



WAY AHEAD BEARS FRUIT

There was a distinct flavour of apples in Derrington at the end of 2009. In November Stafford Borough Council along with the Derrington Way Ahead project won a national Green Apple Award for their work to inspire the village towards becoming a low carbon community. The group surpassed almost 180 other local authority projects to come third in one of the most prestigious honours for environmental schemes in the UK and internationally. The awards committee said the project was at the forefront of community activity on tackling climate change when the bronze apple was presented at the Houses of Parliament.



Shortly after receiving the prestigious prize an assortment of apple trees arrived in the village as part of Derrington Way Ahead's campaign to reduce food miles. 40 trees were adopted by villagers to plant and tend whilst an orchard was also planted

at the local school, Cooper Perry Primary in Seighford - and the tree planting boosted the BBC's Tree O'clock world record attempt too.

Derrington's low carbon future continues to look rosy too with plans to celebrate the groups first birthday and new bids for funding and Fairtrade Village status. The village hall and houses also continue to get improved insulation and other energy saving measures installed as a result of energy audits carried out by Beat the Cold. To find out more visit www.derringtonvillagehall.btik.com

RE:THINK 2

Capital grants of up to £35,000 are to be made available to rural small and medium sized businesses, including farms. The RE:think Energy capital grant scheme can cover 50% of the costs of renewable energy installations and will make significant carbon and cost savings within local businesses. Expressions of interest for energy audits are now being called for.

Contact Pat Pimlott, Re:think Energy
T: 01785 277253 www.rethinkenergy.co.uk

CYCLE STAFFORD

A new group has been formed to support and campaign for cyclists in the Stafford area. Cycle Stafford has brought together members of the previously council run Cycling Working Group, Back-2-Bikes supporters and staff, Sustrans volunteers and other local cyclists. The group aims to campaign for better facilities for cyclists and improved understanding by other road users. Cycle Stafford also intends to increase cycling locally and is planning a series of shorter community bike rides in the new year.

For more information visit
www.cyclestafford.org.uk



Contact us:
T: 01785 619804
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www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd



THE BIG SWAP

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2010

Stafford Borough Council will again be supporting Fairtrade Fortnight this year, which runs from 22 February to 7 March. This year's theme is 'The Big Swap' and Fairtrade groups across the country will be asking a million and one people to join them in swapping their usual stuff for Fairtrade. You could start with your morning cuppa or an evening glass of wine - there are now thousands of products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Last year the council was proud to support the successful bid by Stafford Area Action for Fairtrade to become a Fairtrade Borough. That support continues this year with a new version of the Stafford

Area Fairtrade Guide due to be launched during Fairtrade Fortnight.

We are also hoping that the borough will be visited by a Fairtrade producer from Ghana to help promote all the local schools, churches, businesses and shops that will be putting on events through the fortnight too.

For up to date listings of local events and information visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/fairtrade

LAST CHANCE TO COMMENT

The council's consultation on the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan is drawing to a close on 15 January. The strategy guides work within the council to combat climate change, adapt to its inevitable results and implement more sustainable practices. To have your say follow the links from www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sd or contact Karen Davies T: 01785 619408



Contact us:
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WHAT'S ON

January

Wednesday 6th 7:30pm
Sustainability Matters Meeting
County Staff Club

Thursday 7th 6pm
Stafford Area Action for Fairtrade meeting, Lucy Shotton Room, SBC

Sunday 17th 10am to 1pm
Astonfields Winter Work Party
Astonfields Balancing Lakes LNR

Sunday 17th 10am
Stafford Sustrans Work Party, Isabel Trail

Tuesday 19th 7:15pm
Derrington Way Ahead meeting
Derrington Village Hall

Tuesday 19th 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Cycle Stafford Meeting
Royal British Legion, Eastgate St, Stafford

Thursday 28th 4:15pm
Eco-Schools Network Meeting
Weston Rd High School

February

Thursday 4th 6pm
Stafford Area Action for Fairtrade meeting, Lucy Shotton Room, SBC

Sunday 17th 10am
Ferndown Winter Bird Walk,
Ferndown LNR

Sunday 21st 10am to 2pm
Astonfields Winter Work Party
Astonfields Balancing Lakes LNR

22 February to 7 March
Fairtrade Fortnight - look out for events at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/fairtrade