



OCTOBER 2013

Tring in Transition Newsletter



TRANSITION TOWNS NETWORK

October 2013 - update

We are pleased to bring you the next Tring in Transition update - there's plenty going on in and around Tring to update you on!

Gardener's question time...

On an unusually mild evening for October – which fitted the theme perfectly – a panel of five local experts assembled on the platform to answer questions from Tring gardeners. The panel consisted of: Sarah Barker, Manager at Sunnyside Rural Trust's urban farm; Rob Cassidy, Parks and Open Spacer Officer at Dacorum Borough Council; Sandra Moorhouse, a garden designer and gardener; Mary Lynn Moxon, a local gardener and member of the Allotments Society; and Andy Flitney, Gardener at Waddesdon Manor for twenty-six years.



wide range of topics was covered, from the best and most water-efficient way of keeping new plants moist, through which plants to grow in a border beneath a neighbour's overhanging Leylandii Cypress, to planting for bees, the experts were able to provide useful pointers and advice for everyone. The audience were also happy to share their own experiences and tips and a very informative evening was enjoyed by all.

We also got a write-up in a local paper! (<http://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/community/gardeners-crop-up-for-tring-s-tricky-weather-q-a-session-1-5565543>)



Chaired by local gardener, Tring Town Councillor and member of Tring in Transition's Steering Group, John Allan, the panel first responded to five questions that had been submitted in advance before turning to questions from the audience. A



Clean AND green

Britain's leading dry cleaners, Johnson Cleaners, has invested £1m this year in a partnership with GreenEarth to offer greener dry cleaning in its 340 shops. It uses liquid silicone instead of the

tetrachloroethylene/perchloroethylene (known as PERC) toxic solvent chemicals. This minimises the effect on the environment.

www.johnsoncleaners.com



(the nearest branch to Tring is Berkhamsted)

Child's play....

Hertfordshire County Council have granted an Experimental Order for a 'designated play street' initiated by Rob Schafer, a TinT member.

The scheme will apply to Longfield Road, from 15th September for up to 18 months, the 3rd Sunday of every month from 2pm-4pm.

If it's made permanent Herts residents will be able to apply for an order. Congratulations to Rob!

Driving greener

A great article from www.1010global.org by Jonathan Bown which we thought would be of interest to car-owning TinT members...

"10 tricks to cut carbon in the car"

When you need to drive, it pays to drive smarter. Here's how.

Green driving – or 'hyper miling' – is about travelling as far as you can on one tank of petrol. Use these tips to increase your mpg and chop around 10% off your petrol bills.

1. Drive smoothly

If you see a traffic light, roundabout or corner up ahead, don't hit the accelerator and then brake just before you reach it. Speed up and slow down gradually, and you can improve your fuel efficiency by up to 30%

2. Get the right gear

A car travelling at 37mph in third gear uses a quarter more fuel than in fifth gear. Shift to a higher gear at 2,500 rpm for petrol cars, and 2,000 rpm for diesel.

3. Stick to speed limits

At high speeds, your car's fuel efficiency plummets. Driving at 80 burns through about 25% more fuel than at 70. Slow down a bit to make big savings (and stay on the right side of the law).

Allotted space for green fingers...

Like to try growing your own food? We can offer 10-15 m² of ground, dug and ready to plant at Tring Allotments. This is part of the allotment on which we grow wildflowers for planting around Tring. You choose what you plant as long as it is legal and grown sustainably eg permaculture, organic. For more information, please e-mail transition@tringintransition.org.uk



4. Join a car club

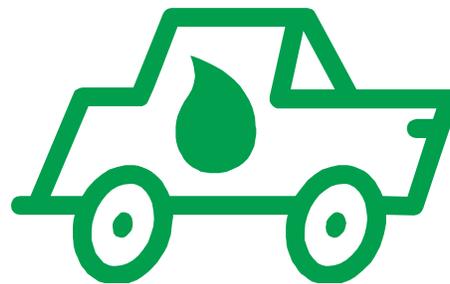
If you only drive a bit, you could join a car club like Streetcar, the UK's biggest car sharing network. Each car club vehicle on the road represents a reduction of 26 privately owned vehicles. And 25% of car club members have ditched their own motor since joining.

5. Shed some baggage

The heavier, and more air resistant your car, the more petrol it uses. So take anything you don't need out of the boot (except the spare tyre – you never know when that'll come in handy), and lose the roof rack if you can.

6. Keep up the pressure

The RAC says you can improve fuel consumption by about 2% if you check your tyres regularly, and keep them at the right pressure. Topped-up tyres are safer too.



7. Switch off the air con at low speeds

Running any of the onboard electrics increases your fuel consumption a bit, but air con is one of the biggest culprits. Wind down a window to stay cool at low speeds, but don't be afraid to switch back to air con on the motorway, where the extra drag of an open window outweighs the electricity savings. For extra points, remember to switch off your demisters, blowers and headlights when you're not using them.

8. Look after your car

Inefficient, underserviced engines can use 10% more fuel, so have your car serviced regularly. Dirty air filters can also seriously reduce your fuel economy, so remember to change them once in a while.

9. Plan your journey

Getting lost or stuck in traffic is the easiest way to waste petrol, so make sure you have a map or satnav handy, and avoid rush hour traffic and roadworks when you can.

10. Liftshare!

Every day there are 10 million empty car seats on our roads. Sharing your journey to work could save you hundreds of pounds a year, take a big chunk out of your carbon footprint, and help to ease congestion in your town. Find your commuter companions with the [10:10 liftshare service](http://10:10liftshare.com).



What's on...

Monday 18th November, 8 pm

Mid Chilterns Inner Transition Group

Next meeting Monday November 18th 8pm, Tring Community Centre, Purple Room. Shared meal at 8pm-please bring something to share.

Trevor Allan Davies will be hosting a session on the balance between waiting and acting, from his experience as an Alexander technique teacher and author.

Contact us :

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