

## **Press Release**

**18 April 2007**

A post-mortem on a turtle found dead off the coast of Scotland found it had eaten about 300 plastic carrier bags. Plastic bags in the sea look like jellyfish, a favourite food of leatherback turtles.

Plastic, including bags, has also been found blocking the guts of 176 other marine species such as whales, dolphins, seals and seabirds.

A WWF Scotland spokesperson said, "Plastic bags are a real threat to marine life and it's deeply disturbing to think of the suffering these animals face."

Reducing the number of plastic bags we use and discard helps to protect these already vulnerable species.

Ecologist Beth Williams was inspired to set up a company, Turtle Bags, supplying ethically sourced organic cotton string bags to help combat this problem.

Turtle Bags are now available at Green & Pleasant, 59a Queens Road in Clarendon Park, and they are selling like hot cakes.

Owner Jill Willis said, "Our customers have been distressed to realise the full environmental impact of plastic bags, which have already been banned in some countries. As well as killing animals, plastic packaging forms a major part of the waste currently going to landfill. Most plastic bags take at least 35 years to break down and leave a toxic residue.

At Green & Pleasant we are doing what we can to reduce the impact by supplying Turtle Bags and shopping bags made locally from recycled fabric, as well as selling products with minimal packaging. We also stock biodegradable refuse sacks and bin liners that break down quickly and safely."

Contact: Jill Willis

Tel: 270 2974 at Green & Pleasant  
289 1581 evenings