

Car Free Run Down

If you didn't make it down to Car Free Day in Leamington on 22nd September let me give you the highlights. Barriers were put in place to divert all traffic away from the Parade in Leamington and bleary eyed workers and volunteers enjoyed the first crisp moments of the morning without traffic, setting up a stage, and stalls, and decorating the road with fabrics, banners, branches, potted trees and turf. The Green Man, painted from head to toe in green and wearing a crown of ivy, arrived early and perched calmly on a bollard and provided lilting tunes on his whistle. The echo resounded up and down a street usually dominated with traffic noise and fumes.



Photograph taken by Claire Summerton

Once things got moving so did the public with salsa dancing, yoga workshops and Tai chi and slow bike races. Coventry Arts Exchange helped children make a carnival costume in the shape of a big red bus, to promote 'Walking Bus Schemes' to schools. Children made balloon models kites and didgeridoos. The Green Man used his den of grass and trees for story telling. Children and grown ups became pavement artists outside Boots. There was a treasure hunt with prizes and Cycleways ran a guided cycle ride. Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs co-ordinated the spray painting of an old car with environmental designs that created a fantastic final display piece. 35 groups held stalls including Friends of the Earth who collected over 500 signatures against the proposed airport expansion. On the stage, Bhangra dancers, a fashion show and a variety of local bands kept the crowd entertained all day long until the grand finale procession led by the highly charged 30-strong samba band 'Sambassadors of Groove' joined by the walking bus, a dancing green man and a group of cyclists on a range of cycle powered contraptions. By closing a major road for essentially a street party the aim is to make people realise how great community space feels without cars, which often disrupt us with noise, pollution and the threat of being run over.

Many thanks to all those who helped with Car Free Day. Let's hope we can make it a regular event on the calendar!

Welcome to Transaction

Sustainability officer: Jenny Sansom 01926 456067

Welcome to the winter edition of **Transaction**. The last three months have been busy, not only with Pumpkin Day and Car Free Day, but also with fundraising, networking and planning for next year. Within the last week we have had confirmation of a new grant to regenerate the Peel Road allotment site in Warwick, which we will be doing soon (see Diary dates, contact Bill Marlow on 881623 or Jenny for more information). Another project is a series of video-documented workshops jointly with the Community Arts Workshop. These will be based on creative recycling—using waste materials for artwork and feed into the Scrapstore project.

And don't forget the **Action 21 Social Night** at the Sikh Community Centre in Mill Road on Friday 7 February. Delicious home cooked food will be provided at £3 a head. Bring your own alcoholic or soft drinks. See you there!



Rubbish Education!

Action 21's Waste and Recycling Group are to assist in the education of children about exactly that through a Recycling Roadshow they intend to take around primary schools in the area.

The group are currently creating a presentation that enlightens children about the shocking amount of rubbish that human beings produce, what happens to it after the bin men take it away and explain the harmful effects these ends can have on the earth. The purpose is to educate this next generation on how we can prevent these harmful effects such as pollution, destruction of natural resources, by recycling as much of our waste as possible.

The group are drawing upon many resources such as photography and music to make the presentation as entertaining, interactive and most importantly thought provoking as possible in order to enthuse the youngsters about recycling and minimising waste.

The Waste and Recycling Group are planning to pilot the project in the spring term of 2003.

For information contact chrisphilpott@ntlworld.com

DIARY dates DIARY dates DIARY

- 25 January 10am-12pm Peel Road Allotments questionnaire delivery (see left)
GM-Free Warwickshire Launch Meeting 2-4pm, Bath Place, Leamington Spa Contact Dave on 01608 661816.
- 28 January Transport Theme Group Meeting 7.30pm, 32 Coten End, Warwick Call Liz Bott on 01926 495541.
- 6 February Food Theme Group Meeting 8pm at Regenesys, Clemens St, Leamington Contact Judy Steele on jsteele@hdra.org.uk.
- 7 February Action 21 Social at Sikh Centre (see left) Please ring Jenny on 456067 to book.
- 8 February 10am-12pm Peel Road Allotments questionnaire collection
- 10 February Open Meeting on Energy with David Jullien, Manager, WEEAC, Sikh Community Centre 7.30pm Contact Bhajan on 01926 456101.
- 8 March International Women's Day, Bath Place Contact Kathryn on 01926 338421.
- 10 March Energy Theme Group Meeting 7.30pm, Sikh Community Centre Contact Bhajan Aulak on 01926 456101.
- 14 March Piggy Bank application deadline (see over)

Please check our website for yet more meetings and events!



What a Prized Pumpkin!


At the end of October the Food Group led a day of family fun based around the seasonal squash, pumpkins. The group kept people entertained with many activities including face painting, pumpkinseed jewellery making for children while adults could take part in cooking workshops and watch demonstrations or buy locally grown produce. The aim of the day was to encourage people to grow and eat their own food as a way of reducing the amount of energy wasted and fuel used to transport food around the world as well as eating organic, pesticide-free produce.



The Eco Day Out

A minibus full of Action 21 members set off the morning of Saturday October 12th on what was to be an inspiring and educational day in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

First stop was the **Ecohouse** in Leicester, an environmental show house with a permanent tenant illustrating the feasibility of an environmentally friendly home as well as just a house. The Ecohouse offers an excellent self-guiding tour with audio, visual, and even touch components, making it an accessible and educating resource for all ages.



After a travelling lunch we heading on to the **Hockerton Housing Project** (left), outside Nottingham, which consists of several houses built in a terrace format that are almost completely self reliant. By this I include food and energy production and even water purification. These words can be uttered in a breath yet triumphs such as these are only accomplished through the 'intricate detail of every aspect of the Hockerton Project being considered from an environmental point of view' which is what so many of us were staggered by.

If you need some sustainable inspiration for your home or just want to be amazed and have a great day out, go and see for yourself. You won't regret it!

Ecohouse: www.environ.org.uk/ecohouse/index.php

Telephone: 0116 254 5489

Hockerton Housing Project: www.hockerton.demon.co.uk/

Eco Echoes in Leamington Spa

"I hope that we can take these design ideas and implement a full housing project locally" are the words one day-tripper spoke after visiting the Ecohouse in Leicester and their wish has been granted. As a new theme group of Action 21 the Ecohouse group are setting up a similar project in Leamington. They would like the house to include living space (for a caretakers) as well as space for business and workshops. The group's long term vision for the Leamington Ecohouse include that it should:

- ④ Be an information centre
- ④ Raise awareness on environmental and social issues
- ④ A demonstration on ecological issues in Leamington/ Warwick and provide resources for people wishing to make some or all aspects of their lifestyles more sustainable.

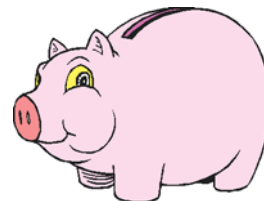
For more information about the group contact Gareth Davies at g_davies@talk21.com.

Free Money!!

Are you a newly formed community group? Have you got an exciting project idea but need money to get it started? If your project promotes sustainability then you could be eligible for a **Piggy Bank Grant of up to £250** from Action 21.

We want to inspire people to take the initiative in their local area and bring about change from the grassroots. We are looking to fund projects that promote the saving of resources, improve the quality of life for disadvantaged groups, or encourage community involvement and development.

If you would like an application form or would like to chat about your project please phone Jenny on 01926 456067.



New community food project!

In the new year the Food Group will embark on a brand new project to regenerate a small but promising allotment site at Lyttleton Road, Warwick. The area has suffered neglect but has lots of potential as a community area for food growing.

Initially we will do door to door canvassing, put posters around the local shops, and get into the press to raise local interest. This will lead to a community action day to revamp the area according to local needs.

If you would like to get involved please contact Jenny on 01926 456067 or Bill Marlow 01926 881623.

Notices

Action 21 held an **Extraordinary General Meeting** (EGM) on the 20th November. The accounts for 2001/02 were signed off and Jenny also presented the Business Plan to map out the future work of the Company.

We hope to see you all at the **Action 21 Social** in February (see over). It will be a great time to get everyone together to celebrate the fantastic work that has taken place in the last year.

If you want to shop with a clear ethical & green conscience then get a copy of **The Good Shopping Guide**. Contents include information on food, health & beauty, banks, mortgages, ethical investment. The publication is available to borrow from Warwickshire library (classification 381) or to buy for £10.00. Published by Ethical Marketing Group 2002. ISBN 095425290X.



For more information about Action 21's past and present projects visit 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

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Recipient's address

Volunteer Opportunities

- ④ **Allotments Action** Action 21 have just received funding to regenerate a small allotment site in Warwick. If you can help with door knocking / leaflet delivery or lend a hand on a 'Ground force' style action day then we want to hear from you!
- ④ **Theme Groups** are always keen to meet new volunteers with new ideas. All the Action 21 groups meet once every 4-6 weeks and develop their own projects. All skills can be put to good use.
- ④ **Education Volunteer** This is for you if you have a background in teaching, and would like to help build up a network of teachers interested in sustainable development. This role could also take on developing workshops with theme groups.