

# 21 TODAY

.....The Newsletter of Vision 21 in Gloucestershire.....



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03

**Summer Special** — :Inside; The Vision 21 conference, what happened? & how did it go?, part 5 of the UNA report conducted by Vision 21's Chairman, part 4 of 'Improving the Environment', a guide for town and parish councils, Top Tips, events, jobs, sign up to receive 21 Today by email (Just email [v21stroud@onetel.net.uk](mailto:v21stroud@onetel.net.uk)) with your name & contact details & renew your membership + much, much more!

**21 Today is now published every 2 months**

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## Gloucestershire's Environmental Education Forum

What does the Environmental Education Forum do?

The environmental education forum was set up to share ideas, problems as well as solutions to environmental concerns in the classroom and school community. There is so much we can all learn from our own experiences. Previous forums have looked at Waste Minimisation, Sustainable Architecture and Sustainability Links to the National Curriculum (eg PHSE/Citizenship).

In June, School Travel Plans were discussed

At the last meeting, which took place at the beginning of June the topical and sometimes contentious subject of transport was discussed. I think we have all grumbled about the school run!

Deer Park, secondary school in Cirencester is currently implementing its own 'School Travel Plan', and Chiquita Henson (Deputy Head) kindly agreed to talk on the subject, and share the schools

experiences. Other speakers included Paul Hardiman (Gloucestershire County Council's Principal Transport Planning Officer. Both speakers were able offer some invaluable information, insights and advice.

In the academic year ahead, we hope to discuss Food & Health; Renewable Energy & Conservation; Purchasing Policy and 'Whole-Life' costs...

The next meeting of the Educational Forum will take place on the 15th October at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and will discuss Citizenship. For more information please call the Vision 21 office. Tel: 01242 2243321

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**Want to get involved in the "GM Nation" debate?**

**Would you like to know more about the GM debate? The consultation period will be finishing in the autumn 2003. Have a look at these websites and make your voice heard!**

[www.gmpublicdebate.org](http://www.gmpublicdebate.org)

www.genewatch.org or call 01298 871898  
Friends of the Earth are trying to get each Council in Britain (including Gloucestershire) to declare itself a GM-Free Zone. To get involved in their campaign, see [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk), or email [lizw@foe.co.uk](mailto:lizw@foe.co.uk) or ring 0113 2428153  
Alternatively you can email [info@uk.greenpeace.org](mailto:info@uk.greenpeace.org) or call 0207 865 8100

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**Top Tips!**  
**Choose wine with natural corks**

The increased use of plastic corks is threatening the unique habitat of the oak woodlands in Spain and Portugal. These woodlands not only produce over 80% of the world's cork, but they also provide a valuable habitat for livestock and wildlife. 42 species of bird depend on them, including the Spanish imperial eagle, which has a global population of only 130 pairs. Intensive agriculture is already encroaching on this area, and the growth of the plastic cork industry is increasing the problem. Also the manufacture and recycling of plastic corks is energy-consuming and polluting.

**Extract taken from Go Mad, 365 Daily ways to save the planet price £3.99 Mail order hotline number - 01626 832225**



**Scale up for Trade Justice**  
**12 pm Saturday June 28th**

At mid-day on June 28th all over the UK constituencies will be lobbying their MP's for a system of trade that is fairer to poorer nations.

Here in Cheltenham in Imperial Gardens Nigel Jones will be present to receive our petitions. He will be with us from 11.45 to 12.15 together with the Mayor.

We invite all those who would like to see a fairer world to join with us on June 28th in Imperial Gardens. We shall be in the Park from 11am until 3pm. Bring a Fair Trade picnic with you. Music will be playing, Fair Trade tea and coffee will be served from the Bar/restaurant, Fair Trade goods will be on sale and you will have a chance to examine the case for Trade Justice in the leaflets provided.

Why not do your bit to help change the world?

**Stroud**

Picnic in the Park  
11:30 am Stratford Park

Bring a picnic and join Christian Aid in lobbying David Drew on trade justice. There will be music and stalls.

Contact: Frances Watson 01452 812071

## Environmental Business Awards 2003

The Gloucestershire Environmental Business Forum, of which Vision 21 is a member is sponsoring the Environmental Business Award 2003. The awards are part of the Gloucestershire Business Awards and have a high profile in the media culminating in the awards dinner in October. If you work for a company or know of one that is in the process of greening their business in some form or another, you can nominate your business for the award. For entry cards, **please call Nadine on 01242 224321.**

### “Sustainable Gloucestershire? From Vision to Action” A Vision 21 Conference 5 April 2003

**F**or all of you who didn't make it to Vision 21's conference at the beginning of April, here is a summary of what happened:  
The conference re-visited 3 of the 8 themes Vision 21's working groups have identified in the past (and summarised in the Sustainable Gloucestershire document from 1996):  
Transport, Energy and Water.  
We wanted to see whether things have improved since the key issues were identified and what action is needed to move further on in these areas.

During the morning we had 4 speakers: **David Evans**, formerly involved in the Economics group started off with summarising where we were at in 1996 and whether any new issues have arisen since then.

**Catrin Maby** from the Severn Wye Energy Agency, and independent company and charity since 1999 advising Gloucestershire on sustainable energy and affordable warmth, described the different national grant programmes and outlined the main points of the Government white paper on Energy. For a detailed list of the different programmes, please ask for a conference report.

**Gerald Noone** from Severn Trent talked about the future of managing water and on the influences of climate change (i.e. rainfall patterns) on water catchment areas and **Colin Knight**, Transport Planning Manager at the County Council spoke about the major transport projects currently happening in Gloucestershire and the next steps of the Local Transport Plan.

This gave us enough to work with. We explored the questions what each of us can do and how we can influence policy in order to get to a more sustainable Gloucestershire in three workshops.

Here are some of the actions each of us can take today:

#### On Transport

Write to Gloucestershire County Council Cycling & walking Officer with specific requests  
Buy local food (locally) and encourage others to do the same. Ask the supermarkets!  
Get bus timetables published at bus stops & on the web (Gloucestershire County Council) & households

Write to local press/ councillors

Leave your car at home during green transport month (June)

Link to existing initiatives.

#### For Water:

Briefing of David Drew (MP for Stroud). Mr. Drew is a member of the Environment Select Committee in the Government  
There was a suggestion for Vision 21 to act as a water group to respond to consultations as a co-ordinated response.

**Energy:**

Use Renewable energy  
Establish local energy scheme, you're closer to the end product and the community could own their own energy supply  
Calculate benefits (cleaner) and costs (visual impact) of Wind energy versus other energy sources

The full conference report will be out soon. If you would like a copy, please let us know. Also, if you didn't make it to the conference (a lot did, thank you), I would like to hear from you, as I would like to know what puts you off!

**Best wishes, Nadine**

We haven't forgotten about the survey results! They are currently being analysed by one of our volunteers and will be ready for the next 21 Today - Aug/Sept 03

**CD Recycling:**

To recycle your redundant or obsolete CDs & CD ROMs using a non-chemical process, send them to Polymer Reprocessors Limited, Reeds Lane, Morton, Wirrel CH46 1DW (small quantities are taken) For further information Call 0151 6060456 or look at [www.polymer-reprocessors.co.uk](http://www.polymer-reprocessors.co.uk)

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**Computer and IT Recycling**

Furniture Recycling Project will take computers and printers that are in working order for disadvantaged families. Gloucester: Warehouse 5, West Quay, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EH. Tel: 01452 331333 Stroud: 10 John Street, Stroud GL5 2HA – Tel: 01453 767771

Rabbit Recycling (0800 138 0988) will take IT equipment in any condition

**The United Nations Report Conducted by Vision 21's  
Chairman Graham Stanley**

**Bio-diversity and wildlife**

**Has the council produced a Biodiversity Action Plan (or worked with other agencies on a similar document ? )**

Yes: Gloucestershire County Council (in concert with all six district councils, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and other voluntary organisations) has produced a comprehensive B.A.P., which has been adopted by all seven local authorities.

**Has the council restricted its use of pesticides?**

No;

**Yes**, in certain areas;

A pesticide reduction policy has been agreed. **Yes/No.**

All councils have reduced their use of pesticides to some extent (usually by banning *specific* pesticides in *all* areas, or *all* pesticides in *specific*

areas, such as council parks or footpaths); most have now agreed a policy to gradually reduce them further but are keenly aware of 'public opinion', which isn't always supportive of such policies...

**Has the council phased out the use of peat-based composts?**

Yes; all six district councils' direct labour forces (parks departments and the like) have stopped using peat-based composts – though some of their third-party contractors have not yet formally adopted this policy. The county council doesn't use any peat-based composts.

**Does the council support and/or promote community action to enhance local green spaces? If yes, please briefly summarise how:**

Some of the district councils support local initiatives. For example: Stroud Town Council is creating a number of 'pocket parks', with some help from the District Council. The community-based 'neighbourhood projects' (supported by Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils) also contained an element of green-space enhancement. Gloucester City council has recently appointed an 'urban green space' officer, to identify and promote 'community' green spaces. A few community groups and parish-councils have initiated 'Millennium Green' community projects, designed to enhance local green spaces; but these have not had much District Council involvement.

**Role of local council in protecting green spaces in planning applications.**

**All six Districts take some account of green spaces when considering planning applications – although some take this more seriously (and take a more active role) than others. No council has yet formally adopted the national Playing Fields Association 'six acre' rule; but some have designated specific areas for 'nature conservation' or 'playing fields'.**

**Graham Stanley**

**Cheltenham Centre for Change  
Vacancy**

**Resource Room Assistant  
£7.50 per hour - self employed  
8 hours per week spread over 2-3 days**

Do you have a good understanding of sustainable development?

Do you like working with the public - providing them with answers to their queries?

Are you flexible and looking for a few hours work a week?

**Are you computer literate and have good numeracy / bookkeeping skills?**

**If so then this could be the post for you.**

We are looking for someone to work 8 hours a week, over 2- 3 days, in our Resource Room in Cheltenham Centre for Change. The Resource Room Assistant will offer information and advice to a range of enquirers, catalogue the information held by

CCC and maintain stocks of journals, leaflets, CD ROMs etc. The post holder will also develop our network of contacts with students, schools and young people generally.

The post holder will also be involved in arranging for a limited range of "eco-products" to be available through CCC.

For more information please contact Cheltenham Centre for Change on 01242 570111 or e-mail: [CCC@honeyend.com](mailto:CCC@honeyend.com). Alternatively write or call in to CCC at Cheltenham Centre for Change, 30 St George's Place, Cheltenham, GL50 3JZ.

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

### **Bethesda goes green: local church gains national environmental award**

The award was presented at a special Conservation Service at the church in Great Norwood Street on Sunday 1 June. The guest speaker at this service was Jonathon Porritt CBE – Chairman of the government's *UK Sustainable Development Commission* and Co-Founder and Programme Director of *Forum for the Future* which is based in Cheltenham.

Bethesda Methodist Church is the first church in the Bristol District and the seventeenth in England to receive the national Eco-Congregation Award. The assessment at the church in Great Norwood Street in Cheltenham was independently reviewed by Carol Rabbette (Sustainability Manager, Cheltenham Borough Council) and Dr Peter Carruthers (Director of the John Ray Initiative). It was facilitated by the Rev Dr David Pickering, the National Eco-Congregation Coordinator who said: *"Bethesda's ministry demonstrates how churches can make a real difference by addressing environmental and development issues and taking positive action. They are to be congratulated and I hope that many other churches will follow their lead"*.

The Eco-Congregation programme was adopted by the church council last year to affirm its belief that Christians have a particular responsibility to encourage more sustainable living as stewards of God's creation and to demonstrate this by practical action.

#### **Further information:**

**Rev Mark Barrett** [markrev55@aol.com](mailto:markrev55@aol.com) 01242 524889 [www.bethesda-church.org.uk](http://www.bethesda-church.org.uk)

**Mark Boulton:** [traid.green@virgin.net](mailto:traid.green@virgin.net) 01242 674839

**Rev Dr David Pickering** [www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org) [ecocongregation@encams.org](mailto:ecocongregation@encams.org)

#### **What happened in May?**

##### **Another busy month for the Vision 21 office!**

**Meetings attended by Vision 21 Directors & staff have Included;** Greenbelt festival, Round Table for Sustainable Development, Green Business Club, Cheltenham Friends of the Earth AGM, Revision 2010, Travel Smart, Sustainable Buildings Material Guide, Round Table Steering Group, Environmental Education Forum.

## Two placements started work at the Vision 21

**office;** Michelle & Caroline are both working two days a week. Michelle is currently reviewing the Building Materials Guide with Nadine as well as undertaking research for the next edition of the Edge magazine.

Caroline, is researching Community Strategic Partnerships & the Local Strategic Partnership. A summary will be made available, we will let you know when it's ready!

## WHO'S WHO — The V21 Association

**Office Address:** Vision 21 Office, 30 St Georges Place, Cheltenham, GL50 3JZ. Tel 01242 224321, Fax 01242 260258, or email: [office@vision21.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@vision21.demon.co.uk)

Vision 21 publications [v21stroud@onetel.net.uk](mailto:v21stroud@onetel.net.uk)

**Opening hours:** Mon—Thurs 9 am—4 pm Friday 10 am—4 pm

### **Local Authority Liaison Group**

**Cheltenham:** Carol Rabette:

01242 264166

**Cotswolds:** Alison Brown:

01285 623426

**Forest of Dean:** Alastair Chapman

01594 810000

**Gloucester City:** Meyrick Brentnall:

01452 396829

**Stroud:** Mark Sharwood:

01453 766321

**Tewkesbury:** Chris Bosley:

01684 295010

### **Gloucestershire County Council :**

Rob Colley: 01452 425671 or

Jaqui Taylor: 01452 425677

### **Vision 21 office contacts :**

Nadine Smykatz-Kloss & Lesley Davies:

01242-224321

Graham Stanley: 01453-766882

### **V21 District Groups and Initiatives**

#### **Cheltenham Worker:**

Chris Hickey 01242-512334

**Cleeve 21:** Janet Weyers 01242-678283

#### **Gloucester City Group:**

Stephen McDonnell 01452-396209

#### **Churchdown Action Group:**

Leo Fletcher 01452 - 712336

### **Vision 21 Council Members :**

Julian Jones; John Rhodes; Graham Stanley; Roger Wade; Fred Wood,

Jimmie Hepburn, Christopher Dunn

**Chairperson :** Graham Stanley

### **Council Sub Committees**

#### **Communications:**

Julian Jones 01452-814101

#### **Finance, Admin and Projects:**

John Rhodes 01452-812709

**Office contact for the Council:** Nadine Smykatz-Kloss 01242-224321