

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

26th April 2010



RCC Members' Web Pages Go Live!

All RCC Members now have the benefit of an exclusive area on the RCC Web Site which includes the following:

- * Funding Information, including a searchable funding directory and the RCC Community funding Guide
- * Access online to all the latest RCC Publications including:
 - * - the Weekly Bulletin (download the latest edition from the web site or look for a previous issue you may have missed).
 - * - The 2010 RCC Directory is available to download or read online.
 - * - The RCC Diary of Village Events and Guided Walks is also available.

All current members should have now received email confirmation of their logon details for this area. If you already have logon permissions for Leicestershire Villages or for the Parish Council Web Site then you will find that you can logon with that User Name and Password (providing you are in RCC membership also).

If you experience any problems accessing the members' area then please contact Bridget Masters, RCC Communications Officer, Tel: 0116 2689702 or email: bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk



Course is at the 'cutting hedge' of learning

Hedge laying courses in the early spring months have proved so popular that more are planned for the autumn and winter.

The latest courses were led by Leicestershire County Council's Country Park Rangers who look after the grounds at Donington-le-heath Manor House, near Coalville. During the last course, seven members of the public joined Senior Ranger Dave Luther to learn the basics and importance of hedge laying in our environment.

To register interest for a future course call 01530 278444. For a list of activities coming up in and around Leicestershire's countryside, see the Events Guide online at www.leics.gov.uk/events.



Senior Leicestershire County Council Ranger Dave Luther demonstrates hedgelaying

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



Have you heard about the Rutland Third Sector Consortium?

No..? Then see below for your chance to have your say in what matters in Rutland!

Background

The Consortium was formed in 2007 and is a group of third and public sector organisations, including statutory bodies which work to support the people of Rutland. It forms a link between the statutory and third sectors, and works to influence local policy and procedure in areas which may impact on the third sector, or on the people it provides services for.

The Compact

The Rutland Compact and its associated protocols forms a “contractual” framework (although not legally binding) which underpins this working relationship. It highlights key working practices which both sectors have undertaken to observe when working with each other. The Compact currently has 7 signatories: the Consortium; Rutland County Council; The Learning and Skills Council; The NHS; The Fire and Rescue Service; Police and East Midlands Ambulance Services.

Why Join?

The Consortium provides a valuable network where you can discuss issues which could/will affect the wider third sector, and look at ways to tackle these in a collaborative way. The Consortium can help support and provide input to local policy and procedure, and ensure that third sector views are represented. As a member you will be able to access up-to-date information from a number of sources, as well as training and information days.

So if you are interested in becoming a member or would like to know more, please contact me (details below). We look forward to welcoming you to the Rutland Consortium.

Fiona Loft, Third Sector Development Manager,
Voluntary Action Rutland

email: condevelop@varutland.org.uk

Tel: 01572 722622

Community groups get cash boost

Sports clubs, youth groups and charities have been awarded more than £11,000 in the latest round of community grants from Blaby District Council.

The grants, ranging from £200- £5,000 were given to 22 different organisations in total, including football and cricket clubs, scout groups and various community projects.

The grants, which are given to not-for-profit community groups that want to expand or develop their services are funded by Blaby District Council and allocated by Community Action Blaby District on their behalf. More than 80 groups benefited from around £70,000 worth of funding during the last financial year.

Groups are now being invited to apply for the next round of funding by 28th May. Anyone wanting to apply for a grant should contact Community Action Blaby District on 0116 272 7669.

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Green Footprints Community Network

Do you belong to a local group? Is your group interested in helping make the district a cleaner, greener place to live?

North West Leicestershire District Council is launching a new Green Footprints Community Network to encourage local groups to share ideas and opportunities and help access funding opportunities for green projects across the district.

The Network is open to any local group such as community groups, residents' groups, allotment societies, uniformed groups and women's institutes. If your group is interested in or already involved in 'green' activities, we are keen to hear from you.

The Network will hold its first event at the National Forest Company, Moira on Thursday 13th May from 6-8pm. The evening will include a guided tour of the new Youth Hostel that is packed with 'eco-friendly' features, including solar panels, bio-fuel boiler, greywater harvesting and natural ventilation. This will be followed by an informal session to determine how the network can help groups share good practice, access funding and work in partnership.

The network will meet three times a year and will be a great way for your group to share your successes and learn from others. To book your place on this free event please contact the Sustainability Team on 01530 454769 or 454771 or email: sustainability@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Cycle your way to a free qualification

Harborough District Council's Active Together team is looking for people in the Lutterworth area who can lead bike rides for beginners, as part of its Summer Rides programme. Volunteers will be put forward to undertake a British Cycling Level 2 Ride Leader qualification and will then be qualified and insured to lead daytime or evening rides for recreational cyclists.

The two-day British Cycling Level 2 Ride Leader Course qualifies people to lead rides independently. It is also possible to develop an understanding of leading techniques and cycling-specific leading skills. Ride leaders will be supported by Active Together to coordinate, navigate and adapt routes for a variety of different age groups and ability levels. They may also receive payment for leading rides.

If you or your club can help get more people active by leading rides, the Active Together Harborough team would like to hear from you. Contact Steve Scales or Zoe Calder at Harborough District Council on activetogether@harborough.gov.uk or call for more details on 01858 828282

Positive Activities for Young People - Harborough

Financial assistance is available to organisations for activities aimed at young people who are disengaged from services or at risk of risky and/or anti-social behaviour. Funding is intended to provide young people with more opportunities to participate in positive activities that build resilience, self esteem and access to information and support services, which are made available out of school hours and during school holidays.

To be eligible, applicants must be a Harborough District voluntary, community or statutory organisation capable of providing high quality Positive Activities for young people aged 10-19 years living within Harborough District.

There will be one round of funding in 2010-11. Applications are due by 4 May 2010. Decisions within a week of the deadline, followed by confirmation letter and payment in advance.

Contact Stella Renwick at Harborough District Council, Tel: 01858 828282



Ellistown Play Area opens

Council then applied for a 'Playbuilder' award. The £50,000.00 award was granted for use prior to 31st March 2010. The result is an imaginative and well equipped play space.

The South Street play area in Ellistown was officially opened on Saturday 17th April 2010. It was a very successful event, with an excellent public turn out.

A number of representatives from Leicestershire County Council and North West Leicestershire District Council attended, in addition to a hopeful Parliamentary candidate and the local press. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony, speeches by Wayne McDermott of the Ellistown & Battleflat Parish Council and Parish Plan Group, and John Richardson the Head of Leisure and Culture at NWLDC. Free children's activities were provided including face painting.

The Parish Plan, which was officially launched in 2009, identified the need to replace the existing South Street play area in Ellistown. Young people between the ages of 8 and 13 were consulted on their views of creative, natural and adventurous equipment and designs that they would like provided. The Parish



Playbuilder is a government scheme set up by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which aims to change the way that play spaces are commissioned, designed and built.*

Leicestershire County Council has been allocated £1.1 million towards the cost of developing at least 22 new or substantially refurbished play spaces before March 2011. The bulk of this funding (for at least 14 sites) is being made available through a competitive grants process.

Bag4Sport

Bag4Sport Limited (B4S) is a social enterprise based in Wiltshire that supports sports clubs, youth projects, communities and charities across the UK by turning unwanted and useless clothing into useful cash, at zero cost to you. B4S also encourages waste awareness and recycling. The textiles collected are re-used as affordable clothing in second hand shops in less privileged countries, where the unused clothes are sent for textile recycling.

Getting involved is simple: B4S bags and posters are issued to the organisation, each with a letter, and given out to members. Bags are then filled by the members etc, then collected on an agreed date, weighed, and a receipt issued. It then pays the organisation 40p per kilo (£400 per tonne), and issues a certificate of achievement. Cheques are sent out within 6 weeks.

Contact Bag4Sport.co.uk Tel: 01380 728880 for more information www.bag4sport.co.uk

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