



## Allotments all round

All kinds of people, people just like you, have allotments. For just a few pounds a month they have space to grow everything under the sun: leaf coriander, new potatoes, green beans, strawberries, prize leeks....

Produce that you've grown yourself, and eaten just after it's picked, tastes completely different from anything you buy. It's also economical for you and the environment. It's cheap to grow your own food organically, and you know exactly how it's been treated. Make your own compost, and you needn't rely on anything but a seed packet and your own time. Home-grown food travels the minimum distance from soil to plate, while some supermarket produce has done a long-haul flight before you buy it. Growing food is not difficult, and gardening is recognised as an activity that can help you keep fit.

As well as providing food and exercise, gardening feeds your soul. This is not as soppy as it sounds. Think of what it feels like to be surrounded by vegetation rather than concrete, or to be in the fresh air, rather than sitting in front of a computer or shop till. I've been gardening for most of my life, and I still think it's a miracle that a tiny seed a fraction the size of a grain of rice can grow into a carrot weighing nearly a pound.

Neglected allotment sites are sometimes sold off for building. Once they have gone, we can't get them back. Often they are empty because people don't know they are there, or think they are expensive.

At Action 21 we want allotments to be thriving, busy places. We're involved with several sites, including a project with Bath Place Community Venture at St Mary's Allotments which will give people a taste of what allotment gardening is like before they take on a plot of their own.

At Black Lane, Lillington we'll be providing some ready-cultivated plots that just need forking over, and some beginners' gardening workshops. We are also tidying up a tiny site in Warwick.

Allotments are the only way an ordinary person has access to land. We should use them and treasure them and never let them go.

For more information contact Judy Steele on 01926 887119.

## Recycling resource

Action 21 has been putting together a **Buy Recycled** directory that will act as a local resource about recycling facilities located in the area and also where to buy recycled goods.

We hope that the directory will be ready by the start of May and it will then be distributed to libraries, community centres and local shops. If you have something you think should be included that we may not know about, or if to request a copy of the Directory when it's printed, please contact Jenny.

# TRANSACTION

## Spring 2003



I hope you enjoy reading our Spring **Transaction**, bringing you news of practical projects for sustainability which make a difference at local level. A recent highlight has been receiving a Landfill Tax grant for an education event in June, involving workshops on sustainable lifestyles with 45 primary schools. As you can see there is lots going on and if the warmer weather inspires you to get involved, there are plenty of opportunities with Action 21 indoors and outdoors.

Sustainability officer: **Jenny Sansom 01926 456067**

## Warwick Allotments Spring Clean

The smallest allotment garden I have ever seen is only three plots in size and is tucked away behind rows of back gardens at Peel Road, Warwick. In February this year, the area was covered with years and years worth of rubbish and brambles. The job of cleaning it up, let alone enticing people to take on part of it as an allotment, seemed enormous. One month and four big skips later on, the Community Service have made a cracking start and a survey of local opinion, carried out by the Action 21 Food Group, shows people feel it's very important that the land is tidied up and put to good use.

On Sunday 13 and Wednesday 16 April Action 21 and BTCV are inviting volunteers to help with landscaping and general tidying.- there's lots left to do! If all goes well new tenants will be happily digging and sowing on more manageable half size plots before the end of April. Potentially this area could be an ideal community growing space - a peaceful haven where people can grow delicious healthy food near to where they live. If you'd like to volunteer please contact Jenny.



## Not so green fingered...?

Action 21 is promoting Black Lane Allotment site in Lillington as the location needs an increase in occupancy in order to survive. It is a very large site that encourages a lively community of gardeners. For those who don't have naturally green fingers, but are keen to try their hand at gardening, Action 21 is running workshops on the basics of starting an allotment. Now's your chance to have fun and learn how to grow organically with expert advice from a representative from HDRA. You'll be growing prize leeks in no time!

Two 2 hour workshops are open to anybody and are absolutely free. Further details to the right in the **Diary Dates** section.

# DIARY dates DIARY dates DIARY

## APRIL

- 8 April Transport group meeting – **Warwick Town Centre Traffic management plan** 7.30pm at 32 Coten End, Warwick
- 13 April **Peel Road Action Day** – Community action day at Peel Road allotments, Warwick Come and help renovate this derelict site. Entrance between 33 and 35 Littleton Road.
- 14 April **Energy group meeting** – 7.30pm at the Sikh Community Centre, Mill St, Leamington Spa
- Food group meeting** – 8pm Regenesis, Clemens St, Leamington Spa
- 16 April **Peel Road Action Day** – Another satisfying day of practical work at Peel Road
- 24 April **A21 Management Committee Meeting**
- 27 April **Vegetable Growing for the Terrified** – workshop on Sowing your own Vegetables, Basic Soil Care and Composting. Free for all to attend. 2-4pm. Meet at first Black Lane gate.

## MAY

- 12 May **Energy group meeting** – 7.30pm at the Sikh Community Centre, Mill St, Leamington Spa
- 20 May **Action 21 AGM and Social** – 7.30pm, Warwick Quaker Centre, Jury Street, Warwick. Contact Jenny or check the website for more information.

## JUNE

- 9 June **Energy group meeting** – 7.30pm at the Sikh Community Centre, Mill St, Leamington Spa
- 14/15 June Action 21 stalls at the **Leamington Peace Festival** – a group area promoting sustainability, membership and our projects.
- 18/19/20 June **2003 and Beyond** – Education Sustainability Day Out event at Coombe Country Park

## JULY

- 16 July **One night in Bo** – an evening of Mende and African-American gospel, Bambadinka drummers and a few surprises, in aid of a new community centre in Bo, Sierra Leone. Organised by One World Link. 8pm, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, Leamington.

For more and latest information check out [www.action21.co.uk](http://www.action21.co.uk).

## All aboard?

About 23,000 people live in Kenilworth. Twice hourly trains from the far north and south of the country run through the town, almost mocking the residents who have no way to board them.

Kenilworth station was closed in 1965 and stood derelict for 20 years, after which it was demolished and the land used for housing. Yet in the late nineties, little more than ten years later, there were serious proposals to re-open it. These proposals are now documented targets in many local plans, some of which could perhaps be criticised as being as little over optimistic. No matter. The planning process is clearly as complex as the logic is inescapable. There's much work to be done so who knows how long it will be before the station is rebuilt? But rebuilt it must be for any local transport plans to make sense.

Action 21 Transport Group is backing the development of a station at Kenilworth as it will give better facilities to people who want to travel sustainably. We have also been involved in school education projects and Leamington Car Free Day.

If there are any new people out there looking to make a difference on transport issues please come and join us. We are especially looking for members from rural areas as these often suffer the worst transport problems.

Contact Bob Crowther [rcrowther@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:rcrowther@warwickdc.gov.uk) or call Jenny.



## Think global – act local

Action 21 has recently set up an email discussion group for people in Warwick District who have an interest in international issues. The Local to Global Discussion Group is a forum that allows people to share experiences; help and advise each other; provide information and news; to promote more practical work in Warwick District; and to just get together! We have a web page at [www.action21.co.uk/local2global/index.html](http://www.action21.co.uk/local2global/index.html).

If you would like to subscribe to the email group, send an email to [local2global-request@action21.co.uk](mailto:local2global-request@action21.co.uk) with the word 'subscribe' in the message body.

## Piggy Bank spent!

After a careful judging session in March, 8 grants of £250 have been given out from the Action 21 Piggy Bank. Successful applicants included Warwickshire Beekeepers, Club Amigos for the local Spanish Community and Solace Link voluntary helpline for mental health sufferers. We will hold a public event next year for the groups to come and tell us how their money was spent.



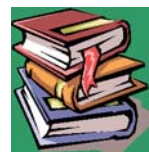
## Green pages

The Green Library is back on the shelves at Gaia in Regent Place in Old Town.

Years ago local Green Party members decided to put all their ecological books together and enable other people to borrow them. The original collection of environment and sustainable living titles was lost during the floods of 1998 and insurance money claimed to replace them. Many of the publications are available for loan again and the Green Party plans to purchase even more new titles for the public to use. This is a great way to learn more about sustainable issues and ways to live more sustainably without cluttering your bookshelves. You save the paper used in producing the books by sharing them, and save money too.

Membership is free and the library operates on a self-service system from the basement at Gaia.

Visit the Green Library at Gaia, Monday to Saturday, 9.00am-6.00pm or contact Janet Alty 01926 427773 or email [janet@alty.net](mailto:janet@alty.net). To recommend a book or publication for purchase contact Jenny.



## No wasted energy!



As one of Action 21's latest theme groups the Energy group has already successfully completed two projects this year. Most recently it put together an exhibition displaying the essential message of all the Action 21 theme groups together with leaflets for people to take away full of useful hints on how to lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

A folder with press releases, photographs, and newspaper articles was also part of the display demonstrating all the hard work that Action 21 members have put in over recent months. The exhibition ran 3-15 March 2003 at Leamington Spa Library. It is now intended go on to Riverside House and to new venues such as the Royal Priors and other libraries.

On 10 February 2003 The Energy Group hosted a talk entitled **Energy and Climate**. Oxford lecturer, Dr Stephan Harrison, provided a lively and informative presentation explaining the necessity of saving energy. Dr Harrison, who is involved in the study of glaciers, (which are melting) put a convincing case for the actuality of global warming. David Jullien, Manager of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Coventry Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, then gave us practical tips on energy (and money) saving.

To see how you could do the same visit [www.natenergy.org.uk](http://www.natenergy.org.uk).

Worcester and Warwickshire Energy Advice Centre Manager: David Jullien can be contacted at WWEAC, 28 Wellesbourne House, Walton Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire CV35 9JB or by e-mail at [david@warkseeac.demon.co.uk](mailto:david@warkseeac.demon.co.uk) or on free phone: 0800 512012.

◆ Open below with care ◆



For more information about Action 21's past and present projects visit [www.action21.co.uk](http://www.action21.co.uk)

If you don't have internet access then we'll post information to you.  
Contact Sustainability Officer: Jenny Sansom 01926 456067  
Email: [jsansom@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:jsansom@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Address label to seal here.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- ④ **Spring Clean Action Day** – Peel Road Allotments, Warwick. Get stuck in and help regenerate this site from derelict to working allotments.
- ④ **Peace Festival** – Volunteers needed to help on Action 21 stall.
- ④ **2003 and Beyond** – Could you guide school classes round an A21 education event on sustainability at Coombe Country Park? All groups accompanied by teachers.
- ④ **Transaction editor** – Claire's off on her travels. Can you help?
- ④ **Recycling Roadshow** – A play for local primary schools. Work involves help with publicity and 'backstage' tasks.

If you are interested please contact Jenny 01926 456067.