

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2011



Join our Campaign to make London 2012 Plastic-Bag-Free.

We've been busy at Greener Upon Thames working to green up London 2012. We have had a really good meeting with the GLA at City Hall but still need to put pressure on the London 2012 organisers to put in place a plastic bag free Olympics and Paralympics. London 2012 is being billed by the organisers as the most sustainable Games ever, and we consider that this aim cannot be met unless there is a ban on plastic bags.

Please help us with our London 2012 campaign:

- We've had a splendid response to our **London 2012 competition** and are extending our deadline to end of March 2011, so there is still time to enter. Please do as this is a fantastic way of showing the Games organisers and City Hall that the public support our campaign and are fed up with plastic bags littering our landscape, and polluting our environment. This is a competition where everyone's a winner – because every entrant contributes to the making of a better world for hundreds of years ahead! And the lucky winners will also get to take tea at the House of Commons with Zac Goldsmith. See our website www.greeneruponthames.org <<http://www.greeneruponthames.org>> for further information and take a look at our competition video made with the help of some of our younger supporters: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItUkfVaY6T4>
- Please also take a minute to sign our petition to make London 2012 Plastic Bag Free <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/2012-plastic-bag-free-olympics.html>

Italy and UK Plastic Bag News

Whilst Italy is the latest country to ban plastic bags (as from 1st January this year), plastic bag use in Britain is on the rise. The voluntary agreement created by our leading supermarkets four years ago has failed according to official government sources. It is time for a ban or levy in the UK.

Why we're doing this:

- Plastic is long lasting. Fact: it lasts 500 to 1,000 years
- When disposed of irresponsibly it is toxic. Also fact. It is deadly to sealife, remaining substantially unchanged so that the same plastic can kill repeatedly, hampered only by the time it takes for its latest victim to decompose. Getting only smaller and smaller, but still there.
- And we're still putting it out there! Bricks, for goodness sake, come shrink wrapped these days!
- **We can't change everything. But we can start. Let it be here. With us. With you. With London 2012.**

Can you help? Greener upon Thames needs more volunteers. Specifically, we are looking for a web designer, communications co-ordinator and fundraiser. This is no time for false modesty, we want to hear from you! We also need help with organising events, campaigning on the streets and liaising with local traders. If you have any spare time and would like to help please contact us at mike@greeneruponthames.org

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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, The Richmond Environment Network and a growing number (20+) of schools across the borough
(Please advise if you do not wish to remain on our mailing list)*