

July 2012

❖ **Heart of Gloucestershire Awards**

Reclaim (Vision 21's furniture re-use project) was nominated for the category Environmental Hero. Sadly we did not win but it was a great achievement to be nominated and a reward for all the hard working volunteers and staff based at Reclaim. Congratulations to all the finalists and winners.



(Dave Entwistle, Senior Manager and two of our very hardworking volunteers Anthony and Colin at the award ceremony held at The Racecourse in June.)

❖ **Get Up and Grow More!**

Summer may have not given us much sun so far this year, but we have had plenty of rain to water in all of the plants and seeds we have planted in our community edible gardens. Here is a run down of what we have been up to with the Get Up and Grow More! project.

Grow Your Own Workshops

Please see the website for details on upcoming free Grow Your Own Workshops

<http://www.vision21.org.uk/index.asp?page=gugm>

Tewkesbury

An area behind Queens Road by the Priors Park Nature Reserve is being transformed into a community edible garden. A big thank you to all the volunteers from Lloyds TSB for helping us get up and growing. We currently have 6 raised beds planted with a broad range of vegetables and herbs. Community members are welcome to join us every Wednesday from 4-6pm.

Cheltenham

Our community edible garden in Clevedon Square is now up and growing as well, thanks to the help from a volunteer day with Barnett and Waddingham. We have four veg plots, a fruit boarder and a herb circle that also features a three sisters (sweetcorn, climbing beans and winter squash) plot. We are inviting the residents of Clevedon Square and other close by Cheltenham Borough Homes residents to participate and grow with us.

Cirencester

In partnership with Cirencester Town Council, we are offering giant grow bags (large building supply bags) filled with compost to residents to then act as grow bag guardians. We are looking for people that live in an area that has a large grass verge or cul-de-sac. The bags will be placed on the grass and maintained by grow bag guardians. Guardians will be supplied with plants, seeds, water butts and on going support. We will also be keeping a plot at the City Bank Allotments for practical training. Please contact Erin for more information.

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(Volunteers hard at work at Priors Park and Clevedon Square.)

❖ **Community Champions**

Mo and some volunteers have been out and about answering people's enquiries about how they can reduce their waste and increase the amount that they recycle.

Their visit to the Co-op in Coronation Square was very successful, as was their stand at the excellent school festival, Rowanfield Rocks. Mo also helped Hefin Meara, Ubico's Waste and Recycling Officer to do some door-knocking in Lansdown Square to ask residents whether they had sufficient and accessible facilities to enable them to dispose of their waste tidily and recycle as much as they can.

Do let Mo know of any opportunities that you might come across for her to visit or give a recycling talk to communities or organisations in Cheltenham. Email Mo at momcmanus@vision21.org.uk, or ring her at Vision21 – 01242 224321

❖ **Rio 20+**

Rio 20+ has been and gone with little to show for it and it can only be credited as yet another badly missed opportunity. With eleven of the past twelve years being the hottest on record and distinct changes to both global and local weather patterns, it really doesn't take much to recognise the potential gravity of the situation and the threat it poses.

Twenty years ago, when the visible effects of climate change were only just beginning to show themselves, there was a tremendous upsurge in the need to take a more sustainable approach to living and the consumption of natural resources. At that time, many Governments, NGO's and individuals took the

message on board and took the initiative to help resolve the two major threats to life on this planet, which are Climate Change and Population Control.

The world has moved on since then and, although much has been achieved, there is still much more to do and it has to be done at a much faster rate. The spurious debate around whether Climate Change is a natural or man made phenomenon has impinged progress and serves only to deflect attention from the real problems at hand, i.e. the fact that Climate Change is happening, the world's population has exceeded 7 billion and it is predicted to exceed 9 billion by 2050.

No matter what we do, there is no doubt that over the next 100 years, the climate is going to change. The world will become hotter and resources will become scarcer. So, any legitimate actions, whether large or small, unilateral or international that help mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce the pressures being placed upon the planet are of benefit and are most welcome.

To all those working to make the world a safer and more sustainable place, on the behalf of Vision 21, I would like to thank you.

❖ **An Inconvenient Truth 2, Monday 3rd September, Bacon Theatre, 6.30pm, Tickets £8.00 (£7.00)**

Cheltenham film maker, Jack Guest, presents a special screening of his eco-documentary An Inconvenient Truth 2, including the distinguished guest speaker, Jonathon Porritt CBE. Intended as a sequel of sorts to Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth, the film is about the world getting better. It proposes that society already has answers to climate change and features positive solutions already implemented in Sweden, the leading EU country for renewable energy. Focusing on two wholly sustainable housing programmes in Sweden, powered by sun, wind and water, the young film maker demonstrates that sustainable living is a realistic and exciting prospect and discovers new technologies which are being developed with impressive results. Following this exclusive screening of An Inconvenient Truth 2 will be a Q&A session with green campaigner Jonathon Porritt and Jack Guest.

❖ **Gloucestershire Green Guide www.glosgreenguide.co.uk**

If you are looking for greener transport, gift ideas, renewable energy, local farmer's markets or recycling facilities, we've got all this and much more.

❖ **Hayden Road Allotment Sharers**

The allotment sharing project started three years ago, growing out of two Vision 21 initiatives. Currently we are five individuals sharing two large and very productive plots at the Hayden Road council allotment site. Sometimes we work together, often individually, organically growing masses of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers – at present we've over 50 crops on the go. We greatly enjoy the experience – the site, the birdsong, the weather(!), the sharing, the work and the produce.

We would like one or two more sharers (any age, any experience) to join us – might you or someone you know be interested? If so, please contact Claire at the Vision 21 office.

❖ **Big Green Bundle** www.biggreenbundle.org

This is an online resource pack that involves your staff, greens your company and develops competitive advantage. You can register your organisation at office@vision21.org.uk

The Big Green
Bundle



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