

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland)
31st August 2009



Communitybuilders Adventure Capital Fund agreed

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) has confirmed that the criteria and investment packages for the Communitybuilders Fund has been agreed with The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and Communities and Local Government (CLG), and that the programme will be open for applications from Monday 7th September 2009.

RCAN staff working with community buildings will meet with staff from Futurebuilders during the early Autumn to discuss funding possibilities for village and other rural halls within this programme. For further information about Communitybuilders visit www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/

Funding to change young people's lives

The Learning Launchpad is a grant making fund delivered by the Young Foundation working in partnership with Edge. Learning Launchpad provides investment to organisations in their early stages of development. The funding is intended to support ideas that help young people reach beyond academic paths to success, encourage learning-by-doing, and develop their non-cognitive "soft" skills.

The closing date for applications is 24th November.

Visit www.learninglaunchpad.org to find out more.

New Cycle Route for Ashby Woulds



Conkers Visitor Centre

Following on from liaison between Ashby Woulds Parish Plan group and the National Forest, a new cycle route has been created and a series of walks have been updated.

Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail cycle route runs from Conkers, past Spring Cottage to Gresley Woods and Albert Village and returns to Conkers, past Donington Lake.

The 3 updated walks start from Conkers and take you through the growing Heart of the National Forest Park. Details are available from the Ashby Tourist Information Centre or going to the website:
www.nationalforest.org/visit/walks/

Parking is available at Conkers Discovery Centre off Rawdon Road (B586); Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail, Donisthorpe; and Saltersford Valley Picnic Area.

Arriva Midlands buses serve Spring Cottage (for Conkers), Donisthorpe, Oakthorpe and Measham.

Ellistown & Battleflat Gala day 2009



Finally the people of Ellistown were able to enjoy a community Gala day! The fact that the village wanted a gala day event was highlighted in their Parish Plan. Following on from the Parish Plan, which has been supported by the Rural Community Council, the Parish Council decided to organise a gala in order to encourage some community spirit. The Gala took a group of councillors months to plan, with more than one or two headaches along the way, but when we saw the people of the village coming onto the playing field to enjoy what we had put together, then all the hard work was well worth it.

Whilst standing at the welcome table handing out the programme of events to each family (all 250 were gone by just after 3pm) the surprise on peoples faces that they didn't have to pay to enter, and that the event had been put together for the community, just proved that this type of day had been missing for far too long. We estimate around 800 to 1000 people attended the event which exceeded our estimates for the first year.

The sight of children sitting down watching the Punch & Judy show, dads taking part in the tug of war, mum throwing wet sponges at dad in the village stocks, the children enjoying the bouncy castle, slides and fair ground rides the echo of laughter all came together to make this an event to be proud of.

Also taking place was the Allotment Society Open Day Competition and Scarecrow Festival for the 2nd year running.

Due to the huge success Ellistown & Battleflat gala day is now set to become an annual day of fun for all. We do hope to see you there next year if you have any advice for us please email us at ellistowngala2009@hotmail.co.uk

Let's talk about social inclusion

CEFET (Coordinating European Funding for the East Midlands Third Sector) has organised a series of meetings around the region for community groups and people experiencing problems of social exclusion. The next series of meeting is taking place in September as detailed below:

Wed 9th Sep in Leicester

at Voluntary Action LeicesterShire

Fri 11th Sep in Lincoln

at Lincoln Community Development Project

Mon 14th Sep in Chesterfield

at African Caribbean Community Assoc

Tues 15th Sep in Derby

at Community Action Derby

Wed 16th Sep in Nottingham

at The Vine Community Centre

Thurs 17th Sep in Nottingham

venue to be confirmed

Fri 18th Sep in Wellingborough

at the Victoria Centre

If you are interested in attending any of the meetings then please contact contact Clare or Stuart at CEFET 0115 911 0419 info@cefet.org.uk

Art in empty spaces

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for artists and arts organisations in England to transform empty shops into artistic and cultural spaces.

Funding can be used for a variety of activities, including staging arts workshops and exhibitions, providing studio, rehearsal and performance space, and offering community education and outreach projects.

More information about the scheme and how to apply can be found at www.artscouncil.org.uk/artinemptyspaces.

Brassed off? Come and enjoy an evening of music at Snibston

The world famous Desford Colliery Band will play a special evening concert as part of Snibston's Miners' Gala celebrations next month.

Traditionally, colliery bands were an important way for miners to come together and express themselves socially and musically. From the earliest days, colliery bands epitomised community focus and local pride. That spirit lives on today, and to celebrate the Desford Colliery Band is performing at Snibston at 7.30pm on Saturday, 12th September.

Tickets for the concert cost £3 and are limited in number. Call Snibston to book tickets on 01530 278444. For further details visit www.snibston.com or email: snibston@leics.gov.uk

Summer in the meadows

Medieval remains and wildflowers are among the attractions on offer during a unique chance to visit a Charnwood meadow on Saturday, September 5th. Leicestershire County Council has organised a guided walk through Quorn's privately-owned Buddon Brook Meadows (off Chaveney Road), which are not usually open to the public.

The walk starts at 10am and will last for about two hours. A local naturalist will point out the highlights. The walk is free, but booking is essential as numbers are limited.

Wellingtons or walking boots strongly advisable and it is requested that people don't bring their dogs.

For more details and booking please contact: Andy Hayes, community projects officer for Leicestershire County Council, on: 0116 305 7269 or email: andy.hayes@leics.gov.uk



Leicestershire LINK 1st Annual Conference 'Make a Difference' 24 September 2009, Marriott Hotel, Leicester

This is an opportunity to find out about the LINK's work to improve Health & Social Care in Leicestershire. Join thought-provoking discussion groups, and question our special guest speakers on the 'power and importance of public involvement.'

The Conference will be held in the afternoon and repeated in the evening, so that everyone can attend. This event is free.



Claire Rayner is the guest speaker for the afternoon

Afternoon Conference: Guest Speaker - Claire Rayner, President Patients Association, TV personality, broadcaster & Agony Aunt

Evening Conference: Guest Speaker - Malcolm Alexander, Co-Chair of National Association of LINKs & LINK Members.

If you would like to attend or need more information please contact the Leicestershire LINK Officer Tel: 0116 2293103

Your Voice - Your Choice

All 27 Community Forums currently have a budget of £20,000 to spend in their local area. Why not participate in one of the local workshops to share ideas on how the funding should be spent. The next workshops will be held as follows:

Melton West

3rd Sept. 5.30pm at Ashby Folville Village Hall

Quorn Barrow and Sileby

9th Sept, 5.30pm at Walton on the Wolds Village Hall

Loughborough East

17th Sept. 5.30pm at Woodbrook Vale High School.

Hinckley

24th Sept. 5.30pm at Sketchley Primary School, Burbage



The Social Enterprise Awards is a new competition that aims to recognise and champion the vital work carried out by the most successful UK social enterprises.

Regardless of the type of social enterprise you run or its size, this award is your chance to win up to £5000 and to gain a national platform for your business.

All businesses are welcome to enter as long as the majority of their income comes through trading and the majority of their profits are used to further social or environmental goals.

To find out more visit
www.socialenterpriseawards.org.uk/pages/socialenterpriseawards.html