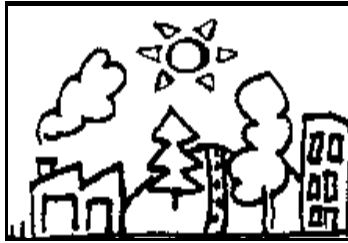


21  
Today



## Vision 21's Newsletter

- Issue 28  
Sept/ Oct 03

Together we can make a difference

**Inside;** The Vision 21 pre-conference survey results, part 6 of the UNA report conducted by Vision 21's Chairman, lots & lots of events, sign up to receive 21 Today by email (Just email v21stroud@onetel.net.uk) with your name & contact details & renew your membership + much, much more!

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

### **Genetic Modification – The Sad Misunderstanding of Plant Nature**

Public lecture and one-day workshop  
with Craig Holdrege

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm Cost: £5 (£4 conc.)  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am-5.00 pm Cost:  
£20 (£15 conc.)

**Venue:** 'The SPACE', Lansdown, Stroud, Glos.  
Craig Holdrege author of 'A Question of Genes – Understanding Life in Context,' is a leading authority on the holistic life sciences. On this, a rare visit to the UK, he will develop a phenomenological understanding of plant nature and show how tampering with its genetic make up will at best alienate the plant from its true context and at worst cause untold ecological suffering. An unmissable opportunity to work with a leading Goethean scientist.

**NB:** If you are interested in attending the workshop you will also need to be present at the evening lecture as it will include important background information. Numbers will be limited.

Early booking advised. **FFI contact:** The Biodynamic Agricultural Association (BDAA)  
**Tel. 0845 345 8474**

**BDAA, Painswick Inn Project, Gloucester Street, Stroud, Glos, GL5 1QG**  
**Tel / Fax: 0845 3458474**  
**www.biodynamic.org.uk**

### **The Gloucestershire Round Table for Sustainable Development**

meets on the 26 September 2003 at the University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, Cheltenham, 12 pm – 3:30 pm. Theme is Corporate

Social Responsibility in Gloucestershire,  
Speakers:

Jo Eades, Business in the Community, Peter Mouny, Cheltenham and Gloucester.

**If you would like to attend please call Nadine Smykatz- Kloss on 01242 224321**

### **Passion for God's World**

A workshop on Environmental Topics  
The Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral,  
Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 10 am - 4 pm

This one day Conference brings together different groups with a concern for the environment and for the county and diocese of Gloucester. It sets out to gain a global perspective, hear the church's reflection, hear about the work that is being done locally and ask questions and plan for the future.

**Speakers come from a range of backgrounds, such as Friends of the Earth, the Church of England Board of Social Responsibility, The Parish Pumps programme, the University of Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, . etc.** The day will be chaired by the Bishop of Gloucester and by Revd Nigel Coles, Chair of Churches Together

**To book a place at the conference, contact Rvd. Kingsley Jones, 01452 523906 or ark.kcj@care4free.net**

### **Vision 21 AGM**

**20 September 2003**  
**10 am-12 pm**

**George Room , Subscription Rooms, Stroud;enjoy Stroud's lovely Farmer's Market afterwards!**

## Part 6 of the UNA report Poverty, health and social integration.

### Does the council's Local Agenda 21 document include sections on poverty?

Yes. Each of the seven councils (county + six districts) has adopted a different LA21 document. All seven are based on '*Sustainable Gloucestershire (The Biggest Issue)*' (Vision 21's LA21 document), which contains several sections on poverty and poverty-related issues (housing, health, food, employment, transport). In particular, the county council's document contains a 'sustainability checklist', which emphasises the need to protect those affected by poverty of housing, employment, energy, food, transport or education.

### Does the authority have a published anti-poverty strategy?

Gloucester City council does; the other districts do not. However, they all have strategies on related subjects, such as affordable housing or 'Warm and Well' energy strategies.

### Is there any strategy or process whereby work on the council's anti-poverty strategy is being linked to its work on sustainable development (e.g. through a joint working group)?

Not yet, although Gloucester City council is attempting to do so (presumably, this question only applies to Gloucester, since none of the other districts have a published anti-poverty strategy).

### Have there been any concerted programmes or projects to develop the involvement of poorer communities in work on environmental action or Local Agenda 21?

**Yes:** examples include Cheltenham Borough Council's 'Lower High Street' regeneration and 'Hester's Way' projects and Gloucester City's 'neighbourhood project' at Podsmead. Gloucester City has also provided help and support for the existing environmental centre/city farm at St. Aldate's church. Vision 21 has been involved in all the projects: we feel that these projects provide a valuable link between poorer communities and environmental 'awareness through action', whilst simultaneously helping to strengthen the communities themselves. Some of the other districts have been involved in similar projects, but 'poorer communities' are obviously more numerous in Gloucester and Cheltenham (Gloucestershire's largest conurbations).

Graham Stanley

## Business and Biodiversity conference:

30th September, with a guest speaker Mr Jonathon Porritt. This event is aimed at businesses in order to get them to

- 1) Use their landholdings to become more environmentally friendly - planting hedges, wildflowers and wildlife ponds.
- 2) Use their staff to volunteer 'away days' to get them volunteering for environmental, Biodiversity causes
- 3) CHAMPION an action plan

Earthwatch, Gloucestershire Green Business Club and the Gloucestershire Biodiversity Partnership. For more details contact James Byrne, Gloucestershire Biodiversity Project Manager, Gloucestershire Biodiversity Partnership, Church House, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3EU, Phone: 01453 791576, [JamesB@gloswild.cix.co.uk](mailto:JamesB@gloswild.cix.co.uk)

## Cheltenham One World Week

is organising a walk on the 19 October from Cheltenham to Bishop Cleeve. Start at 2pm; tea and drinks at the Bishop Cleeve Methodist Church, followed by One World Week Service at 5:30 pm. Speaker at the service will be Rev. Agnes Mukandori from Rwanda. Walkers will be ferried back to cars in Cheltenham. For more details please call Rev. Hazel Day on 01242 260341.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October there will be a Celebration. "Moving Stories" at St. Mark's Methodist Church, Gloucester Road 7pm onwards. Speaker: Naboth Machoba. Stalls, displays and snacks. All welcome!

This newsletter has been printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper material.

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

**A questionnaire designed to find out people’s priorities and concerns for the local environment was circulated throughout Gloucestershire during February 2003.**

**The questionnaires were sent to Vision 21 Association Members, Gloucestershire Organisations in the EDGE Magazine and Parish, District, Borough and County Councils.**

**Here are the conclusions drawn from the 40 questionnaires returned by May 2003.**

**Overall, the results of the questionnaires are very encouraging. Energy and water saving measures are frequently used and recycling of household waste is relatively high. The low subscription to green energy supplies and low recycling of plastics and cardboard are recognised as a concern by respondents in their desire for further information on both these issues.**

**(We will follow up your concerns and endeavour to find suitable contacts in future editions of 21 Today)**

Increased traffic was given as the main reason for the declining quality of life in Gloucestershire. However the majority of respondents travelled by car to work and/or school. Although some have no choice because this the use of the car is essential for their job or the public transport is inadequate, unless individuals make a concerted effort to change their habits the quality of Gloucestershire will continue to decline.

Nevertheless the Council has a key role to play. The questionnaire results highlight that in order to reduce the use of the car, public transport must be made cheaper, quicker and more convenient and more measures should be taken to encourage cycling, in particular off-road cycle lanes. Furthermore respondents believed that local authorities should tackle waste problems through reducing packaging and increased recycling schemes rather than finding new landfill sites.

To conclude, the findings show that a significant majority of the respondents are taking significant steps in the road to creating a more sustainable Gloucestershire. However, it should be noted that those participating are more likely to be green-minded and community active. Therefore the results of the questionnaire should not be considered representative of Gloucestershire as a whole.

(If any of you would like a full copy of the survey results please contact the Vision 21 Office on 01242 224321)

We would like thank Nicola Gregg, Vision 21 volunteer for analysing the results of the survey. Thanks Nicola!

### **The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a report drawing on eight case studies of Local Agenda 21.**

*Local Agenda 21 - Community Planning and Neighbourhood Renewal*, considers what lessons could be transferred from local authorities’ past experience with LA21 and their new duty to produce Community Strategies.

**Read it at [www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/583.asp](http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/583.asp)**

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### Greening Up Gloucester!

Over the last few months we have begun to establish a Green Party in Gloucester. We are thinking of organising a Green Fayre at Brunswick Garden end March/early April 2004.

Would you be interested in taking part? Do you know others who may be interested? Do you have any recommendations?

There has been little 'Green' activity in Gloucester and all such initiatives need as much promotion as possible in the city.

**Bryan Meloy**  
**Local Contact**  
**Gloucester Green Party 01452**  
**531895**

### Garden wildlife CD

A new computer CD produced by English nature and published by the Plant Press is packed with help and advice on wildlife- friendly gardening, plus stunning wildlife pictures. "Gardening with wildlife in mind" is a PC CD-rom available from The Plant Press, 10 Market Street, Lewes, BN7 2NB at 9.99 plus £ 1.50 p&p or from major computer stores.

More than 80 popular garden pest and weed control products are to be outlawed by the 24 July and will have to be disposed of by local authorities. From Christmas the ban extends to gardeners who have the chemicals stored in the shed.

(The Guardian 8<sup>th</sup> July 2003)

### WHO'S WHO —The V21 Association

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Vision 21publications

v21stroud@onetel.net.uk

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

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**Forest of Dean:** Alastair Chapman  
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**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 :**

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01242-224321

Graham Stanley: 01453-766882

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

##### **Cheltenham Worker:**

Chris Hickey 01242-512334

##### **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