



brag news

REDUCE * REUSE * REPAIR * RECYCLE

www.bragonline.org.uk

Brentford Recycling Action Group

Spring 2014

'No Plastic Innit — BRAG Says Dump Your Plastic Bags

BRAG has received a boost in its campaign to wean people off plastic bags thanks to the Community Development Foundation. Funding from the foundation enabled us to design and have printed 250 cloth bags with the catchy phrase "No plastic innit!" alongside the BRAG logo.

BRAG distributed the cloth bags to local stores, asking shopkeepers to offer them, rather than the usual plastic bags, to customers for every purchase, no matter how small. We understand that take-up has been enthusiastic.

Bags have also been handed out to friends of BRAG, local schools and people we feel are recycling champions. All bags given to the shops have been distributed, and more are on order. If you're eager to know when new stocks arrive, feel free to contact us.



BRAG News is published by the Brentford Recycling Action Group (BRAG). BRAG is a non-political community waste-action group that was launched in 1999 and is made up of Brentford residents.

We meet the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm to 8pm in the Directors' Meeting Room at Brentford Dock, and afterwards for drinks in the Magpie and Crown on Brentford High Street. Please join us! More information at www.bragonline.org.uk.

For recycling enquiries, contact www.hounslow.gov.uk/recycling or call **020 8583 5555**.

Send letters and comments to:

The Editors, 42 Orchard Rd, Brentford TW8 0QU
or e-mail contact@bragonline.org.uk.

Open Day Showcases Brentford Toll House



BRAG members went along to the open day at the Grade II listed toll keeper's house at Brentford Lock in February to marvel at the museum of water history and enjoy tea and cakes with volunteers from the Canal & River Trust, who look after the building and staff it during opening hours (Friday from 11am to 1pm). Maintenance manager and Brentford resident Sam Thomas is encouraging community groups to consider the house as a meeting place for their activities, and the trust is always looking

for volunteers. If you'd like to help out, please contact Deborah Vidler at deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk. More information at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Furniture Bargains That Make a Difference

If you're looking for high-quality furniture at a low price, the William Wilberforce Trust (WWT) in Brentford might be just the place for you – and shopping there also helps others.

The money from WWT's sales goes into running an employability scheme for people with barriers to work, offering training and mentoring in a working environment.

WWT not only sells your old furniture but also collects it free of

charge. The organization, which is a member of the nationwide Furniture Reuse Network and the London Reuse Network, also sells electrical items, including lamps, fridges and TVs.

The WWT warehouse is at 1053 Great West Road, Brentford TW8 9BW.

For further information and opening times please telephone **020 7052 0425** or see www.wwtfurniture.org.uk.

MAKING REUSE COOL!

Goldfinger Factory in Notting Hill is an upcycling production and learning hub for London's most deprived residents. It sells beautiful and sustainable home furnishings and fit-outs to individuals and businesses, reusing materials that otherwise would have found their way to landfill.

As well as training socially disadvantaged people to restore quality reclaimed pieces, Goldfinger Factory offers workshops in furniture upcycling, DIY and interior design. There's also an alcohol-free gastrobar. To find out more, visit www.goldfingerfactory.com.

Brentford Works Is Up and Running



There's been a flurry of activity at 188 High Street in the past few months with the opening of Brentford Works to allow people to try out cargo bikes and get their bicycles repaired.

London Bike Hub now runs bike-maintenance classes on Wednesday evenings at Brentford Works, which is also open Saturday and Sunday for the sale of recycled bikes and for bike servicing, training and accessory sales. Most of the recycled bikes are donated from sources including Brentford Dock and BSkyB and are used to train people with learning difficulties in bicycle maintenance.

Brentford Works hopes to provide a lot more than just bikes: it has already run a business-speed-dating evening and an open evening for the general public. It's been used as a pop-up coffee shop, an exhibition and sale space for a local photographer and a meeting venue for several community groups. Pop in for further news – or check the website to find out what's planned next. www.londonbikehub.com/brentford

FIX IT, DON'T CHUCK IT!

The Restart Project prevents electronic waste by encouraging and empowering people to use their electronics longer via free community events called Restart Parties, where skilled volunteers show participants how to fix their broken electronics. There are usually two Restart Parties a month, in Camden and Brixton, but other groups are starting up. For further details and to find your nearest party, go to <http://therestartproject.org>.

BREAK THE BAG HABIT

An estimated 10.6 billion single-use bags, or 133 per person, will be given out in England before the government implements new single-use-bag legislation on 1 October 2015. In an effort to offset the environmental impact of the delay in implementing the bag charge, Break The Bag Habit coalition has launched a website to encourage supporters to pledge to stop using single-use bags. Make your pledge at www.breakthebaghabit.org.uk.

BRAG'S NOTICE BOARD GETS A NEW LOOK

Have you checked out the BRAG notice board at Morrisons recycling point lately? It has a smart new look, thanks to the stellar work of BRAG members Rukmini West and Virginia Fassnidge. Unfortunately we don't have the space to show it to you here, so why not drop by and see for yourself?