

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

21st December 2009



Communities Together Grants

Grants of up to £500 are available now for organisations and projects which are working to bring different groups of people together in Leicestershire.

The new 'Communities Together' grant is intended to support community and voluntary organisations who are involved in local projects which:

- ★ play an active role in getting different communities and groups of individuals together to increase understanding and communication
- ★ promote inter-cultural education and relations
- ★ introduce and engage new audiences, organisations and community groups to each other.

Eligible projects will be able to demonstrate their success in increasing cohesion and understanding between people from different age, faith and belief groups or of different abilities, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and gender.

The grant could be used to fund the promotion or development of local projects, workshops or training sessions for different community groups, consultation events, sporting events and much more.

The 'Communities Together' Grant Fund is open to projects operating in Leicestershire and applications will be assessed on a monthly basis.

For further information e-mail:
noel.singh@leics.gov.uk / tel: 0116 305 7020 or tom.fisher@leics.gov.uk / 0116 305 8098

The RCC would like to
wish everyone

a very merry Christmas

and a happy New Year.



www.ruralcc.org.uk

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

Managing Funding - new training dates now available

The following training is available for voluntary groups, community groups and charities:

Strategic Funding and Finance Management

Thursday 4th March 2010, 10am - 4pm Market Harborough
Cost £20 per delegate/£40 out of Funds and Figures area

This training includes:

The World Of Funding – how it is changing and how to respond to these changes
Costing Our Work – how to fully cost your work and how to present costs to funders
Where Is The Money Going to Come From – effective fundraising and income generation
Planning Ahead – to plan your fundraising, think strategically and avoid being funder led

Finding & Managing Funding

Tuesday 9th February, 7-9 pm Melton Mowbray
Cost £10 per delegate/£20 out of Funds and Figures area

This training includes:

First Steps in Fundraising for a New or Existing Project
Sustainable Approaches to Fundraising
What Funders are Looking For?
The Role of the Treasurer
What do you need to Record and Report for your group?

To book contact Christine Barrett, email: cbarrett@vasl.org.uk Tel: 01858 439264

Top marks for management course

A development programme, launched to improve efficiencies for district and county councils across Leicestershire and Rutland has seen nearly 100 managers gain qualifications to help them deliver better services for residents.

The programme was completed by 97 middle managers over a period of three years. Each person who completed the course gained a level five certificate from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Improvement Partnership (LRIP) was formed after the Audit Commission's District Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process in 2004.

Sandra Whiles, Chief Executive at Blaby District Council and chair of the LRIP management development programme said: "This has demonstrated how by working together, learning together and changing together local authorities can give their managers the tools and techniques they need to make a difference to residents."

Following the success of the scheme, the management development strand of LRIP are now looking to work with other agencies such as the police and health services to allow other public service sectors to benefit from the programme.

Old Possum's Practical Trust Grant

Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available to third sector organisations undertaking art and culture projects that benefit children and disadvantaged people in the UK.

The scheme aims to increase the understanding and enjoyment of: history, art, architecture, literature, music, and the theatre.

The application process is ongoing and interested applicants may apply at any time.

Visit :
www.old-possums-practical-trust.org.uk

Funding to Fight Fuel Poverty

The ScottishPower Energy People Trust's is currently accepting applications for projects that help combat fuel poverty.

Applications are accepted from not-for-profit organisations and groups such as children's charities, local community groups, support organisations, housing associations, local authorities and others.

The maximum grant available per project is £100,000 for projects lasting for up to three years.

Visit: www.energypeopletrust.co.uk

It's Your Community Awards Scheme

It's Your Community funding is limited to applications wishing to receive a minimum of £100 and a maximum of £1,000, but is not designed to provide top-up funding for larger projects. Applications for match funding will be assessed on a case by case basis.

The It's Your Community Awards Scheme is provided by the Conservation Foundation in partnership with O2 to help support projects designed to improve local environments throughout the UK.

The programme has four main project groups, but other ideas from outside these areas will be considered. The project areas are:

- ★ **Community Places** - reinvigorating community, amenity and recreation areas, for example installing new equipment for a playground.
- ★ **Community People** - helping bring people together, for example, promoting personal safety to young people.
- ★ **Community Pride** - restoring a sense of pride, for example, clearing litter or graffiti.
- ★ **Community Landscape** - improving the natural environment, for example, planting trees.

Local amenity groups, parish and village councils, schools, youth clubs, heritage groups, environmental and conservation groups and Individuals are all eligible to apply.

Applications can be made online at www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk Decisions on applications will be made within 28 days.

Judging takes place on the 20th of each month.

Unsuccessful applicants can re-apply after six months.

Successful applicants can re-apply for additional funding after 12 months.

Rainbows Hosts House Of Commons Tour



Andy Reed MP with Alison Birkin (Mum) and Chloe Flanders (daughter) at February's brick laying ceremony at Rainbows Hospice.

Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People is inviting people to take part in an organised guided tour at the House of Commons London with all proceeds going towards supporting their 'Building For The Future' Campaign.

The tour has been arranged by Loughborough MP Andy Reed, who is a great supporter for the hospice.

Speaking about the upcoming trip, Andy said: "People are always curious about what the inside of the House of Commons looks like. I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to see the historic building first-hand whilst raising money for a local charity."

The trip, which takes place on Friday, January 22, will offer a chance to explore some of London's sights and sample a delicious lunch before visiting the capital's iconic parliamentary buildings.

Tickets cost £50.00 per person and all money raised from the sale of the tickets will go towards meeting the final £500,000 needed for a planned £4 million expansion to accommodation and training rooms at Rainbows.

For more information and to book your space, please contact Nicola on 01509 638 026 or Nicola.adcock@rainbows.co.uk

Music Royalty Fees Threaten Charity Events

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has criticised the Government's decision to lift the exemption charities currently enjoy for playing music at public events.

Charities and community groups will no longer be exempt from paying music royalty fees following a consultation by the Government and PPL and PRS for Music.

Groups previously received immunity from these charges when playing music at fundraising events such as discos and tea dances.

NCVO have criticised the decision as they believe the new charging system will spell the end of fundraising events for small groups.

The chief executive of NCVO, Stuart Etherington, said: "It is shameful that money intended for charitable causes will go on paying royalties for playing music.

"Events like these often raise no more than a few hundred pounds but this is vital income for charities. This scheme will make it impossible for small community based charities or organisations to play music at their social and fundraising events because of the cost involved. It will effectively spell the death of the charity tea dance in a village hall or fundraising disco in aid of a good cause."

Launch of new 'Oneplace' website

The Government has just launched the new Oneplace website.

The site gives an overview as to how local public services are performing in England, if they provide value for money and where they could improve.

Visit: <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>