



## Managers Message

As a local charity we are feeling hugely loved and supported by our community. Despite the location of The Re-Useful Centre being a bit off the beaten track we continue to receive donations and the shop is busy most of the time. Indeed not

getting caught up in the weekend traffic at Princes Drive is a positive benefit. As a small team we are blessed to be supported by a whole raft of volunteers who help us do the things we do best – keeping usable goods in circulation and out of landfill. We are still in a period of transition but the dust is settling. With continued and growing support from our customers we will be able to develop the East Lodge Sustainability Centre in Jephson Gardens which will be our primary project, whilst we continue to support the Dobson Lane Community Allotments.

*Louise Male, General Manager*

## New Staff

The Re-Useful Centre now has two shop Managers. We caught up with them to find out how they came to work for us.



## Neil Daly, Shop Manager

Neil was born in Radford Semele, grew up in Leamington Spa, and went to Croft Hall, North Leamington School. He left school in the 1980's, with an interest in people and their environment, and studied Human Geography and Sociology at the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth.

After graduating Neil returned to Leamington and pursued a career in pub management and catering. He was deputy manager at the White Lion, in Radford Semele, and then took on the responsibility of being chef and licensee of the Stags Head in Offchurch. Neil became increasingly interested in issues of sustainability, and where things come from, through being a chef and locally sourcing food for the restaurant.

In 2008 Neil worked for Action 21 as a shop volunteer. In May 2009 he became a Manager of the Recycle Warehouse and was successfully re-appointed to the Re-useful Centre in January 2011.



## Martin Smith, Shop Manager

Martin has lived in Warwick for the last thirty years. He is single and has two grown up children. Martin started volunteering for Action 21 in July 2010 because he wanted to fill up his spare time and is "passionate, and faithfully committed" to the objectives of Action 21.

Martin plays bass guitar for "the hardest working band in the world, Chain of Fools" as well as regularly performing with The Boat House Blues Band.

After graduating from University of London, Goldsmith's College, with a Diploma in Art and Design, Martin had a long career in the Events Management business, working at the National Exhibition Centre in Solihull.

Martin is an associate member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and is Sustainability Consultant to the National Association of Funeral Directors.

## Project Updates

**East Lodge Sustainability Centre** is an ongoing project that like a good wine will mature and get better with time. The vision being to have a demonstration working permaculture garden, an information centre to promote sustainability and to use the building as a resource for running activities and courses around sustainability. Action 21 will be working variously in partnership with Warwick District Council, Transition Town Leamington (TTL) & Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), TTL & WWT having office space in the building. There are already several activities planned which are outlined below with opportunities for one-off and regular volunteering primarily in the garden. Call Louise 01926 886438 [louise@action21.co.uk](mailto:louise@action21.co.uk) for any volunteering enquiries.



## The Action for Health Communal Garden

with its raised growing beds for disabled users and people with mobility problems has now been completed at Dobson Lane Community Allotments in Whitnash. Brunswick Healthy Living Centre will be leading the project from here on in. They are currently looking for experienced growers/gardeners to volunteer to help run sessions allowing the benefits of gardening to be felt by all. Please get in touch with Wayne on [volunteering@brunswickhlc.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@brunswickhlc.org.uk). 01926 422123 if you are interested in helping.

## The Re-Useful Centre Shop

All our efforts are now being put into the Re-Useful Centre and staff and volunteers have been trying to create a space that customers will want to visit time and time again.

The outside area is being developed by volunteer Dawn Thomas, who has exciting plans for the bathtubs, raised beds, containers and Bottle Greenhouse. Dawn is carrying on the good work of Lucy Bishop, who initiated the garden.

The shop is less cluttered and more open, light and spacious now that the shop has extended into, what was the bike store, which is now being used for sofas and beds.

The bike mechanics have got a huge floor upstairs and are turning out about fifteen refurbished bikes a week.

The PAT testers are stoically getting through an enormous amount of electrical donations and keeping the shop full of TV's, lamps and kitchen appliances.

Volunteers Ann Goodwin and Sam Shovelton have initiated the selling of clothes. This is proving very popular and they would love to increase the range of vintage and children's clothing.

Martin Smith (Shop Manager) is doing deliveries and collections within a five mile radius on Monday afternoons. There are plans to increase deliveries as this is proving to be an essential service to customers who are unable to get items to or from Ramsay Road.

## Upcoming Events...

### Activities at East Lodge & The Sustainability Centre

#### Saturday 10th April East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Garden Work Party 11am to 4pm** (the Regency Run is also on today)  
Come and join us for the working party on the new permaculture demonstration garden at East Lodge - Digging and planting! Lunch provided. Please let us know if you can come so we have an idea of numbers
- **Spring Herb Gathering and Remedy Making 1pm—3pm £3 FULL**  
Gather seasonal herbs such as nettles, dandelions, nettles; Make a herbal vinegar; Make a herbal salve. In partnership with Transition Towns Leamington. See our web page for more details.
- **Transition Town Film Showing:** In grave danger of falling food - an introduction to permaculture by Bill Mollison. Showing at 3pm & 4pm



#### Friday 22 April East Lodge Sustainability Centre. Easter fun for all the family.

- **Easter Egg Hunt 12 noon.** Children will get into teams and search Jepson Gardens for hidden clues with a sweet ending. **Face painting 12 - 2.00pm.** **Spring chicks** if they have hatched. Repeated Sunday.

#### Saturday 23 April East Lodge Sustainability Centre. Centre open 11pm – 3pm

- Welcoming in the spring butterflies:  
**Listen to our storyteller Jojo bring alive the life cycle of a butterfly at 1pm**  
**Paint wooden butterflies for East Lodge garden at 1.20pm.** Please wear old clothes or bring aprons. Poetry/story writing about butterflies. There are 15 places available for this activity, please **book with louise@action21.co.uk or phone 01926 886438.** Donations welcomed.  
Spring chicks on site, if they have hatched.
- **Transition Town Film Showing:** Showing at 3pm & 4pm See: <http://transitionleamington.ning.com/>



#### Sunday 24 April East Lodge Sustainability Centre. Easter fun for all the family.

- **Repeat of Friday 22nd April 11am – 3pm** Easter fun for all the family. Donations welcomed.



## Events continued.....

### Saturday 30th April East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Training for Transition (T4T)** 9:30am to 4:30pm Proposed day one of a two day T4T course. Date depends on Trainer Ruth is accredited by Transition Network (trained up by Naresh Giangrande and Sophy Banks of Transition Totnes) and is keen to build up our organising skills locally. The course is challenging and fun.



### Saturday 7th May East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Training for Transition (T4T)** 9:30am to 4:30pm Proposed day two of a two day T4T course. Date depends on numbers - please let us know if you would like to and can attend.



### Saturday 21st May East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Moth trapping in Jephson Gardens.** Details to be released nearer the time. Keep an eye on our web site

### Saturday 28th May East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Recycling Relay races for children** A fun and educational way to help teach and enable our children to sort products for recycling. Refreshments. Details to be released nearer the time. Keep an eye on our web site.

### Saturday 26th June East Lodge Sustainability Centre

- **Birds of prey and ferret day** in the planning. Details to be released nearer the time. Keep an eye on our web site.

## Recycling Festival Fun ...

We will be continuing to do the litter picking and recycling at both the **Peace Festival on June 18-19th** and the **Warwick Folk Festival 28-31st July**.

As always we will have a stall at the Peace Festival and will need your help to make sure there are plenty of people available to litter pick and talk to the public about Action 21 and sustainability.

We will need lots of volunteers for both these festivals and Louise will be emailing soon to recruit help. Please let us know if you can give some of your time. You can do this by emailing [info@action21.co.uk](mailto:info@action21.co.uk) or by telephoning Louise Male 01926 886438. Don't delay – help Action 21 today! <http://www.peacefestival.org.uk/>



## 2011 & Beyond

For the tenth successive year, schools from across Warwickshire and Coventry are being invited to attend 2011 and Beyond, a large outdoor education event to raise awareness of environmental issues.

The green event takes place over three days on the 15th, 16th and 17th June at the beautiful Coombe County Park when hundreds of primary aged children will take part in exciting hands-on activities and workshops which bring environmental issues to life.

The aim of the event is to offer fun, interactive and thought provoking workshops that will encourage children to make positive changes to their lifestyles.

The event is organised in partnership between Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council, Rugby Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council and Action 21.

