



NEWS RELEASE – 26 August 2011

A thousand bikes donated to Africa by Wiltshire residents

Picture opportunity:

Jole rider representatives will be at the Stanton St Quinton Household Recycling Centre on Wednesday 31 August at 2pm to collect the 1,000th bike. See <http://www.recycleforwiltshire.com/at-home/recycle/hrcs.html> for directions.

More than a thousand unwanted bikes have been collected from recycling centres in Wiltshire and sent to help young people in Africa.

Wiltshire-based charity jole rider has been collecting the bikes since March from six household recycling centres in Wiltshire run by Hills Waste Solutions. The bikes have been taken there by members of the public and are put aside by Hills for the charity.

This month jole rider collects its 1,000th bike.

Jole rider's mission is to change lives through education and its flagship programme is bikes4Africa. Many African children live in remote communities, a long way from their nearest school. Without reliable, affordable, motorised transport the only way these children can get to school is to walk.

So having a bicycle makes a world of difference for these children and for their families and communities too.

Each bike needs to meet a minimum specification and they are shipped over in sea containers in batches of 333. When they arrive in The Gambia they are then allocated to different schools.

The Wiltshire recycling centre which has provided the most bikes is Stanton St Quinton near Chippenham with 340. Even though Marlborough HRC has only been open a few months it has already donated 62 bikes. Its success may well be due to the fact that the town has been twinned with Gunjur in Gambia since 1982.

Mike Webster, director – Hills Waste Solutions, said: "We work hard to make sure that what people bring to Household Recycling Centres can be reused or recycled.

"Linking up with jole rider has been a great way to make good use of the many bikes that are taken to our HRCs.

"I am delighted that we have been able to help people in Africa."



Tony Oliver, from Jole Rider, said: "We are enormously grateful to Hills Waste Solutions for their past and continued support for Jole Rider. We would also like to thank the Wiltshire public for their increasing support for our project."

ENDS

Notes for editors

- For more about Jole Rider see www.jolerider.org
- Bikes are collected from the following household recycling centres: Stanton St Quinton, Melksham, Devizes, Trowbridge, Purton and Marlborough

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