

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

29th March 2010



Local communities support action on climate change

Work has recently started on the RCC's new project to support action on climate change by communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Two of the ten local communities that we will be providing dedicated support to are Oakham and Ashby de la Zouch, and in both areas community events are taking place in April to inspire local people to take action.

In Oakham, an event called "Think Local" will take place on Easter weekend. The event will run from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 3rd April at the Victoria Hall on High St. As well as being a great opportunity to meet up with people interested in working towards a sustainable Oakham, it will feature:

- * the Energy Saving Trust's Car Simulator (which helps you to practice efficient driving)
- * lots of stalls, including information on green living from the local council and information on reducing waste from WRAP
- * a big map of the Rutland area which people will use to locate where their locally-sourced goods and services come from
- * rolling showings of "The Story of Stuff", a short documentary on consumption and waste
- * live music

Ashby 2020
ONE town ONE planet

**Be part of the
Ashby 2020 project**
*save money, make money
build a more resilient community*

Launch Event
**Thursday 15th April,
7pm-10pm
at Ivanhoe College**

*Be part of this exciting project
from the very start!*

www.ashby2020.co.uk
Twitter: @Ashby2020

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For more information, or to express your interest in getting involved with a new group to work towards a resilient and low-carbon Oakham, contact Gabrielle Maughan on grays.morcott@virgin.net.

In Ashby, April 15th will see the launch of Ashby 2020, a new initiative aiming to involve local people in planning for Ashby's future and helping to make it into a more resilient community.

The event will include talks from representatives from Ashton Hayes (aiming to be a carbon-neutral village), Tilton on the Hill (home to the "Tilton Green" project) and the RCC's Community Climate Change Officer Andrew Reeves.

For more information, contact Carl Benfield from Ashby 2020 on carlbenfield@prescientpower.co.uk.

For more information on the RCC's project to support work by local communities on climate change, contact Andrew Reeves on areeves@ruralcc.org.uk, 0116 268 9718, or visit www.ruralcc.org.uk/climate-change

www.ruralcc.org.uk

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



Community Awards for Charnwood

Financial assistance is available for local voluntary and community groups, schools and colleges in Charnwood for projects and activities that improve the local community.

The Community Awards is provided by 3M Health Care as part of its community investment programme and administered in partnership with the Loughborough Echo. The awards, now in their sixteenth year, are intended to recognise the scale and diversity of care and enhancement of people's lives and the local environment in Charnwood.

The £3,000 awards are aimed at local charitable and non-profit-making groups across Charnwood for things that would benefit their group and the lives of their members.

To be eligible, applicants must have a project that fits into one of the following three categories:

- ★ Improvements to healthy, well being and quality of life of people.
- ★ Improvements to the social and physical environment.
- ★ Education.
- ★

Contact the Loughborough Echo for an application form and further information.

Contact details: Jo Swift, Loughborough Echo, Princes Court, Royal Way, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 5XR

Telephone: 01509 635827.

SHIRE Voluntary Youth Grants

Financial assistance up to the value of £850 is available to voluntary youth organisations in Leicestershire County to help with their running costs, rent or equipment used to support youth work.

The SHIRE Voluntary Youth Grants scheme, provided and administered by Leicestershire County Council, is intended to help support the activities of voluntary youth organisations in Leicestershire County through providing assistance with premises rental and running costs.

Examples of premises running costs are:

Rates and premises rental charges.

- Energy costs.
- Water charges.
- Other costs necessary to open the premises being used.

The grant may also be used to support developmental and innovatory work through the provision of equipment. Such equipment must be necessary and relevant to the youth work being undertaken and must be available for use by youth club members.

There will be two rounds of funding in 2010-11 with applications due:

- 30 April 2010.
- October 2010 (date to be set later in the year).

For further information please contact Sue Bishop, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA. Telephone: 0116 305 6394



Home Composting Free Help and Advice

Rod Weston a local Garden Organics/Leicestershire County Council Master Composter is offering free home visits and an email advice service to local residents who are encountering problems while home composting.

40% of household waste is made up from material suitable for composting. Which makes home composting a ideal way to reduce waste sent to landfill and to improve the garden or patio plants. The Council has been active in promoting recycling and reducing the percentage of waste sent to landfill but unfortunately there are a significant number of people who start composting but give up on

encountering problems. This new local service has been set up to help reduce this drop- out rate.

Readers encountering composting problems be it smelly or wet compost, fly infestations, rats or compost just "sitting there doing nothing" are may obtain free advice and if they so wish a home visit to provide practical help by emailing Carryoncomposting@ntlworld.com

Composting talks & slide shows are also offered for local Groups, Clubs & Societies

Calling all Gardeners

Seed & Plant Swap and Sale

- * Recycle your surplus seeds and young plants.
- * Save money on expensive packets of seeds.
- * Swap seeds and plants or just come to buy what others have available.

**All local Allotment Societies
have been invited to participate**

Indoor Event - Free parking - Light refreshments
Hugglescote Community Centre, Grange Road,
LE67 2BR

11 am Saturday 17th April

Entry by £1 donation

Home Composting Helpdesk & Advice
with LCC Master Composters

For further details please telephone: 01530 456071
or visit :www.eagsociety.co.uk

EAGS - Ellistown Allotment & Gardens Society

Libraries become more dyslexia-friendly

Libraries across Leicestershire have signed up to a new set of guidelines designed to make them more dyslexia-friendly. Over the next few months, staff are being trained to ensure they understand the basic issues facing people with dyslexia.

Most of the checklist has already been adopted by county libraries and includes offering easy-to-read and audio materials, working with dyslexia groups and making reasonable adjustments.

This follows a national project - led by the Society of Chief Librarians - aimed at making libraries better equipped to help people affected by dyslexia.

Around 10% of the population are dyslexic to some extent and at least 4% are seriously affected, including about 375,000 children. People with dyslexia are often successful at reading and writing but they may need reasonable adjustments to be made to give them additional help.



Summer Activities Grant

Grants of up to £500 are available to support summer play scheme projects in the UK.

The LankellyChase Foundation provides funding to voluntary, community and charitable organisations to support summer play schemes that will benefit children aged 5-17 in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Schemes should focus on the 2010 key areas which are activities:

- For young people living in refuges escaping from domestic violence.
- For young carers.

The current deadline for applications is Friday 14 May 2010. Applicants will be required to submit the following information with an application:

- Child Protection policy.
- Most recent accounts.
- Copy of constitution.

For the latest information regarding the programme, consult the LankellyChase Foundation website at www.lankellychase.org.uk or telephone: 01235 820 044

Young people encouraged to 'make things happen'

Young people, living in rural areas, are to be given more opportunity to make a difference in their community, thanks to the launch of a new project.

The Rural Youth Voice Project is a five-year initiative, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, being run in partnership between Voluntary Action South Leicestershire (VASL) and Harborough District Council.

The aim is to work with young people across the district, particularly in villages or with excluded groups, and listen to their views on what they would like to see in their neighbourhoods. From here, the aim is to make things happen by linking up with parish councils, town and village improvement teams, community organisations and faith groups.

Those behind the project are now calling on these groups or any other organisation or agency, which would like to involve young people in their work, to get in touch.

If you are a community group, parish council, faith group or other organisation in district which would like to involve young people in your work, contact Sian Ponting at sian@vasl.org.uk or phone 07576 021114.

For more information about Enable Youth visit www.enableyouth.org.uk