

Welcome to the Action 21 Transaction Newsletter for June 2011. This gardening themed summer instalment includes an update on the continuing development of the East Lodge permaculture garden, a feature on a volunteer who has made a terrific effort in transforming the garden area outside the Re-useful Centre, as well as announcements on the future of East Lodge and developments in The Re-useful Centre.

## East Lodge/Sustainability Centre Update

### Future Plans for East Lodge

Currently the two main focus points for Action 21 are Re-use and Education around sustainable living. With this in mind we want the information rooms in East Lodge to be as educational and as informative as possible. The new bespoke cork boards—which were paid for by the incredible efforts of the Warwick University Mixed Hockey Club in their charity fancy dress fun run—are almost finished and work has begun on identifying what information we want displayed and the best ways in which this can be done. The aim is for the rooms to be adaptable so they can be used for small workshops and activities as part of our plans to make the rooms available for hire to like minded groups, organisations, and individuals. Possible activities we may organise include: Knitting groups, craft workshops, swap shops, making your own cleaning products and bike maintenance. Please contact us to suggest any other activities that you would like see, organize yourself or attend.

There will be three price structures for the hiring of rooms depending on whether you are a community group, if you are charging for the event, or a group affiliated with Action 21. More details to follow in the future.

Although we have great plans for the Sustainability Centre we are currently restricted by time and staff resources which means that progress is slow. For the centre to be successful it clearly needs to be open, to this end we are seeking funding to recruit an Education Officer.

### The Permaculture Garden

The permaculture garden behind East Lodge is continuing to develop thanks to some regular volunteers, Transition Town Leamington, and to the many donations of plants and materials we have received. The idea behind permaculture, or 'permanent agriculture', lies in working with nature to create lasting, sustainable, and biologically diverse places where plants and crops can be grown. So far Action 21 have planted a main bed as a 'forest garden' with fruit trees, a burn and swale, and perennial fruit and vegetables. There is a medicinal herb bed, and we plan to have a demonstration balcony garden designed to show how it is possible to grow food in very limited spaces, and plenty more. There is still lot to do—If you would like help in this project there are regular Sunday work parties meeting at the garden 11-3pm (please contact Action 21 for more information).



### Forthcoming Events: Birds of Prey Sunday 26th June

Come and join us in Jephson Gardens from 11am till 4 pm when we will be hosting amazing Falconry displays from Leamington's very own professional falconer, Bob Edwards. On show will be barn owls, Harris Hawks, racing ferrets and more! All are welcome to this fun spectacle and it's free! Bring your kids, bring your gran but please keep any dogs under control. Hope to see you there.

### Re-useful Centre—Sydenham

The Action 21 Re-useful Centre continues to thrive and develop. Along with furniture, used appliances, books, CDs and DVDs we are now providing mulch at £3 a bag

*Please note our new address and phone numbers:*

Action 21 (2010) Registered charity number 1136450

**Shop/Main Office:** Action 21, 5 Ramsey Road, Sydenham, Leamington Spa CV31 1PL **Email:** info@action21.co.uk

**Tel: Shop** 01926 886438 **Office** 01926 339077

for gardening projects which can be used for paths, suppressing weeds, and keeping moisture in. Profits from mulch sales are to be split between Action 21, Warks County Council Forestry Section, and Warwickshire probation Trust. Bags of wood for fires are available at £3 a bag, and hardcore for small building projects on a nominal donation basis.

We are in the process of developing links with SITA—a national recycling and resource management company—and Warwickshire District Council for bulky waste collections to divert more from landfill. This is a work in progress so more news will be posted soon.

We have a delivery & collection service operating 1 1/2 days a week at a cost of £10 per trip.

We would like to use this opportunity to ask everyone involved with Action 21 to continue their much appreciated efforts in networking for the continual income of donations for the Centre.

## Volunteer Focus

A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers, especially John Mc Arthur and Robin for their help with the cork boards at East Lodge; Diane for her commitment to helping with the permaculture garden; and Anne, Ali, and Sam for their work on the info stall at the Sydni Centre Festival. We'd like to say a fond farewell to Robyn Dorling for all the work she has done on previous Transaction newsletters, the Action 21 facebook page, the blog (<http://action-21.blogspot.com>), and the many press releases which have helped spread the word on Action 21 far and wide. A big thank you also to Dawn Thomas for her work in the Re-useful Centre garden featured below.

## Dawn Thomas and the Re-useful Centre Garden

The ground to the side of the Re-Useful Centre was originally developed by Lucy Bishop, but when the opportunity arose to continue the work and develop the site further, Dawn took it on as a project.

Dawn uses five donated bath tubs to demonstrate growing using a four year crop rotation plan, where four different groups of vegetables are rotated every year in each of the tubs with one tub lying fallow. The idea behind this being that the soil in each of tubs

remains balanced and that soil born pests and diseases which attack a certain kind of vegetable are not able to build up year on year. The productivity of the garden will also be helped by companion planting. The aim of this is to grow specific plants together with the vegetables which will help to deter or attract pests according to needs. The flowers which Dawn aims to use for this are being donated in June by Bagington Nurseries and Hinton Nurseries who we thank for their support. A big thank you to Dawn for her efforts.



## Call for Volunteers!

Action 21 is currently looking to expand its volunteer workforce, so if you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please let us know via the contact details provided below.

- Action 21 is looking for litter pickers for the forthcoming Peace Festival & Warwick Folk Festival
- People who would like to assist in leaflet distribution
- Volunteers for working in the permaculture garden at East Lodge
- Volunteers for our office at the Re-useful Centre
- Volunteers to get involved with listing items on Ebay
- Portable Appliance Testers at the Re-useful Centre
- And people who would be willing to assist in any East Lodge open days

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