

## **WARR PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

**ISSUE 6**

**April 2005**

**The WARR Partnership is responsible for delivering the EU Leader+ programme across rural Rother and thirteen parishes of Wealden.**

### **WARR Partnership**

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## **2004 - FULL SPEND ACHIEVED!**

**THE WARR PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVED FULL SPEND IN 2004 — THE ONLY LOCAL ACTION GROUP IN THE SOUTH EAST TO DO SO! WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL PROJECT LEADERS AND THEIR TEAMS FOR THE HARD WORK AND ENTHUSIASM WHICH HELPED MAKE THIS ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE.**

The WARR Partnership's East Sussex Leader+ Programme has now been established for over 3 years. To date, a total of 29 projects have been approved - of which 10 have already been successfully completed - with yet more under development. We constantly seek new, innovative projects that follow the chosen Leader+ themes and would be happy to discuss any ideas you might have.

As at the end of 2004, Leader+ grant aid (made up of funding from the EU, Defra and SEEDA) totalling nearly one million pounds has been paid out via the WARR Partnership. The full significance of this funding becomes clearer when you combine it with the private/public match element, which added almost a further £1.5 million. This money has been used to fund a wide-ranging portfolio of projects, which have together provided enormous community, economic and environmental benefits for the WARR area.

Our full spend achievement has made us eligible to bid for a further Leader+ pot, to be spent during 2005/2006 - the result of this request will not be known until the end of April. Under current EU guidance, although the Leader+ programme continues until the end of 2008, all Offer Letters must be issued by the end of 2006. We are therefore already looking out for projects which will take us through to the end of the programme.

We are also on target to achieve the majority of the Outputs and Results set out in our Development Plan, but please see Page 4 of this Newsletter for details of those which remain outstanding.

The delivery of projects which demonstrate trans-regional or trans-national co-operation is an integral part of the Leader+ programme and we have a further £100,000 ring fenced for projects able to meet these criteria. Our first trans-regional project, the Marshlink Line, (run in conjunction with the Mid-Kent Leader+ group) commenced in October 2004. For more details about this project, please see our website [www.warrpartnership.org.uk](http://www.warrpartnership.org.uk). For examples of other projects where partners are being sought, please see page 3 of this Newsletter. Co-operation can be interpreted in many forms so, if you have a project idea which would benefit from co-operation with another region, please come and talk to us.

**THIS IS A ROLLING PROGRAMME AND FUNDING IS NOW BEING ALLOCATED FOR THE REMAINING YEARS. IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING AND INNOVATIVE PROJECT IN MIND, PLEASE CONTACT THE WARR PARTNERSHIP TEAM NOW TO SECURE YOUR GRANT.**

## LEADER+ WORKSHOP

A Leader+ Workshop, held on 28th September at Leeford Place Hotel near Battle, was well attended by representatives of both active projects and those under development. This provided a networking opportunity for existing and potential project leaders to discuss like-minded projects and draw on each other's experiences. A lively quiz started the proceedings and broke the ice (limited edition WARR mugs to the winners!). This highlighted any gaps in the knowledge of individual representatives and was followed by a training session on the completion of quarterly claim forms and progress reports.



Robert Fry, our independent appraiser, then outlined the level of information he requires to successfully appraise new projects.

The rest of the morning was given over to brainstorming new project ideas. Delegates were split into four groups and allocated one of the following themes: Tourism, Environmental Knowledge & Skills, Environmental & Cultural Resources and Increase in Economic Activity. The ensuing discussions provided a valuable insight into potential gaps in local services and facilities, which Leader+ funding might be used to plug if a suitable lead organisation and match funding could be identified.



Quiz winners!



## NEW LEADER+ PROJECTS

Since the last Newsletter the following new projects have been approved:



### Young People's Personal Development Programme -

A series of personal development courses for young people, who would not normally be able to afford the experience, will be

carried out at the Bowles Outdoor Centre. Challenging activities will be used to develop self-confidence, responsibility and the ability to work effectively with others.



### Wetlands for Wildlife

- The principal aim is to improve sustainable land use,

whilst improving farm incomes and enhancing the local environment. A secondary aim is to protect and restore populations of the nationally endangered water vole (in real danger of extinction in Sussex) and to encourage the return and breeding of the otter.



### Windmill Hill Windmill -

The base of the Grade II listed Windmill will be refurbished and equipped as an Interpretation Centre to educate and inform visitors on the history of our industrial heritage. Main audience will be school parties, for whom education packs focussing on Key Stage 2 and 3 will be made available.

# TRANS-REGIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL CO-OPERATION

BELOW ARE SOME PROJECT IDEAS FROM GROUPS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS IN THE UK OR EU. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING NOT ONLY FROM THOSE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THESE PARTICULAR PROJECTS, BUT ALSO FROM THOSE WHO HAVE OTHER POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR TRANS-NATIONAL AND TRANS-REGIONAL WORKING. WE HOPE THE EXAMPLES BELOW WILL INSPIRE YOU TO COME FORWARD WITH YOUR OWN IDEAS OR TO BUILD ON EXISTING ONES.

1. **Project title:** Ruby Country Trail Network

**Organisation:** North West Devon Leader+ group

A network of trails connecting local businesses that can be travelled by horse, cycle or foot. This route will be marketed nationally and internationally to promote sustainable tourism in the area. Using project partners from another Leader+ area we would like to promote trails projects and develop the potential training, enterprise and marketing opportunities within this framework. There are several trails projects in the South West area of England that could be incorporated into a major marketing and joint reservation project.

2. **Project title:** Business Growth Challenge

**Organisation:** IN TO BIZ Ltd, Isle of Wight

A 12 month business and personal development programme for owner managers who have the potential to take on staff and take their business through a period of growth. The project 'matches' 12 small businesses in the tourism/service/local produce sectors. Each business undergoes a health check to act as a marker at the start of the programme. Each business shares ideas and best practice with its counterpart via twinning visits and through a project intranet.

3. **Project title:** Farming Families Portfolio

**Organisation:** Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership & In to Biz Ltd

A pilot scheme to provide an up to date accessible source of family and farming support for those living and working in the rural areas. By producing a portfolio of information as a paper based document and/or electronically via website based information, it will provide one place to look for and understand what may be available in the local and national framework of support. We believe that it may assist farming families to access support of which they had no previous knowledge. The development of the project could involve working alongside other AONB/Leader+ areas to provide the service to their local community.

4. **Project title:** To be decided

**Organisation:** Laois LEADER Rural Development Company Limited, Republic of Ireland

Laois LEADER would like to identify other local craft marketing groups, which would be interested in developing and implementing a joint marketing strategy. The groups would also like to export Laois Craft products to partner areas and would like to develop a Procedures Manual, to enable members to do this in an efficient and cost effective manner.

5. **Project title:** Sustainable Refurbishment project

**Organisation:** GLASU Greener Homes and Buildings, Wales

Sustainable refurbishment of a public building in Powys to demonstrate techniques and technology to consumers and professionals. Eco foot printing together with detailed analysis of costing made available to demonstrate to public and professionals the practical possibilities. This information would be available for interpretation during and after the building phase. Supply chain issues would be examined in this pathfinder project and also analysis of required skills availability. Action carried out to develop both the supply chain and skills needs of the sector.

## PRIORITY OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

In order to achieve the WARR Partnership's outstanding programme targets, we particularly need projects which will deliver the following:

- ▶ Help to increase the number, diversity and sustainability of small businesses and visitor enterprises; create and/or safeguard jobs
- ▶ Assist businesses producing products derived from local materials with a link to the locality; establish new market outlets for such products and create or safeguard jobs in businesses producing them
- ▶ Support sustainable tourism based on local distinctiveness; provide tourism information facilities; support cultural/heritage events
- ▶ Improve environmental knowledge and skills of people living in rural areas or of people who visit them; provide advice or assistance on environmental knowledge and skills to businesses or community groups
- ▶ Provide environmental advice to businesses and/or carry out environmental audits
- ▶ Engage people in local consultation events in order to increase the effectiveness of local leadership and partner organisations in addressing local needs

## MEET THE BOARD

A regular feature in which we introduce the Partners



**Margaret Leicester** represents the Battle Partnership

Margaret is relatively local, having grown up in Bexhill. Further education took her to London to college where she stayed and worked in the city for a number of years.

When she returned south she chose to live in Battle, and it was having a business and becoming an active member of the Chamber of Commerce that launched her into public life in the town. She was later chosen to represent the Chamber on the Battle Partnership Board of which she is now the current chairman. Eighteen months ago she joined the Warr Partnership Board. She has found this a valuable experience, giving insight into the regeneration needs of a greater rural area, and how these needs are being met.

Margaret likes to go on holidays with a difference and enjoys walking, especially by the sea. She also likes to sew and cook when she has time.



**Hamish Monro** represents Country Land & Business Association

Born in New Zealand, Hamish was brought up in England. After Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester he farmed in New Zealand before returning to England and buying a small farm in East Sussex in 1983. Diversification into light industrial led to the creation of Wheel Farm Business Park - and economic survival !

He has been actively involved in Conservation and Rural Regeneration for over 20 years through FWAG, CLA, Parish Council and the East Sussex Economic Partnership as well as WARR.

Married with two teenage children his other interests are driving, and racing, his vintage car and flying vintage Tiger Moths.

Is this newsletter of interest to you and your organisation? Please let us know what you think and what subjects you would like us to cover in future issues.

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