

**TTK 2024 – 2025 AGM**  
**Tuesday April 29 2025 from 6.30pm at the Spring Grove**



## MINUTES

**Present:** core group members, Damon Hart-Davis (chairing), Marilyn Mason (note-taker), Toni Izard, Marcus Oxley, Peter Mason, Paul Mackay, Maya Farebrother, Janine Martin; and supporters, Graham Smith (RCK), Pauline Sagoe (RCK), Alan Ferdman (RCK), Gillian Westley (RCK), Karim Nansi (RCK), Paul Martin (Recycling Minds)

**1. Welcome**

**2. Apologies for absence** were received from Hilary Gander, John Roscoe, John Fellowes.

**3. 2024 AGM Reports** (published at [https://www.ttkingston.org/files/?folder\\_id=51775302](https://www.ttkingston.org/files/?folder_id=51775302)) – the core group had confirmed their accuracy soon after the 2024 AGM and no changes were proposed at this AGM, so they would be published as agreed on the TTK website.

**4. TTK activities, April 2024 – end March 2025**

**- Chair's Report**

A big thank you to Marilyn for handing over the mantle of (interim) chair to me a year ago, while continuing to do loads for TTK as (acting) secretary.

We have had another good year, we few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters). Financially TTK is sound (and thank you Paul for managing our money so well), and we seem to have more than justified our decision post-Covid to continue our efforts to bend the arc of local life away from fossil fuels and towards a better climate and environment more generally.

For example, Repair Café is thriving and maybe even getting a bit busier, and has survived a brief closure and change of leadership of our venue, almost as if RCK is part of the fabric and furniture. Thank you today to all RCK volunteers and please tuck into the nibbles!

The Energy Group is also growing, having been down to just me and Peter not so long ago, and now has a rotating cast in the tens, putting the world to rights in its meetings! For the third time the Energy Group is managing and giving multiple talks at the Kingston Efficient Homes Show on keeping cool and warm and insulated and draft-free, etc, and advising householders one-to-one. Two energy efficient homes of Energy Group members received visits from the public during Sustainable September (and will do so again this year) to show that heat pumps aren't noisy, and how simple MHRV can be, and what grid-connected batteries look like, amongst other things. TTK and the Energy Group get multiple acknowledgements from the council on its site.

Abundance continues to avoid waste and juiced over 600kg of fruit last Autumn at three events, as well as planting community fruit bushes.

Marilyn has handed over the master keys of Canbury Community Garden to John R with it still clucking and toddling and hopping as you will hear shortly. And of course Marilyn continues to ship out Kingston Environment News on the regular, even receiving (too rare) unsolicited praise.

Recycling Minds had taken a brief pause and a lie down to recover given some challenges, but Janine says it is back!

Thank you all Core Group members for all your efforts including planning and coordinating and making things *look* effortless.

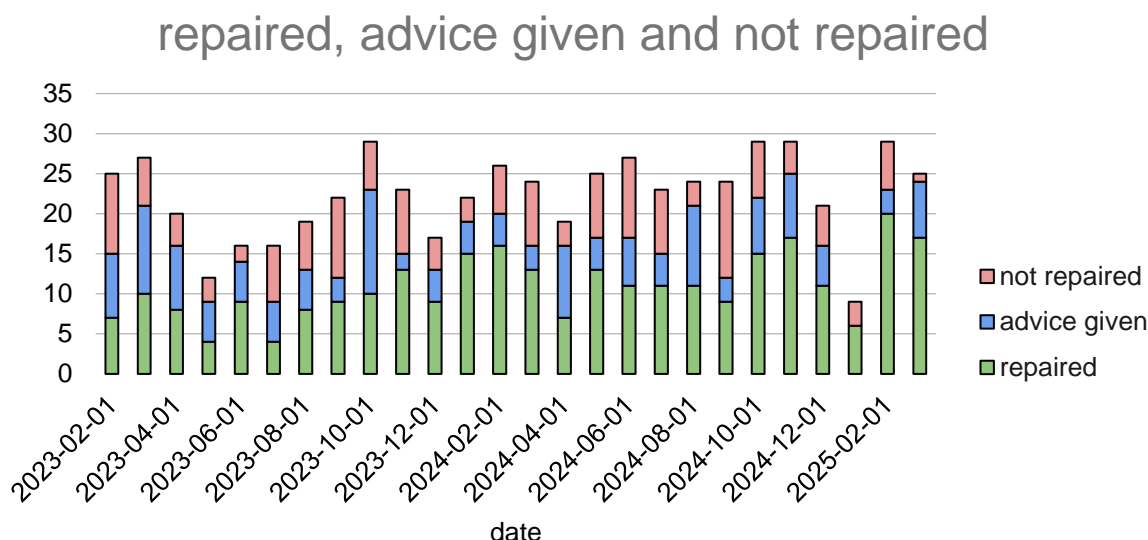
TTK retains membership of and/or good contacts with multiple other groups such as the Transition Network, TCC, KEC, KBP, KEF...

Proposals for new projects and indeed new members of the Core Group are always welcome.

We recently considered our position within the wider Transition Town movement with a visit by Rakesh B with his Transition Together Network Weaving, and follow-up meetings in London by Marilyn. It seems that the Transition Town movement is somewhat in a state of flux, that we in TTK still seem to be operating in line with broader TT principles, and that there is no desperately compelling reason for now to integrate more closely such as via the London Hub, nor to distance ourselves. So I propose that we continue as we are for now, taking each month as it comes.

*Damon Hart-Davis, April 2025*

### - Repair Café Kingston AGM report, April 2024 – end of March 2025



Repair Café Kingston has continued to meet in Kingston Library every first Saturday of the month, and to repair, and to share skills and advice on an average of 25 items a month [as shown in the graph above and others in the [AGM folder on the TTK website](#)]. Even advising people that an item cannot be repaired or should be taken elsewhere for repair is useful - so we have repaired or advised on something like 300 broken items over the year, something we can be quite proud of.

The most common repairs have been to trousers, lamps, vacuum cleaners, and toasters... and some unusual fixes this year included a bird feeder, a musician's keyboard, various toys including a drill, an aeroplane, a train, and a dismembered doll, various ceramics and ornaments, including a wooden elephant with a broken trunk, and occasional pieces of jewellery... It's particularly satisfying when we repair something that it would be hard or impossible to get repaired anywhere else, or something of sentimental value, though, regretfully, some things can't be repaired for various reasons, including the difficulty and/or expense of getting spare parts.

Our initial start-up costs in 2023-4 were high and we were very grateful then for seed funding from John Lewis and Kingston Council, but in our second year we have covered our costs and more: visitors' donations have easily paid for refreshments and other consumables, print runs of RCK fliers and repair forms, and a few new bits of kit and storage boxes – so RCK, as is only fitting and was agreed last year, will be contributing generously to TTK's general fund which, for example, covers our PL insurance and events such as Christmas and AGM refreshments..

We have gained a few new volunteers and skills this year, including tool sharpening and book repairs, and we have recruited Karim into the organising team, now six people, to help with marshalling visitors with items to repair and setting up and tidying up afterwards. We have had Kingston University product design students researching repairs and repairability and some interest from Kingston University in setting up a RC at the university (though that fizzled out because our insurance policy, adequate for us, did not meet their requirements), and visits from other repair cafes, as well as from curious library users dropping in to see what all the hubbub in the community room is about, and interest from other students researching RCs! It's all systems go for the morning, often followed by a drink or two at the local pub.

We have celebrated anniversaries and Christmas with cake, eaten countless biscuits and chatted to numerous visitors - the social element is important too, and our fixers don't seem to mind the occasional lull in visitors with items to repair when they can chat or take a coffee break. As someone quoted in a recent newspaper item about repair cafes put it: "It is such a great thing to be involved in. Doing something positive and hopefully helpful ... it is just a lovely place to be."

We remain members of several useful and supportive organisations: Restart, RC International, and the Greater Surrey RC Network, and we notice that we are part of a growing network of repair cafes, both within and outside the Transition Network that TTK is part of.

We are grateful to Kingston Library staff for the space they give us and their helpfulness and warm welcome, and, of course, to our volunteer fixers and the team of organisers. None of this could happen without them.

**[See also:**

**- RCs in the news**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/06/repair-shops-broken-devices-new-lease-of-life>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/12/theres-a-real-joy-in-fixing-something-the-rise-of-the-repair-cafe>

**- RCK data sheets** filed with other AGM 2025 documents at  
[https://www.ttkingston.org/files/?folder\\_id=55655370](https://www.ttkingston.org/files/?folder_id=55655370) ]

## **- TTK Energy Group Report for 2024 to 2025**

1. The Energy Group has met every month in The Town House, Kingston University. The meetings are essentially about networking and information sharing, and which members seem to enjoy. Membership has grown to about 30 people, all of whom have some serious skills to bring to bear on the problems of climate change, and so on.
2. Particular activities this year have been:
  - giving advice to building owners on retrofitting for energy efficiency, etc.
  - Two of us did "Open House" weekends in 2024, more will be participating in September 2025
  - helping RBK's Climate Change Team do their jobs wherever we can
  - helping Kingston University MSc students
  - lending our thermal imaging camera to homeowners
  - struggling to influence the attitude of RBK's Planning Department to retrofitting
  - encouraging local schools to install solar PV on roofs
  - attendance and talks at Kingston's 2024 Efficient Homes Show, to be repeated in May 2025

*Peter Mason, April 2025*



## - Kingston Environment News, 2024-5

The newsletter has continued to go out monthly this year, shared with Kingston Environment Centre, which seems to

be the only other local environmental group that does not have its own newsletter. So, the newsletter shares TTK and KEC news and events, + other local green events and campaigns, things that others might like to know about or join + a list of all the other local green groups + a lot of wider news and information under a range of headings, e g, pollution, climate, money, food... to help keep us all well informed and motivated.

There is very little feedback to report, and what there is tends to be a few complaints about missing links or images, but I did get one lovely comment in March about "what a wonderful newsletter this is." I suppose the wider reassurance is that there are very few, if any, unsubscribes, and there are still almost 700 subscribers.

There have been glitches with Mailchimp, particularly with disappearing images and anchor links that didn't work for some readers (though we are trying these again – please let us know if they work for you), and it could be that there are better free newsletter templates, though transferring our two lists, of 600+ subscribers and c50 contributors, as well as our archive, might result in too many losses and downsides to be worth the effort.

*Marilyn Mason, April 2025*

## - Canbury Community Garden (CCG) report to end March 2025

The Canbury Community Garden (CCG) sits within Canbury Gardens, adjacent to the Canbury Secret Café. It was established in 2016 by a group of volunteers led by Marilyn Mason. In 2024, Marilyn handed over the lead responsibility for the CCG to one of the founding members and Chief Chicken – John Roscoe.

Since its establishment, the CCG has existed to provide a space where food can be grown in a wildlife-friendly way, where people aged from 1-101 can get their hands dirty and everyone shares in the benefits of 'cottage garden food production.' That mission continues today.

As Canbury Gardens (CG) has also evolved, new links have been formed within the CG oversight groups, such that the unique role of the CCG is clear, protected and supported. CG now offers recreational sport facilities for children and young adults, beautifully maintained planting and lively bandstand concerts for all and of course has the CCG as a showcase of environmentally friendly food production, in particular rainwater harvesting and use, upcycling, chemical-free gardening, companion planting, crop rotation, composting, poultry management.

The chickens remain a huge hit – irresistible to anyone who visits the garden and a magnet to attract people to the gate. Volunteers have often found families 'visiting the chickens' and invited them in and given a tour of the CCG and discussed the environmentally friendly approach.

Whilst the CCG relies on a core three leaders and could do with attracting another 2 or 3 main regular lead volunteers, we do have 7 families on the chicken roster visiting once each week, numerous visits by several school and nursery groups and one school has some planting space reserved for their use. The Muddy Toddlers group meets monthly and encourages children from a range of national backgrounds to enjoy the outdoors (picture below).





Recently, the garden has also benefitted from three teenage volunteers as part of their Duke of Edinburgh bronze work which has seen them build compost heaps, plant vegetables and flowers and water the plants. We continue to benefit from the support of GoodGym and their muscle power.



It is a wonderful place to be, with chickens pecking, fruit, vegetables and hops growing, happy volunteers, the sun shining, and the beautiful riverside setting. All are welcome. The CCG is open every Saturday afternoon and every first and second Sunday mornings. Lead volunteers and chicken collective members are there at additional irregular times. We are in discussion with Canbury Secret about the possibility of extending opening hours during periods when staff are at the Café and can 'keep an eye on things' and hope to try an experiment with longer opening hours soon.

*John Roscoe, April 2025, read by DH-D*

## **- Recycling Minds, 2024-25**

Recycling Minds last meet on 26th July 2024 and we are hoping to meet very soon - hopefully mid- April / early May.

SunrayRecycle have experienced some challenges over the last year and these have taken up most of our volunteering hours; however connections have still been happening outside meetings and events have been attended.

Hilary Gander has stepped down as chair. Hilary will obviously still be attending meetings. We would like to thank Hilary.

*Janine Martin, April 2025*

## **- Abundance annual report for 2024-25**

Abundance is a TTK project which aims to save waste by harvesting excess fruit from people's gardens and either processing the fruit to make juice or passing on the fresh fruit to where it is wanted. It runs from August to the end of October and is volunteer led and manned, often at very short notice.

This year we harvested 632 kilos of fruit and juiced it at 3 events, namely, Surbiton Farmers Market, New Malden Farmers Market and The King's Soup event, all sociable and fun.

We took £368 in sales and spent £127.01 on equipment, ULEZ and 3 currant bushes, and will contribute a percentage of our takings to TTK's general funds. The currant bushes have been planted in St. Andrew's Square Gardens in Surbiton and they will be added to the local pick your own fruit trail next year when they start fruiting. In the future we hope to fund further fruit trees and bushes for planting in the locality for community consumption. We have formed a useful link with Alison Fure who I hope will help us identify where they could be planted.

*Toni Izard, April 2025*

**+ Questions and comments:** there were no substantive comments or additions to the above reports, though some useful advice and offers of help emerged after the formal meeting.

## **5. TTK Treasurer's report, April 2024 – end March 2025 (Paul Mackay, treasurer)**

Accounts are filed separately at [https://www.ttkingston.org/files/index?folder\\_id=55655370](https://www.ttkingston.org/files/index?folder_id=55655370)

### **Treasurer's Notes:**

- Total income was £1391 - of which over 1K was from Repair Cafe donations.
- A grant of £330 was also received for the Kingston Cemetery Nature Group for tools purchases
- Overall we made a loss of £431.
- Invested in designing and printing a new flyer for TTK and a new flyer and form for RCK, costing ~ £260.
- A new expense of £162.50 on storage at the Circulatory means we have a dedicated space to store all our bulky stuff.
- Just under £1100 was spent on repair cafe supplies and food for the summer and Christmas events to support volunteers and as a thank you for all their hard work!
- We also continued to support the Kew The Transition group for their banking needs.

**Chair's comment** was that despite the apparent loss TTK funds remained healthy.

**6. Looking ahead:** TTK was open to ideas or offers of future events and projects, and new volunteers to the 2025 core group would be welcome. The current core group was willing to continue serving.

**7. AOB:** there was no OB, so attendees were thanked for coming and we moved on to **informal thank you drinks and nibbles** for volunteers/stakeholders/supporters

*Approved as accurate for publication at TTK core group meeting, 27/5/25, t b confirmed at next AGM*