

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Countylink

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BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



GEDLING
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**NEWARK &
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Circulation to:

Councillors at Town and Parish Councils and Parish meetings; County Councillors; District and Borough Councils, interested individuals and organisations.

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The future shape of Minerals and Waste Plans in Nottinghamshire

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning Authorities to start replacing their Local Plans with new style documents that will form a 'Local Development Framework' for their area. The framework will continue to provide the main guidance for controlling development and land-use but will be more flexible and be subject to improved public consultation.

The County Council is responsible for controlling minerals and waste development, such as sand and gravel extraction, coal mining, landfill and recycling facilities - activities that often raise many concerns with local communities. Although local communities rarely welcome such development in their neighbourhood, there can be long term environmental benefits. For example, landfill can allow derelict land and former mineral workings to be restored, whilst quarries can provide opportunities to create important new habitats and recreational areas. The main

challenge therefore is to find the most acceptable approach for sustaining our need for minerals and providing new facilities to manage the large quantities of waste we all produce.

The County Council is now preparing a '**Minerals and Waste Development Scheme**', setting out in detail what new plans will be prepared over the next 3 years as part of the **Nottinghamshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework**. Priority will be given to waste. This is based on the conclusions of a recently published Monitoring Report, which indicates that parts of the existing Waste Local Plan are becoming out of date. This will be done jointly with the City Council as both Councils share many of the problems of what to do with all the waste we produce. Work on a new minerals plan will commence after the adoption of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan (expected by early 2006). This Plan is being prepared under the previous system and reached the Public Inquiry stage last summer. It still has a few hurdles to cross before it can be adopted.

Public consultation has always had an important role to play in preparing development plans but the new legislation aims to improve on existing practices and ensure local communities are more involved especially at the start of the process. Indeed Parish Councils will have an opportunity to say how we should do this when we publish a draft '**Statement of Community Involvement**' later this year.

The new planning system will introduce many changes in the way local authorities prepare their development plans and for everyone involved it will be a daunting time until the new system is tried and tested. There will be more documents and proposals to consult on over the next few years, but if the system works as planned it should help improve consensus and reduce the need for lengthy Public Inquiries. Parish Councils will be individually notified as the new draft plans and documents emerge and procedures will be explained.

You can also check progress on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework by visiting the

County Council's website
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planningmatters.htm
where all new key documents will be available.

Single Payment Scheme - DEFRA announces way ahead

In December DEFRA announced how some commoners and owners of common land in England will be able to benefit from the new single payment scheme, and further details of the operation of the National Reserve.

The scheme covers the following:

- Commons
- National Reserve
- New Entrants
- Investors
- Transfer of leased land
- Lease and purchase of leased land
- Dairy converters
- Participants in the Energy Crops Scheme
- Participants in Nationally Funded Agri-environment Schemes
- Six year leases
- Participants in EC funded Agri-environment Schemes

Further information on the implementation of CAP reform and the Single Payment Scheme in England can be found on the defra website at the following address:
www.defra.gov.uk/farm/capreform/index.htm

Application packs and guidance will be made available by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in March/April 2005 for return by 16 May 2005. In the meantime, potential applicants may wish to start the process by registering their land on the Rural Land Register. This will be a scheme requirement. Further details are available from RPA at www.rpa.gov.uk/rpa/rpaweb.nsf or 0845 601 8045.

Green Light for Environmental Stewardship

Details of a new scheme which will give all

farmers in England the opportunity to be paid for environmental work on their farms have been given the green light by the European Commission.

Environmental Stewardship, which will launch in the spring, is a central component of the Government's Sustainable Strategy for Farming and Food, announced two years ago. It has been developed in close conjunction with the Government's partner organisations and agencies.

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) will enable farmers to earn up to £30 per hectare for delivering straightforward, yet effective, work such as maintaining hedgerows, leaving conservation strips around fields and creating beetle banks. It will help address important issues across wide areas of countryside including the decline in species such as farmland birds, protecting landscape character and the historic environment, and cutting diffuse pollution caused by nitrate pollution and nutrient leaching.

Organic farmers under the Organic strand of the Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) will receive a higher rate payment of £60 per hectare which recognises the additional contribution of their systems to the environment. Conversion aid payments for top fruit orchards and improved land will also be available as a top-up payment to farmers taking in new land into conversion under the OELS.

Higher Level Stewardship will target resources on the more complex management needed to maintain and re-create habitats and landscape features. It will build on the success of the Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Schemes.

Application packs, which will contain full details of the scheme, will be available immediately after the scheme launch.

A number of key milestones of the strategy that have been delivered include:

- Reform of the Common Agriculture Policy, breaking the link between subsidy and

production

- Establishment of Food Chain bodies to drive efficiency and increase the competitiveness of the food chain
- Launch of Fresh Start - a package of measures aimed at new entrants and retiring farmers
- Launch of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy
- Launch of a Sustainable Food Procurement Initiative to encourage public sector purchasers to buy food in a manner which promotes sustainable development.

There will be quarterly start dates for agreements and the first Entry Level Stewardship agreements will start on 1 May 2005. To enter Environmental Stewardship, farmers and land managers must register all their land on the Rural Land Register (RLR) and agree the boundaries with the Rural Payments Agency. Land claimed under an England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) scheme agreement is being registered on the RLR and no action is necessary. Additional agricultural or non-agricultural land, not claimed under Integrated Administration and Control Scheme or ERDP will need to be registered. Entry Level Stewardship applications will be accepted on line or in paper form.

Further details are available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/erdpschemes/es/default.htm

Exciting New Learning Opportunities for local people in North Notts

It's full steam ahead for a new project in North Nottinghamshire. Supported by Nottinghamshire County Council, the 'Community Action for Wildlife' project aims to offer learning opportunities and support to local people across the north of the county. Made possible through Alliance SSP funding, and managed and run on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, the project will run until March 2006.

Lianne Evans, recently appointed as the new Biodiversity Officer for Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group describes the project as: 'a valuable opportunity to work together with other

organisations', and believes it will 'offer a whole range of exciting learning and development opportunities to local people'.

A large part of the programme will focus on identifying the requirements of local groups and volunteers in the area and developing a programme of learning opportunities to help meet their needs.

To help achieve this, the project has appointed a Roving Ranger, Claire Jones. Claire, who is based at Greenwood House, Kirkby, will work with local groups to identify and deliver these opportunities. Her role will provide a vital resource for local people and supporting organisations.

Claire, who started in post at the end of October, states that the project 'will play an important role in developing the confidence of local groups' and will help 'inspire people to take an active role in the management of their local environment'

If anyone would like more information on the project, or would like to get involved, please contact Claire on 01623 758231.

Are you one of Nature's friends?



The declaration of four new Local Nature Reserves by Nottinghamshire County Council is nearly complete. The sites – Tippings Wood (Rainworth), Rainworth Water (part of the former Rufford Colliery site), Cockglode and Rotary Woods near Edwinstowe and the Southwell Trail – will soon be identified as some of the best areas for wildlife and people in Nottinghamshire.

Local Nature Reserve declaration will also open a new chapter in the life of these sites – and help is needed to keep the story going.

To ensure that the sites continue to benefit wildlife and all of us who enjoy the great outdoors, "Friends" groups are being developed to give people the opportunity to help shape Local Nature Reserves.

One such group, the Friends of Tippings Wood, has been actively involved in the development of the woodland for a number of years. Members of the group act as site wardens, carry out important management work, assist with educational visits, keep records of wildlife found on the site ... and much more.

If you are interested in helping to shape your Local Nature Reserve we would love to hear from you. You don't need to have any particular skills or experience, just enthusiasm and a desire to make the sites even better places for wildlife and people. If you belong to an organisation which has a particular interest in any of the sites, we would value your input too.

To find out more about the development of new Local Nature Reserve "Friends" groups, please contact Liz Fleuty on 01623 758231 E-mail: liz.fleuty@nottsc.gov.uk

Government Acts to give Clarity to Users of 'Green Lanes'

Inappropriate use of public rights of way by mechanically propelled vehicles will be curtailed via legislation, Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael has confirmed. The Minister's confirmation follows a Defra consultation on proposals to address widespread concern about the use of ancient and often fragile tracks by motor bikes, quad bikes and 4x4s. In particular, views were sought on the existing principle that permits use by modern motor vehicles on the basis that the routes were once used by horse-drawn carriages.

The Government's response to the consultation was published in January 2005, alongside the results of a Defra research report on the use of byways open to all traffic by motor vehicles. Alun Michael said: "We need a rights of way

network that responds to the needs of the 21st century, not a network based solely on historic use patterns. The pressures of modern day use are very different to those of a hundred or more years ago and new legislation is needed to reflect these changes. It is not right that future use for leisure purposes by four wheel drive vehicles, quad bikes and motorbikes is established because horses or horse drawn vehicles used a route long before motorised vehicles were commonplace. At present, other considerations - like the environmental impact, the effect on local people, or the effect on other users - cannot be taken into account. I have never sought to restrict existing use of the established rights of way vehicular network and I am pleased that the findings of the Defra research report support this view. There is a place in our countryside for all users of rights of way, whether on foot or on four wheels, but the use must be responsible, sustainable and appropriate. Our proposals will give clarity to users to enable that to happen, but new legislation alone will not deliver the solution. We need to work at effecting cultural change amongst all user groups, make better use of existing and legal powers, and offer better guidance on management of vehicular traffic on rights of way, to ensure that the rights of way network is safeguarded for the enjoyment of everyone."

A public right of way can be established through historical documentary sources, on the basis of long public use of a route, or through express dedication. Following a recent House of Lords ruling there may also be instances where more recent illegal vehicular use may give rise to vehicular rights.

The consultation response 'The Government's framework for action', centres on:

- New guidance to promote the better enforcement of existing powers, including Road Traffic powers, to manage vehicle use
- An update to the publication 'Making the Best of Byways' providing robust advice on managing the different traffic on vehicular rights of way

- Legislation to limit the basis on which new rights of way may be acquired for mechanically propelled vehicles, and
- An end to the situation whereby historic use by horse-drawn vehicles, dedications made before the existence of the internal combustion engine, or illegal use, can give rise to a right of use by modern mechanically propelled vehicles. This will provide greater certainty about the public vehicular rights that exist by making it no longer possible (with some exceptions) to establish a 'byway open to all traffic' on the evidence of past use by non-mechanically propelled vehicles.

The Minister confirmed that he wants the measures to become law as soon as a legislative opportunity is available. The new legislation will ensure that future use by non-mechanically propelled vehicles can be used only to establish a 'restricted byway', a new category of right of way introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which excludes rights for mechanically propelled vehicles.

The statement also deals with the approach to the technical regulations to implement the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to redesignate roads used as public paths to restricted byways.

The full response, '[The Government's framework for action](#)', and the Defra research report are published online at www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/publicrow.htm.

Nottinghamshire Rural Transport Partnership - Funding Opportunity

The Nottinghamshire Rural Transport Partnership is a scheme of assistance which aims to address social exclusion in rural areas by developing and supporting rural transport projects in Nottinghamshire. The Nottinghamshire RTP was established in February 1999 and so far has helped a wide range of communities and groups throughout the county.

The Delegated Fund, also known as the Small Scale Local Transport Improvement Fund, is administered by Mark Lynam on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Rural Transport Partnership (RTP). Funding has been obtained from The Countryside Agency for continuation of the fund through to 31 March 2006. The aim of the fund is to award grants to individual organisations, operators or providers relating to transport.

How can it benefit you?

The maximum grant available through the Delegated Fund is £1,000. Applicants can apply for 100% funding from the Delegated Fund and no match funding is required.

Grants could be for publicity leaflets, timetable cases and safety equipment and can also be used as revenue funding towards services. In addition, with the closure of The Countryside Agency's Vital Villages programme, applications will also be accepted on a small scale for the completion, or part funding, of Transport Needs Surveys. The fund cannot be used for highway improvements, road safety or bus shelters.

Criteria:

- ☞ Bids should be based on clearly identified need and should make reference to local transport strategies
- ☞ Priority will be given to bids which address one or more of the following categories:
 - A schemes - additional vehicle use
 - B schemes - experimental services
 - C schemes - infrastructure/IT information
 - D schemes - new transport provision
- ☞ The maximum grant which is available from the fund is £1,000, but priority will be given to applications seeking assistance of less than £500 so as to maximize the number of projects
- ☞ Funding to be for one year only
- ☞ Successful applicants will get 100% funding
- ☞ Financial mechanisms for administering and managing the fund will be established in line with Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council guidelines, that shows transparency and accountability to the Countryside Agency
- ☞ It will be a rolling programme.

For an application form or further information, please contact Mark Lynam at Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council on 01623 727619 or e-mail mlynam@nottscc.org.uk

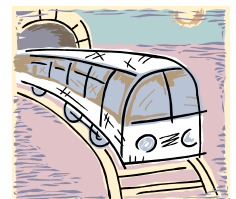
New Transport Services for Ollerton/Boughton and Sutton-in-Ashfield/Kirkby-in-Ashfield



The County Council has been successful in securing further funding from central government under Rural/Urban Bus Challenge to introduce new transport services in Boughton and Ollerton and Sutton-in-Ashfield and Kirkby-in-Ashfield areas.

In Ollerton/Boughton (Boughton Boomerang and Sherwood Sweeper) 2 brand new fully accessible low floor buses will operate services into Boughton Industrial estate and Pumping Station site, helping local people to gain better access to employment opportunities. To complement the local Community Transport Operator, the buses will also be available during the "off peak" periods of the day to operate a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service for local people and people living in the wider Ollerton and district area for shopping trips etc.

In Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield - (Ashfield Access Lynx) 2 brand new fully accessible low floor buses will operate into the grounds of Kingsmill and Ashfield Community Hospitals, giving local people direct access to health facilities. There will also be an element of semi Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) for those living away from the main transport corridors, providing connections into rail services and the existing commercial and local bus network.



In addition to the bus services, which are due to be formally launched by Councillor Butler in the first week in March and start operating on Monday 28 March 2005, a brand new bus infrastructure with a unique branding and logo will be provided.



As part of Ashfield Access Lynx, the Lynx 2 local bus service with its eye catching logo is already up and running and proving a big success with services from Mansfield and Kirkby into Oakham and Sherwood Business parks.

For further information on these projects please contact Lynne Adams or Diane Wood, Nottinghamshire County Council, Environment Department, Passenger Transport Group on 0115 977 4522.

Transport Direct To Your Destination - New Journey Planner

Transport Direct, the travel information and journey planning service for Great Britain, has been officially launched. Now online at www.transportdirect.info, Transport Direct, set up by the Department For Transport (DFT) is a world first in

delivering comprehensive travel information for both public and private forms of transport, offering people choice and enabling them to make better informed decisions when planning journeys within Great Britain.

The award winning service works by joining up existing sources of travel information, offering multi-modal door-to-door journey planning as well as more traditional planning for either car, air, coach or train. Transport Direct's journey plans take the form of step-by-step instructions supported by detailed maps that can be viewed at a range of scales.

Transport Direct also contains 'live travel' information, including real-time information on the running of services to and from Britain's 2500 railway stations. Travellers can check on the likelihood of delays on road and rail routes and see whether choosing a different route, departure time or transport mode might suit them better.



Links to rail and coach ticket retailers mean that public transport users can buy their tickets without having to re-enter their journey details. Road users benefit from journey plans that uniquely take into account historic traffic levels which vary according to the day and time, for much of the trunk road network. Travellers will be able to see the different travel choices available in one place.

Wise up to cycling



It doesn't matter if you are a new or an experienced rider. It is most important that you are safe. Children can be taught to ride their bicycles through their school from the age of 8 but this is done in a safe environment - the playground.

Nottingham residents who have made New Year resolutions to use their cars less often can learn how to cycle safely on a training course part-funded by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Ridewise training course has been running since April 2004 and has equipped over one hundred people living in the greater Nottingham area – which includes Hucknall and the boroughs of Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling – with the skills to ride a bike on public highways.

The free training - which is also funded by Nottingham City Council and primary care trusts in greater Nottingham - is carried out by experienced local cyclists and is designed for novice riders and people who have not used a bike for a long period.

Tuition is carried out on a one-to-one basis near to the participant's home and ranges from developing basic cycling skills to positioning on multi-lane main roads.

Course attendees will also receive advice on following the Highway Code whilst cycling and cycle-friendly routes across Nottinghamshire.

Continued on page 10

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Hall

The man who helped drive the final stages of the building of Radcliffe's new Parish Hall has retired.

Parish clerk Mr Martin Travers has seen Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council through a period of significant changes particularly the building of Grange Hall, and as project manager he was closely involved in all aspects of the development.

Before joining the parish council Mr Travers was an information technology project manager in the rail industry. When he left the railway he said he wanted an interesting job that would keep his mind active and enable him to interact with people.

"The job has been all that and more" he said. "Basically I have been running a business, and the highlight has obviously been bringing Grange Hall to fruition.

I also brought the council into the 21st Century by improving the systems, such as computer and office procedures."

Mr Travers has not said goodbye to the building he helped come to fruition. He has taken up fencing in a class being held in Grange Hall. He also hopes to enjoy his other hobbies of skiing and hiking.

Sutton Landfill to be Rookery Park

Local people living close to Sutton Landfill site have spoken and renamed the area soon to be renovated into a new country



park, in the heart of the Greenwood Community Forest. The first stage of renovation is due to commence this year with the remaining parts of the site completed over the next two to three years following the final closure of the landfill. But, not to let the grass grow under their feet, The Sutton Landfill Steering Group, who consulted widely with local people about the park, is already taking on board what people have been asking for as priorities for the site.

A new field gate and a disabled access kissing gate have been installed at the Columbia Avenue entrance to the site, replacing the old wooden gate, as a direct plea from residents, who feared the site was vulnerable to illegal access and misuse. The gates have been funded by Nottinghamshire County Council's Building Better Communities budget. Phil Kimbrey, Nottinghamshire County Council's Countryside Management Officer, said: "This is really just the start of a number of environmental improvements identified by working in partnership with the Friends of Rookery Park, that we will be able to act on. Over the coming months, there will be further access improvements, installation of signage as well as habitat management work taking place on site."

During consultation over what happens to the site, the Greenwood Team asked local residents for suggestions for a name for the new park. Due to popular demand, the park will now be known as Rookery Park. Vicky Howard from Huthwaite, gave the winning suggestion and the idea behind the name is that when the new Hucknall Colliery was a working mine, the local miners used to call the walk from their houses to the pit "The Rookery" or Rookery Walk.

The newly formed committee will now be known as The Friends of Rookery Park, and will give residents a real say in how the park develops.

Countylink Around the Country

There are many other people who are keen to help with the site, some want to help with practical tasks or simply keep their eyes open for any nuisance behaviour.

Maria Williams, Chair of the Friends of Rookery Park, said: "It's great that the history of the site is being remembered in the new name. We had many entries for the naming the site competition, all with good reasons for the suggestions. It's great that so many people are interested – even the School Council at Mapplewells School voted."

Trowell Parish Council has installed a new car park vehicle barrier at the Trowell Parish Hall. This will enable the users of the hall to close off the car park during meetings and events, thus preventing unauthorised vehicle access to the premises and grounds. This is in direct response to a number of incidents where vehicles have been driven at high speeds in and out of parked cars in the car park. The car park will remain open for local parents to use during the day as part of the School Travel Plan for dropping off and collecting children from Trowell School.

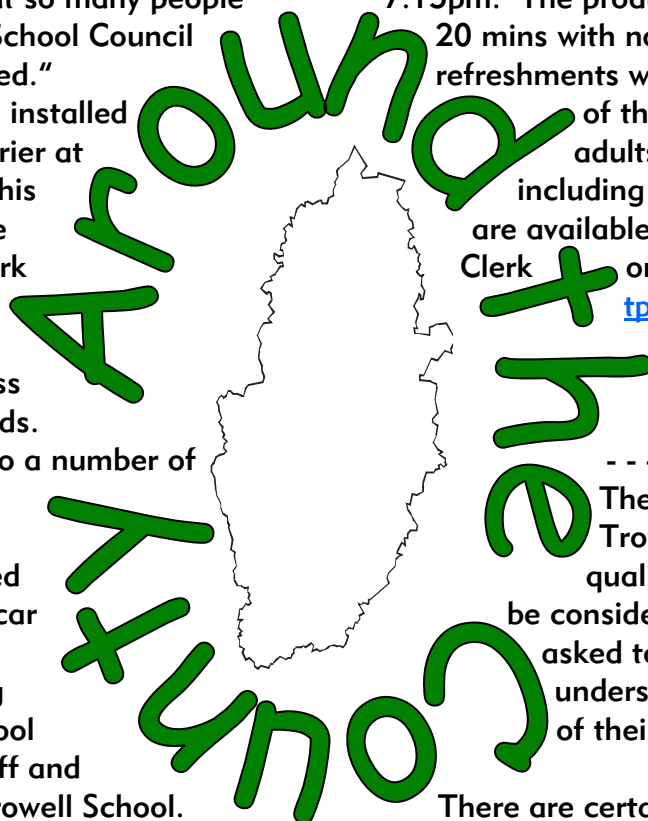
The Parish Council has also ordered works to strengthen the hedging and fencing around the Parish Hall to prevent unauthorised access to and from the play park at the rear of the Parish Hall.

Following their previous, highly successful presentations, the New Perspectives Theatre Company return to Trowell this spring in conjunction with the Village Ventures Rural and Community Touring Scheme and Trowell Parish Council.

The Evidence (recommended for age 10+):
While Lee sleeps by their campfire, his fellow

hunter George is the only witness to a series of inexplicable sightings – but of what? At first Lee is sceptical, that is, until he finds "the evidence". But who can we believe, and is the evidence real anyway? Now Lee is preparing George for the media frenzy that he hopes will change their lives forever.

The show will take place at Trowell Parish Hall on Wednesday 13 April 2005, starting at 7.15pm. The production lasts for 1 hr 20 mins with no interval. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the evening. Tickets £3.50 adults, £2.50 concessions including refreshments. Tickets are available in advance from the Clerk on 0115 973 0713 or tpc@gotadsl.co.uk or on the door. But hurry – numbers are limited!



There is one vacancy on the Trowell Parish Council and qualified persons who wish to be considered for co-option are asked to write to the undersigned giving brief details of their suitability.

There are certain criteria to being a parish councillor including:

- Being registered as a local government elector for the parish; or
- Occupying as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish for the last year; or
- Working in the parish for the last year; or
- Residing in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of it in the last year.

The term of office of the co-opted Councillor will be up to May 2007 when elections will take place at the same time as the elections to Broxtowe Borough Council. Contact: Alison K. Mitchell, Clerk to the Council, Tel: 0115 973 0713 E-mail: tpc@gotadsl.co.uk

Ninety-five percent of former participants have said that the course has given them more confidence and competence to cycle.

Nick Moss, Ridewise Co-ordinator, said: "Many people find the thought of venturing onto the highway on a bike a scary prospect, but this course helps give novice cyclists the confidence to get out and about safely and enjoyably. Cycling is a great form of exercise and can be a very stress-free way of travelling to work and beating the traffic jams."

To find out more about the Ridewise training course telephone 0115 978 8212, e-mail info@ridewise.org.uk or visit the website www.ridewise.org.uk

North Notts locals train to be 'green' warriors

The first in a series of training courses which aim to equip North Nottinghamshire residents with the skills to enhance their local environment took place on Saturday 11 December 2004.



The Community Action for Wildlife project organised the course, which was held in Tippings Wood - a former coalfield area between Blidworth and Rainworth - and provided groups with an opportunity to learn and practice the traditional approach to hedgerow management.

Community Action for Wildlife is a partnership project managed by Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG), which includes Nottinghamshire County Council as a key partner.

The course is one of many free training opportunities available for volunteers and community groups based in Ashfield, Mansfield, Bassetlaw or Newark and Sherwood who want to take an active role in safeguarding their local environment.

One-day training courses are planned to take place at local sites across North Nottinghamshire until March 2006, and will include:
Setting up and running a volunteer group

- An introduction to successful fundraising
- Winter tree identification
- Emergency first aid.

Claire Jones has recently been appointed as the project's Roving Ranger and is responsible for setting up the training programme by identifying the skills needs of North Nottinghamshire environmental volunteers.

Claire said: "These courses will be very beneficial to the local groups and volunteers taking part as it will equip them with the additional skills to make a difference in their local environment."

"I am specifically working with new and existing groups in the area to provide a tailored training programme to meet their requirements, and I encourage other interested groups and individuals to take advantage of this scheme."

The Community Action for Wildlife project is funded by the Alliance SSP and has been set up to provide local people with training and work experience opportunities in maintaining the area's wildlife habitats.

The Alliance SSP is a partnership which includes north Nottinghamshire local authorities and the County Council and aims to aid the regeneration of coalfield areas in north Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Leaflets outlining the training programme are available by calling the Community Action for Wildlife Project on 01623 758231.

To book a place on one of the future courses please contact Claire Jones on 01623 758231 or e-mail: claire.jones@nottscc.gov.uk

Lantern Festival

The Lumos Winter Lantern Festival took place at Rufford Abbey last December and was a tremendous



success. Eight hundred people filled the paths in front of the abbey to watch an acrobat suspended from a helium ball float above them. More than 500 lanterns were lit and carried in a procession around the park before the crowd congregated to watch a display of fireworks and light burst from the abbey ruins and the space around it accompanied by a specially created sound track. An Australian bower bird was created in fire to complete the evening.

The lanterns were made by members of the Edwinstowe Festival and Heritage Organisation, Manton Creative



Storytelling Group, Sutton's Rockerfield Centre, Carlton in Lindrick's Vintage Club, Newark MIND, the SHE group, Mansfield Woodhouse's Homestart group and members of the public in workshops that had taken place around North Nottinghamshire during November and December. Lanterns were designed on the theme of 'twinkling trinkets' inspired by precious stones, beads, locket, Fabergé-style eggs and stars. Larger structures, including two trees and a seven foot goblet complete with rubies and garnets were scattered around the park.

Visitors were also able to enjoy the Bangle exhibition of jewellery and accessories in Rufford Craft Centre gallery and the gift shops.

For further information telephone Next Stage on 01623 825035

Operation Crackdown in Nottinghamshire

This new police operation is aimed at reducing the supply of class A drugs, closing down crack houses in Nottinghamshire and, equally important, engaging communities to both reassure and generate more community based intelligence on drug suppliers.

The operation is part of a 3 month national campaign involving 33 police forces including Nottinghamshire Police. The success of the Rat on

a Rat campaign in 2003/2004, which hugely increased intelligence and information to the police on drug use and supply, has illustrated again the important role of communities in fighting drug issues within Nottinghamshire.

The Rat on a Rat campaign saw calls to **Crimestoppers**, the confidential phone line for people to ring with information that the police might find useful in crime solving, increase dramatically. From 2 or 3 calls a week locally before the Rat on a Rat campaign, numbers increased to 30 a week during the height of the campaign last year before settling down to 20 a week.

These calls have led to over £800,000 worth of drugs and property being seized and hundreds of drug related arrests.

For every 5 calls made to **Crimestoppers**, police arrest someone involved in the drugs trade.

Crimestoppers number is 0800 555 111

Operation Crackdown will also work with partner agencies – the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), local authorities and the voluntary sector - to deliver quick, easy access to drug treatment services.

Waiting times in Nottinghamshire are now down to about 2 weeks for access to structured drug treatment, and people needing to speak to a drugs worker will soon be able to do so within 24 hours across the county. Nottinghamshire Police's Deputy Chief Constable Howard Roberts, who is leading Operation Crackdown said: 'We will stand shoulder to shoulder with our partner agencies engaged in treatment, and the communities in tackling this issue. I appeal to all parts of the community to support us strongly with information on drug suppliers. Together we can make a significant impact.'

Remember there is the national drugs helpline '**FRANK**' which can advise people on drug issues. It can advise and answer questions on drugs in a confidential setting. **FRANK** can be contacted on **0800 77 66 00**

Contact: Adrian Dudley 0115 977 3058

Nottinghamshire County Council is Excellent



Nottinghamshire County Council has been awarded an 'excellent' rating by the Audit Commission in the annual assessment which judges how well local councils are doing. This is called a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).

Some of the major developments since the last CPA include:

- the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents has been reduced by 46.5% compared to the 1994 to 1998 average figure
- 9% more people visiting libraries in the past 18 months
- two new County Contact points have been set up in Gedling and Sutton, making it easier for people to contact the Council
- the Council's website is rated amongst the best 6 in the Country. The Council now delivers 71% of relevant services electronically and is on track to achieve 100% by 2005
- the Council is set to exceed the government target to recycle 24% of waste. This figure is set to improve with the introduction of twin bin schemes
- the Council is reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from its buildings, and is on target to reduce emissions by 3500 tonnes per year.

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) was brought in by the Government in 2002 to improve the services that councils deliver to local people. The CPA looks at two main things:

- service performance (how well the council is doing across its main services)

- council ability (how well the council is geared up to meeting future challenges and improving what it does).

Councils are graded poor, weak, fair, good or excellent. Nottinghamshire County Council was assessed and has been awarded an 'excellent' rating.

Trading Standards—Doorstep Selling

Trading Standards receive a lot of complaints from members of the public regarding workmen that call at their door offering to do jobs for a certain price and then charging an extortionate amount after the work has been carried out. These people are very intimidating and in some cases have driven people to the bank to withdraw money. The quality of the work can be very poor and in some cases may not have been carried out at all. Leaflets and posters have been produced, warning people about doorstep callers. A community play is being run to show the dangers of buying at the doorstep and highlights what people can do to prevent being conned. The plays are free of charge, you just need to provide the venue and the audience.

Contact Nicola Schofield on 01623 452147

Funding Seminars 2005

Meet the funders, discuss your project, plan a good application.

Wednesday 2 March at Kelham Hall, Newark
Wednesday 9 March at Cotgrave Futures
Wednesday 16 March at Newstead Miners Welfare all 6 pm-9 pm. Contact Claire Kimpton at Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council if you wish to attend on 01623 727600 or e-mail: ckimpton:nottsccc.org.uk

Duncan Goodhew visits Keyworth Swimathon

Former Olympic gold medallist Duncan Goodhew dropped in to Keyworth Leisure Centre on Monday 24 January to lend support to Keyworth's

swimathon efforts in March. Duncan gave 30 schoolchildren special tuition to help them prepare for the 19th annual Butlins swimathon.

This takes place at more than 500 pools nationwide from 19 to 27 March where the challenge is to raise £2 million for NCH children's charity and help more than 140,000 children. Keyworth's event is on 26 March from 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

Swimathon co-ordinator Sally Barker has worked at the centre as a swimming instructor for 8 years. Hundreds of children have passed through her capable hands since then and this led her to start up the swimathon at Keyworth 4 years ago. The centre raised £700 at the last swimathon in 2003 when 30 swimmers took part.

There are 7 challenges in this year's event. There is an individual challenge of 5,000 m - where people have to swim 250 lengths of the pool. Anyone who completes this challenge will receive a medal to prove their achievement. The second event is the half swimathon - a good challenge for the intermediate swimmer of 2,500 metres. There is also a timed relay event of 5,000 metres for 2 to 5 people. The endurance swimathon of 10,000 metres is for serious distance swimmers and anyone completing this challenge will also receive a medal.

There are also 3 fun events: for an individual to swim up to 1,500 metres, a team swimathon of up to 5,000 m and the 'simply swim' option for people who want to set their own challenge."

To take part, get a form from Keyworth Leisure Centre or register online. Contact: Keyworth Leisure Centre on 0115 937 5582

Special offer for junior swimmers at Cotgrave

Young people can swim as often as they like at Cotgrave from February to April - all for only £33. And the first 10 children (aged 8 to 16) to sign up for this great deal will even get a free towel and water bottle.

The Aquamation swim pass can only be used at Cotgrave - and junior swimmers must have a loyalty card to benefit from the offer.

Sue Rider, assistant manager at Cotgrave Leisure Centre, said, "It's a great deal as it covers a three-month period where children have two school holidays - even more chance to splash about, have fun and get fit at the same time. Our pool was closed for a month during December while we gave it a £25,000 makeover - replacing tiles, repainting lines, checking the tanks and giving it a once-over. Customers missed out on swimming during that month and we are keen to reward them for their patience, hence our latest promotion for kids. It's also a fantastic, affordable price - as a junior swim normally costs £1.75 with a loyalty card."



Details of pool opening times and public swimming sessions are available from the centre on 0115 989 2916 or on the Cotgrave Leisure Centre webpages.

Further details: Cotgrave Leisure Centre
Telephone: 0115 989 2916

REACT 21 newsletter

The latest edition of the REACT21 newsletter, published by Agenda 21 group for Rushcliffe, will be circulated in early February. The newsletter is circulated to 400 people in the Rushcliffe area, but this issue will also be circulated to households in Kinoulton as the village is celebrating its success in winning the Central England Environment category of the Calor Village of the Year competition in 2004 for villages which encourage rural sustainability. More details from Paul Phillips on 0115 914 8595 or e-mail pPhillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

Hundredth barn owl box

Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project now has over 100 barn owl nest boxes in Rushcliffe. BASF Biocides at Ruddington are the sponsors of the latest box. The box, sponsored by BASF Biocides, is on farmland

near Rushcliffe Country Park and their offices. In 2004, the box was used by barn owls and two chicks were raised. Barn owl nest boxes are a vital part of the work of Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project to increase the number of barn owls in the Borough, acting as a replacement for the barns in which they would have traditionally nested. Concerned farmers and landowners can put up boxes on their land to provide a home for these endangered birds. Individuals, organisations and businesses sponsor many of the boxes, and this pays for their erection and maintenance. To find out more about the Rushcliffe Barn Owl Project, including how to become a volunteer or sponsor a box, visit their website at www.rushcliffebarnowls.co.uk

Golf Charity Day

The Chairman of the County Council is holding a Charity Golf Day on Thursday 7 April 2005 in aid of the Breast Cancer Research Fund, at Coxmoor Gold Club, Sutton in Ashfield. Teams of 4 are welcome, £60 per golfer including buffet. Contact: The Civic Office on 0115 977 3244



Sherwood Energy Village

A former coalfield in the East Midlands has been named the most enterprising place in Britain by Chancellor Gordon Brown.

Mr Brown told delegates attending the Advancing Britain 2005 conference in London that Sherwood Energy Village in North Nottinghamshire had won the Enterprising Britain competition.

The project, supported by the East Midlands Development Agency, was one of 12 regional finalists for the Enterprising Britain competition – which recognises towns and cities that are successfully driving forward enterprise in their part of the UK.

Sign Hear

The follow sign language and deaf awareness courses are being run at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre:

- British Sign Language taster for beginners - Saturday 19 March, 10 am-12.30 pm
- Signing kids (age 9-12) - Wed 30 March, 10 am-12 pm
- Signing kids (age 5-8) - 30 March 2 pm-4 pm
- Baby signing for parents/carers - 16 April, 10.30 am-12 pm
- Deaf awareness (leading to a Certificate in Deaf Awareness, after a successful exam) - Thursday April 14 - Thursday 19 May, 7 pm-9 pm
- Introduction to British Sign Language for beginners (10 week course) - Saturday 23 April-Saturday 25 June, 10 am-12 pm

More details from Mandy Brennan, Sign Hear - Text Phone 0115 9749858. Mobile (text only) 07793 317107 Email: mandybrennan2@msn.com Dave Wood, voice phone 0115 949 1859

And a Brief Look At:

Councillor Nellie Smedley, Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, visited HMS Nottingham to meet the crew at Portsmouth before it set off for Indonesia ... Proposals for a new bus station at Mansfield have been given the go ahead ... The A608 at Brinsley could be getting a speed activated warning sign ... Mansfield was one of the fastest growing towns in the country last year in terms of house prices which rose by 27% ... Mansfield Music and Drama Festival to be held 3-5 May 2005 ... Proposals to merge Hucknall schools would mean 100 year old school would disappear ... Plans for a new bus station at Retford have been put forward ... The new Mansfield and Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR) has been officially opened and it is expected that 5,000 vehicles will use the road every day and that new businesses will be encouraged to locate in the area ... the County Council has moved up the charts to become 76th out of 149 local education authorities (up from 91st last year) ...

Welcome

Welcome to the following new clerks:

Mr M Nocton, Car Colston Parish Meeting

Miss C Davies, Treswell with Cottam Parish Council

Mr N Sherrin-Jones, Mattersey Parish Council

Mr M Elliott, Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council

Mr M Somerville, Wellow Parish Council

Ms M Parton, Sibthorpe Parish Meeting



Happy Retirement to Mr Travers, Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council

Parish websites:

Barton in Fabis: www.barton-in-fabis.co.uk

Bingham: www.bingham-tc.gov.uk

Calverton: www.calvertonpc.fsnet.co.uk

Cotgrave: www.cotgrave-tc.gov.uk

East Bridgford: www.eastbridgford.com

Harby: www.harby.org.uk

Keyworth: www.keyworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Kimberley: www.kimberley-online.org.uk/4724.html

Laneham: www.laneham.org.uk

Newark: newark.gov.uk

Oxton: www.oxtonpc.fsnet.co.uk

Papplewick: www.papplewick.org

Ravenshead: www.ravensheadpc.org

South Leverton:

geocities.com/slevnotts_webmast

Tollerton: www.tollerton.org

Trowell: www.trowell.org.uk

Warsop: www.warsop.web.co.uk

Woodborough:

www.woodboroughpc.fsnet.co.uk

City and County websites:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

City and County Telephone Numbers:

City: 0115 915 5555

County: 0115 982 3823

District Council websites:

www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk

www.bassetlaw.gov.uk

www.broxtowe.gov.uk

www.gedling.gov.uk

www.mansfield.gov.uk

www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Other useful websites:

www.countrysideagency.gov.uk

www.defra.gov.uk

www.emda.org.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Government News: www.number10.gov.uk

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:

www.odpm.gov.uk

National Association of Local Councils:

www.nalc.gov.uk/

Direct Gov: www.direct.gov.uk/

Useful Telephone Numbers:

County Council Waste hotline:

0115 977 1019

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Domestic Violence: 0808 800 0340

Floodline: 0845 988 1188

Report Racial Abuse: 0800 085 8511

Victim Support: 0115 852 3506

Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils: 01636 816890

Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council:
01623 727600

District Council Telephone Numbers:

Ashfield: 01623 450000

Bassetlaw: 01909 533533

Broxtowe: 0115 917 7777

Mansfield: 01623 463463

Gedling: 0115 901 3901

Newark and Sherwood: 01636 650000

Rushcliffe: 0115 981 9911

Your Newsletter

This newsletter is sent to **Town and Parish Councils/Meetings**, for distribution. Names and addresses are held on a database. I want mail to get to the right people without delay so please help by informing me of any changes as it is my responsibility to inform others within the authority who mail out to parish councils. Parish contacts information, the Code of Practice and this newsletter are on the authority's website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/parishcouncils.htm

Please contact me if you have:

- Articles for Countylink
- information or an event during **April, May and June 2005** in your local parish
- Changes of Parish Clerks details
- requests for extra copies of Countylink
- information/links/photograph you would like to add to your details on the Nottinghamshire County Council's website.

Barbara Worrall

Your District Council Contacts:

Ashfield District Council, Public Relations
01623 457004

Bassetlaw District Council, Public Relations
01909 533726

Broxtowe Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 917 3743

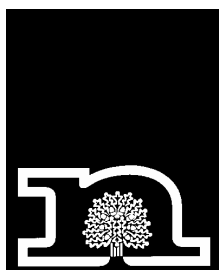
Gedling Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 901 3801

Mansfield District Council, Public Relations
01623 463021

Newark and Sherwood District Council
Public Relations 01636 655255

Rushcliffe Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 914 8555

Contacting us:



E-mail: barbara.worrall@nottsc.gov.uk

Phone: 0115 977 4085

Fax: 0115 977 3859

Post: Regeneration Division, Culture and Community Department,
Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West
Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

Internet: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/parishcouncils.htm

This information is available in other formats

**Deadline date for articles for the next issue is:
18 March 2005**