

# RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland)

12th January 2009



## Best Village Competition 2009

Enter this year's  
competition

Entries are welcome from every village in the two counties, with a population of 10,000 and under.

**The deadline for entries is Monday April 6th 2009.**

Entries are invited from any organisation within a village, but ideally should be supported by the parish council.

There are five revised categories for the 2009 competition, with cash prizes on offer to the category winners, as well as an attractive certificate and 'Best Village' post to be erected in the centre of the village for the following twelve months.

The five categories are:

- [1] Community
- [2] Business
- [3] Sustainability
- [4] Communications
- [5] Village Hall (or Community Building)

Full information and application forms will be available on our web site from next week.

Further advice on entering the 2009 Leicestershire & Rutland Best Village Competition can be obtained from the convenor – Ken Hunnybun (0116 238 8354; ajmskh@aol.com).

## Burbage Play area success



The Meadows Community Group in Burbage successfully raised £59,500 to build a children's play area on Woodland Avenue recreation ground. Help was given initially by the Rural Community Council's Funding Information Officer, Patrick Shore and an award of £30,000 was granted by the Big Lottery to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The remainder of the money was secured by various grant applications and local fundraising generating over £2000.

The play area is now being well used and is popular with local youngsters. An official opening will take place in the Spring of 2009. The next phase is to build a teenage multi use ball court. The bulk of the money will come from developer funds from a nearby housing development, but the Group is seeking £10,000 from other funds. So far over £1,000 has been raised from a Christmas raffle. The Group wishes to thank local pubs, shop keepers and the organisers of Burbage Farmers' Market for their support.

[www.ruralcc.org.uk](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk)

Please email the Editor, Bridget Masters, with any news items: [bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk)

## **Blaby Farmers' Market serves up a festive treat**

The Festive Farmers' Market in Blaby on 20th December was once again brimming with producers offering a sumptuous selection of delicious foods to buy. Shoppers were able to make their selections of tasty fresh local produce just in time for Christmas and get into the festive mood by listening to Carol Singing as they shopped.

A team of young singers from the local area, The Phoenix Youth Chorale based in Countesthorpe added extra festive flavour to the market with their performance of Carol Singing.

The producers' stalls were trimmed up for Christmas, with prizes awarded for the most festive stall and the most festive costume. Sarah Richardson of "Time for Cupcakes" was presented with a voucher covering the stall cost for having the best dressed stall and Peter Efemey of Paul's Bakery won a bottle of Chevelswarde local wine for his festive costume.

Chairman of Blaby District Council Councillor Mrs Jo Fox commented:

"The market attracted a lot of visitors into the Town Centre and there was certainly a festive atmosphere to get all the shoppers in the mood for Christmas. The sound of children's voices singing really lifts your heart. I'd like to thank all of the producers who turn out regularly, in all weathers and for the customers who support Blaby Farmers' Market and help to make it the success that it is."



***Shoppers enjoyed the performance by the Phoenix Youth Chorale***

***Organisers, Blaby District Council and partners Leicestershire Food Links are planning the first market of 2009 for Saturday January 24.***

## **Women of Worth Awards - deadline date approaches**

The East Midlands Women of Worth (WoW) Awards 2009 are now open for nominations. The aim of the WoW Awards is to find the East Midlands' outstanding female entrepreneurs. There are three award categories: Business Woman of the Year; Best Young Business of the Year and Most Innovative Business.

The closing date for entries is Monday 26th January. Application forms and the full criteria for entry can be found on the emda website at [www.emda.org.uk/wie](http://www.emda.org.uk/wie)

## Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence



A 25-foot Ad Van has been wheeled around Harborough and Lutterworth to help raise awareness about domestic violence. The eye-catching large screen which pictures the survivor of domestic abuse, is designed to encourage more people to report crimes of this nature.

The Harborough community safety team, who organised the Ad Van, want more people to contact domestic violence agencies.

Inspector Jon Brown, of the south area community safety team of Leicestershire Constabulary said:

“If this campaign encourages just one person in an abusive relationship to seek help then it will be worth it.

Sadly we know from experience that many survivors of domestic abuse can suffer for many years before talking to someone about it, perhaps because they are unsure of what help is out there.

“We hope that this campaign highlights the good work that is going on in the area to support survivors of domestic abuse, and reassures victims who are afraid to come forward that there are many different people they can speak to in complete confidence.”

South area officers will also be raising awareness of domestic violence and the support that is available with displays in shopping centres, community centres and other busy public places.

The Ad Van has a helpline number to encourage people who want to seek help to call and speak in complete confidence to a domestic violence supporter.

### Relevant domestic violence helpline numbers

- For the Women’s Aid confidential helpline dial 0116 242 6440.

- Male sufferers of domestic violence can call the National Centre for Domestic Violence on 0870 922 0704.

- For a UK-wide support service offered to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse contact Broken Rainbow on 08452 604 460.

## Know your energy consumption

Visit your local library today to take advantage of a free one week loan of a wireless energy monitor. By using a device, energy bills can be considerably reduced by taking simple steps to improve energy efficiency in the home up to £340 per year. The Environmental Action Team from Leicestershire County Council has joined forces with all Libraries to set up this new scheme to help conserve energy.

These monitors can be borrowed for one week at a time, absolutely free.

### Invitation – Planning the future of Harborough

Harborough District Council is in the process of preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF). This document will outline where development can take place, the types of development that can occur, and will take into account the strategies and plans of other organisations and groups in the Harborough area. Two workshops have been arranged to explore the issues facing the District and the options for addressing them:

**Thursday January 28th, 6pm-8.30pm at Belgrave Memorial Hall, Church Street, North Kilworth. LE16 7AG**

**Wednesday February 4th, 6pm – 8.30pm at 8 Main Street, Medbourne Old School Village Hall, Medbourne. LE16 8DT**

Contact Kirsten Hulstein by January 15 on 020 7357 6606 or email [kirsten.hulstein@localdialogue.com](mailto:kirsten.hulstein@localdialogue.com).

### Grassroots Grants Additional Deadline for County Groups

VAL is holding an additional Grassroots Grants panel for projects working in the county.

If you are a group working in the county and would like to apply for funding please ensure that your application is submitted to VAL by **9th February 2009**. Your application will receive an outcome by the end of February 2009.

If you have any queries related to Grassroots Grants or require support please do not hesitate to contact Angela Riley on 0116 257 5052 or email [angela@voluntaryactionleicester.org.uk](mailto:angela@voluntaryactionleicester.org.uk)

### Mapping Local Food Webs in the Birstall area of Leicester

- Are you interested in promoting local food in your town?
- Do you want to meet the people who produce and sell your local food?
- Would you like to learn new skills and get to know new people?

The Mapping Local Food Webs project will work with local people to research the benefits local food producers, suppliers and retailers bring to the Birstall area.

If you'd like to find out more about the project, there is a drop in session between 3pm and 8pm on **Monday 26 January 2009** at Birstall Golf Club, Station Road, Birstall. Leicester LE4 3BB. There will be a short 15min presentation on the hour. All welcome, Local refreshments provided.

If you would like more information, or want to be involved but can't make the meeting, please contact: David Rose East Midlands Regional Coordinator. Tel: 07855252151, email: [davidr@cpre.org.uk](mailto:davidr@cpre.org.uk)



### Crime Mapping launched

Residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland now have access to the latest local crime information via the Leicestershire Constabulary's website at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk).

An interactive map provides an opportunity for you to see where crime has happened; make comparisons with other areas and learn how crime is being tackled by your neighbourhood policing team.

Visitors to the website can enter a post-code and be taken directly to the ward it relates to.