

Food Group Update

School Meals

'Improving school meals' was the topic of the talk by the Head of the School Catering Department at our January meeting. We were glad that organic burgers and sausages are being sourced, but less pleased to hear that, for logistical and cost reasons, only eight per cent of the potatoes used in Warwickshire school meals are locally grown. This is because potatoes are sourced as ready-peeled or pre-processed chips, and no-one in Warwickshire seems able to supply these from local spuds.

Increasing local sourcing is the School Catering Department's aim, but sometimes their size and the legal constraints around contracts and tendering prevent speedier progress. The Food Group are donating Sustain's best practice manual to the Department and we hope that plentiful case studies and menu suggestions could offer some solutions.

Peace Festival: edible plants for sale

The Food Group hopes to sell edible plug plants and herb wreaths at this year's Peace Festival (see Diary Dates). Please come along and buy some!

Allotments Link Project

The project has been running since November, and its planned end date is 30 April. However, we are hoping to secure more funds to continue the work.

Surveying the scene

A survey of all the allotments in the area may sound simple, but some needed a bit of sleuthing. For example, the church-owned site in Cubbington involved calls to the local vicar, the Coventry and Leicester Dioceses and a land agent in Coventry! An information leaflet is now available from local libraries. Contact Judy on **01926 887119** if you think there may be any more sites unsurveyed.

Workshops

How to kindly cut an apple or pear, and when to leave a tree to its own devices were taught by Julian Stanley at the St Mary's Allotments, Radford Road in February. Plums and cherries are the next pruning workshop's subjects, and courses on wildlife gardening on an allotment and beginning vegetable growing are being planned.

Black Lane Allotment Open Day

This Open Day on 13 June (see Diary Dates) is part of the Park Life season, and the Food Group is helping out. Volunteers are very welcome. The committee is still trying to raise money for a badger-proof fence to keep out the sweetcorn and carrot-mad badgers.

Judy Steele



Recycling Roadshow

The **Recycling Roadshow** continues to go from strength to strength and we have performed it at St Peter's, Lillington and Kingsway primary schools with more bookings in the pipeline. We are now trying to contact drama departments at ten educational institutions, including private schools, so that we can use the show as an exemplar of theatre education, and thereby get pupils to write a similar play and take it to their local primary or feeder schools. It is hoped that each Action 21 Group will provide a fact sheet of information so that pupils can select which sustainability project they wish to write about. At the moment we have Campion School Drama Department interested.

Chris Philpott

Theme Group Contacts

Energy

Bhajan Aulak, bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk

Transport

Bob Crowther, bob.crowther@warwickdc.gov.uk.

Eco-house

Gareth Davies, g_davies@talk21.com

Local to Global

Bill Evans, wevans@warwickdc.gov.uk

Recycling

Chris Philpott, cphilpott@onetel.net.uk

Allotments

Judy Steele, judy@dmac.co.uk

Food & Nutrition

Bill Warrell, bwarrell@hrda.org.uk

DIARY dates DIARY dates DIARY

April

Monday 12

Energy Group Meeting

7.30pm Sikh Community Centre
Contact Bhajan Aulak 01926 456010 or
bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk

Friday 16

Benefit gig (rock) for Greenpeace

8pm, The Earlsdon Cottage, Coventry

Monday 26

Food Group Meeting

7.30pm, Gaia. Contact Bill Warrell on 01926 314757 or bwarrell@hdra.org

Tuesday 27

K2L – Working group meeting

to campaign for a cycle route between Leamington and Kenilworth
7.30pm, Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa.
Contact Chantal.Pottage@lsc.gov.uk

May

Sunday 9

Wildlife on the allotment

10am-12noon, Milverton New Allotments, with Rebecca Potts. Free but please book in advance with Judy Steele on 01926 887119.

Monday 10

Energy Group Meeting

7.30pm Sikh Community Centre
Contact Bhajan Aulak 01926 456010 or
bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk

Thursday 20

Action 21 AGM

7pm, Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, Shrubland Street, Leamington Spa
Come and help us celebrate the year's achievements at Action 21 and help drink some free locally-brewed real ale.

Thursday 27

Transport Group Meeting

7.30pm Venue tbc.
Contact Chantal.Pottage@lsc.gov.uk

June

Thursday 3

Wildlife Safari for Children at Odibourne Allotments, Kenilworth

Bookings: Heritage Education Department, St John's Museum 01926 412034

Wednesday 9 -
Friday 11

2004 and Beyond

An education event for primary school children at Coombe Country Park. Volunteer guides needed.

Sunday 13

Open Day at Black Lane Allotments

2-5pm, Black Lane, Lillington
Includes allotment tours, beginner gardening workshop and bee-keeping talks.

Monday 14

Energy Group Meeting

7.30pm Sikh Community Centre
Contact Bhajan Aulak 01926 456010 or
bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk

For the latest listings, check out www.action21.co.uk.

Engage with Renewable Energy

The 'Engage' project entered its busiest stage in 2004 due to GOWM funding deadlines. The project is a feasibility study aiming to show that renewable energy schemes in this area are possible and would be welcomed by local people.

The Action 21 Energy Group used a questionnaire and a public event – **Bright Ideas!** – to canvass local people's views and ask for their ideas for suitable schemes. We then assessed the ideas to see how practical they are from a technical and economic point of view. The study results will help us bid for funding to implement renewable energy schemes.

On 16 January *The Leamington Courier* featured our energy competition, marking the launch of the public consultation. Our questionnaire was sent to over 2,000 people and 383 completed forms were returned: 91% were in favour of renewables, with solar being the most favoured.

The Engage team, particularly Rona Wilkinson, selected the best six representative proposals. This has undergone further consultation and the report has now been submitted to the GOWM.



Dr Stephan Harrison, Oxford University; Richard Davies, Marches Energy Agency; Ian Preston, CAfE and David Jullien, WEEAC; Steven Coulsting, Action 21 and Rona Wilkinson, ITDG. Courtesy of the *Leamington Observer*



Transaction

Spring 2004

This issue of Transaction highlights recent activities by the Recycling, Energy and Food Groups, with major upcoming events at Coombe Country Park in Coventry and the Leamington Peace Festival in June, for which we need volunteers.

Hope to see you at these events! (See Diary Dates.)

Jeanne Ashkenazi, Editor
jj.ash@ntlworld.com

Energy Workshop

The workshop stimulated interesting discussions, gave added meaning to the Engage project, and attracted new membership and press interest. It was clear that a lot of awareness raising was required and that both energy efficiency and renewables had a vital part to play.

Dr Stephan Harrison spoke about his research on glaciers in places as far apart as Patagonia and Tien Shan. The accelerated melting of the glaciers over recent decades provides conclusive proof of global warming that he linked with the parallel rise in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations.

Richard Davies gave a comprehensive overview of renewable technologies from large-scale wind farms to micro CHP units for domestic dwellings.

David Jullien presented an analysis of the questionnaires received, an overview of energy consumption and where the most fruitful areas lay for conservation. Ian Preston described the work of Community Action for Energy (www.est.co.uk/cafe) illustrated with examples from around the country. This is very relevant to the way in which the proposed Engage Community Energy Company will function.

Visit the Action 21 website (www.action21.co.uk) for more information on this and a range of other energy issues.

Steven Coulsting

◆ Open below with care ◆



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: jenny@action21.co.uk

Address label to seal here.

Volunteers needed

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|------------|---|
| June 9-11 | 2004 and Beyond
Coombe Country Park, Coventry (see Diary Dates). Guides needed. |
| June 13 | Black Lane Allotments Open Day
(see Diary Dates) People needed to help Food Group members run the day's events. |
| June 19-20 | Leamington Peace Festival
People needed to help staff the Action 21 stall and join the recycling team. |
| | Action 21 Theme Groups
More volunteers needed by all groups, please! |
| | Contact Jenny if you can help:
jenny@action21.co.uk or 01926 456067. |