

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

22nd March 2010



Win £50,000 for your area!

Year six of People's Millions has now been launched, an exciting partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and ITV in which the public vote for which community project they want to receive funding of up to £50,000.

You can enter if you are a not-for profit group, school, local authority or statutory health body.

Shortlisted projects will be showcased on local ITV evening news later this year where they will have to convince the public why they need the cash. It will then be up to the public to vote for groups to win the funding.

Over the last five years 388 projects have been funded through the programme, sharing a total of £21.4 million.

Application forms are now available from www.peoplesmillions.org.uk or by calling 0845 0 10 11 12 and the deadline for submitting them is 12 noon on Friday 14 May.



Win £50,000 for your area!



£1m windfall for 3 local groups

Three local groups have received almost £1m of funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme:

Community Action Blaby received £449,018 towards a project offering free physical activities for people with mental health problems.

Age Concern Hinckley & Bosworth received £368,227 to expand services including exercise classes and lunch clubs.

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Headway Charity, which supports people with brain injuries, received a grant of £146,295 to create a woodwork shop to help rehabilitation.

Find out more about Reaching Communities at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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



Canal festival calls for volunteers

free admission and a meal voucher. The festival will feature bands, a bar, boats, historic re-enactments, live steam, forest crafts, children's entertainment, 'Morris on Moira', a wide range of refreshments, and more, including the first tightrope walk across the Ashby Canal.

If you are interested in volunteering please email volunteer co-ordinator Roger Grimsley (roger.grimsley@ntlworld.com) or call Leicestershire County Council's Ashby Canal Officer on 01530 273956 or email geoff.pursglove@leics.gov.uk.

For more details on the Ashby Canal restoration project, visit: www.leics.gov.uk/ashbycanal

Organisers of this year's Moira Canal Festival are looking for volunteers to help out at the weekend long event on 22nd and 23rd May.

Volunteers, whose main duties will be helping out on the gate or assisting in setting-up, will be entitled to

Adapting to Climate Change: A guide for local parish and town councils

Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have worked collaboratively to produce a new guide for local parish and town councils entitled: **Adapting to climate change: a guide for local councils.**

Climate change constitutes one of the greatest social, environmental and economic threats to society. Issues such as health, housing, transport, waste, food production and equality are completely linked with environmental conditions. We need to understand how our climate might change so that we can prepare. The impacts of climate change, including flooding and drought, will vary from place to place meaning that action at local and regional level is vitally important to help reduce future risk.

This guide is designed for parish and town councils and community groups to promote ways in which they can source information, ideas and support on local initiatives which will help them address the likely impacts of climate change.

Included in the guide are tips for local councils that can stimulate local thinking on how their own community may be affected. A series of practical solutions are outlined in the form of case studies of community led projects that have already taken place across England.

A copy of the guide can be found by visiting either the ACRE website at www.acre.org.uk or the Defra website Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk.



National Family Week 31st May - 6th June 2010



National Family Week aims to highlight the important role families play in society and encourage healthy active lifestyles and quality family time. Now in its second year, National Family Week is the largest coalition on family issues and is backed by all major political parties and a huge range of national charities, community groups and sporting associations.

Over 5,000 events will take place during National Family Week 2010 (31st May – 6th June) plus record breaking excitement, giveaways, competitions and activity ideas to encourage families to spend quality time together. It's going to be a jam-packed fun week and National Family Week would like your organisation to get involved.

Get involved...

Why not be a part of National Family Week 2010 and organise family-friendly events and activities for families in your local community? Events can happen at any time during The Week, but you may wish to tie in your plans with one of The Week's theme days, for example the Family Week Picnic on Monday 31st May, Family Week Story Time on Wednesday 2nd June, or the Family Week Sports Day on Saturday 5th June.

You can run events as fundraisers, to showcase the good work that you do, to get a serious message across to families or simply to have fun. They could be pre-existing events, just co-branded National Family Week or new events run specifically for The Week. Your events can be featured on the National Family Week website to encourage families in your local area to attend and we'll also supply materials such as stickers, posters, bookmarks and balloons at no cost to you.

For further information on the plans for The Week, theme day toolkits and promotional resources, visit the National Family Week website at www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk and register for the Partner Zone.

Grassroots Grants - latest deadline approaches

The Grassroots Grants programme offers small voluntary and community groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the opportunity to apply and receive funding from £250 to £5000. Deadlines for the next round of applications are:

Leicester City: 7th May 2010

Leicestershire: 21st May 2010

Rutland: 1st June 2010

Visit www.valonline.org.uk/grassroots-grants for more details or to download an application form.



Find out about village events



The RCC's events diary is a great way to find out what is available to enjoy in our local villages throughout the year.

Visit www.ruralcc.org.uk/upcomingevents

Events for April include:

- ★ 4th & 5th April Dunton Bassett Easter Flowers Festival
- ★ 4th April Oakthorpe Easter Egg Hunt
- ★ 5th April Kegworth Charter Market
- ★ 10th April Thurlaston Local Walk
- ★ 10th April Long Clawson Village Auction
- ★ 10th April Lutterworth Seedy Saturday
- ★ 15th April Grace Dieu Priory Ghost Walk
- ★ 25th April Ravenstone - St. George's Day Medieval Fete

Why not take the opportunity to attend one of the excellent concerts on offer? These include:

- ★ 16th April Claybrooke Magna - Reg Meuross and Bethany Porter in Concert
- ★ 24th April Botcheston - Irish Night
- ★ 24th April Sheepy Melody Makers concert
- ★ 24th April Cottesmore - Bestwood Male Voice Choir
- ★ 25th April Stathern Concert with the Hermitage Ensemble

Easter Holiday Events in Leicestershire to view online

Leicestershire museums, libraries and country parks will be hosting numerous events, many of which are free, throughout the school holidays to keep the family entertained. There's something for everyone, whether your family enjoy arts and crafts, games and puzzles, historical or nature events.

A varied programme of Easter break activities (Sat 27th March to Sun 13th April) is listed on the website

www.leics.gov.uk/schoolholidayevents

Activities to choose from include:

- ★ Design your Family Coat of Arms, storytelling and craft activities in county libraries
- ★ Easter Egg hunts at Watermead Country Park
- ★ Hands on Hawks at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre & country park
- ★ Animals in Hands workshops at Charnwood Museum

If you are still struggling for ideas on what to do with your children over the holiday break why not have a look online at 'What's On' giving you ideas of various events being held around Leicestershire: www.leics.gov.uk/whatson

The Events Guide is packed with 100s of fun and fascinating activities to keep all the family entertained: www.leics.gov.uk/events

You can also pick up a free comprehensive guide from any county library, museum, Service Shop or local Tourist Information Centre. Order your copy by calling 0116 305 6988 or email eventsguide@leics.gov.uk

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