

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

15th February 2010



Gritty Gritty Bang Bang we love you!

Mr Gritty Gritty Bang Bang and Alexander the Grit are two of the names chosen for Leicestershire's gritting fleet by county children. Leicestershire County Council had more than 200 entries to the 'Name the Gritter' competition – and 13 winning names have been chosen.

The 13 gritters are part of the County Council's fleet of 23 gritters that are on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day, during the winter months, to spread salt on around 45% of the county's roads (1,930km or 1,200 miles).

County Councillor Lesley Pendleton (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport) is pictured with winners of the 'Name the Gritter' competition



Championing care for older people

The UK's population is ageing rapidly, by 2033 nearly a quarter of all the country's inhabitants will be 65 or over.

Blaby District Council is committed to ensuring its older residents are well cared for and not left out in the cold. The Affordable Warmth scheme advises about insulation and heating grants. Loft and cavity wall insulation is free to many residents who are over 70 years-old. Contact the Affordable Warmth Freephone Number on 0800 043 6320.

Minor works grants are also available to the elderly to assist with draught proofing of windows and doors and to improve central heating, call 0116 272 7531 for more details. These services are available to homeowners, and people living in privately rented property or social housing.

Also, people who are 60 or over with savings of up to £10,000 can now claim for housing and council tax benefit. Tel: 0116 272 7510 for more information.

Blaby District Council also has their own dedicated older person's champion, responsible for developing better services for the elderly. Councillor Jill Blackwell is the current champion, she said: "During the



Councillor Jill Blackwell

economic downturn we need to make sure that vulnerable people do not suffer the most.

"Our elderly residents are valued and that's why it's so important they are aware of what services are available to them so they can claim what is rightfully theirs."

If anyone would like to talk to Jill about services for older people or ideas they have to improve the quality of life for older people in their community please call 0116 278 1128.

The Council also runs an Older Persons Forum which is open to anyone to discuss services or issues affecting older people. The next forum will be held in the Chamber of the main Council Offices in Narborough on 8th March 2010, for more information please call 0116 272 7582.

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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



Come and Have YOUR Say on Hospital Car Parking Charges

There is a nationwide public consultation on NHS car parking. Leicestershire LINK would like to know what you think about:

- improving access for patients
- car parking charges
- the effects of charges
- concessions for regular users

University Hospitals of Leicester will be explaining the current car parking arrangements, the impact of the consultation and what the future holds.

Everyone's views will be collected and a response will be sent to the Department of Health. So please come and have your say.

If you would like to attend, please complete the Booking Form. However, if you find you are available on the day then please do come along.

Travel expenses can be reimbursed for Leicestershire LINKs members, and light refreshments will be provided.

For further details, please contact Kamini Patel on 0116 229 3029 or email kamini@ccp.org.uk

An interactive session

**Thursday
18th February**

9.30am – 12noon

Braunstone Civic Centre
209 Kingsway, Leicester,
LE3 2PP

The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity

The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity was formally set up in 1978. Its aim is to provide grants that will make a clear and significant contribution to grassroots charitable organisations working in designated priority areas.

One-off grants of up to £1,000 are made to small registered charities and not-for-profit organisations. The priority areas are Disability, Local Heritage, Local Community and Performing & Visual Arts. You are welcome to discuss a potential approach with the Charities Administrator. Please call on 020 7213 0562 or email charitiesadmin@skinners.org.uk.

Applications should be submitted by by mid-March or mid-September for Committee meetings which take place in May and November.

Visit: <http://www.skinnershall.co.uk/charities/lady-neville-charity.htm> to download an application form.

Support scheme for unemployed starts in Blaby

People looking for work in Blaby district can now get one to one support in their area from a dedicated community based adviser. Advisers from JobMAETS –Multi Agency Employment Teams – will be based at the district council's main offices in Desford Road, Narborough, every Friday and will help jobseekers develop a tailored action plan to find sustained employment.

Each customer is assigned an advisor who is responsible for guiding them back into work and offering support once they are in employment. Part time workers seeking full time employment are also being encouraged to use the service.

The Council is working in partnership with Job Centre Plus to run the project which is free and open to anyone who is unemployed and over 18.

Councillor Jackie Dickinson, growth, development and assets portfolio holder said: "It is great news that local people who need help getting back into work can now access the support they need in their local area."

For more information please contact your local Job Centre Plus or freephone 0800 783 5216.



Come on Harborough! Sport Relief 2010 has arrived

Sport Relief is back – and it's coming to Market Harborough again!

The town is set to host one of Sainsbury's Sport Relief Miles on Sunday 21st March, and needs local people to show their support by entering now at www.sportrelief.com. The Market Harborough Mile sets off from Sainsbury's at 2pm on Sunday 21st March. As well as the Mile event, there will be lots of entertainment for the whole family.

The event is being organised by Harborough District Council and Sainsbury's and is supported by Harborough District Sports and Activity Alliance.

The whole thing kicks off on Friday 19th March when everyone gets active, raises cash and has a ball at home, at work or at school; before they settle down to watch a night of top Sport Relief telly on BBC One. Then it's the big one, the chance for the nation to come together and take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 21st March. So pull on your socks and make a difference!

For more information on Sport Relief 2010 and to enter the Market Harborough Mile visit www.sportrelief.com or contact Marianne Boyle, Sport and Health Development Officer, on 01858 828282.

Drop the 'scamsters' in it!

This February Leicestershire Trading Standards is joining the Office of Fair Trading's nationwide 'Scamnesty' campaign to help end the scourge of mass marketed scam mailings in the UK.

'Scamnesty 2010' ask Leicestershire people to help the fight back against the fraudsters by dropping any scam mailings they receive into designated 'Scamnesty' bins that are to be found in the County's Libraries.

Last year Leicestershire people handed in about 10% of the total collected nationally. As a result of this scams a number of investigations into alleged scam mailers have been carried out.

Consumers should follow these tips to avoid being conned:

- * Why would you pay to receive a 'prize'
- * Be aware that if you do respond your details will be passed on, you will receive more scam prize letters
- * Thousands of other people are very likely to have received exactly the same offer.
- * If you read the offer carefully, you may well find that the wording makes it seem that you have won - when this is not the case.
- * If you are unsure, speak to family or friends or seek advice.



If you think you have been the victim of a scam, or you suspect a scam, telephone Consumer Direct for clear, practical advice on 08454 04 05 06 or visit

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scamnesty

Consumers can report all types of scam at <https://secure.consumerdirect.gov.uk/reportascam.aspx> on the Consumer Direct website. During Scamnesty month (February 2010), they can also report online scams to the 'virtual bin' on the Consumer Direct website.

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International Market at Melton Mowbray

Melton Mowbray will be playing host to a wide variety of stalls from all over the world when 35 traders and producers, many wearing traditional costumes, will arrive in the town to take part in the market

For food-lovers there will be a chance to buy a whole range of delights including Brittany biscuits, olives, Italian nougat, pungent cheeses, aromatic garlic, saucissons (cured meat), Tartiflette from the Alps, paella, charcuterie, fresh breads, croissants, bagels and much, much more!

You will also be able to choose from a wide range of products including hand bags & leather items, Marseille soaps, lavender, children's toys and pachminas, wooden arts and crafts.

The Market will run from 9am until 5,30pm on Thursday 18th, Friday 19th & Saturday 20th February in Melton Town Centre.

Market Organiser: Olivier Simonin 07833937251



Medieval Pilgrims Revealed!

For hundreds of years Leicestershire people made difficult journeys to distant religious shrines but this important spiritual activity never reached the history books. Now, work by metal detectorists around the fields of Leicestershire is recovering this history in the form of the lead relics brought back from their journeys. Over the last 30 years Leicestershire Museums and, more recently Portable Antiquities Scheme staff have been recording these discoveries.

On February 24th Peter Liddle, Leicestershire County Council's Community Archaeologist, will be telling the story of medieval pilgrimage and how we know that local people travelled to shrines at Canterbury, Walsingham, Windsor and St Andrews. The talk is at Donington le Heath Manor House at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th February. Admission is free but booking is essential on (01530) 831259 or at the Manor House.

Strategic Funding and Finance Management

Funds and Figures Training Session available for voluntary organisations, community groups and registered charities.

Thursday 4th March 2010, 9.45am - 4pm
at Harborough Town FC,
Northampton Rd., Mkt. Harborough

This training has been specially developed for the Funds and Figures Project and is to be led by an experienced trainer from The Directory of Social Change and 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 – how to plan ahead, to think strategically and to avoid being funder led.

Cost: £20 per delegate payable at the time of booking.

Please email Christine Barrett on cbarrett@vasl.org.uk or call (01858) 439264 for a booking form or with any other questions