

Recycling fish boxes at Grimsby Docks

An enterprising outfit, Enviro, based near Grimsby Docks, is collecting around 25 tonnes of used EPS fish boxes each week, from the Grimsby Fish Market — one of the most important fish markets in Europe. The fish boxes are compacted and sent to China where they are recycled into disposable cameras, video cases and coat hangers.

Enviro, an award-winning new business, started the Grimsby recycling scheme in December 2003 and has already won the confidence of all the major fish processors and importers in the town.

Steve Rowlands, Managing Director, Enviro says: "We do a daily collection service for 20 fish companies based at Grimsby Docks. We also have compacted fish boxes brought to us from firms in Hull, Caistor and Nottingham."

Fish arrives at Grimsby Docks twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year and it can create problems if empty fish boxes are not quickly moved away. The key to Enviro's successful enterprise is providing a reliable and helpful service to its customers — who are processing the fish.

Young's Bluecrest, the largest fish producer in the UK, processes at least 25,000 fish boxes a week at Grimsby. As soon as the boxes are emptied, it needs them removed



from the factory for reprocessing.

George Bowering, Engineering Manager, Youngs Bluecrest comments: "We supply fresh fish to supermarkets on demand, this makes our production unpredictable with an incredibly fast turnaround.

"Since Enviro started its operation on the Docks, it has been a lot easier to prevent waste building up — which is good for our business and for the Docks. We have a solid working relationship with Enviro who genuinely do their best to provide us with a good service."

Enviro won the North East Lincolnshire Enterprise Award for New Business 2004. Steve

Rowlands comments: "It has been hard work for the past six months and we are proud of our achievements so far. However, this is just the start, we plan to expand and develop the business and build on our success."

The first step in this expansion is a move to larger, new premises nearer the Docks in Grimsby to increase the tonnage of material that can be processed and to cut transport costs.

And Steve Rowlands has more plans: "Instead of sending the fish boxes to China to be reprocessed, I would like to do the reprocessing here in Grimsby. That would mean Enviro investing in the machinery to extrude the fish boxes and then making the material into plastic wood that can be used for fencing and posts. In the long-term that is where we would like the business to be going."

“ 25 tonnes of used EPS fish boxes are collected each week in Grimsby by Enviro ”

A Hebridean Lunch

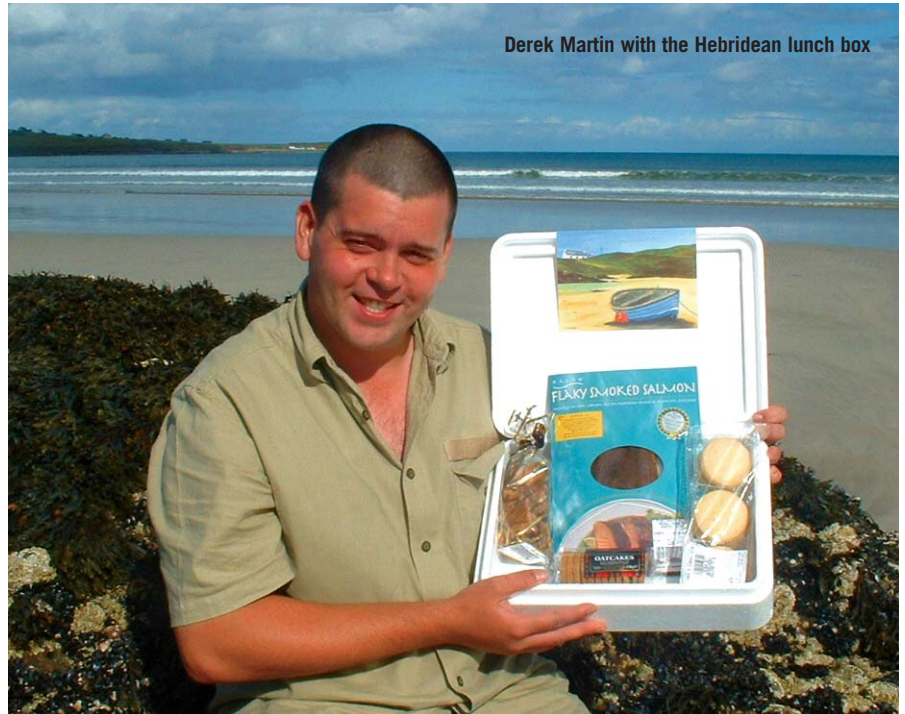
It's your birthday; you've a lot of work to get through. Suddenly a white EPS box is placed in front of you. You open it. Inside; a pack of Salar Flaky Smoked Salmon (a world-renowned speciality), a packet of award-winning oatcakes from the Isle of Uist and some tablet — addictive vanilla toffee from the Isle of Barra.

The salmon and the oatcakes complement each other perfectly. You are transported back to the Hebrides. It is the perfect gift, a Hebridean lunch box. Each item kept in tip-top condition by the EPS box — itself a product from the Isle of Lewis.

Now, this mouth-watering experience is available to anyone in the UK. It is made possible by the Internet, a new business called Hebrides To You and EPS Packaging Group member, Polybox (Stornoway) Ltd.

Alasdair Martin, who co-founded Hebrides To You with his brother, Derek explains: "We've created a year-round regional grocery service. Products that could only be enjoyed by those living near to, or visiting the Hebrides, can now be ordered online by anyone in the UK.

"When you taste our products you will be blown away. I live on the mainland and I know that



Derek Martin with the Hebridean lunch box

nothing like these are available — that gave me the idea for this business."

Items such as Stornoway black, white and fruit puddings, smoked haddock, mussels and trout, homemade marmalade and jam, melt in your mouth shortbread and a range of handmade soaps that sound good enough to eat, can all be delivered to your door.

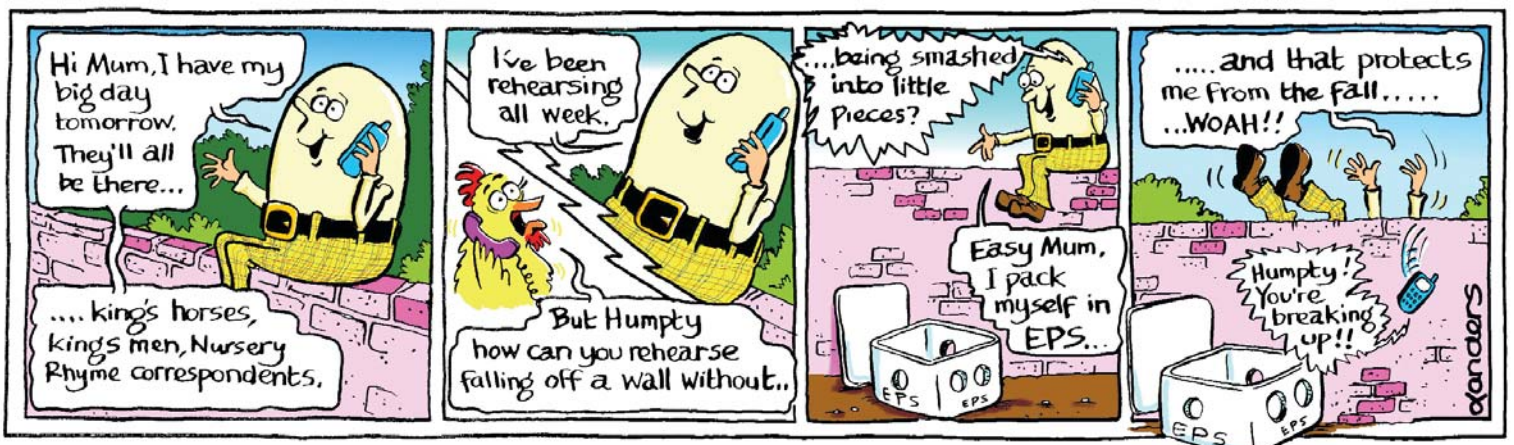
The unsung hero of the enterprise is the supplier of the EPS boxes which safely package up the produce and keep it in good

condition en route: "We'd be stuffed without Polybox", says Alasdair.

"We tested the market with a variety of packs and the only kind that assured people that the food would be well-protected and in perfect condition was the EPS box.

"That customer perception is vital and we are lucky to have a supplier on the island who provides us with very affordable EPS boxes."

You can find Hebrides To You at www.hebridestoyou.com



RECYCLERS UPDATE

Wales Environment Trust

The Wales Environment Trust (The Trust), the largest independent distributor of landfill tax credits in Wales, has set up a new EPS reprocessing plant in Aberdare, South Wales.

Keith Parry, Chief Executive, explains: "There is a crying need for EPS reprocessing in South Wales because of the concentration of white and brown goods manufacturers in the area.

"A large EPS facility recently closed down in S. Wales leaving a large gap in an established service for its former clients. We wanted to see if we could aid re-establishment of that service to industries in the area.

"We've had discussions with most of the manufacturers in the area who have used EPS boxes or trays, which they would prefer recycled and the response has been very positive. They are very comfortable dealing with the Trust and recognised our previous effectiveness and reliability in pursuing the creation of markets for recycled materials in Wales".

The Trust has been working hard to set up its production line, to establish a long-term end market for its reprocessed EPS bead and to develop innovative processes that will enable it to take both fish boxes and cups in the future.

In one area, technical innovation has already made great progress. Julian Harman, Marketing Development Officer of the Trust explains: "We have been working with Roundstone Nurseries, one of the largest bedding plant producers in the UK, to pilot the recycling of horticultural waste.

"Historically this has not been easy material to recycle because it has residues of potting compost. However, the trials have gone very well and we are not far off a permanent solution for recycling

this material."

A partnership between four companies made the trials possible as Martin Squire, Technical Manager, Roundstone Nurseries explains: "B & Q is our major customer and they a driving force behind this work as they take their environmental credentials very seriously and are keen to see used EPS being recycled.

"Styropack, our EPS tray supplier, has also played a vital role. We send the waste or used EPS trays back to Styropack in an empty truck and they compact them for us. This compacted material is sent to The Trust to trial on the production line.

"We are still fine-tuning all the different elements; we hope to have a system that works, in place soon, then we can start sending our waste EPS material to be recycled by The Wales Environment Trust on a regular basis," concludes Squire.

This is a great breakthrough for the horticultural sector and, once underway, will certainly be a feather in the cap of the new EPS facility as



Keith Parry and Julian Harman plan to provide a reliable EPS recycling service in South Wales

it continues to expand and develop.

The Trust is convinced that the EPS recycling plant will be a long term player in what can be a volatile sector. Julian Harman says: "The top priority is to provide stability. Most importantly, a long-term end market for the reprocessed EPS bead needs to be established — that will provide a good basis for trading and will ensure that the business thrives.

■ **If you would like to contact The Wales Environment Trust about recycling EPS please call Julian Harman tel: 01443 866300**



Martin Squire at Roundstone Nurseries

Introducing PAS 103

One and a half million tonnes of plastics packaging waste are landfilled each year in the UK. The Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 103 will help to reduce this by enabling more plastic to be recycled.

PAS 103 is a classification and grading system for collected waste plastic packaging intended for recycling. The waste holder visually assesses the materials and fills in a simple questionnaire that gives a buyer all the information they need.

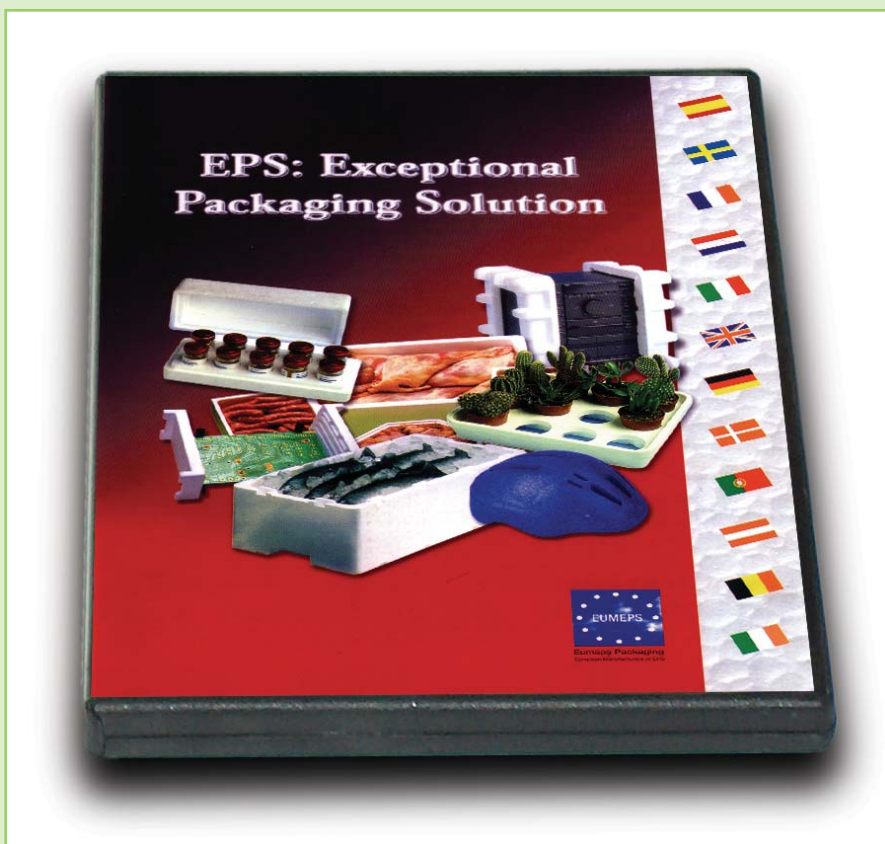
Providing the buyer with clear information about the plastic materials being sold makes it easier to value the materials and plan the best re-processing route. It is hoped that this will increase the value of the material and create more market opportunities.

“This is a world-first for the plastics recycling industry. Metals, glass, paper and other waste materials have used classification systems for years. This is the first complete system created specifically for plastics waste,” says Colin Williamson, Vice Chairman of the BPF Recycling Council.



PAS 103 provides a grading system for collected waste plastic packaging

EPS: Exceptional Packaging Solution



If you would like to know more about EPS packaging; how it is made and what it is used for there is a new DVD available. The DVD is entitled **EPS: Exceptional Packaging Solution** and it has two short films on it.

EPS: “An unexpected gift” is delightful short film made with schools and general public in mind. It shows, in a light-hearted, amusing way, how EPS helps us all by protecting items that we care about.

EPS: “The packaging made from beads” demonstrates how EPS is made, its versatility and the great protection and insulation it offers as a packaging material. This film is aimed at industry and professionals.

■ To get a free copy of this DVD please send your name, job title, company and address to info@eps.co.uk and we will post one out to you.