Great tree roots protecting and holding fast
The fertile earth,
These we destroy at our peril
No, at our children's peril -
For men today have found wealth in their
destruction,
But when the trees are dead at last,
Only desert will our children inherit,
And the wild creatures of the forest
That belong to this world as much as we,
Seen now by us, will one day be seen no more.

Doris Dowling

If you'd like to see your writing in MADNews, contact the Editor on 01865 391725

Will you have time to spare in 2009?

"Without Home-Start's help, I wouldn't have got through what was a very tough time. Thank you so much to each and everyone of you for everything."

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a voluntary home-visiting scheme, which offers friendship, support and a practical approach to families with children under the age of five.

If you think you would like to be a Home-Start volunteer offering your help to young families in your area, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are starting a Volunteers' Preparation Course starting in the near future and if you would like any further information about the course or Home-Start, please contact Hilary Mundy on 01235 511152 or at Homestartso@btconnect.com

**HAVE YOU TIME TO SPARE TO MEET SOMEONE NEW AND HELP THEM?**

Our scheme to train and place volunteers is gathering speed, and we already have a terrific team in the field. But here at the South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot we would like to recruit more: would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme. Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested, and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on chris@svcarers.org.uk, or phone her there on 01235 510212. She will be delighted you've called!