

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

12th October 2009



Computers for Rural People

The Arthur Rank Centre is committed to supporting the rural community, and has set up the "Computers for Rural People" scheme to provide computers at very low cost to encourage people to take the first step.

The centre can provide a computer of your own, pre-loaded with Microsoft software, and delivered to your door with 3 months warranty, to get you started. A fully functioning computer costs as little as £109.

For more information: Tel: 02476 853066
or email: info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk

RCC Yuletide Event

Tickets are now on sale for our annual Yuletide event.

Tuesday 1st December 2009

7pm, at Ratcliffe College

Tickets cost £35 and the price includes a drinks reception, carol concert in the chapel with the Tudor Choir and the Ratcliffe Junior Choir and a 3 course meal with wine.

Why not make up a party of friends and colleagues and join us for an enjoyable evening?

If you would like to purchase tickets then please contact Bridget Masters on 0116 2689702 or email bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk

Village hall successes

This year has seen quite a few success stories for our local village halls:

Packington Village hall received a lottery grant of £250,000 to refurbish and extend the 1950s hall. The project will provide extra space and more flexible facilities so that the hall can be used by more people and offer a greater range of activities.

Great Bowden Village Hall was named the national Biffaward 2008 winner following a £140,000 refurbishment project of which £50,000 was provided by Biffa.

11 halls have so far in 2009 received grants totalling £41357 from Leicestershire County Council's 'Shire' Village Hall grant scheme. These grants are for major repairs, extensions and alterations and typically include new toilets and kitchens to meet current legislation, structural repairs, new heating and lighting systems and roof repairs. The highest grant made so far this year is £7000 to the Robert Monk Hall in Foxton to carry out extensive refurbishment including new heating and electrical systems.

The Hallmark quality standards scheme Level 1 has been achieved by East Goscote Village Hall which takes to 3 the number of halls that have been awarded the first level in the scheme so far.

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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

Thringstone Heritage Road Show - 31st October

Friends of Thringstone are putting on their last Heritage Road Show event of 2009 at the George and Dragon, Ashby Road, Thringstone on Saturday 31st October 2009 from 12.30 til 5pm.

The theme of the displays will be 'A Celebration of Village Life' and the event will take place at the same time as the village cider festival.

All are welcome, there is no charge, and we hope to attract people not only interested in the history of our village and surrounding woodland areas, but also people who might want to talk to us about helping with our environmental work in the village.

We have several projects in the pipeline, and are always in need of volunteers who wouldn't mind spending some time helping us with our work.

CASH4 CLUBS

SPORT GRANTS – Apply

Cash 4 Clubs has been set up to facilitate fundraising for community sports clubs throughout the country and offers the chance to win grants ranging from £250 to £1000.

It is an opportunity to apply for grants to improve facilities, purchase new equipment, gain coaching qualifications, and generally invest in the sustainability of your club. In 2008 over £30,000 was given out in grants to 30 community sports clubs across the UK.

Any sports club can apply as long as they are registered with their sport's National Governing Body or local authority. There are no deadlines for submitting grant applications. Clubs are welcome to apply at any time and they will be considered at the next committee panel meeting. The next round of judging is December 2009.

Visit: <http://cash-4-clubs.com/>

Special event aims to stamp out 'hate'

Hate incidents are to be made easier to report thanks to a campaign being launched this month.

The Harborough District Community Safety Partnership, will hold a special event in conjunction with Harborough Action Team, which looks after the needs of people with learning difficulties, to promote the reporting of hate incidents in the district and launch a more accessible and easier-to-use reporting form. It will also be attended by police, fire service, Leicestershire County Council, councillors and others.

A hate incident is any incident where a person has been targeted because they are seen as being different. Anyone can be a victim of hate because of prejudice against their age, disability, gender identity, race, religion / belief or sexual orientation.

The drop-in launch event takes place on Wednesday, October 14, from 10.30am to 12noon, at Lutterworth Cricket Ground, Coventry Road, Lutterworth, LE17 4RE. There will be refreshments and a special launch cake will be cut and shared with attendees at 11am. There will also be a quiz, keep safe cards, badge making, stickers and lots more.

For more information contact Julie Bellamy on 01858 828282.

Surface water drainage charges- reprieve for community groups

Community organisations such as village halls, Scout groups, faith groups and amateur sports clubs have been offered a reprieve from large increases in charges they face for surface water drainage,

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said: "Some churches, sports clubs and youth groups have been hit by huge increases in their water bills for surface drainage. It isn't right. So I can tell you today that we will legislate to allow water companies to run concessionary schemes for these organisations so they can get on with the great job they do in our communities, instead of worrying about unaffordable bills."

Community garden up for Public Service Award

An innovative community garden in Enderby has been shortlisted for a national public service award by The Guardian newspaper.

The **Place to Grow** scheme, in Mill Lane, which was originally set up to help people suffering from mental health problems, is among 44 finalists named out of 840 entries in the Guardian's Public Service Awards 2009.

A **Place to Grow** started life as a field of weeds nearly three years ago but has now blossomed into a unique community garden, providing vital support to those who need it. The aim is to increase physical activity through gardening and promote a better understanding of the contribution outdoor exercise can make to a healthy life.

The prestigious awards ceremony is being held in London on 24th November, with Jeremy Vine hosting the event.

New car park given safety certificate



A new car parking facility at Narborough train Station was given safer parking status at an official opening last week.

The state of the art car park, which was built by Blaby District Council and now includes cycle shelters, CCTV, recycling bins and solar powered pay and display machines was awarded with the Park Mark status, which is given to facilities that pass a strict risk assessment by police on security and design.

Councillors have lobbied for a modern parking facility at the station for more than 20 years but it was not until Blaby District Council officially adopted a car parking strategy in 2005 that work could begin. Leicestershire County Council and East Midlands Development Agency both provided funding for the project.

The Park Mark Safer Parking scheme is an initiative of the Associations of Chief Police Officers and is aimed at reducing both crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

SSAFA – Forces Help

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help is a national registered charity helping and supporting those in need who serve in the Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both. One day's paid service in any of our Armed Forces is all that is needed to qualify for assistance.

For more information contact:
SSAFA – Forces Help Office, Parkside House,
72 Friday Street. Leicester. LE1 3BW
Telephone: 0116 2616590/1
or email: Leicestershire@ssafa.org.uk

All paths lead to Tinwell



Villagers and local business people gathered recently to unveil a stunning new footpath map sited at All Saint's Church in Tinwell.

The map is a beautifully illustrated guide to footpaths leading from Tinwell towards Stamford, Wothorpe, Ketton and Easton-on-the-Hill; it highlights sites of local interest. The new priest-in-charge of Tinwell, Reverend Jo Saunders gave a dedication for the map.

The project follows on from Tinwell Village Plan, produced last year. A team of villagers designed and researched the map and enlisted the help of Alistair Brewis and Jean de Gale to create and illustrate it.

The map project was supported by donations from Cory Environmental Trust, Hanson Cement and Rutland County Council.

Affordable Warmth

Are you a Tenant, Land Lord or Home Owner living within Blaby District? Would you like to improve energy efficiency, cut down on fuel bills whilst reducing your carbon footprint?

Blaby District Council are promoting Grants, Loans, free Energy Advice and information as part of its Affordable Warmth Scheme. For advice and to find out more please call the Affordable Warmth Freephone line: 0800 043 6320 or www.blaby.gov.uk/affordablewarmth.

Message from Leicestershire Police

You will be aware that Leicestershire Police, along with two local councils has been criticised at an inquest into the deaths of Fiona Pilkington and Frankie Hardwick. We have accepted that we didn't do as well as we should have in this case.

Since then, we have made a number of changes to the way we work, some as a direct result of what happened, some due to other reasons and our commitment towards providing a better service to communities.

- * We now attend every incident where the victim wishes us to attend.
- * Officers can now – and do – look at the previous incidents and crimes for a given address when they attend a new call.
- * We have trained 2,000 officers and staff in Protecting Vulnerable People.
- * We have improved the way we share information with other agencies – in some cases council staff work from police stations, in others police officers work from council offices, and we meet our local authority colleagues regularly to discuss individual cases.
- * And we now have more options in dealing with those who commit anti-social behaviour – including restorative justice.
- * We will investigate cases of anti-social behaviour which are reported to us, and with local authorities and other agencies we will take proportionate and appropriate measures against those involved. We are committed to delivering the highest levels of service to everyone we serve.

If you have any information that may help the police in any of their enquiries please contact Leicestershire Police on 0116 22 22 222 or alternatively if you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111, or contact your neighbourhood officers via the police website www.leics.police.uk