

Welcome to the Spring 2007 edition of *Transaction*, your update on the work of Action 21 and its associates! My name is Louise Ridley, and I'm the new volunteer editor. We are going to produce *Transaction* quarterly from now on and we hope you enjoy the increased opportunity to volunteer and keep informed of environmental news and events.



We are coming out of a busy winter season into an even busier spring one, with a host of exciting outdoor events to participate in, peaking with the Leamington Peace festival in June.

What can I do?

Our largest project, the **Recycle Warehouse**, is going from strength to strength, and the number of volunteers is increasing constantly, but we are always in need of more helping hands for the many initiatives we run.

There are a huge range of volunteering opportunities at Action 21, from leading health walks and organising events to participating in one of our theme groups (**food, waste, transport or energy**), or moderating communityfreebay.co.uk. These are just some of the many roles through which you can contribute to our local community and meet other like-minded people, as well as developing new skills.

If you are interested and want to find out more about volunteering please **contact us**:

T: 01926 456076

E: jenny@action21.co.uk

Little Green Fingers

Children at **Lillington Primary School** will be looking forward to a tasty and plentiful harvest this year thanks to their hard work on their School Garden project with Action 21.

Last year it had excellent harvests of potatoes, beetroot, spinach, beans, sweetcorn, strawberries and 40 pumpkins. Every child was able to help plant and harvest and had the treat of tasting the potatoes and sweetcorn they had grown. This year some money from the Recycle Warehouse has been used to buy child-sized stainless steel garden tools with FSC handles (sustainably produced wooden handles) which should help this year's crop blossom. The potatoes have been planted as well as another bed of strawberries grown from last year's strawberry runners and beetroot, spinach and lettuce are being grown in modules ready to be planted out soon. The organic garden was started in December 2005 as part of the **Lillington Community Food Project**. Project manager Judy Steele says "Most children love gardening, getting messy, digging and watering, picking what you've grown and eating it." The hands-on approach of the garden certainly seems to have put smiles on some faces!



A champion organic cabbage!

DIARY dates DIARY dates DIARY dates

May
10th &
24th

Practical conservation days at Ufton Fields Join Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on tasks such as Fencing/Removing invasive Plant Species such as ragwort. Contact Ian on 024 7630 8998.

June
5^h

A21 Recycling Group meeting, 7:30pm at the Baptist Church, Leamington Spa

9th

Environment Day, Long Itchington 11am-4pm. Green activities and information. Contact Alison on 811857

11th

Energy Group meeting, 7:30pm at the Baptist Church Leamington Spa

16th-17th **Leamington Peace Festival**

A free festival in Victoria Park, Leamington Spa, featuring entertainment, workshops and over 120 stalls

20th

Practical conservation at Stonebridge Contact Ian (WWT) on 0247 6308998

August

9th-10th **'Countryside and Food Fair'** at the Royal Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh. Interactive, fun and educational activities and displays.



Greenfinder

www.greenfinder.co.uk is a new online directory for all things green and ethical. The site can be used to find information and advice on all aspects of a greener way of life, from local groups and organic food to national environmental news.



www.fresherbymiles.com delivers fresh and locally produced food and drink (with an organic range) to your doorstep. Buying direct from source gives great value and contributes to the sustainability of the local food economy.

Canalside Community Food

- Get involved!

You are what you eat – and there's no better way to ensure that *what* you eat is healthy and environmentally friendly than to have a hand in how your food is made. **Canalside Community Food** is a project which aims to involve local people in the production of the food they eat, and to provide fresh, organic, locally grown fruit and vegetables.

It is based at **Leasowe Farm**, just outside Leamington Spa. The idea for the project started at the Action 21 food group meetings, where Tom and Caz Ingall, who have lived and worked on the farm since 2002, decided to use their 145 acres of farmland for the greatest possible environmental and social benefit. They started a Pig Club which has continued into a successful second year. Members help with all the different aspects of caring for pigs including collecting the weaners, moving the pigs onto fresh ground, "feeding, feeding and more feeding" and eventually their final journey to the abattoir. The pigs themselves help to prepare fields for organic fruit and vegetable cultivation by digging out the weeds!



Tom coaxes some pigs out of the trailer

The farm is currently moving into full scale vegetable production and is well into its organic conversion period (2 years) and will be fully certified organic by May 2008. This winter saw a 5 acre nut orchard planted with a dazzling array of hazels, sweet chestnuts, walnuts, and heartnuts (a Japanese walnut) which they hope to start cropping in a few years, as well as shiitake mushrooms being grown on logs in the farm's woodland which will be harvested in the next couple of months.

If you'd like to get some fresh air and fresh food and get involved in local organic food production visit www.canalsidecommunityfood.co.uk for more information.

New Wind Turbines blow away the competition!

Warwick is leading the way in wind energy with largest venture of its kind in the country; the **Warwick Wind Trials** project which is supported by Action 21. Ten rooftop wind turbines have been planned in the Warwickshire area, which will be monitored in a research study of wind power, a greener energy source. Two turbines were put up earlier this year at Hill Close Gardens and Lillington Road. They are successfully generating electricity and are attracting nationwide attention, featuring on BBC Midlands Today in March. A turbine to go up on Action 21's very own **Recycle Warehouse** in Princes Drive has just been granted permission, which will stand as a statement of our active commitment to green energy. Visit www.warwickwindtrails.co.uk for more information.



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Taking Practical Steps to Reduce our
Environmental Footprint

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