

RCC Weekly Bulletin

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



23rd February 2009

National Village Hall Survey 2009

ACRE carried out two national surveys in 1988 and 1998 of village and church halls. By now all village and church halls on our database should have received the 2009 survey forms. We would urge you to complete and return the survey form in the pre paid envelope provided, direct to ACRE.

It is extremely important that ACRE receives your survey form because the information collected enables a national picture of the state of village and church halls and supports their aims to:

- Bring to national attention the importance of village halls, to help with recruitment of volunteers, fundraising and other support
- Help achieve appropriate legislation e.g. improvement to the Licensing Act 2003
- Inform Government of the impact of policy changes on community buildings
- Make the case to funders for long term capital grant aid schemes
- Enable creation of county based websites, so halls can reach potential hirers

If you prefer you can complete the form online, as the questionnaire is available at www.acre.org.uk

Public Meeting of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board



Thursday 19th March
Council Chamber at County Hall, Glenfield.
18:00 until 19:00.

A buffet tea will be served from 17:30

At the meeting, attendees will:

- hear presentations with a spotlight on alcohol and disorder
- have the opportunity to feedback to the board on how it engages with the public
- take part in a Question & Answer session
- receive a free Community Safety Pack
- have the opportunity to enter a competition to win a half day "Patrol for Two"
- explore the Community Safety exhibition

For further information, please contact John Fisher on 0116 305 6015 or email jofisher@leics.gov.uk.

www.ruralcc.org.uk

Please email the Editor, Bridget Masters, with any news items: bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk

Beacon site for renewable energy launched

A national fire and security company, FCF plc, has launched its first ever EMU (Environmentally Managed Unit) in a restored Loughborough farm.

The EMU at the renowned Beacon Energy site is championing the use of renewable energy systems and low carbon operational practices as the blueprint for an expansion strategy that aims to deliver FCF's vision of sustainability, through a major investment plan over the next five years.

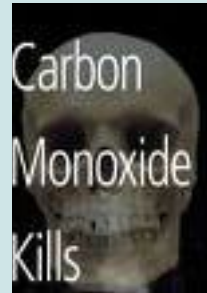
Situated amidst rural Leicestershire countryside, the EMU site's energy consumption is just 45% of the energy that a typical office building requires – and is completely self-sufficient in terms of its power generation, water supply and ecological sanitation.

Electricity is supplied by a photovoltaic roof system covering a solar walkway and from wind turbines at nearby West Beacon Farm. The building is heated via a condensing air heater, which is 95% efficient, while solar powered air conditioning and passive ventilation systems keep the building cool during summer.

In conjunction with the Energy Savings Trust, FCF is also reviewing its current fleet management structure in order to minimise the number of carbon miles used to service its customers.

Using the Loughborough EMU as a model for future growth, FCF is now actively seeking disused farm buildings around the UK in which to situate further EMUs, which are central to its plans for sustainable business development. FCF has a strategic vision of 125 EMU's in the next five years; one for every key postcode area in the UK.

GASSING ABOUT - THE SILENT KILLER



Where gas appliances and flues have not been properly installed or maintained gas does not burn properly and excess carbon monoxide is produced which is poisonous. We all know that carbon monoxide poisoning can kill.

For the past 17 years Corgi have run a registration scheme for gas installers but this is changing on 1st April 2009. On that date anyone carrying out work on gas appliances or flues will need to be registered on the new Gas Safe Register to be held by the Health & Safety Executive. New identity cards will be issued following registration and as a gas consumer you should ask to see them.

Landlords' duties under current domestic gas safety requirements are unchanged. They must have an annual safety check made on any gas appliance they own and provide to their tenant, together with any flues and pipe work in their property. Records of the safety check are to be kept for a two year period and a copy needs to be issued to each existing tenant within 28 days of the check being completed and a copy must be issued to any new tenant before they move in.

You qualify as a Landlord under the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998 if you rent out a property under a lease of less than 7 years or under a licence so these regulations apply to you if you have a holiday home you rent out, you run a B and B or have an investment property available to rent.

SAVE MONEY & KEEP WARM

Rutland County Council is holding an event to help provide advice to residents about becoming more energy efficient.

The 'Save Money and Keep Warm' event aims to highlight various energy saving options to residents on Wednesday 25 February from 11am-3pm outside Tesco, South Street, Oakham.

Residents will be able to find out how households (owner occupiers) in Rutland can access Decent Homes Grants.

A range of advice will be available including; how to reduce energy usage and save money, how to reduce carbon emissions, and reducing the impact on the environment. Details about how the Council aims to lead Rutland in the reduction of our carbon emissions through the Carbon Management Programme will be available.

The Council is committed through the Sustainable Community Strategy for 'Rutland Together' to assist residents to improve energy efficiency and increase energy saving within their homes.

Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, Councillor Janine Rodger said: 'In the current economic climate, increasing energy saving measures within the home could help residents to reduce the cost of energy bills, and help reduce fuel poverty within Rutland. There will be lots of useful information on hand, so I would encourage residents to come and take a look at how they could reduce their carbon footprint, and their energy bills.'

Councillor Rodger added, "I would urge anybody with an interest in energy-saving to visit the information event. You can see what the Council is doing to tackle energy wastage, and also pick up some tips on how you can make a difference".

Local Projects benefit from Awards for All



In the latest round of the Big Lottery's Awards for All programme, more than £75,000 of lottery money has been shared between nine community groups in Leicestershire. The cash will be spent on a variety of projects including:

Stanley Opera in Hinckley will use an award of £8,494 to host an Opera Festival, which will run for 12 days and include concerts, lunchtime recitals, workshops and a masterclass for local students.

Fosse Way diving club in Hinckley will use an award of £9,795 to buy new equipment, enabling them to offer residents from the surrounding area dive training.

Ashby Concert Band in North West Leicestershire will use an award of £7,106 to provide new instruments, including kettle drums and a tuba, allowing members to participate more and extending the musical repertoire of the band.

Also in North West Leicestershire, Lockington and Hemington Village Hall will use their award of £10,000 to convert an existing store room into an accessible toilet, enabling the hall to be used by more groups.

Ashby Wolds Youth Centre will use an award of £10,000 to install a new fitted kitchen, with the aim of encouraging more young people into the centre and to enable the group to offer activities based around cooking and healthy living.

For a full list of grants received locally please visit <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/news-eastmidlands.html>

2009

PEOPLE'S AWARD FOR
DIGNITY
IN CARE

Do you know someone who has provided outstanding care?

Someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for you or a member of your family? Someone who has listened to your concerns, considered your unique needs or improved your experience of health or social care?

THEN WHY NOT NOMINATE THEM FOR A PEOPLE'S AWARD FOR DIGNITY IN CARE?

You can nominate an individual or a team of staff from health or social care. Make your nomination online at www.institute.nhs.uk/dignity2009 or request a nomination form from our freephone helpline – **0870 000 1100**.

The closing date for entries is 6 March 2009.



A category of the

Health and Social Care Awards

The Health and Social Care Awards are run by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in partnership with the Department of Health

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Broughton Astley Directory 2009

Broughton Astley Business Forum has produced and published a 70-page classified directory. This has been delivered free to every house and business in Broughton Astley, Dunton Bassett, Frolesworth, Leire, Ashby Magna and to some in Claybrooke.

Broughton Astley Business Forum was one of the successful outcomes from the RCC's Rural Centres Project which assisted Broughton Astley in carrying out a 'Healthcheck for Broughton Astley'. Initial set-up funding, admin support and encouraging motivation for the Business Forum was given by Chris Sewart, the project officer on behalf of the RCC back in 2007.

The next annual copy is planned to come out in November or December this year, with a few changes to make it look and feel even better. It is hoped it will become a "community bible" for Broughton Astley and surrounding smaller villages, particularly due to the 11 pages of community groups, sports clubs, etc.