



## Charity Paint Give Away:

**Focus DIY is handing over pallets of paint for community re-use. Nationally, they're handing out £150,000 of paint to local community projects, schools and good causes.**

In Oxfordshire, the three FOCUS DIY stores in Banbury, Didcot and Witney are working with Orinoco, the Oxfordshire Scrapstore and Community RePaint to see that the paint goes to good homes. The paint, collected by volunteers from Orinoco, will be available at the Scrapstore in the Bullingdon Community Centre, Peat Moors (off The Slade), Headington from Saturday August 12th.

Howie Watkins, Community RePaint co-ordinator for Oxfordshire said, "This is fantastic news, a real windfall. Although we sometimes get donations of new and unopened tins of paint at the store we've never had as much as this. I'm going to be collecting around two pallets full from each of the FOCUS DIY stores in Banbury, Didcot and Witney. That's a lot of top quality paint."

Orinoco collect useable waste paint from businesses and the recycling centres run by Oxfordshire County Council. The paint is sorted and selected for quality and made available to community groups, voluntary groups and charities.

"We're particularly keen to hear from community groups, resident's associations and clubs who would like to help us distribute the paint. If you are involved with a group that would like to hold a stock of paint for your members to use, please get in touch with me via our website [www.oxorinoco.org](http://www.oxorinoco.org) or drop into the store during our regular opening times of 11am till 4pm on Saturdays to have a look at the stock and tell us what you'd like. If you want a lot of paint, we will even bring it over to you in our van."

Orinoco is a charity that promotes recycling through education and by running initiatives such as this paint re-use scheme. Our work is supported financially by Oxfordshire County Council and Community RePaint.

## Photocall:

Howie Watkins and Orinoco volunteers can be pictured amongst big piles of paint at the FOCUS DIY store in Banbury on Friday afternoon – 04/08/06 @2pm. They will be at Didcot and Witney stores on Monday afternoon – 07/08/06. Please ring Howie on 07771 708178 to confirm a time. We will also be taking our own photographs (A4 @300 DPI) and these will be available from [www.orinoco.artalert.org.uk/press/index.htm](http://www.orinoco.artalert.org.uk/press/index.htm)

150	Banbury (Garden)	Unit 1, Banbury Cross Retail Park, Lockhead Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire. OX16 1LX	0844 8001339 01295 275642	13
1465	Daventry (Garden)	Sopwith Way, Drayton Field Industrial Estate, Daventry. NN11 5PB	0844 8001535 01327 311616	13
172	Didcot (Garden)	Wallingford Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. OX11 9DA	0844 8001345 01235 811366	12
768	Witney (Garden)	Thorney Leys Park, Ducklington, Witney, Oxon. OX28 4GF	0844 8001492 01993 778981	12

## **Notes:**

The Community RePaint scheme, which has been successfully rolled out in other parts of the UK, helps the community to help itself by re-distributing unwanted, surplus paint at low cost for reuse by local people (particularly those in social need), charities, voluntary groups and schools. Whilst providing a service for the local community and helping the environment, the scheme also has the potential to provide opportunities for the unemployed to volunteer and learn practical skills, gain invaluable work experience and then transfer these skills into employment.

Community RePaint began in 1993 and has attracted funding from ICI Paints and the CRED Programme and has since grown into a huge success. There are currently 65 Community RePaint schemes throughout the UK

Over 414 million litres of paint are sold each year (retail and trade), 80 million litres of which is stored, hoarded or wasted. Community RePaint enables some of this paint to be put to good use.

## **Contact:**

Howie Watkins, Orinoco: 07771 708178 / 01865 762474 / [office@howie.info](mailto:office@howie.info)

Bullington Community Centre, Peat Moors, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HS

[www.oxorinoco.org](http://www.oxorinoco.org)