

## **Recycling and More**

*Sue Justice*

What to do with that plastic packaging that says 'do not recycle'? Our blue lidded bins are only for hard plastic containers such as milk bottles and yogurt pots, as described on page 12 of the August/September Outlook and in Dacorum Council's website:

<https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/environment-street-care/recycling-refuse-waste/household-waste-recycling/blue-lidded-wheeled-bin>

Can you avoid putting soft, flexible plastics in the rubbish bin? The answer now is 'yes'. See here for various possibilities, although as always it's ideally best to avoid buying things in too much packaging and to think of recycling as a last resort.

### **Tesco**

Larger branches of Tesco have started collecting all sorts of flexible, soft plastic that cannot be recycled in the blue bins, nor in the plastic bag collection bins of most supermarkets. Their website states: 'Customers can bring all types of soft plastics to our collection points. This includes everything from crisp and salad packets to microwavable pouches, bread wrappers and shrink wraps - no matter where it was purchased. Collected materials are washed, sorted, and recycled, ideally within our own packaging.' And reading further shows that they include sweet wrappers, cheese wrappers, shrink wrap, in fact it seems just about everything made of soft plastic.

The branches in Berkhamsted (at 160 High Street) and outskirts of Tring (large one on London Road) both offer this facility.

### **M&S Simply Food**

Marks and Spencer have also started to recycle plastics that were previously unrecyclable. See the photo here for details. M&S at 300 Berkhamsted High Street (the bin is by the steps at the back) and in Dolphin Square, Tring, both have facilities.

### **Waitrose**

As well as plastic bags and others that say they can be recycled at the store but not from home, you can also recycle water filter cartridges at Waitrose in Berkhamsted.

### **Boots Opticians**

Here you can recycle any make of old contact lenses and their plastic and foil packaging (but not the storage cases) at 242 High Street, Berkhamsted.

### **OLIO**

Going on holiday and have vegetables you can't use before you go?

Went a bit mad with a multibuy offer in the supermarket and now the spare item is nearing its end date?

This is where Olio, a computer and mobile phone app for sharing food and equipment comes in. Members can offer their spare food and other items for members nearby to pick up. Tools and equipment can also be borrowed. The more people locally join and use it the better, for easy pick-ups on foot or by bike. See <https://olioex.com/about/#about> for more details.

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