

Transition Town Kingston 2013 - 14 Annual General Meeting
Kingston Workmen's Club
Friday April 11th, 2014 7.30pm
Minutes

1. Fiona Quinn (FQ), acting chair, welcomed around 35 people. No apologies for absence had been received.

Management team members present: John Fellowes (JF), FQ, Hilary Gander (HG), Lucy Harrison (LH, standing down at the meeting), Toni IZard (TI), Des Kay (DK), Marilyn Mason (MM, note-taker)

2. **Minutes of the previous year's AGM were** (see <http://www.ttkingston.org/pdfs/AGM-Minutes-2013.pdf>) approved and there were no any matters arising not on the agenda

3. **TTK Finance report, 2013 - 2014:** HG, acting treasurer, presented and spoke about the accounts - see Appendix.

4. **Review of TTK activities,** FQ gave an overview of May 2013 - end of March 2014:

In June, many of TTK management team had gone to Crystal Palace to be energised by Rob Hopkins [co-founder of the first Transition Initiative in the UK, in Totnes]; also in July a collaboration between TTK's From the Ground Up and the No 11 Supper Club produced a gourmet vegetarian meal at Tamesis sailing club by the riverside, with organic ingredients sourced within 10 miles of Kingston Bridge, prepared by ex-chefs from Michelin- starred restaurants. In November, we showed the documentary film "Trashed".

Ongoing activities included: TTK's Kingston Green e-Directory which was regularly updated - and attendees were invited to have a look if they'd like to find a green business or if they were a green business. TTK had had the usual supportive connections with other Transition groups, including a new neighbouring initiative in Cobham. We had also maintained good relations with the Council, had received some grants from the Council and continued to be well represented on Kingston Environment Forum. The management team had continued to meet regularly, with an open invitation to anyone interested to come along to share ideas and food. Earlier this year the team had begun to think about re-invigorating TTK: putting on more public events, perhaps with an overarching theme, maybe something to do with food since so many of our activities and events involve food, and so "Growing Together" was born....

Active TTK projects were then reported:

- Elise Barron reported a good year for **Abundance**. After a rather disappointing 2012 harvest, 2013 saw an abundance of fruiting trees across the borough thanks to a relatively dry spring and warm (if wet) summer. This meant plenty of surplus and so Abundance picking teams were kept busy throughout the season. Sadly due to a computer bug the harvesting data was lost, but new donors continue to be added to our list. Highlights of the year included: successful income generation from community apple-pressing days (£133.39 at Surbiton Festival, £119.50 at Surbiton Farmers Market); receiving match funding from the Farmers Market management committee, which was donated to the Hogsmill Project, to help this fledgling project off the ground; picking and redistributing 93kg from a single tree in Esher; managing to harvest a tree in Worcester Park before it was sadly blown over in the September winds!; members of the public on seeing the group harvesting, joining in; purchase of new harvesting and processing equipment ready for this year's season; an offer to provide space for storing equipment in Kingston; an article in Surbiton's Good Life magazine; providing help and advice to Roehampton University by helping their new Growhampton project process fruit from their old orchard. For the year ahead Abundance envisages more partnership events, establishing more recipient organisations, and hopes to expand and consolidate self-reliant harvesting teams. Elise finished by thanking the volunteers without whom none of this good work would have been possible. including 93 kilos of fruit from a single tree in Esher, with the public joining in. Abundance also helped Roehampton Uni. with a similar project, and have sold juice made from their harvested fruit. Elise thanked all the harvesters.
- Peter Mason reported on the **Energy Group's** two activity strands: the Kingston Energy Company, which was about investing in solar panels for micro-generation, they had formed a community interest company, created a website, and qualified for professional legal and financing help from Pure Carbon Leapfrog. Despite presentations and meetings (with Kingstonfirst, Rose Theatre, Kingston Council, churches...) it was proving hard to persuade organisations to rent out their roofs, though relatively easy to plant the idea of micro-generation for organisations to pursue

themselves. The other strand was energy efficiency and the EG had teamed up with South West London Environment Network to do energy audits of homes and businesses, HG had held a trial thermal-imaging party, and they had recently been awarded £1000 from Kingston Council towards purchasing their own thermal imaging camera. Damon Hart-Davies displayed his energy-saving invention, a smart radiator valve that should halve energy bills, and was hoping that it would go into production soon, with help from EU funding.

- Steph Hofielen reported on an excellent year for **From the Ground Up**, TTK's organic veg scheme. They were now distributing from bases in Surbiton and Kingston to record numbers of customers - 48 that week, and a 7% increase from the previous year. They had found more local suppliers, including Richmond Park honey, and now had some student helpers. FGU had been Commended in the local Food and Drinks and Green Business awards. Looking ahead, they hoped to start bicycle deliveries and hold event(s) for children.
- LH reported on **Inner Transition**, a group formed to develop inner resilience and personal happiness via dance, mindfulness, and discussions on themes such as non-violent communication and decluttering.
- Martin Birley briefly described the new, very sustainable **Quaker meeting house**, which would be holding open days in June for potential users.
- TI's **Kingston Kitchen's** food courses this year had included cooking a dinner party and cooking for Christmas. Her next class would be on demystifying sweet and savoury short-crust pastry at Surbiton Food Festival in May, and later there would be more jam and preserve courses.
- Simone Kay reported on **Kingston Permaculture Reserve at Knollmead** (which pre-dated TTK) and invited all to come along to enjoy their 49 fruit trees on the last Sunday of every month, and to see TTK website or sign up for email reminders.
- HG described **Transition Tolworth's** gardening and tidy-up project in Tolworth behind Blockbusters. Liz Darley had run a Permaculture course last summer for locals, and the plot had now been handed over to the local community. She recommended anyone present to try a bit of urban gardening if they found a neglected piece of land.
- FQ reported on **Urbanfarmacy**, that it was successfully growing food and herbs in the YMCA garden in Surbiton and would be starting a "River of Herbs" in Surbiton as part of Chelsea Fringe.
- MM on **Stitch in Time** reported that they had moved once more, this time to a morning session at Welcare, in the hope that of sharing sewing and mending skills with a new group. Welcare was proving a good place to meet, central, with a nice bright room, and take-up was gradually growing, with some regulars and usually one or two new people. It was also very good to see stitching now going on at other times and places - the Rose Theatre, the Environment Centre, the Oxfam shop, Ham library... - so it seems that TI and MM had pioneered a useful trend in Kingston.
- Simone Kay described the cashless economy of **KUTLETS**, explained its difference from the new Kingston Pound, and invited people to participate and come to their regular meetings at Kingston Environment Centre.
- JF summed up some of the **wider networks** that TTK connected with as an informal umbrella group, thanked all those that were keeping TTK and associated projects and events going, and welcomed new people at the meeting and invited them to join in.
- Attendee Monica described her **Health Works** social enterprise in Surrey House, central Kingston, including yoga, aromatherapy etc. She invited all to sample Health Works services and use their space for events.

5. FQ then introduced the TTK 2014 "**Growing Together**" theme and highlighted some of the projects and events planned[which would feature in more detail in TTK newsletters and website]: participation in Surbiton Food Festival in May, more Kingston Kitchen events, lots of growing and harvesting and juicing.... Attendees were invited to help themselves to seeds to take home and grow.

6. **Nominations for management team** 2014 - 2015: some members had stood down during the year; HG, FQ, DK, JF, MM, and TI were willing to serve again and were nominated and seconded without the need for a vote.

7. There was no **AOB** so formal business was closed and attendees were invited to refresh themselves [thanks to TI], buy raffle tickets from MM, browse the various displays, keep in touch with TTK, and enjoy the short film "Local Food Roots".

Agreed by TTK management team, April 2014, for confirmation at 2015 AGM