

During this past year ACC has continued to hold monthly open meetings attracting between 15 and 35 people, usually with a 'How to.. theme'. Topics have included hearing from local school environmental projects, meeting local energy needs, obtaining good food for everyone forever, exploring the real costs of energy, gardener's question time, getting ideas to make our voices heard (ideas from friends of the Earth and Greenpeace local groups), finding out how to buy local organic food on our doorstep. A joint meeting was held with Abingdon Peace Group to hear about the COP 17 Climate Change Talks in Durban. During this year we have also been represented at two Fun in the Parks events in the Abbey Meadows. Our contacts list now includes 269 people.

ACC has supported the establishment of Cultivate, a community benefit society growing and selling organic produce locally, by investing in a share in the company, by publicising the inauguration of the Veg Van at the June Local Excellence Market and establishing a weekly stopping point for the Veg Van in Abingdon. We have also purchased more apple pressing equipment for community use as throughout Autumn 2011 the existing kit shared with CAGs county-wide, proved to be very popular. Apple pressing was the central feature of a very successful Apple Day event held in conjunction with South Abingdon Children's Centre and Caldecott Primary School during October. Organised by the very active ACC Food Group, which had developed cookery sessions for parents at the centre, planning is underway for another similar event in 2012.

The Food group has also been instrumental in planning and staffing the ACC presence in the Local Excellence Markets in the Market Place. Tea Time has also been started with participants encouraged to take surplus ingredients, etc. to contribute to a communal cooking session and eating. The Group is also supporting Caldecott School in its project to create a Forest Classroom in the school grounds. Work with schools elsewhere has resulted in a secondary school being helped to develop a raised bed vegetable garden with access for disabled pupils.

Energy issues have been explored practically through the use in the late Autumn of a thermal imaging camera to help householders discover about heat loss in their homes. This was a first attempt at such a venture and lessons learned will be useful for the next time we have use of the camera. Abingdon Hydro achieved a major hurdle recently in obtaining a licence from the Environment Agency which will enable use of the water of the Thames in the generating plant and has benefited from the help from student volunteers in exploring the market for a share issuer to fund the project proper.

The activities of ACC community action group have been organised through monthly meetings of a core group of the membership and a monthly Green drinks evening has been established on the second Wednesday of each month. The core group has instigated the development of a website for ACC which should be active early in the coming ACC year.

Officers for the year 2011-2012:

Co – chairs: Richard Howard, Cliff Marshall

Treasurer: Susie Howard

Secretary: Sally Reynolds