RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

9th February 2009

Become a Friend of the RCC

***Special offcer* Join by the end of February for the reduced rate of £15 (Normal fee £17.50)**

The Rural Community Council (RCC) is continuing with the very successful 'Friends of the RCC' scheme, which last year replaced the individual RCC membership scheme.

The benefits are as follows:

- 4 issues of Village Voice
- IRCC Diary of Village Events
- RCC Weekly e-bulletin
- 10 % Discount on RCC events
- Invitation to AGM RCC
- Invitatioon to seminars
- Entitlement to stand as a trustee
- Opening the door to a range of possible volunteering opportunities in support of the RCC

A welcome is offered to anyone who wishes to give their time or talents, expertise or interest towards furthering the work of the Rural Community Council.

We value your support in promoting the RCC and raising awareness of our work in rural communities in Leicestershire and Rutland.

A copy of the application form is included as an attachement with this week's newsletter or download a form at www.ruralcc.org.uk/membership.html

Supporting local food

The Leicester Mercury has launched a campaign to encourage people to shop local and to help save jobs. This is especially important at a time when traders are struggling with both the recession and fierce competition from the large supermarkets.

Martin Traynor, managing director of Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, said that if people changed the way they shopped it would save livelihoods.

He said: "If people shop locally as much as they can it will most certainly save jobs in the county and help our local businesses to grow and prosper.

"We should be trying encourage all large companies and their colleagues in the public sector to buy from Leicestershire businesses."

Over the coming weeks, the Mercury plans to publish readers' recommendations. If you know of a fantastic farm shop, top tailor, great greengrocer or marvellous manufacturer in Leicestershire then send your recommendations to the Leicester Mercury by e-mailing: newsdesk@leicestermercury.co.uk

Barrow Panto Group performs "Aladdin"
Fri 6th and Sat 7th March

"You don't need any introduction to the story of this traditional pantomime. It's got all the "must have" ingredients of a good panto: a romantic plot, soaring songs, side-splitting jokes and buckets of audience participation are all jam-packed into our two hour show" says director, Ginnie Willcocks.

Barrow is about to have its annual treat: the Panto Group will perform "Aladdin" on Fri 6th and Saturday 7th March at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow. Evening performances start at 7pm and there is a 2pm matinee on Saturday.

Tickets, costing £6 and £4 (concessions) are available from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow, the cast or by phoning 07718153117 or emailing rodgers_david@hotmail.com

Why not come in a party for the extra fun of it! Please notify in advance so that suitable group seating can be planned.

East Midlands' greenest station now open

East Midlands' newest and greenest rail station, East Midlands Parkway, is now open.

The multi million pound station, owned by Network Rail and managed by East Midlands Trains, will give hundreds of thousands of people across the East Midlands easier and better access to train services.

The station aims to get people off the M1, out of their cars, and on to trains.

East Midlands Parkway is situated just off the A453 at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, 1 mile from the M1. It comprises of four platforms, step free access, a station building with ticket office and 850 car parking spaces.

It will be served by over 100 East Midlands Trains services per day, with trains to and from London every 15-20 minutes at peak times.

The journey time to London will be around 1 hour and 30 minutes. It will serve as a park and ride station for Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, reducing car use into the major cities and taking traffic off the M1.

Peak time departures to London; 0701, 0725, 0734, 0801, 0832, 0839. Peak time departures from London St. Pancras to East Midlands Parkway; 1615, 1625, 1700, 1715, 1730, 1745, 1815. Throughout the rest of the day there are at least two departures every hour to and from London.

Community Forums

There are 27 Community Forums, covering the whole of Leicestershire.

The forums play an important role in ensuring that services provided in a particular area match the needs and wants of the local community.

A Community Forum meeting gives you the opportunity to discuss local services with your County, District and Parish Councillors and representatives from other agencies such as the Health Service and the Police.

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings and have their say about how local services can be improved.

Visit http://www.leicestershireforums.org/ to find your nearest forum and for information on dates of meetings and how to raise issues.

Half term offers at Snibston

Pre book your Big Value Snibston ticket now on 01530 278 444 and save between 25 - 30% off normal admission prices for this February Half Term, valid from the 14th – 22nd February 2009.

A full day of entertainment for all the family, all in one place.

For just £10 per adult, £7.50 per child and £30 for a family of four you can discover the museum galleries, play in the big sand pit, be amazed by real experiences of an ex miner, take a trip on Pitt the colliery engine, or a walk in the country park before sitting back to be entertained in the unique century theatre.

With something for everyone, Snibston is a great value day out for all the family and not just at February Half Term. Snibston has an action packed year of exhibitions, activities and events with films, shows, music and comedy at the Century Theatre.

Snibston's major events of the year to look out for include; The Transport Festival on the 16th & 17th May, Miners Gala on the 12th September and Fireworks on the 7th November.

Must see exhibitions include The Sporting A –Z, The Fashion Alphabet, which runs until the 8th November, A Sense of Achievement, 5th February – 15th March, King Edward V11 College Annual Exhibition, 21st March – 19th April, Wildlife Photographer of the Year, 9th May – 14th June and Anne Frank, 2nd June – 1st July 2009.

For further details please contact the sales and enquiries team on 01530 278 444, email Snibston@leics.gov.uk or visit the website at www.snibston.com

Centre Stage is back in Barrow this Spring with "River's Up"

The play comes to Humphrey Perkins Community Centre (as long as the Soar isn't flooded!) on Friday March 27th starting at 7.30pm.

As usual, the generosity of the various councils, including Charnwood, means that tickets for this professional production are only £7.00 (£8.00 on the door) or £5.00 (£6.00 on the door) for concessions. Tickets are available from the Paper Shop and from 07718153117.

The show is recommended for young people of 14+ and family tickets are available on request.Because the staging will be "in the round", disabled access will be particularly easy and the venue has a full range of facilities for disabled people. Please let them know if you need a T loop.

Home security campaign launched

Jacqui Smith,The Home Secretary has just launched a £1.6m crime prevention advertising campaign and a new website which aims to help people check their home security.

She stated that it is not "inevitable" that crime will rise during the recession.

"I don't think there is anything inevitable about saying because we have a recession burglary needs to rise," she told BBC Breakfast.

"In order to make sure that doesn't happen we are taking action. Today we are bringing together the people who know how to stop burglary."

Smith pointed to figures showing there are 890,000 fewer burglaries now than in 1997. However, a leaked Home Office memo last year saw prime minister Gordon Brown being warned of a likely increase in "acquisitive" crimes such burglary following the economic downturn.

Green the theme on Valentine's Day

Thinking of buying chocolates for your loved one?
Avoid chocoates that aren't Fairtrade or organic

If you intend to give flowers:
Try to find locally grown ones or a locally grown plant. Oh, and don't forget to compost them when they are wilted.

The way to a person's heart is through their stomach.
Nothing says "I love you" like a delicious meal. If you like to cook, visit your local farmers' market to buy some organic veggies or meat to base your meal around.

Not only will the food be fresh and delicious, it will also be pesticide-free and you'll be supporting local farmers who treat the land right.