



## Moving Forward with Going Green at Down Hall

Our Going Green project is progressing each day, week and month as we become more environmentally conscious and continue to work towards reducing our carbon footprint.

Our vegetable garden is almost ready and GMTV's Joanna Yarrow will be sowing the first seeds within the next four weeks, just in time for spring. The project has taken over three months to complete and our staff have been helping contractors with the final details. In addition to our vegetable garden we have turned an old pine wood into an operational garden and orchard.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008 we switch our electricity supply to a 100% renewable electricity contract which will immediately wipe out over 60% of our carbon footprint and will ensure that the cost to off set the rest of our usage is drastically reduced. In addition to switching to renewable electricity we have had great success in reducing our consumption by applying some very basic good housekeeping initiatives. These initiatives have helped us reduce consumption by over 8% in February 2008 compared with February 2007.

To reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill we have been working closely with an environmental company which is helping us with ways to reduce and recycle. All cardboard, paper, plastic and aluminium waste is collected every two weeks and all raw food waste is being composted to use in our vegetable garden and orchard, thus reducing our waste significantly.

Since the beginning of 2008 we have met with over 50 of our suppliers and are continuing to work with them to reduce packaging and food miles. As part of this process, almost all of our paper products have been changed to recycled, FSC accredited paper.

We are shortly going to be changing our menu design in The Grill Room so that we can have more flexibility in changing on a regular basis. We have taken this step to ensure that we can purchase locally produced and more seasonal produce wherever possible.

Last month our press packs were sent out on USB's to over 200 publications, newspapers and radio stations and the response has so far been very good with many companies committing to running articles about our project.

More news to follow next month....