

## New group aims to make Kingston environmentally-friendly

# SHOWING THE GREEN LIGHT

By Sean Coyte

**TRANSITION** Town Kingston – a group aimed at inspiring the local community to live an environmentally-friendly life – is calling for locals to help its cause.

Founded two months ago by a number of like-minded people, the diverse group of 20 to 70-year-olds aims to encourage locals to adopt a simpler way of life.

With enough members, the group plans to split into subgroups to teach people the skills to live a life less dependent on oil, to grow and distribute food locally, produce renewable energy locally and ensure housing is built in a low-carbon way.

Toni Izard, a member of Transition Town Kingston, stated in a mission statement: "We will be creating visible and practical projects that will reduce CO2 emissions and dependency on fossil fuels and inspire and empower residents to participate."

The group are keen to work alongside similar organisations to help with its cause, and is already



**ON A MISSION:** Members of the Transition Town Kingston group

Submitted picture

affiliated with the Kingston upon Thames Local Exchange Trading System. The group's next event will be a talk, on September 8, entitled Peak Oil, Climate Change

and Transition Towns. On October 7, it will present its action plan.

Both events will take place at the C-Scipe Department, in the Penrhyn Road campus of Kingston

University. To get involved, join the Transition Town Kingston mailing list by dropping them a

line at: [TTKington-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:TTKington-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

[yourlocalguardian.co.uk](http://yourlocalguardian.co.uk) July 24, 2008

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## Group airs low-carbon movie

Transition Town Kingston, a new group aiming to help the community gear up for a low-carbon future, is showing the first of a string of free films at Kingston University's C-Scipe project, Penrhyn Road, on

Monday, July 28.

Anyone interested in The Power of Community, describing how Cuba coped with the loss of oil following the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, should arrive at 7pm.

## Free eco screening

A NEWLY-FORMED environmental group will hold a free film screening on Monday (July 28).

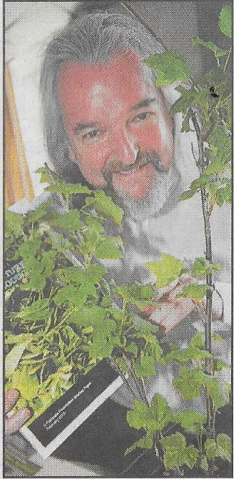
Transition Town Kingston aims to educate the borough about the need to live a low carbon lifestyle and become more self-sufficient.

Power of Community will be shown at the C-Scipe Department, in the Penrhyn Road campus of Kingston University at 7.30pm. Doors will open at 7pm and refreshments will be available.

# Green ideas on show at launch

by **LOUISE ROBERTSON**

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**Green: Robin Hutchinson**  
Deadlinepix KT31156

Green Guardian champions Transition Town Kingston (TTK) celebrated with a big launch party on Saturday.

The environmental action group held the party at Kingston Working Men's Club in celebration of its work so far, and its plans for the future.

The event was free to the public and attracted a wide mix of stallholders – including representatives from Kingston Cycling Campaign, as well as green businesses and The Permaculture Association.

The festivities started at 5pm and went on until midnight as people joined in the green celebrations.

MPs Edward Davey and Susan Kramer delivered speeches, as did Kingston's Liberal Democrat leader Councillor Derek Osbourne and mayor of Kingston Councillor Ian McDonald.



**Home-made insect hotels: Sian Mark**  
Deadlinepix KT31156

TTK member Toni Izard said: "An awful lot of these groups were here years before TTK and it is thanks to their efforts that TTK has taken off so quickly."

A theatre workshop run by Bounce Theatre was set up alongside a honey-making stall, lessons in how to make eco-bags and insect homes and an open space for discussion.

Rob Hopkins, the founder of the Transition Towns movement, made an appearance by

video and singer Prisca Baron set the party mood.

Members cooked an impressive three-part cake, made to look like an allotment, with grass, a shed and even a cat.

Kingston's Green Guardian champion Shaun Chamberlin said: "We called it our great unleashing because the foundations have been laid."

"We have more than 400 members and are about to move from awareness raising to practical, on-the-ground projects."

"The day went really well and loads of people turned up – some of who had never heard of TTK and were just passing by. It's all about looking to the future now and making a real difference."



**Sweet idea: Jenifer Dumont**  
Deadlinepix KT31156

Check out what green goodies are available this week on our website. Go to [greenguardian.co.uk](http://greenguardian.co.uk) and click on competitions.

# Hopes for happy town

Campaigners take their cause to Westminster



**VISION:** Front, MPs, Edward Davey and Susan Kramer with members of the environmental campaigners, Transition Town Kingston, at Westminster last week.

By Helen Clarke

**ENVIRONMENTAL** group Transition Town Kingston (TTK) took its campaign to Westminster last week.

Members asked local MPs Edward Davey and Susan Kramer last Wednesday to explore ways of working together to make the area more sustainable and resilient.

Edna Izard, a member of TTK, said: "The MPs were keen to find out more about us and our vision for a better, happier future for the community."

"They endorsed the group's aims

and shared its desire to take action and see changes made, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce our fossil fuel dependency.

"The MPs were especially keen to see energy conservation measures implemented, saying that Parliament had not focused on this issue."

"The meeting was enjoyed by all and looks set to lead to a useful dialogue on how grassroots community action and initiatives in Parliament can best be combined to achieve a healthier, happier and greener Kingston."

Mr Davey said: "It was a very

positive meeting. It was great to be able to meet them. I'm delighted we've got so many members of the public who are giving their time for free."

"They have some really good ideas and I was especially keen to hear their thoughts on council policies and future innovation. I'm looking forward to working with them in the future."

The group will host a screening of the animated film *Money As Debt* at 7.30pm on February 10, in the 3-SCALE building at Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, Kingston, Surrey.



Eco-winner: Stephen Bailey on his skateboard for zero carbon Britain day

Bikes and skateboards beat a BMW in a time trial with a difference to celebrate zero carbon Britain day.

The event, organised by Transition Town Kingston, aimed to highlight the unsustainable dependence on oil and show how carbon-free vehicles can be efficient and more sustainable.

It took six men, one steering

and five pushing, to get the BMW round the Kingston Guildhall circuit but they were outperformed by skateboards, bicycles and a scooter, each powered by one person.

Stephen Bailey, 22, came first on his skateboard closely followed by Kingston pensioner Marilyn Mason on her bicycle at the race on Saturday, July 16.

Deprived of its carbon-emitting engine the BMW was also thrashed by two other skateboards, a scooter and a bike with a trailer.

The organisers said they were pleased the time trial confirmed skateboards and bikes are the most efficient vehicles when only human power is available and said on a longer course bikes would be even better.



Special guest: Edward Davey, centre, with volunteers at From the Ground Up

Deadlinepx KT66557

## Davey drops in on vegetable scheme

Volunteers and customers of a community vegetable scheme met Edward Davey last week. The Kingston and Surbiton MP and Secretary of State for energy and climate change visited From the Ground Up,

which promotes sustainable farming and living in Kingston Environment Centre, in Fairfield East, on Saturday, May 5.

The group, which is part of Transition Town Kingston,

aims to bring affordable organic food to the borough.

The organisation now has an online shop, offering consumers more than 40 items that can be purchased individually to create a bespoke veg box.

2012

Guardian 15/9/11 shooting.

## Veg out at extravaganza

Enjoy apple bobbing, a coconut shy and lots of home-grown fruit and veg at this year's Harvest Extravaganza.

The Transition Town Kingston event will take place

at Kingston Environment Centre in Fairfield East on Saturday, September 17, from noon to 5pm.

Musical entertainment will then continue until 10pm.

# Crunch time as apple fans get fruity for day

Fruit lovers celebrated apple day with a day of activities and fun.

Kingston Environment Centre hosted the event, which boasted apple bobbing, apple and spoon races, pin the worm on the apple, tasting competitions and apple art.

Visitors also got their hands dirty, crushing and juicing the local produce to make fresh apple juice and had the chance to try eight different varieties of the fruit.

Abundance Kingston, which is part of the Transition Town

Kingston movement, held the day on Saturday, October 22, to celebrate local varieties and highlight the amount of fruit waste in the borough.

The environmental group tries to harvest the seasonal glut of local fruit, such as apples, pears and plums and redistribute the surplus to the Kingston community on a non-profit basis.

To get involved, donate your fruit or become a volunteer harvester, email [abundance@ttkingston.org](mailto:abundance@ttkingston.org) for more information.



Apple juice: The event celebrated the many local varieties



Growing: Broad Oaks community garden

## Chelsea Fringe brings life to green spaces

The Chelsea Fringe garden festival is coming to Kingston, writes Zia Weise.

The Urbanfarmacy project will launch on May 18 with walks and visits to community gardens such as Broad Oaks in Tolworth and Kingston Permaculture Reserve at Knollmead.

Organiser Fiona Quinn, of skincare company Saffron Organic, said: "Urbanfarmacy is all about bringing spaces to life with useful and beautiful plants.

"Our self-guided walks, as part of Chelsea Fringe, provide a wonderful opportunity to get out and about to discover all the possibilities for transforming your

neighbourhood with wonderful plants."

Urbanfarmacy is a collaboration between Saffron Organic and Transition Town Kingston. Though the Chelsea Fringe ends on June 9, the organisers said the project would not stop then.

It aims to encourage communities to grow herbs, food and flowers and cultivate unused spaces.

Co-organiser Marilyn Mason, of Transition Town Kingston, said: "I'd recommend visiting wildflower plots in June as the late spring means that most of them will be looking their best later this year."



**NON-PLASTIC:** Marilyn Mason with a selection of eco-friendly shopping bags Photo by Sam Mukadam hou030809smbags

## A day to ditch the plastic

BUSINESSES across Kingston have been urged to do their bit on the world's first plastic bag-free day.

Campaigners have called on traders to advertise the Saturday, September 12 event in their shop windows, and hand out only long-life bags on the day.

Shoppers will be able to

collect a free cloth bag from a stall in Market Place.

The co-ordinator of Towards a Plastic Bag-Free Kingston, Marilyn Mason, said: "More and more shoppers are carrying canvas bags but there are still quite a few who seem to collect a dozen or so bags every time they go out."



No plastic: Transition Town Kingston volunteer John Legate

## Bagging some plastic-free advice

National Plastic-Bag-Free Day came to Kingston Market Place on Saturday.

Shoppers were invited to bring their own bags in to town and those who forgot could pick up "green" cloth bags from a stall by the church gates.

Stickers and free cloth bags were given out throughout the day and customers could even swap their carrier bags at the stall.

Retailers who joined in were asked to direct customers to the Market Place to pick up a free bag.

The giveaway bags were provided by Transition Town Kingston (TTK), which held workshops to make sturdy reusables

from unwanted materials. Kingston First also donated a load to support the cause.

Although plastic carrier bag use is declining, there is still a long way to go.

In July 2009, seven supermarket chains announced they had voluntarily reduced the number of plastic bags they give out by 48 per cent, but that still leaves an enormous 372m per year littering the environment and damaging wildlife.

The plastic-bag-free campaign is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, assisted by other national organisations.

Marilyn Mason from TTK said: "Plastic bags are a small part of a much bigger problem - the litter we see

around us and the long term effects of our throw away lifestyles on the environment and wildlife.

London's council leader have agreed to pursue a bill that will seek to ban the distribution of throwaway shopping bags in the capital.

The decision came after London-wide consultation on proposals to introduce either a levy or a ban on throwaway shopping bags in the capital.

More than 90 per cent of people responding to the consultation called for action on shopping bags and nearly 60 per cent felt strongly enough to call for an outright ban.

Green Guardian 17/9/09

JUNE 2010

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# Econews

**ENERGY DEBATE:** Transition Town Kingston hosted a debate on Tuesday, June 8, looking at the pros and cons of waste-to-energy plants.

The audience considered whether they were a life-saving resource or a life-threatening source of pollution.

The main speaker was previous Green Guardian winner Brian Mark, who argued they were a green solution.

## Turn your Christmas greener

Environmentalists hoping for a green Christmas are launching an online directory of eco-friendly businesses in the borough.

The website, the brainchild of Green Guardian winners Transition Town Kingston, is intended to help consumers find green businesses and communities, and vice versa.

The directory will help Christmas shoppers discover festive shopping can also help the environment. Entries include environmental

accreditations and comments from green-minded consumers where possible.

Categories include education, energy, food and drink, gardens, professional services and retail.

The directory, which is backed by Zac Goldsmith MP, has more than 50 entries and will be launched at the Market House in the Ancient Market Place, on Monday, December 5.

For information about the event, and to use the directory itself, see [kingstongreendirectory.org.uk/news](http://kingstongreendirectory.org.uk/news).

Surrey Comet 18/11/11



Chipping in: Ian Williamson buys a cake from Marilyn Mason and Hilary Gander of the Transition Town Kingston branch Deadlinepix KT66123

## Fundraising is a piece of cake

Shoppers enjoyed tea and cake provided by volunteers for a community-led environmental group looking to raise awareness and funds for their cause.

Transition Town Kingston (TTK) sold cards, coffees and cakes from their stall in the All Saints Church in Kingston on Saturday, March 31.

The group aim to use practical projects across the borough to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and dependency on oil.