

Greener Christmas Round-Robin, 2009

Hi there!

Christmas nearly upon us and we want to thank you for your support through the year, whether your signature on our petition or in more substantial form in the fight against plastic bags. We feel a bit like those ducks, floating serenely on the water, but paddling like mad underneath!

Greener upon Thames ends the year on a high.

We joined in the festive cheer at Kew Sparkle and Barnes Christmas Shopping night, making a profit of over £400 for our campaign against single use plastic bags in the Borough. The Krispy Kreme donuts and hot chocolates flew from the stalls.

The Eco Dinosaur (made from wood and plastic bags) created by students of Holy Trinity Primary School in Sheen has had a starring role in the window display of the SOSS (Support our Small Shops) pop-up Gallery in Barnes. Andrea Craig of Support SOSS said, "We are absolutely delighted to have raised £500 so far on behalf of Greener Upon Thames. The pop-up shop has been very successful and we have had lots of interest from shoppers, residents and local artists interested in displaying their work. It has been brilliant to be part of and there will be more opening in the coming months".

Plastic-Bag-Free / Greener Kingston and Ham United Group have joined the other urban villages on the river as members of Greener upon Thames, staging events and campaigning, some of which was fun, and some was cold and windy, but we were all warmed by people's positive response!

Although as the Copenhagen Climate Summit comes to a close, and many other immediate and very important challenges face us, we carry on with what to some may seem like a minor campaign. It isn't. When President Kennedy talked about aiming for the moon, he said, not because it is easy, but because it is hard. Well, what we are trying to do is easy. Just take your own reusable bag and say no to a plastic bag, and spread the message. This isn't a moon shot, it's much closer to home. It's a small but essential part of looking after our Earth.

Greener upon Thames has exciting plans for the New Year. We will be shooting our film, launching our Greener Bag and badges and on 21st January holding an event at the Bingham Hotel in Richmond. Thank you again for your support (and if you can give us more, that would be good – look forward to hearing from you!).

With best wishes for an absolutely fabulous **plastic bag free 2010!**

Greener upon Thames

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Greener upon Thames is:

Barnes Community Association, ESBRA, Richmond Business & Retail Association, Friends of Richmond Green, Kew Society, Ham United Group, Ham Retail Association, Richmond Society, Greener Kingston, Richmond Council, Sea Shepherds, Richmond Environment Network and a growing number (20+) of schools across the borough