

## CHANGING THE WORLD

Londoners are getting the chance to put their money where their mouths are with a weekend dedicated to buying environmentally sustainable products and services only. Whether it is wine, beer, chocolate, transport, saucy undies, toiletries or even a holiday the LONDON AWARE 08 Weekend marks the launch of a major new initiative dedicated to putting the power back into the hands of everyday people.

UK AWARE, the organisation behind the LONDON AWARE 08 weekend, is a social enterprise founded by full time Firefighter Danny Carnegie, who was so baffled about how to make positive changes in his day to day life he decided to take action to bring business and consumers face to face. The LONDON AWARE 08 weekend is about making the right consumer decisions. It encourages consumer to spend their money but empowers them in the knowledge that their consumer choices matter.

Danny said; “The principle is very simple - just buy the things you want but make the decision based on the products which are the most environmentally sustainable. As consumers we can force change through

our purchasing decisions. We can make a difference by hitting business where it counts - in the pocket. We are demanding that business gives us the options, the innovations and a positive future for our planet.”

The LONDON AWARE 08 Show will be taking place on 10th and 11th May 2008 at the Barbican. It will see authors, music, shopping, food, media, travel, health and beauty and even comedy. The event is expecting 12,000 visitors over 2 days and already boasts an exhibitor list including, Trevor Baylis OBE, Greenpeace, The London Development Agency and many exciting consumer products. It will be taking place on 10th and 11th May 2008 at the Barbican.

**A penguin made by one of the exhibitors – for more of these creatures made from recycled hubcaps, visit [www.hubcapcreatures.com](http://www.hubcapcreatures.com)**



## PORSCHE CONTINUES CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAYOR'S UNFAIR NEW TAX

Porsche officially applied for a judicial review on 2nd April, challenging the Mayor's £25 charge congestion charge by issuing its case in the High Court of Justice. Porsche believes that the increase of the congestion charge from £8 a day, or £0.80 for residents, to £25 is both unfair and disproportionate and even TfL forecasts that the charge will increase congestion and damage air quality in London.

Commenting on the filing, Andy Goss, Managing Director of Porsche Cars GB, said: “Not only is this new tax on motorists unfair, it is also a disproportionate and illegal use of power by the mayor. The Porsche case is about protecting London and Londoners from a new tax that will not only fail to reduce CO2 emissions in central London, but also increase congestion and damage air quality.”

Porsche filed its challenge in the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division Administrative Court seeking to quash the Mayor's new charge on the grounds that it is both a disproportionate and illegal action by the Mayor. Porsche has asked the Court to expedite the judicial proceedings given the short timeframe in which the new charge is scheduled to be imposed.

The filing of the judicial proceedings continues the judicial review process that began in February when Porsche announced its intention by first writing to Mayor Ken Livingstone outlining the grounds of its claim against the charge.

The Mayor has so far failed adequately to address any of the issues raised in the Porsche claim. Porsche has now taken the next step in the judicial review process by filing its challenge with the High Court.

## RALLY AND LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

Following the recent rise in attacks and murders of taxi and Private Hire drivers across the country (10 murders and 47 serious assaults since April 2007) the Professional Drivers Branch of the GMB Union have organised a Rally and Lobby at The House of Commons, Committee Room 16 in Portcullis House.

The lobby will take place in the afternoon of Monday 28th April and the Rally between 5pm and 8pm. Speakers at the Rally will include GMB General Secretary Paul Kenny; a representative from the RMT who have cab driving members around the country, and hopefully some officials from the “Unite,” Cab trade section will attend.

For more details contact the GMB through [www.professionaldriversbranch.co.uk](http://www.professionaldriversbranch.co.uk) or phone Terrance Flanagan on 0208 202 8272 or 07958 275 339

## LONDON WANTS RAMSAY FOR MAYOR!

As the May Mayoral Elections draws closer, the candidates' campaigns have been continuing across London. How many people will vote on the day remains to be seen but one company who undertook a survey recently discovered that the main candidate Londoners would like to see as Mayor is not standing. According to the capital's voters the best man for the job would be Britain's rudest chef, Gordon Ramsay.



Commissioned by online betting company Betfair, the survey found that if the capital could vote for a high-profile face to run for Mayor, a whopping 31 percent would pick Ramsay as their top choice. Ramsay was a clear winner when potential voters were presented with a number of 'names' which included Kate Moss, Kelly Osbourne, David Beckham and Madonna. Little Britain star David Walliams came in a distant second, with almost 15 percent of the votes, whilst the former Mrs McCartney, Heather Mills, took the title of 'Least Desirable Celeb Mayor' with less than one percent of the vote. Other celebrities nominated by public included Richard Fairbrass, David Tennant, Katie Price, Stephen Fry, Prince William, Gary Barlow, Mick Jagger, Richard Madeley, Paul McCartney, James Nesbitt and Jeremy Clarkson.

Adrian Murdock of Betfair says: “Clearly Londoners think the capital needs shaking up a bit. Voters aren't so impressed by the gentler approach of a David Walliams or a Hugh Grant, or a bit of glamour from Kate Moss or Madonna. I don't know whether this means the secret to winning an election is an ability to shout at hapless kitchen staff and whip up a good soufflé, but the message certainly seems to be that the City wants strong leadership. Maybe Gordon Ramsay will consider running next time around.”

The Betfair survey of 1,000 eligible London voters also found when looking in to who people are planning to vote for, that Johnson and Livingstone sit almost neck and neck on 34 and 36 percent respectively, although on the flipside, Boris is still a clear favourite with those betting on Betfair's Next Mayor Market.

When the survey took a look at the people behind the policy, it also found that Londoners consider Ken the more trustworthy of the two – with 26 percent of people believing Ken to be more likely to keep his election promises compared to Johnson's 17 percent. But all is not lost for Johnson - as the survey highlighted, if Londoners were to be stranded on a desert island with either of the two key contenders, Boris would be the candidate of choice.