



**Press Release for Gazette 17 April 2008**

**01454-416778**

**[PHOTOS attached]**

**Bag-making workshop**

Members of Sustainable Thornbury have been making their own shopping bags in a bag-making workshop. This is part of their campaign to reduce the number of plastic bags given out in Thornbury. Members and friends of Sustainable Thornbury turned up with pieces of material, sewing machines and irons and went away with their own shopping bags.

The bags were of all shapes and sizes, ranging from big bags for adults and small bags for small children and dolls. Some of the bags were sewn from old curtains, offcuts and remnants from charity shops. Others were folded and tied from squares of material using the Japanese art of Furoshuki.

Pupils from Castle School also came with material and dyes as part of their Saturday morning Art Club. They coloured the squares of cloth and then learnt how to fold and tie them into shoulder bags and hand bags.

Margaret Pinder of Sustainable Thornbury explained "Plastic bags are killing wildlife every day. We don't need the flimsy disposable plastic bags to do our shopping if we have proper shopping bags. Plastic bags have only been around for 25 years, and before that we all used shopping bags."

"We need to get the habit of carrying a shopping bag, or putting one in the boot. We thought we could make a start by making our own shopping bags at almost no cost."

Sustainable Thornbury is launching their plastic bag campaign on Saturday 3rd May. They will have a plastic bag 'amnesty' on that day in Thornbury Town Centre. Anyone bringing plastic bags for recycling will be entered in a prize draw. Sustainable Thornbury will be demonstrating to art of Furoshuki and making Japanese bags on the day.

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Note to Editor:

This press release is in support of the Sustainable Thornbury plastic bag reduction campaign. For further information telephone 01454 416778 or email [thepinders@crumbly.plus.com](mailto:thepinders@crumbly.plus.com)