

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

26th July 2010



Visit to Colonel John Heggs Copse

A group of Friends of the RCC led by the RCC President, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, recently made a visit to the Col John Heggs Copse at Billa Barra (nr M1 Junc 22) in the National Forest.

Mary, John's widow, was the principal guest. Thirteen years ago a copse was planted to commemorate John's retirement as Director of the RCC. Sophie Churchill, Chief Executive of the National Forest joined the group at Billa Barra and updated them on the progress of the National Forest. The copse is thriving and the visitors enjoyed a wonderfully sunny and very hot day which was in marked contrast to the driving rain which marked the original planting.



Visitors at the Plaque in the Col John Heggs Copse

Regional Strategies are scrapped

With immediate effect, power will be handed back to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning that can get the country building again. Communities will once again be able to solve local housing challenges in a way that makes sense for them. In return councils will be offered powerful new incentives that ensure they benefit from development they welcome.

Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles said,

"Communities will no longer have to endure the previous government's failed Soviet tractor style top-down planning targets - they were a terrible, expensive, time-consuming way to impose house building and worst of all threatened the destruction of the Green Belt.



Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles,

"I promised to get rid of them and I'm revoking regional plans with immediate effect - hammering another nail in the coffin of unwanted and an unaccountable regional bureaucracy. They were a national disaster that robbed local people of their democratic voice, alienating them and entrenching opposition against new development.

"Regional Strategies built nothing but resentment - we want to build houses. So instead we will introduce powerful new incentives for local people so they support the construction of new homes in the right places and receive direct rewards from the proceeds of growth to improve their local area."

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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



Blaby hosts first sports awards

Sports stars, volunteers and coaches have been honoured at an awards evening to celebrate sporting achievement in Blaby district.

The ceremony, organised by the Blaby District Local Sports Alliance, was held at Brockington College on July 1 and saw ten people take home medals in eight different categories including sports person of the year, team of the year and an award for special recognition.



Steve Buck (right) receives the LSA (local sports alliance) Special Recognition award from Councillor Karl Coles.

Councillor Karl Coles, chair of the local sports alliance, said: "We have some fantastic young sports men and women achieving great successes in our district so its vital that we recognise them and the people behind the scenes that work so hard to make everything happen."

The awards, which were the first of their kind in Blaby, were hosted by Gaynor Nash, regional legacy co-ordinator for the 2012 Olympics.

Dave Price, head of PE at Countesthorpe Community College said: "The evening was a great opportunity to promote achievement by young people in sport across the district and show what a positive impact physical activity can have in our local community."

Blaby's local sports alliance is made up of the Blaby & Harborough School Sport Partnership, NHS Primary Care Trust, Voluntary Action Police, leisure centres, community disability groups and sports clubs as well as a representation from Leicestershire and Rutland Sport.

Is your pharmacy the right prescription?

People living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are being asked to give their views on services offered by pharmacists and dispensing doctors in a questionnaire, ahead of a public consultation later in the year.

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) aims to highlight any gaps in provision and show which services are required, where and by whom. The results will help to determine if pharmacy services meet the health needs of the population and whether applications to provide new pharmacy services will be approved in the future.

The closing date for the questionnaire is 31st July. People living in Leicestershire county and Rutland can fill it in online by visiting NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland's website at www.lcr.nhs.uk/pna or pick a copy up from their local pharmacist. To request a survey to be posted to you contact Tom Pitchers 0116 295 7686.

People living in Leicester can fill in the questionnaire by collecting a copy from their local pharmacy, calling NHS Leicester City's Get Involved team on 0116 295 4183, visiting the website at www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/getinvolved or alternatively email the team at getinvolved@leicestercity.nhs.uk

The National Forest Wood Fair: A Great Day Out at the End of the Summer



The National Forest Wood Fair is held at Beacon Hill Country Park and will run from

10am – 5pm on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August. Entry costs adults £7, concessions £4 and a family ticket £15 (for two adults and three children).

It is organised jointly by the National Forest Company and Leicestershire County Council and is supported by emda.

Attractions this year include:

- ✦ Hear the throttles of the chainsaw carving, as skilled craftsmen buzz and feather massive chunks of timber into works of art, some of which will feature in the charity auction for Tree Aid at the end of the day.
- ✦ The 'log to leg' race! It'll be ready, steady, go in Bodgers' Corner, as half a dozen pole lathe turners race to turn a log into a leg in the shortest time possible.
- ✦ Visitors can also find out how to make a coracle, see willow weaving, woodcarving and pyrography.
- ✦ Kids can have a go at the climbing wall, eco art and other ranger led activities.



Visit www.nationalforest.org for more information

New powers to prevent unwanted 'garden grabbing'

Councils and communities are being given immediate powers to prevent the destructive practice of 'garden grabbing' and to decide what types of homes are suitable for their area.

Over the last decade, many councils have been left frustrated at the increasing amount of inappropriate development on gardens which they have been unable to prevent. This is because planning guidance has classified gardens as 'previously residential

land', in the same Brownfield category as derelict factories and disused railway sidings.

Plans have now been unveiled to take gardens out of the Brownfield category, a simple step that will dramatically transform councils' ability to prevent unwanted development on gardens where local people object and protect the character of their neighbourhoods.



New Chairman of EMPAJC appointed



Deirdre Newham has taken over the role of Chair of the East Midlands Police Authorities and Joint Chair of the Collaboration Board. Both roles involve chairing meetings between the five East Midlands' police forces and police authorities in addition to acting as a regional spokesperson.

Innovation Centre project gets green light

A £4.2 million project to help fledgling businesses set up and prosper is set to begin in the next few weeks after funding was secured. The Harborough Innovation Centre will be built on land at Airfield Farm, on the outskirts of Market Harborough, after it was confirmed the project would not be affected by the recent review of Government spending commitments.

emda will provide £4m through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Sub Regional Investment Plan (SRIP) to complete the partnership project. Developer William Davis will contribute complementary work space as part of the project to the value of £1m.

Harborough District Council is adding £200,000, and will be assisted in developing the centre by Prospect Leicestershire, the economic development company for Leicester and Leicestershire, which worked with the district council to secure the funding, and select the contractor.

Funds and Figures Training Session

“Strategic Funding and Finance Management”

Available for Voluntary Organizations, Community Groups and Registered Charities

Thursday 23rd Sept 2010, 9.45am - 4pm
at Quorn Lodge, 46 Asfordby Road
Melton Mowbray LE13 0HR

Commissioned by the Funds and Figures Project, this course will 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

Government Confirms Community Sector Drop in Lottery Funding

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) confirms lottery funding will fall from 50% to 40% for voluntary and community causes from September.

Arts, sports and heritage organisations are to receive 60% compared to the current level of 50% from the Big Lottery Fund under proposals announced in the DCMS's structural reform plan.

A current consultation on the matter is open until 21 August but it is likely the plans will go ahead.