

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

12th July 2010



Communities Together Grants

Up to £500 is available to community, voluntary or faith groups across Leicestershire through the Communities Together grants which aim to help support 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 relationship building.
- * introduce and engage new audiences, organisations and community groups to each other.

With 14 projects already supported, the Communities Together Grants have proved popular since the launch earlier this year.

Further details including a grant application form and guidance notes can be found at www.leicestershiretogether.org/communities_together_grants

If you have any further questions please contact Samantha Sirisambhand on 0116 305 8098 or email; samantha.sirisambhand@leics.gov.uk

'Building Shelters and Breaking Barriers'

Higham on the Hill Primary and Merrydale Junior Schools' Multicultural Team Building Day was one of the recent projects that Communities Together has funded.

Twenty-five children from the Higham on the Hill Primary school in rural west Leicestershire joined together with twenty-five children from the multicultural Merrydale Junior School in Leicester to take part in a community cohesion themed, shelter building day at the Beaumanor Hall outdoor activity centre in Charnwood.

Relations between the two schools had been blossoming before the activity day, with letters and greetings cards being exchanged between the children over the last few months. So, when the children finally got the chance to meet their pen-friends, the results were really positive. The activity day also gave staff the opportunity for staff from both schools to meet and exchange their experiences of teaching in the two very different areas. Future opportunities for joint working between the two schools were discussed and ideas for exchange visits and further outings in the near future were agreed on the foundation of the day's success.



Pupils from Higham on the Hill Primary and Leicester's Merrydale Junior Schools' enjoying the Multicultural Team Building Day

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



Bright idea proves just the ticket

People power is bringing about a welcome improvement to the use of car park pay and display tickets, after a suggestion at a residents' forum.

At a community forum held in Market Harborough earlier this year, local resident Thomas Ruane raised the point that he would like to see 'transferable' pay and display parking tickets between car parks with like-for-like tariffs. He was supported in his request, by another Harborough resident Jennifer Besbrode.

They suggested a change which would see drivers able to purchase a pay and display ticket at one car park, and it be valid at other car parks, if the ticket is within its expiry time and date. Councillors and officers from Harborough District Council listened to the views of the residents at the meeting, and decided to put the wheels in motion and make the idea happen.

The tickets would only be transferable within Harborough District Council controlled pay & display car parks with like-for-like tariffs, for example, from one short stay to another short stay car park, or from one long stay to another long stay car park. It will not



Cllr Paul Bremner (I) and Thomas Ruane in the Commons car park, Market Harborough

be possible to move from a short stay to a long stay car park, or vice versa. Pay and display tickets will remain non-transferable between different vehicles and will only be valid up to the expiry time and date printed on the ticket.

Cllr Paul Bremner, who has responsibility for community engagement, said: "This is a great idea from members of the public in Market Harborough. It is great in its simplicity and will bring benefit to shoppers, retailers and visitors to this great town. It has been good as a member of the council to hear this idea, champion it and see it implemented so quickly."

The community forums are run by Harborough District Council, police and Leicestershire County Council. They give residents a chance to have their say on a number of issues, raise concerns and make suggestions, as well as ask questions and hear presentations.

The change to the pay and display tickets is expected to come into effect at end of July 2010.

How precious?

Leicestershire Crimestoppers is working with Northamptonshire Crimestoppers on a new campaign tackling bike and vehicle crime. The How Precious? campaign is running from 27 June 2010 until 31 March 2011. It aims to encourage people to contact the charity Crimestoppers anonymously with information on bike crime, theft of valuables from themselves or their vehicle and any crime which is affecting them or their community.



If you call Crimestoppers you will not receive a visit from the police, they do not trace calls and you will not have to go to court. Call 0800 555 11



The Chairman of Harborough District Council, Rosita Page, will be visiting Ullesthorpe Youth Club on the 14th of July. There will be a free Bar-B - Q and music. The club welcomes young people aged 14-19 every Wednesday at 7.45pm at the refurbished pavilion on the Ullesthorpe playing field.

The need for a Youth Group was identified through the parish plan and is a good example of responding to community needs through excellent partnership workings. Rosita Page initiated this project by securing outside funding which was match funded by the parish council to run the youth club with the help of county council youth workers

Rosita says 'I welcome this initiative and I am pleased that the project has come into fruition. I hope it will continue to be well supported and become a permanent fixture for the community'

Leicestershire's churches are just a 'mouse click' away

A pilot tourism project aimed at increasing the profile of Leicester and Leicestershire's churches has been launched by The Diocese of Leicester. The project is called 'Treasures Unlocked', reflecting the desire to show that many of our churches are not only interesting but open for viewing.

Details of ten churches including a selection of images, key features, opening times and locations are available at www.treasuresunlocked.co.uk, a dedicated webpage on the official online guide to Leicester and Leicestershire - www.goleicestershire.com - which is managed by Leicester Shire Promotions.

The Diocese has received support for the project through a £5,000 INSPIRE (Investment Support in the Rural Economy) grant courtesy of the Leicestershire Rural Partnership (LRP). INSPIRE grants aim to support the rural economy by supporting farmers, equestrian businesses, landowners, business partnerships, retailers, small accommodation providers and tourist attractions.

Lesley Pendleton, LRP Chairman and Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, said: "In these challenging times I can't stress how important it is to support Leicestershire's economy. I would like to encourage our rural business to take advantage of our new INSPIRE grants and I strongly urge people to get in touch with us to see if we can help."

Land is our heritage - learn to use it wisely and well - save it from the developers.

'Many Happy Hours'

The best not-for-profit 10 month personal postal in-depth-guide for beginners, new to communal open field gardening.

Course fee only £8 per year (80p a month) to cover printing, stationery and postage costs. Course runs from September to June, following the allotment gardening year.

Queries answered at no extra charge. Also good value seed service for registered members, minimum order 10 packets, usually 80p per packet. Please always enclose sae for reply.

Register now for September. There is land, if you learn where to look for it!

Diane Bulley, 72a Weekley Glebe Road, Kettering, Northants NN16 9NR

BBC Radio - chance to give your views

The BBC Trust has recently launched a review into BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and Radio 7 and is inviting people to tell them what they think about these services.

There will be a 12 week period of consultation, which ends on 26th August 2010.

For more information or to take part, please go to the BBC Trust website at www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/index.shtml

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



Bring energy and wildlife to your classroom

Primary school children across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are being invited to design their own caped crusaders to promote this year's Big Switch Off campaign. Children who take part in the contest will be asked to give their superhero a name, costume, special gadgets and outline their unique super powers.

For further information please download the competition guidance note at www.leics.gov.uk/bsocompetitions

Entries will be judged by a panel, including a graphic designer, and the winning design will be worked up professionally and blown up to full size. The Key Stage one winner will receive a scooter and the Key Stage two winner a bicycle, while the schools they belong to will win a wildlife outreach day by Twycross Zoo. This could be your Super Hero...

To support the campaign ask your students and staff to make an on-line pledge. Visit www.leics.gov.uk/bsoplege

The last date for sending your expression of interest is 8th September 2010. To register your interest or if you have any queries contact Hetal Patel on 0116 3057068 or hetal.patel@leics.gov.uk



Your School's chance to take part in the Big Switch Off 2010

The Big Switch Off Campaign will be taking place between 11th - 17th October this year. Your school can make a real difference by embracing energy efficiency messages through both curricular and extra curricular activities.

Download a Teaching Pack at www.leics.gov.uk/bigswitchoff

Local People To Have Access To Top Consultants At Uppingham Surgery

An Uppingham GP surgery has teamed up with a Leicester hospital to enable patients in the area to see consultants without having to travel into the city. Consultants from Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital are now holding outpatient consultations at Uppingham Surgery, London Road, Uppingham.

Consultants from a range of specialities are available including ENT, Orthopaedics, Plastic surgery and Gynaecology. An independent Ophthalmologist is also available. Those private patients referred by their GPs will be able to see the consultants for their outpatient appointments.

Andrew Davey, General Manager of the Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital says: "We're really excited by the opportunity to team up with Uppingham Surgery in this way.

We want to make it as convenient as possible for people to see their consultants. This way, patients are able to get the advice they need without having to travel all the way into Leicester, except for surgery if they need it. We think that this service will make a real difference to local patients."

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