

Tooting Trashcatchers' Carnival, 2pm 4 July 2010



Imagine...

a summer's day. Quiet descends on Tooting's busy High Street. In the distance the beat of a drum. On the waves of the breeze, the Sankofa* Bird floats down from the sky. The plumed creature looks forwards and backwards in a single glance, and is searching for a haven to hatch the egg beneath its wing. Today it sees something that's got its eyebrows raised... something never seen before...



Sankofa's gaze falls upon a carnival parade, hundreds strong, of

women and children and men – stories of the living earth, water that sings and rubbish that shines like new. There's music, a quick step and hops from the brave. Seagulls that perch on the heads of a few, a grand Lady of Tooting and a caterpillar ready for butterfly flight. Seeing these things, Sankofa descends to look for a roost and join the parade... and YOU can come too! Follow, come along and see the hatching

of a lifetime. The Trashcatchers' Carnival has come to town.

“At Fish Ponds I will find my flock and fly in formation and nest on our Rock.”

*The Sankofa is a mythic bird that flies forward while looking backward with an egg – symbolizing the future – in its mouth. Sankofa is derived from King Adinkera of the Akan people of West Africa, and expressed in the Akan language as “se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenki” or “it is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot”. “Sankofa” teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated. The Sankofa bird embodies change and transformation, viewing past and future in the same instant, as we do in the Carnival.

Be a Carnivalista and be a part of it!

A Carnivalista is anyone who is excited by the idea of the Carnival and would like to take part: sewing, stitching, designing, making, baking and being there on the day.

Join the growing band of Tooting carnivalistas from: the South London Swimming Club, Share Community Gardens, Springfield Hospital, The Hub, St George's Hospital, The Great Gustos Choir, Balham and Tooting Community Association, Sprout Arts, the Furzedown Festival, South Thames College and the Tooting Town Centre Partnership Board along with a host of local schools including Ernest Bevin, Chestnut Grove, Graveney, Sellincourt, Franciscan, Penwortham, Hillbrook, Fircroft and many more.

Carnival means something to all cultures. The Trashcatchers' Carnival is divided into four sections: Memory, (looking back to the past) Earth, Water and the Trashcatchers themselves, creating beauty from rubbish. Using recycling as a metaphor for change, change in how we live where we live, carnivalistas are creating a new story for Tooting, exploring our relationship to earth. If you haven't yet, get in touch and let us know in which section you would like take part.

One person's trash is another person's treasure. We need the following CLEAN, DRY trash:

PLASTIC – the more colourful the better

Plastic bags: blue, red, green, yellow, orange, white, transparent

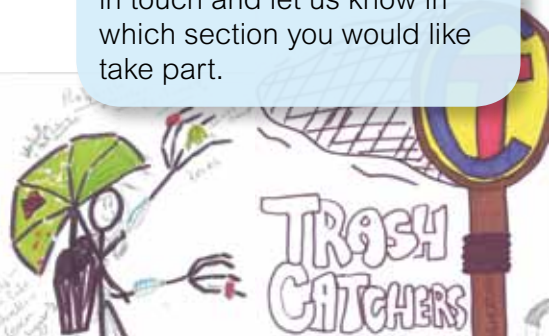
Plastic bottles: blue, transparent, green, red

Plastic bottle tops: all colours

Old CDs, bubble wrap

Shiny silver foil: from tea bag boxes and crisp packets (wash please! no oil)

Umbrellas, bicycles, jewellery, wheelbarrows, hats



Where do I drop my trash?

Look out for our Trashcatcher space on the High Street and posters, or see www.transitiontowntooting.org with instructions of when and where. Thankyou!

We also need:

- Silk, brightly coloured fabrics, ribbons for costumes
- Glue, staplers, gaffer tape, thread and twine
- Scissors and sewing machines; needles and staple guns
- Flower pots, seeds, soil and compost
- Big bins and containers for trash
- Food and refreshments – for workshops and preparation days!

Can you help?

We're looking for Trashcatching spaces, so let us know if you know of a shop front to make the project visible, an empty building where we can build our Carnival Factory or an office or base for the Trashcatchers' team to work from, preferably close to the High Street.

We need help with building, making, teaching, recycling, food growing. If you're a local artist, musician, dancer, storyteller, maker, gardener, carpenter, welder, stitcher and sewer, film maker or tailor.

We need you!



Tooting Trashcatchers' timetable – dates for your diary!

There are opportunities for you to design your own carnival costume, head piece or musical instrument. If you'd like to join your friends, or belong to a local group, get in touch transitiontowntooting@gmail.com or just come along and meet others there.

June 1st Mushkil Aasaan, 220-222 Upper Tooting Road, 7-9pm

June 5th Moyser Makeover, Moyser Road, Furzedown 3-6pm

June 12th BATCA Funday, Broadwater Road, 12 midday-5pm

June 13th Carnivalista Workshop at Fircroft School, 12.30-5pm

June 19th Furzedown in the Park, Furzedown Rec, 12 midday to 8pm.

Look Out for the Trashcatchers' Carnival Factory in Tooting.

Come along on the day. For details of route, timings, ideas and designs to download (headpieces, instruments to play) see

www.transitiontowntooting.org

And bring friends and family along. Bring a picnic and something to share for the sharing picnic finale on Fishponds Playing Field.

July 4th, 2pm. Dress Up! The Carnival comes to town

Contact details

transitiontowntooting@gmail.com
www.transitiontowntooting.org

The Tooting Trashcatchers Carnival is TippingPoint Commission with support from the Department of Energy and Climate Change produced by Transition Town Tooting led by artists Project Phakama and Emergency Exit Arts and a growing number of supporters: Tooting Town Centre Partnership; Wandsworth Arts and Cultural Wealth Fund, Grassroots Fund, Extended Schools and The Big Give.

Transition Town Tooting is a voluntary and community-led approach initiative to the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change. Tooting is part of a broader transition network of hundreds of transition towns, springing up around the world to imagine a positive low carbon future – a future that will be healthier, happier, more resilient, localised and more collaborative. The BIG Launch for TTT will be on Wednesday July 14th at 7pm at the Samaj Hall after the Carnival. Come along.



Phakama

