

RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

16th March 2009



Ibstock does Climate Change



Actors from 'The Bread and Butter Theatre' were performing at 'The Palace' to draw in local residents, and dressed as two huge topiary bushes in the morning and 'Lords of the Bins' in the afternoon they certainly gained attention!

On Sunday 8th March the volunteer group 'Ibstock Does Climate Change' presented a free event for local residents at The Palace Community Centre in Ibstock.

The day's event included had a wide variety of money and energy saving hints, tips and give-aways. Organisations involved included the Rural Community Council, The Energy Saving Trust, North West Leicestershire District Council, Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire and Ellistown Allotment Association.

The Rural Community Council was represented at the event by Diana Cook (Project Manager) and Jessica Grudgings (Community Development Officer). They took along a light bulb library which demonstrated to villagers how fitting energy saving light bulbs make a difference to the environment and also brings the cost of bills down.



Rural businesses and organisations in Leicestershire can now apply for grants to help support and enhance vital community and economic facilities.

The Vibrant Villages programme is offering grants between £750 and £5,000 to rural shops and post offices, and between £750 and £10,000 to existing community spaces such as village halls, rooms within places of worship and schools. Applicants must contribute a minimum of 50% of total eligible project costs.

The programme aims to minimise the impact of post office closures by helping remaining post offices to enhance their services, while also supporting mobile and community-run services. Support, including free retail advice, is available for local shops, especially where they provide the only service in the village.

For an application pack or further information please contact the Rural Services Officer on 0116 305 5673 or e-mail: ruralgrants@leics.gov.uk.

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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

The Glass-House Community Led Design



The Glass-House Community Led Design is a national charity which aims to support and promote public participation in the design of the built environment.

The organisation is founded on the belief that local people hold invaluable knowledge about their neighbourhoods that, if harnessed effectively, can inform a higher standard of design that better meets the needs and aspirations of local people.

The Glass-House works nationally, offering free Design Training and Project Support to tenant, resident and community groups involved in local physical regeneration projects.

Our programmes give community groups the tools and confidence to play an active and constructive role in improving their neighbourhoods.

For more information on the Glass-House and the support we can give to community groups please visit the website or email us at info@theglasshouse.org.uk

New Ramblers Brand



“The world has changed. Walking has changed. We have changed.”

Tom Franklin, CEO the Ramblers

After 20 years of service, the Ramblers logo of rolling green hills has been put out to pasture. It has been replaced by a cutting-edge new logo and the word “Association” has been dropped from the name.

However the rebranding is not just about a logo or strapline. The brand reflects the way the Ramblers has changed and its ambitions for the future. It wants to see a walking Britain in which all sorts of people, in all sorts of places, do all sorts of walking for all sorts of reasons

Chief Executive Tom Franklin said, “ The image of the Ramblers is something that we laugh about ourselves and are a bit embarrassed by. There’s an affectionate view of that image among our members, bordering on parody. But I think that means we sometimes lack confidence, which can make us sound aggressive.

“The new look will help us to regain that confidence in what we have achieved and think differently about how we work. The rebrand is about renewal and making the organisation younger again – not just in terms of attracting a younger audience, but by giving us a renewed vigour.

“We were set up for the walking masses, for ordinary people, and we want to be for ordinary people again.

Country music for y'all at Century Theatre



A fantastic country music night is being held on Sunday, 22nd March at the Century Theatre in Coalville with Gary Perkins and the Breeze Country Music Show.

Gary was voted best British male artist at the British Country Music Awards in September 2008. He possesses the rare talent of being able to create his own atmosphere and draws every emotion from his listeners with rocking upbeat numbers and heart-felt ballads.

Doors open at 7pm with the programme starting at 7.30pm and people are urged not to miss a great night out. The night includes a bar with light refreshments, teas and coffees. Tickets cost £10.

There is also the chance to win two free tickets to the show or film of your choice by entering a monthly competition (winners are picked at the end of each month).

The Century Theatre is a unique theatre in an historic venue that brings a special atmosphere to an evening of entertainment.

For more information visit:
www.centurytheatre.co.uk or www.snibston.com

For enquiries or to book tickets contact 01530 278444 or email snibston@leics.gov.uk

Investing in sporting opportunities for rural communities



Sport England have unveiled a £10 million investment fund that will create sporting opportunities for people in rural areas.

The first in a series of themed funding rounds, it will open for business on 1 April 2009.

People in rural communities are the focus of the first round because they face particular barriers to participating in sport, such as reduced choice in the sports available to them and transportation issues getting to and from facilities.

Sport England's Active People Survey 2 shows that two thirds of the local authorities with the lowest sports participation rates are in rural areas.

The Rural Communities Themed Round will give a wide range of organisations, from local authorities to sports clubs and smaller community groups, an opportunity to develop and deliver new and innovative projects to overcome these barriers to both participation and supply.

Successful bids will make significant contributions to two of Sport England's strategic outcomes: growing participation in grassroots sport and sustaining participation by improving the quality of people's sporting experience.

Visit the Sport England web site at www.sportengland.org.uk/ to find out more.

More pre-driver course dates announced



Leicestershire County Council has just announced more dates for its pre-driver courses, in April, July and August. The popular courses held at Mallory Park race circuit are primarily for 16 and 17 year olds who are thinking of learning to drive, but have not yet started driving lessons.

The one-day programme aims to provide the students with a better understanding of the skills and responsibilities involved in learning to drive. Courses consist of a mixture of classroom-based theory and practical driving, focusing on issues faced by young drivers.

The course dates are 6th April, 7th April, 27th July, 3rd August and 4th August. Early booking is advised. For more information or further course dates, contact Loraine Harris, Road Safety Officer on 0116 305 7229 or visit: www.tjunction.org.uk

Unwanted motorcycle needed

Do you have an old motorcycle that you don't need anymore? Or perhaps you have left your bike in a local garage and don't have any intention of collecting it?

If so, Rutland County Council would like to hear from you as they are on the look out for a machine that needs work, so they can train service users in simple mechanical skills.

Councillor Hugh Rees who is responsible for Social Services and Health commented, "Rutland County Council has set up a social enterprise company called 'Out of the Rut Limited'. This has been up and running now for four years and provides valuable support for those in our community with learning difficulties or mental health issues".

He added, "Out of the Rut Limited is the perfect way for our service users to get experience of a work environment and build themselves up to considering a part-time or full-time job with a local company. One part of this development is about new learning and they need an old motorcycle so they can acquire basic mechanical skills".

Anybody who thinks they might be able to help should contact Paul Watson at Rutland County Council on 01572 722 577 or email enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

BT Community Connections

BT Community Connections scheme targets community and voluntary groups that could benefit from internet access and ICT but don't necessarily have the resources.

BT Community Connections has just announced that it will be launching another year of the scheme on Tuesday 17 March 2009. The programme gives community and charitable organisations the chance to move into the world of technology, just by filling in a simple application form.

If you volunteer with a community group or charitable organisation simply visit www.btcommunityconnections.com after Tuesday 17 March 2009 to apply for a laptop and contribution to a year's free broadband connection.