



Orinoco - The Oxfordshire Scrapstore
Bullington Community Centre
Peat Moors, Headington. OX3 7HS

t: 01865 761113
m: 07960 661748
f: 08712 772058
w: www.oxorinoco.org
e: mail@oxorinoco.org

Registered Charity No. 1041798

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Orinoco Van Attacked by Vandals



An Oxford charity has been hit by a vicious act of vandalism which threatens its popular service to businesses, groups and individuals all over the county.

Many will have seen the bright, cheerful, red Orinoco van as it travels about collecting top class scrap materials from firms and factories for future use in all kinds of handicraft, home improvement and play.



Now the van's tyres have been stabbed with a knife, rendering the vehicle useless and presenting Orinoco with a bill for £350 for their replacement.

Manager Howie Watkins, who leads a team of enthusiastic volunteers, commented: 'This is money we just haven't got. We run a very efficient operation and we pay our way but only just.'



Orinoco is held in great regard by Oxford people, especially those who regularly visit its HQ at the Bullington Community Centre in Headington. Its name will ring a bell with fans of the Wombles of Wimbledon, litter-gatherers supreme, for it is named after one of the characters.

Howie said the charity had paid for two new tyres only a month ago. 'The van is vital because we use it to pick up waste paint and garden tools from business and from the Redbridge recycling depot.

'We collect scrap from business and sell it at as low cost as art materials to schools and playgroups.



'If we can't get it back on the road we will have to cancel our trips. Waste that could have been re-used will end up being binned and our customers: mums, dads, teachers and children will be disappointed.'

The Orinoco van is more than a delivery vehicle, it doubles as a mobile scrap shop, allowing Orinoco volunteers to take unusual art materials all over the County. Over the next two weeks the van is due to be in Banbury, Bicester and Didcot. These trips are now in jeopardy.

The van was bought with grant aid from Viridor Waste Credits and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and is vital to Orinoco. Without it, the charity can't do its job.

Contact Howie Watkins, at Orinoco on 01865 761113 / 01865 764272 / 07771 708178.

Full resolution photographs online at: <http://www.oxorinoco.org>