

# RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland)  
20th July 2009



## RCC welcomes new member of staff



We are pleased to announce that Kate Sharpe has joined the RCC Rural Action Team as Community Development Officer for Melton and Rutland.

Kate said, "I'm really looking forward to working with the communities in Melton and Rutland and would like to encourage any groups that need any help to call me at the office on 0116 2689710 or email [ksharpe@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:ksharpe@ruralcc.org.uk)."

## Attention all community buildings Changes to Licensing regime

The Department for Culture Media and Sport has stated that changes to the licensing regime will take effect from 29th July 2009.

The government has taken the opportunity to boost income by stipulating that if a hall already holds a Premises Licence that includes the sale of alcohol then a fee of £23.00 should be submitted with the application for removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor requirement.

If a hall holds a Premises Licence that does not include the sale of alcohol then they should contact their local licensing authority as their Premises Licence will need to be varied and the appropriate fees paid. The fee is linked to the premises rateable value.

We suggest that hall committees contact their licensing officers for assistance!

## Village halls seminar Wednesday 28 October 2009

**Cosby Village Hall**  
**10.00 am until 4.00 pm**

### ***Energy efficiency in village halls***

Presented by 'National Energy Action'

Please enter in your diaries now  
Booking forms will be sent out in August

[www.ruralcc.org.uk](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk)

Please email the Editor, Bridget Masters, with any news items: [bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk)

## Council tackles digital divide



Children living in socially deprived areas in Cameroon will benefit from computer equipment donated by Blaby District Council. The Council teamed up with the Leicester-based Cooke e-Learning Foundation to help send 45 printers to the African Country.

After upgrading their stock of printers earlier this year the Council decided to contact various charities to see how the equipment could benefit less fortunate communities.

Colin Jones, Corporate Transformation Manager at the Council said: "This equipment will now go to people who really need it instead of just rotting away in a store room.

"As a local authority we need to take the lead on social responsibility and set a good example to other companies who may be throwing away equipment which could be reused by people in need."

The Cooke e-Learning Foundation is a charity which works with the Optimus Education Foundation, a group of educational, IT and medical professionals of African origin, to supply computer equipment to Cameroon in an attempt to bridge the digital divide between Africa and the West.

The Optimus programme provides support in setting up and maintaining the IT systems they deliver to schools in Cameroon as well as training adults and children to use the equipment.

## Energy ratings for commercial buildings

Leicestershire Trading Standards advise that businesses are wasting money if they do not ask for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) when they purchase or rent a commercial property.

Since 1st October 2008, an EPC must be given to a prospective purchaser or tenant for a commercial building when it is built, offered for rent or offered for sale. Potentially, buildings with shared facilities and serviced offices fall under this requirement.

EPCs must be provided free of charge to prospective tenants or purchasers. Sellers or landlords who fail to provide an EPC when required can be liable to a fine of up to £5,000.

If your business has not been provided with an EPC or you require advice on the law, call Leicestershire Trading Standard's Business Advice line for free, friendly, expert advice on 0116 305 8000

## Planning Leicester

Leicester's former glories –and some of its disgraces- come to light in a new exhibition at the Record Office which features the building plans of Leicester, 1849 -1923.

Many are beautiful works of art in their own right; others like the pre-slum clearance houses in Gray Street are a shocking reminder of the harsher side of life.

This exhibition is free and may be seen at the Record Office during normal opening hours. It runs until 4th September.

For further details please contact : Jess Jenkins at the Record Office, Long Street, Wigston Magna, Leicester LE18 2AH.  
Tel : (0116) 257 1080  
Email : [recordoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@leics.gov.uk)

## Bag a free gift at farmers' market

Shoppers visiting the next Blaby Farmers' Market on Saturday July 25 will be given environmentally friendly shopping bags in an effort to get people to dump their plastic bags.

The first 200 customers spending more than £5 on tasty local produce will be given a free natural cotton shopping bag, specially made to promote the successful market.

Each bag will contain a raffle ticket giving shoppers the chance to win £5 in vouchers to be spent on market produce.

Entrants into the prize draw will be asked to attend the next market on August 22 to see if they are one of the lucky winners and to claim their prize.

Blaby Farmers' Market runs on the fourth Saturday of every month from 9am-1.30pm in the Blaby Social Centre car park on Leicester Road, just a short walk from the town centre.

## Do you have parenting experience?

If you remember the ups and downs of parenting and would like to use your experience to help local families with young children encountering stress – this could be for you!

Home-Start North West Leicestershire is seeking volunteers and their next training course starts on Wednesday 16th September 2009 for 9 weeks, term times only.

Training is very informal and doesn't involve exams! It runs on a Wednesday 9.30am – 2.30pm at their offices in Coalville.

Contact Home-Start on 01530 812327 or email: [homestartnwl@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:homestartnwl@tiscali.co.uk)

## Charity awareness films



### Do you need a film?

Volunteer Films supports small charities and voluntary organisations with a revenue of less than £2 million per year. The project is open to organisations across England.

### How it works

Charities are asked to contribute a one-off production fee of £1,000 for which you get the following:

- \* A short promotional film made by experienced professionals from the TV, film and video production industry worth the equivalent of £10,000 - £15,000
- \* A DVD master of the film
- \* A version of the film suitable for website streaming
- \* Rushes (original shot footage) of the film
- \* Full copyright of the film produced
- \* PR and marketing advice on how to use the film effectively, supported by Media Trust's Media Matching service
- \* Guaranteed broadcast on Community Channel and available on Community Channel website to watch online

### How to apply

Volunteer Films Series 5 is now open for applications. Download and complete the Volunteer Films application form on their web site at [www.mediatrust.org/mediatrust-productions/volunteer-films](http://www.mediatrust.org/mediatrust-productions/volunteer-films) and email to [volunteerfilms@mediatrust.org](mailto:volunteerfilms@mediatrust.org) by 31 July 2009, or tel 020 7217 3628 for more information.

### **Need help with your community project?**

The Community Projects Team, based in Rutland, are willing to undertake a wide range of tasks and the service is available for organisations and individuals who would have difficulty completing the tasks themselves.

The work will be carried out by volunteers from HMP Ashwell under the supervision of the Projects Supervisor. These volunteers are all carefully risk assessed and are willing to undertake work as part of their resettlement programme.

The team will undertake a wide range of tasks e.g. general house maintenance, painting and decorating, garden maintenance and environmental projects. Any job will be considered dependent on skill levels available. There are charges but these will be kept to a minimum.

To find out more please contact the Community Projects Supervisor at Voluntary Action Rutland, Tel: 01572 722622 email: [cpt@varutland.org.uk](mailto:cpt@varutland.org.uk)

### **Rutland LINK (Local Involvement Network)**

Rutland Local Involvement Network (LINK) is now encouraging people and organisations across the area to work together and make a difference to local health and social care services.

The LINK has powers under legislation which will allow communities to have a stronger voice in ensuring services meet their needs. It is an independent network which exists to represent the views of those living in and around Rutland.

If you would like further general information about Rutland Local Involvement Network please contact Dinah Shaw - 07967 611628 - or email [rutlandlink@shaw-trust.org.uk](mailto:rutlandlink@shaw-trust.org.uk) , or register your interest online [www.communityvoicesonline.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicesonline.org.uk)

### **Green Communities service launched**

The Energy Saving Trust, the UK's leading organisation set up to help people fight climate change, has launched Green Communities - a brand new hub for UK communities, offering free online tools and local advice.

The online service includes a carbon footprint tool which allows registered members to pinpoint exactly how their community can reduce carbon emissions and save money.

Communities across the UK are invited to register for free membership at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/community](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/community) or call 0844 848 0077.

### **The Rural Cinema Pilot Scheme**

The UK Film Council has launched a Rural Cinema Pilot Scheme that will bring high standard digital equipment to rural audiences, giving them the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that modern digital cinemas have to offer, including live satellite events and 3D films.

Rural cinema in this sense means film screenings in rural areas, normally in non-traditional venues such as village and town halls, arts centres and other community spaces. It encompasses film societies, film clubs, mobile cinemas and community cinemas.

The UK Film Council has allocated £1.2 million of Lottery funding to the Rural Cinema Pilot Scheme and it will be rolled out initially across Shropshire, Wiltshire and North Yorkshire.

The data collected from the pilot will be used to promote best practice and provide the foundations of any future national scheme.

Visit [www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/rural](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/rural) to find out more.