

RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

2nd March 2009



RUTLAND FUNDING FAIR 1ST APRIL 2009

10am - 4pm

at The Gover Centre, Voluntary Action
Rutland, Barleythorpe Road
Rutland LE15 6QH

"The Funding Fair is aimed at all voluntary groups in Rutland that want to come along and find out more about what funding opportunities they can tap in to", said Nickie Philbin, Voluntary Action Rutland's new Mentoring Manager.

"We have worked with The Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) to help provide 15 key exhibitors for the day, with workshops from The Big Lottery, Lloyds TSB, Grass Roots, amongst others. These are the people who receive Rutland's funding bids and their workshops will be a fantastic opportunity to learn the difference between a funding bid that stands a chance of being successful and one that ends in the bin!" said Nickie

"These people are terrifically hard to get hold of so we are really proud that they have agreed to come to Rutland and give local people the benefit of their inside knowledge and expertise. We were slightly wary of holding an event on April Fools' Day, but decided to say that you would be a fool to miss it!"

If you would like to attend or need further details, please call 01572 722622 and ask for Nickie or Debbie, or email dhunt@varutland.co.uk

Rural Action Seminar 12th March 2009

The Sparkenhoe Suite,
Leicestershire County Council,
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA

The event begins at 7.00pm with a light buffet and displays available from 6.00pm.

An event for all rural dwellers.

This highly successful seminar is now in its eleventh year and this year, as usual, will be packed with useful information.

Presentations include:

- Energy Saving, and reducing CO2
- Recycling, Reuse and Waste Management
- Grassroots Grant Fund
- Vibrant Villages Grant Fund
- Good Neighbours Scheme

Places are still available but must be booked in advance.

Please contact Diana Cook at the Rural Community Council: Tel: 0116 2689706 or email: dcook@ruralcc.org.uk

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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

Asian shopkeepers sought for C4 documentary

A documentary production company is in the process of developing a social history idea for C4 about Asian communities settling into the UK.

It is looking at businesses and particularly shopkeepers as a way of seeing how Asian communities established themselves and have gone on to be a hugely influential part of UK culture. At present this is very much an idea in development, and as a part of the research they are interested in hearing from shopkeepers.

As well as looking for shops in cities, those that have grown into an empire, those that can tell us multi generational stories or those that are closing down, they are looking to speak to Asian families who set up their business in a very rural community.

They would like to hear about experiences of adapting to village life and integrating into a community further away from the hustle and bustle of towns and cities.

if you can help in any way then please contact Anju Passi, Assistant Producer for Minnow Films. Tel: 020 3051 5352 ext 75 or email anju@minnowfilms.co.uk

Traidcraft

Coffee Morning

19, Hollies Way, Thurnby

Saturday 7th March

10am- 12.30

To Celebrate

Fairtrade Fortnight

There will be a

Traidcraft Stall, Cake Stall & a

Bring & Buy

Entrance £1 to include

Drink & biscuit



Force4Change - a New Community Engagement Project.

Leicestershire leading charities for people with a physical or sensory impairment mosaic, Vista (Society for the Blind) and Action Deafness are developing a Social Care User Involvement and Engagement Forum. The forum is funded by Leicestershire County Council for the first year and will then be run by members of the community.

The project has been named Force4Change by its own members who represent many different aspects of disability needs. Over 50 disabled people are already actively involved in the forum, representing the 7 district council areas of leicestershire.

The overall aim of the project is twofold:

- Develop and support disabled people with physical and sensory impairments to have their voices heard on Adult Social Care policy and service development.
- Develop a user-led involvement and engagement forum run by disabled people themselves.

The project also aims to reach those people who do not currently take part in giving their views. As well as regular monthly meetings, the forum will reach as many disabled people as possible from all communities living in Leicestershire who use social care services or might use them through the newsletters of mosaic, Vista and Action Deafness, as well as through Force 4 Change's own newsletter and in February 2009 it will launch an online forum, working with Leicesterhire CareOn-Line's "Grapevine" chatroom.

Barbara Howard, Director of mosaic, said: "This is a real chance for disabled people across Leicestershire to make their voice heard and improve the way their social care is delivered."

For more information about Force4Change call Liz Harrison on 07525233863 e-mail force4change2008@yahoo.co.uk

Site, Staff, Stock and Survival Retailing in 2009

Wednesday 18th March, 5pm - 8pm
Salvation Army Centre,
Ladysmith Road, South Wigston

Thursday 19th March, 5pm - 8pm
Stephenson College, Coalville

Free buffet from 5pm with business advice from Business Link and retail advisor sessions.



This free event will help rural and independent town centre retailers make the most of their business. Topics will include:

- * Finance
- * Image and ambiance
- * Knowing your customers
- * Ranging
- * Staffing and pricing
- * Marketing
- * Effective use of EPoS.

Booking is essential. Telephone 0116 3055673/3055541 or email rural-grants@leics.gov.uk

Snibston seeks your views



Snibston's proposed *Mining Lives* project aims to conserve and tell the story of coal mining in Leicestershire and involve local communities in the scheme's development.

The key elements of the proposed project are;

- a) the restoration of the nationally significant colliery buildings
- b) new displays to enable visitors to find out more about the history of coal mining and its communities, particularly the Leicestershire story
- c) a volunteer scheme focusing on the maintenance of the colliery buildings

As part of the development for the *Mining Lives* project Snibston is eager to find out your views on the proposals. Visit www.snibston.com/mininglives to give your views on the project. They are particularly eager to hear from you if you have never visited Snibston before.

For further information about the *Mining Lives* project please contact: Carolyn Abel, Principal Curator on tel. 01530 278444 or email: snibstonfuture@leics.gov.uk.

For further details about what's on offer at Snibston please telephone 01530 278444, e-mail: snibston@leics.gov.uk or visit www.snibston.com.



Green
Transport
Week
13 - 20 June 2009

ETA Green Transport Week runs from 13th - 20th June and it is a chance for you to make a difference.

You can use Green Transport Week as a national banner to publicise what you are already campaigning on, or as a chance to really get something rolling.

It's never been more important! We're travelling more and more by car, putting out more pollution on guzzling more gas. New roads are churning up the countryside and cutting communities in half. In some parts of the country the bus is an endangered species. There are fears that we'll soon see more Beeching-style closures of the railways. And as roads get busier, the greenest transport of all – walking and cycling – gets more difficult.

But it's not bad news. All over the country, groups are campaigning for traffic calming, more cycle paths, better buses, and a unified rail network, and against more and more roads.

What you can do ?

Visit the ETA web site at http://www.eta.co.uk/green_transport_week/ideas for inspiration.

Ideas listed include:

- street surveys
- launching of new cycle paths
- organised walks
- competitions
- exhibition or display

The ETA is a not-for-profit ethical organisation providing motorists and cyclists with carbon-neutral breakdown cover and insurance products. As well as encouraging responsible driving to reduce carbon, the ETA campaigns for sustainable transport.

Help available to keep heating bills down

Keeping warm and paying your heating bills can be a worry whether you own or rent your home. Many people are not aware that they may be eligible for grants or loans to help with this. Information and advice is available to residents of all types of property.

Households which have to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel in order to keep their homes warm are classed as being in Fuel Poverty. Poorly insulated properties, the lack of efficient heating systems and the inability to afford to pay for heating, all contribute to 'Fuel Poverty'

* Many owner/occupiers over 70 are entitled to FREE insulation. You may also qualify if you are below this age and on means tested benefits

* Insulation grants and/or discounts are often available to ALL

* Grants of up to £2,500 and nil interest loans up to £20,000 are also available to owner/occupiers for:

- Rewiring
- Warm Front 'top up grants' (where we pay your client contribution)
- Damp proof courses
- Replacement windows
- Upgrading your heating system
- Other items of disrepair

Councillor Jackie Dickinson, Growth, Development and Assets Portfolio holder said "A large fuel bill is not something that any of us looks forward to. It is particularly difficult for anyone on a fixed income. I would encourage anyone, whatever their age who is struggling to pay their bills to find out what help is available. It only takes a phone call"

For advice and to find out more about any of these schemes please call the Affordable Warmth freephone line 0800 0436 320 or visit:
www.blaby.gov.uk/affordablewarmth