RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

18th January 2010

RCC welcomes new staff

Jo Ling
CDO for N.W. Leicestershire

I live in Wymeswold with my husband David and twin children Teigue and Esme (5). I have a genuine interest in rural environments and issues and I am actively involved in village voluntary groups.

I enjoy outdoor pursuits, attending equestrian events, I ride frequently, and I enjoy walking. I am a creative cook, I also enjoy gardening and maintain a large pond with Koi carp.

To contact Jo: email: jling@ruralcc.org.uk
or Tel: 0116 2689708

Jane Reed
CDO for Hinckley & Bosworth

I am married with 2 lively and vocal children, Lily aged 7 and Alice aged 5. I live in Congerstone and enjoy immersing myself in village and school life. I have 2 very energetic dogs called Jasper and Reggie who never tire of going for walks.

I am thrilled to join the RCC and look forward meeting all the community groups in Hinckley and Bosworth.

Email: jreed@ruralcc.org.uk or Tel: 0116 2689711

Kevin Butcher
Village Halls and Playing Fields Officer

The RCC is delighted to welcome back Kevin Butcher as a member of staff. Kevin was previously employed as Rural Officer for the RCC before taking up a post with Rutland County Council.

In his new role Kevin is the focus of support and advice to village halls and community buildings and also for playing fields.

To contact Kevin. Tel: 0116 2689701 or email kbutcher@ruralcc.org.uk

Rutland Community Spirit Champions

3 hrs (min) to 15 hrs (£8 per hour)

(with new pay award pending w.e.f 1st Apr)

Bringing the people of Rutland Together

Do have some time on your hands?

Would you like to help vulnerable people in your own community; work from home and receive a salary?

This appointment offers an exciting opportunity to play an active role in supporting isolated, vulnerable people in their own homes in Rutland. Community Spirit Champions help to identify those in need of the service and look to engage and assist volunteers in their specified geographical area to provide them with support and assistance.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate that they can work pro-actively, using a high degree of initiative. They will have a track record of providing information to members of the public and professionals, an understanding of the field of care and knowledge of community issues.

Applications Close on 5th February 2010. For further details: Tel. 01572 720282 or visit www.ruralcc.org.uk

Free children's course promotes health and fitness

Children and their families are being invited to join a fun and exciting course aiming to help them learn about fitness, diet and health.

Up to 10 families are being invited to join the new Mini-MEND healthy lifestyle programme for families with 2-4 year olds which will be running at the SureStart Children's Centre in Market Harborough. The 10-week course, made up of a 90 minute session every Thursday from 12.45pm to 2.15pm, will start on Thursday, January 21.

The course is being delivered as part of the Harborough District Children's Centre Programme, by Castle Lane Day Nursery and Harborough District Council, and is being offered free to families, thanks to funding from Leicestershire County Council.

MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition…Do It!) has been hugely successful in the past in encouraging older children and teenagers to lead a more healthy lifestyle, but this new course – called Mini-MEND – is aimed at much younger children.

Vikki Chapman, Mini-MEND co-ordinator, said: "The course includes active play sessions which can also be enjoyed at home, and healthy snack time to encourage children to try new foods, which is particularly helpful if they are showing a tendency to be fussy eaters. Parents also learn skills which can help reduce the amount of time young children spend watching television, increase the time spent playing as a family, tame temper tantrums and help children increase their confidence."

For more information, or to sign up, call 0800 230 0263.

The Blaby Community Safety

Localgiving.com

make a difference in your community

Localgiving is a new website that allows you to make donations to charitable organisations that operate locally. All donations are unrestricted and directed for distribution to charity groups on localgiving.com through their local Community Foundation.

It is due to launch nationally summer 2010.

The Community Foundation does a final check that the charity is still operating in line with its charitable objectives and is still requesting funding. It also provides independent vetting of all charities and community groups before these groups can appear on Localgiving.com.

Visit http://www.localgiving.com/

Farmers offered new Green Funding Deal

CARBON TRUST

The Carbon Trust has announced financial help for farmers to invest in energy saving equipment.

From 1 February 2010, English farmers will be eligible for unsecured, interest-free loans for between £3,000 and £20,000 to help them upgrade to more energy-efficient equipment.

The loans are designed to pay for themselves through direct energy savings provided over one to four years – and after the loan is repaid, farmers will make direct savings on their energy costs, as well as cutting the carbon footprint of what they produce.

For more information please visit: http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/loans

New Small Grants Scheme Announced by Children in Need

Small grants of up to £10,000 are available to Third Sector organisations supporting children and young people.

The new scheme marks the first time Children in Need have run a UK-wide small grants programme and is aimed predominantly at organisations which have not previously considered applying.

The programme is open to any third sector organisation working with children and young people under the age of 18.

The next funding round deadlines for this year are:

15 April, 15 July and 15 October.

It is expected the total funding for both the small and large grants schemes will be in excess of £38 million in 2010 and will be administered through seven regional bases.

The director of grants and policy at Children in Need, Sheila Jane Malley, explained the programme would seek to fund well-organised projects which can demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm:

"The first thing we look at is benefit for children and young people. Is the organisation clear about what improvements it wants to bring about, and is it clear about how it can do it?"

Visit: http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/smallgrants.shtml

FREE Grassroots Grants Workshops

Groups interested in applying to VAL for a Grassroots Grant can come along to one of the following workshops to find out how. The workshops are only available to groups with an annual income of less than £30,000. This session is FREE of charge and includes refreshments.

Charnwood
Elizabeth Park Thurmaston,16th March, 10am-12pm

North West Leicester
Marlene Reid Centre, 17th March, 10am-12:30pm

Hinckley
Voluntary Action Hinckley,18th March,10am-12:30pm

Melton
Voluntary Action Melton, 22nd March, 10am-12.00pm

Leicester City
VAL, 24th March, 10am-12pm

Market Harborough
Voluntary Action S. Leics, 25th March, 10am-12pm

Oadby/Wigston
Kings Centre, 25th March, 2pm-4pm

Charnwood
Mountsorrel Library, 25th March, 2:30-4:30pm

Leicester City
VAL, 25th March, 6pm-8pm

Blaby
Voluntary Action Blaby, 29th March, 6pm-8pm

You can book online at www.valonline.org.uk/training-groups
or call the Helpline on 0116 2575050 to ask for a booking form and course information.

Musical Entertainment for the Elderly - Grants available

The Concertina Charitable Trust makes grants to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. This not only brightens up the lives of elderly people but also provides a therapeutic benefit to their health and well-being.

Concertina is keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding. Charities are invited to make an application to the Trustees via the Administrator. They need to provide details of their charity's objects, its financial position, the sector of the elderly community which it benefits, amount sought and proposed cultural activities or related facilities it intends to provide.

The trustees review applications after the deadlines of: January 31, April 30, June 30 and October 31.

Visit http://www.concertinamusic.org.uk/ for more information

'Spotlight' on young people

The Spotlight youth conference, being organised by Harborough Youth Council, will be held at the Evangelical Church Hall in Bath Street on Friday, February 5th, from 9.45am to 2pm.

This year, the focus will be on helping local schools develop or expand their school councils and schools have the opportunity to send a delegation to join a series of workshops. School Council members can attend with a representative teacher, and will be collected by bus where necessary.

Spotlight will also feature a presentation about 'cyber bullying', as well as a selection of a school ambassador and a discussion about what priorities the Youth Council should focus on.

For more information about the event and details about buses to the event, email

harborough@thejitty.com