

Countylink No 55 February 2003

Circulation to:

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

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Quality Parish Initiative

The following is an update on the Quality Parish and Town Council consultation issues last year by DEFRA.

Initially the due date for the provision of guidance to local councils and principal authorities on the 'QUALITY' initiative was the Autumn of 2002. Since the consultation was issued by DEFRA and DTLR (now ODPM*) the analysis of the responses had to be taken forward by both departments. This has now been done

and the 'QUALITY' Parish Working Group has now been re-convened. The Government's aim is to now provide guidance in early 2003 and to initiate the scheme from 1 April 2003.

* The former Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) has been split into two new government departments:

- The office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) www.odpm.gov.uk

and
- The Department For Transport (DFT) www.dft.gov.uk

NALC Award

The Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils (NALC) has been aware for many years of the valuable contribution made to their communities by **parish councillors**, who serve their community freely and sometimes over considerable periods of time.

This year NALC decided to inaugurate a Long Service Certificate for **parish councillors** who have served for more than 25 years. Certificates were presented at the Annual General Meeting on 20 November to those recipients who were able to attend in person. In total 39 members received certificates ranging from 25 years to 45. The total number of years covered by the Certificates was a staggering 1145 years. These councillors are the backbone of their communities, and serve their electors unstintingly and freely. NALC are very pleased to be able to offer this small token of recognition of their work, and send congratulations to them all.

Contact: Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils on 01636 816890

Sterling Service

Bestwood St Albans Parish Council, at their meeting at Hawthorne Primary School, Bestwood Village on the 3 December 2002, had real cause to celebrate. The Parish Chairman, Councillor Denis Beeston, received a certificate which acknowledged a continuous 30 years of service to the Council, following his first election in 1972. The Certificate was awarded by NALC and presented on their behalf by County Councillor Joe Lonergan.

Denis Beeston's service is not confined just to the **parish council**, his many other duties includes 20 years as a Gedling Borough Councillor and 21 years as the longest serving Governor of Hawthorne Primary School. Parish residents know that, if they have a problem, Dennis is the man to go to to get it fixed. And, the amazing thing is that Denbo, as he is affectionately known locally, is still doing it after 30 years. What a record!

Education Department staff awards

... and the County Council's Education Department has awarded 61 members of staff ranging from school secretary to assistant director with their 25 years long service awards which added up to 1525 years between them.

Calor Village of the Year Award - Jacksdale and Westwood

The competition only awards one first prize and there were 5 runners up. Jacksdale and Westwood were strong contenders having won the Central England Title. The competition was open to some 1,500 villages in England and Wales and

Jacksdale and Westwood were delighted to be one of only 6 finalists! It was the first time they had ever entered the competition, whereas many villages had entered several times before, and the judges were especially impressed. They will not be allowed to enter in 2003 but hope to re-enter in 2004 when many of the projects in hand will have come to fruition eg installing a 'Heritage Garden' adjacent to Jacksdale Community Centre, a 'Jubilee Garden' on Wagstaff Lane/Palmerston Street and a skate-boarding park and also hope that the Cyber Cafe will really start to take shape. The success was the culmination of 3 years of very hard work put in by members of the Building And Developing Jacksdale's Environmental Resources (BADJER) Committee who have been strongly supported and helped by residents and community groups in Jacksdale and Westwood. (The recent television programme on UK Style which followed the 6 finalists only gave a very small-snapshot view.) The competition required them to create a fairly lengthy booklet about village life, community resources and groups, and the community spirit that abounds in Jacksdale and Westwood. A team of 12 to 15 local people took part in two separate 2-hour long presentations to the judges and many also agreed to be interviewed by the camera crew.

The atmosphere during the presentations was truly 'electric' and proved how tightly linked the village is and how community groups, schools, churches, local services and local businesses all work together to make the village a very nice place to live. The judges were also very impressed by the many new initiatives planned for the future.

Contact: Carol Taylor-Cockayne or check out the BADJER news and Village News sections at www.jacksdale.org.uk

Newark Riverside Scoops Two Major Regeneration Awards

At the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) awards ceremony in London, at the end of November 2002, the 'Gateways to Newark Riverside Regeneration Project' was not only announced as one of only 5 projects nationally to receive an award for Best Practice in Regeneration, but they scooped the top award as the overall winner of the 2002 English Partnerships Award for Partnership in Regeneration.

The awards were presented by Margaret Ford, Chair of English Partnerships at a dinner in the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London towards the end of 2002.

Councillor Stan Crawford, leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, who received the award on behalf of the Partnership said: "We were delighted to hear that the Gateways to Newark Riverside Regeneration Project was to be presented with such a prestigious economic regeneration award, but then to receive the news on the night that we had also won the top award from English Partnerships was even more of an achievement."

The Gateways to Newark project scored a major coup, beating off stiff competition from other award winners such as the Millennium Link Project Scotland, and the Groundwork Community Environment Programme, Manchester. BURA felt that the project had demonstrated how a true area renaissance was achieved through partnership working. Over a relatively short period of time the partnership has brought about the transformation of the riverside area around the Trent, bringing a new dimension to the centre of Newark and creating a mixed-use area for public enjoyment.

The judges were particularly impressed with how the project had attempted to link a piece of physically-led regeneration to the need to improve the economic fortunes of deprived wards and local people, particularly the young.

Councillor Carole Turner, Cabinet Member for Regeneration said: "Receiving not one, but two awards for this project is an accolade to all the hard work that the partnership organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have put in to ultimately make Newark a better place to live and work."

For further information about the Gateways to Newark Riverside Regeneration Partnership please call Mike Robinson at Newark and Sherwood District Council on 01636 655258.

Statement from New Opportunities Fund (NOF) and Community Fund on merger discussions

The New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund are progressing talks on a possible merger to create a new Lottery distributor. The merger and creation of a new distributor is intended to lead to a reduction in the costs of Lottery distribution and increased efficiency. The merger discussions arise from the Lottery Review. It is likely that decisions on a way forward will be made by **April 2003**.

Sectors affected should the merger go ahead will be consulted. The possible creation of a new distributor would make it easier for people to apply for lottery funds, provide opportunities for innovative and strategic delivery of funding and help to promote the achievements of the National Lottery more effectively.

Countryside Agency spends £25,795 on Parish Plans in Nottinghamshire

Villages currently undertaking Parish Plans include **Papplewick, Gotham, East Bridgford, Fiskerton cum Morton and Misterton** with **West Stockwith** and a number of others are 'in the pipeline'. The Agency is keen to encourage other parish councils to take advantage of the grants available to carry out community consultation in their villages. The good news is that it has recently been agreed that **parish meetings** can also apply for a grant.

The Countryside Agency gives grants of up to £5,000 to **parish councils** in order that they can produce a Parish Plan. A Parish Plan should be the result of holistic and inclusive consultation within the village and its production should involve a number of people who are not on the Council.

The village should produce an action plan at the end of the consultation that will identify a list of priorities as well as highlighting who the Council will contact to help them to put these activities in place. These could be more litterbins, a village newsletter, improvements to the village hall - it is usually quite a long list.

The Parish Plan will help the Council feed into the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Planning Processes which are currently underway in District and Borough Councils. They can also help to unlock funding - for example from the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages Community Services or Parish Transport Grants.

For more information look on the website or ring Susan Meech, Countryside Officer, East Midlands Regional Office on 01949 876218 or contact Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council on 02623 727600. Vital Villages project information and application forms can

*also be found on the website:
www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages*

EnProve

EnProve is a Social Business owned by the charity, Groundwork Ashfield and Mansfield whose aims are to:

- provide temporary and permanent employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed
- deliver environmental services to communities in Nottinghamshire.

In the last 4 years EnProve has offered over 400 people waged work experience, training and support to find new work. Approximately half those who have left have secured permanent employment with a wide range of employers across the County. Most of the participants are recruited through the Government's New Deal programme and all have been out of work for at least six months, with many being out of work for more than one year. This programme is funded by Job Centre Plus, the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Learning and Skills Council, SRB and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The participants are offered work experience on one of EnProve's teams delivering environmental services in Nottinghamshire.

The areas of the work programme cover:

- **Environmental Landscapes**
 - Landscaping Hard/Soft
 - Fencing
 - Arboriculture
 - Countryside Improvements/Conservation/Management
 - Grounds Maintenance
 - One off garden clearance

- Turfing/Hedge Cutting/Laying
- **Homes Programme**
 - Home Security/Lighting
 - Loft Insulation
 - Painting & Decorating
 - Child Safety
 - Elderly Adaptations
- **IT Recycling**
 - Refurbished Computers
 - PC Support

If you wish to know more about EnProve and services available contact Jack Sills, Operational Manager on 01623 666710

Celebrating Four Decades of Wildlife Protection

This year marks a very special landmark for the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the County's largest locally based conservation charity, as it heralds the 40th Anniversary of its establishment.

One of the catalysts which led to the establishment of the Trust was a proposal to fill lagoons at the Attenborough Gravel Pits with fuel ash from the then newly commissioned Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station. Local people were simply not prepared to sit back and watch as important wildlife sites were damaged by insensitive development and poor management. The Trust opposed the plans and the rest, as they say, is history. Following a series of meetings and discussions with people in other counties who had formed similar County Trusts, the Nottinghamshire Trust for Nature Conservation was formed.

Since those early days in the 1960's the Trust has stuck close to its roots, fighting to protect threatened sites and taking a hands-on role in managing important

wildlife sites. In addition to supporting local campaigns to save wildlife areas, the Trust is increasingly involved in the planning system, advising planning officers, commenting upon important documents such as Structure Plans and Local Plans and reviewing upwards of 10,000 individual planning applications each year to check for potential threats.

The Trust has maintained its involvement at the Attenborough Gravel Pits Complex and now manages the site as a nature reserve in partnership with its owners, RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd with support from Broxtowe Borough Council. However, since buying its first reserve, Treswell Wood, near Retford following a public appeal for funding in 1973, the Trust has gone on to build a unique estate of 67 reserves including some of the finest woodlands, wetlands and grasslands in the County.

In addition to site protection and practical land management, the Trust's work has expanded into new areas and now encompasses everything from outreach work with local schools and community groups to farming a large flock of Hebridean Sheep as part of a partnership project to help restore Sherwood Forest.

This breadth of work would not be possible without the support of a loyal and enthusiastic group of supporters and the Trust now has more than 6,000 subscribers. The financial support of members is invaluable as it enables the Trust to employ professional staff. In addition the volunteer efforts of members and supporters help the Trust to keep on top of its growing workload. Much of the volunteer support comes through its network of active local members groups which, between them, organise more than 100 events each year. These range from practical volunteer days on nature reserves to guided walks and informative evening

talks giving members an opportunity to meet others who share their passion for wildlife conservation.

To mark its 40th Anniversary the Trust has arranged a programme of special events which will get underway on **22 May** when Professor David Bellamy, President of the Wildlife Trusts, will be guest of Honour at a special 'Birthday Bash' in Nottingham. The festivities will continue on the **28 June** at an action packed 'Family Wildlife Day' at Beacon Hill, one of its newest reserves, which is on the edge of Newark. The Trust will also be running a Photographic Competition designed to get people out and about on its nature reserves and a special literacy project with local schools.

In addition to running special events to celebrate its Anniversary the Trust also plans to use the year to highlight its ambitions and aspirations for the next 40 years and to encourage more people to become supporters.

For further details about the work of the Trust or any of the special Anniversary events, please contact Erin McDaid on 0115 958 8242

Full Steam Ahead for Major Environmental Project

A Partnership regenerating Nottinghamshire's woodlands has planted more than a million trees in its first decade – in an area covering more than 2,000 Wembley stadium pitches. Now the partners involved in creating Greenwood, Nottinghamshire's Community Forest, are celebrating this milestone with the arrival of a new project manager. Dean Skrabania is new in post to help drive Greenwood's vision of 30% tree cover in Nottinghamshire by 2045. Also new to the team is Project Development Officer, Kate Maltby.

Backed by the Government, the partnership comprises the Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, local authorities in Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council. Greenwood, covers nearly a quarter of Nottinghamshire and already there has been more than one tree planted for everyone living in and around the Community Forest area.

Mr Skrabania is keen to get started on continuing the excellent work that has already taken place in Greenwood and will use his experience in working in area based environmental partnerships, planning, environmental regeneration and nature conservation to keep the project on track.

Gill Grievson, Community Liaison Officer for Greenwood said: "Greenwood is about planting trees, but it's also about enriching peoples lives and there are many benefits for people living in Greenwood. Trees act as green air conditioners to filter harmful pollutants, give shade for our children, dampen noise pollution and save energy. Trees planted in urban areas can also reduce the impact of heavy rainfall by acting as an umbrella to divert water away from the drainage system."

Mr Skrabania said: "The benefits to the region are immense. We are creating a better environment for better health, further inward investment, and a boost for tourism, making this a great place in which to live and work."

For further information contact Gill Grievson 01623 758231

Green light for Green Guardians in 2003

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is delighted to announce the launch of the 2003 Green Guardians Environmental Awards.

This is the County's only specifically environment-focused awards scheme, and is committed to encouraging and rewarding good environmental practice by individuals, schools, community groups and businesses, as well as being a showcase for green initiatives in Nottinghamshire.

In the past 2 years, these awards have gone from strength to strength, attracting an exceptional range of projects from all sectors of the community and enjoying support from some of the East Midlands' leading businesses and statutory organisations.

Everyone is welcome to enter, and there are 6 categories to choose from. Cash prizes of £1000 will be awarded to the winners of the education, community and individual awards and all winners receive a hand-cast bronze trophy. Entries will be put before a panel of local judges, and the shortlist will be judged by leading environmentalists David Bellamy, Chris Packham and Bill Oddie.

Application is by a simple form, available from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (see details below), or as a downloadable PDF on our website. The closing date for entries is **30 May 2003**.

For further details of how you can get involved as either an entrant or sponsor, please contact Alan Dicks at the Trust office adicks@nottswt.cix.co.uk

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, The Old Ragged School, Brook Street, Nottingham NG1EA Tel: 0115 958 8242 or

e-mail:
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/nottinghamshire

The Landscape Team

- *Do you need advice on how to progress with an Environmental Improvement project?*
- *Do you have a good idea, but need help in design and cost estimation?*

The Nottinghamshire County Council Landscape Team may be able to help

The Landscape Team at Nottinghamshire County Council is a multidisciplinary team of Landscape Architects, Engineers and Design Technicians. With a wide ranging background in the planning, design and management of environmental improvement project work, who can offer advice and ideas about how to turn project ideas into reality.

The services they offer include:

- Initial design advice and help in project planning and fund raising
- Outline design and cost estimation, (often a requirement to secure grant funding)
- Help in project management
- Construction drawings, contract documents, obtaining quotes/tenders for work
- Monitoring of site work and site maintenance.

Examples of some of the projects currently being undertaken include:

- The design of a new cemetery for **Harworth Bircotes Parish Council**
- Preparation of design and cost estimate to accompany a Doorstep Green for East Markham Community Playing Fields Association.

The team may have to charge fees for the services offered, however, these would always be agreed in advance with clients and may be recoverable as a project cost from grant income.

If you would like to find out more, please ring Cathy Gillespie, Landscape Team Manager on: 0115 977 2064 or e-mail: cathy.gillespie@nottsc.gov.uk

Redesign of Eaton Place Bingham

Rushcliffe Borough Council will be refurbishing the pedestrian precinct at Eaton Place in Bingham during March, as part of its programme of small environmental improvement schemes. Work should be completed by the autumn.

The scheme was originally requested by **Bingham Town Council**, who were concerned at the run-down appearance of the precinct, and the local police who linked the physical deterioration of the area with a rise in vandalism and petty crime.

The scheme aims to improve the appearance of the precinct and to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists. The main features will include:

- Replacement of the existing, rather dated, paving layout by a more imaginative free-flowing design in a variety of materials including blockwork, small paving and reconstituted stone.
- Easing of the gradient of the ramp in the central part of the precinct.
- Installing new curved benches to discourage damage by skateboarders.
- Providing new covered cycle stands.
- Reducing the canopy outside the library entrance to improve natural lighting and to allow the siting of a sculpture.
- Redesign of planting areas to allow for ease of maintenance.

- A pedestrian route – in suitable paving material - across Newgate Street Car Park to link the precinct with the residential footpath system to the east.
- Installing a new, improved lighting system to combat vandalism and petty crime.

The scheme will cost £180,000 and is being jointly funded by Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, East Midlands Development Agency and Bingham Town Council. The property company, Lambert Smith Hampton, is also contributing by carrying out refurbishment work to buildings.

Short Story Competition

Telling tales in Gotham

Rushcliffe Borough Council is inviting local people to write a story that captures the essence of the village of Gotham. The village is well renowned for its tales of foolish behaviour, masquerading as wisdom.

Residents are being asked to create new tales for the 21st century which will be added to the current collection of stories and form part of the new edition that will be printed as part of the current *Telling Tales in Gotham* project. The project, funded by the Local Heritage initiative fund, Rushcliffe Borough Council and **Gotham Parish Council**, will create a new version of the tales and a village trail that links to geographical sites in the village that are relevant to the tales. There will be a performance of the tales by local community groups next summer.

Sharon Scaniglia, arts and culture officer at the council said: "If you want to write a short story it must be submitted by **1 April 2003**, be no longer than 500 words and written on A4 single sided sheets. There

are three age categories - under 18, under 50 and over 50. We will use one story from each age group in the new version of the tales. Entrants should live in the village or within a 5 mile radius to enter.”

For information of forthcoming workshops, to be held in the library room, Gotham, contact Sharon Scaniglia, Arts and Culture Officer on 0115 914 8219.

A timeless offer not to be passed over

From April this year, all men aged over 60 instead of 65 will qualify for a free concessionary travel permit, offering half price travel throughout the county.

The change follows the introduction of the Transport Act 2000 – new national legislation aimed at setting down minimum requirements for the operation of concessionary fares schemes across the UK. County Council travel experts believe an extra 20,000 men could be eligible for half fare travel across Nottinghamshire thanks to the new legislation, helping to increase travel options for many more older and disabled people.

The anticipated additional £500,000 costs of the scheme will be met in full by the Government.

Over 80,000 people across Nottinghamshire already enjoy the benefits of the countywide half fare travel pass scheme, which has been in operation since 1975.

Nottinghamshire’s concessionary fares scheme, operated in partnership with the seven local District Councils, already substantially exceeds the national minimum standards laid down by the Government.

Nottinghamshire pass holders are able to enjoy unlimited half fare travel, seven days a week, anywhere in Notts on the county’s bus and rail network and can also access the various community transport services like voluntary car schemes. Pass holders will also be able to enjoy half fare travel on the tram, when Line One is up and running in November this year.

In contrast the new national minimum requirements only offer half fare travel after 9.30 am on weekdays, allow half fare travel only on buses and within the travel pass holder’s local District Council – not County Council – boundary.

The County Council has organised a major radio advertising and leaflet campaign to publicise the change in legislation to men aged 60 and over.

For further information about the concessionary fares scheme and to apply for a travel pass, men aged 60 and above should contact their local District Council:

Ashfield District Council	01623 450000
Bassetlaw District Council	01909 533714
Broxtowe Borough Council	0115 917 7777
Gedling Borough Council	0115 901 3946
Mansfield District Council	01623 463111
Newark/Sherwood District Council	01636 655319
Nottinghamshire County Council	0115 977 4517 or 2956
Rushcliffe Borough Council	0115 981 9911

Greener, cleaner energy grows on trees

Renewable Nottinghamshire Utilities Ltd (RENU) is a not-for-profit company which has just been formed by the County Council and local partners to help provide ‘green energy’. RENU will be made up of partners from the County Council, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, Nottingham Energy Partnership, Sherwood

Energy Village, FBS Woodland Solutions Limited and Wastecycle Limited.

As well as using wood that is already growing in the forest, RENU plans to establish new woodlands using innovative new growing techniques.

While the trees are growing, they will be doing their bit for the environment by soaking up greenhouse gases like CO₂. Burning wood will also produce far less CO₂ and greenhouse gases compared to using conventional fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. By growing the fuel locally, transportation costs, traffic congestion and pollution will be kept to a minimum. The project will also use waste wood from local companies which would normally go to landfill sites in the county. The project offers very real economic and environmental benefits. Growing the fuel locally will help provide new local jobs, new skills and new woodlands – bringing real tourism benefits to many former industrial areas and boosting the local economy.

Under the scheme, known as the Wood Heat Project, trees and waste wood from locally managed forests will provide cleaner energy for public and private sector businesses. Uniquely, RENU offers an all-in-one package, supplying and installing boilers and providing the wood fuel. RENU will support local companies by installing and operating heating systems, whilst the customer pays only for the heat supplied.

The company will also acquire and prepare the wood ready for use before delivering it directly to the customer's door.

Councillor John Stocks, Cabinet Member for Resources at Nottinghamshire County Council said, "With the recent floods affecting the UK, it really hits home the message that climate change isn't just a global problem, but affects our own local communities too. Schemes like the Wood

Heat Project take a step in the right direction for Nottinghamshire by cutting down pollution as well as having the added benefit of improving the local economy. We hope that RENU will be successful and help more local companies to turn over a new leaf and use greener, cleaner energy to benefit everyone in the county."

Local Network Fund

The Notts Rural Community Council (NRCC) and Nottinghamshire Community Foundation have recently produced a leaflet 'Local Network Fund for children and young people'. The leaflet explains the criteria needed to apply for a grant for tackling poverty and disadvantage affecting children and young people from 0-19 years of age. Grants range from £250-£7,000.

For more information contact: Jackie Colquitt at Notts RCC on 01623 727600 or Sarah King at Notts Community Foundation on 01636 815158

Ollerton Takes Centre Stage!

An Ollerton man's dream to gather local photographs for digital imaging means that the town's history looks set to be transformed into a stage play!

Henry Swan asked local people to bring him their photographs of Old Ollerton for digital imaging and people not only brought snaps with them, but memories of yesteryear which proved too good to lose. *Next Stage*, the County Council's participatory arts team, agreed to organise a reminiscence project to run alongside the photographic archive which means that Nottinghamshire writer, Andy Barrett, will be in residence in the town gathering people's stories.

Andy will use tales from Ollerton's coalmining history as the basis for three 15 minutes monologues which will be

recorded onto CD and tape by local actors, and performed locally against a backdrop of the archived photographs. He will be resident in the town in February.

*For more information, please contact: Nicola Tompkins, Coalfields Arts Development Officer
01623 824249 Next Stage 0115 9772989*

Census

2001 Census First Results: Local Authorities in Nottinghamshire Total Population and Age and Sex Structure

The first results from the 2001 Census have now been released. These are population figures by age & gender for local government areas in England and Wales. The Nottinghamshire district totals are below.

2001 Census results: Total Population:

Total Population

Ashfield	111,482
Bassetlaw	107,701
Broxtowe	107,572
Gedling	111,776
Mansfield	98,095
Newark and Sherwood	106,287
Rushcliffe	105,590
Nottinghamshire	748,503
Nottingham Unitary	266,995
Geographic County	1,015,498

County and Districts

Nottinghamshire County Council has prepared a bulletin with the complete first results for Nottinghamshire, which is available on its web site. First Census results for the rest of the country are available from ONS web site. (Nottingham City Council has its own web site for Census results.)

Important: Comparison with previous Censuses

The 2001 Census is different from previous censuses in two ways:

- The Population now includes people who are 'term-time' residents, in other words, students; who in 1991 were counted at their home address. This means the Census cannot be compared to the 1991 Census. However, the population definition is very close to the 'mid-year population estimate' that ONS produce annually.
- The 2001 Census results have been adjusted to account for the 'missed population'; those people who, for one reason or another are missed when counting takes place.

This means that any comparisons with earlier censuses need to be made with care.

How do I get Census information?

For the 2001 Census the internet will be the main, and best, way of getting results. The Census Office, and the County Council, will have web sites set up to provide Census data. For those without web access it is worth remembering that Nottinghamshire's Library Service provides internet access free. However, written reports will also be available, mostly for bigger areas, from ONS, and also from the County Council. If you are on the County Council population and census mailing, you will receive these automatically.

Web links:

- ONS:
www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001
This site contains results as they are published, a lot of background information, and the latest timetable.

- Nottinghamshire County Council:
www.nottsc.gov.uk This summarises what is being produced and will give access to Nottinghamshire and East Midlands results.
- Nottingham City Council:
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk (Search for Census)

What is the County Council doing?

The County Council is preparing to assist the public and voluntary organisations in two ways. Firstly to pass on Census data, specifically prepared for local users, and secondly to comment on and analyse the data. Reports will be prepared once all the relevant data has been issued by ONS. More details are on the County Council Web site

The County Council is working with the City and District Councils, as well as other partners in order that everyone can make best use of this valuable data source.

Contact Richard Cooper at the County Council on 0115 977 4978 if you have a specific interest. E-mail: richard.cooper@nottsc.gov.uk

Next Stage Arts Team

Following a successful bid by Nottinghamshire County Council to the European Regional Development Fund, a brand new team of arts development officers is now working in the former coalfields areas of the county to further increase participation in and access to the arts.

The 5-strong team is part of the County Council's *Next Stage* arts team and alongside a region-wide Festivals officer and an officer working specifically with Miners' Welfares, each has a particular

geographical area of responsibility. The project's HQ is at Rufford Country Park but has officers based at both Ashfield and Bassetlaw District Council offices, and at the Coal Industry Miners Welfare Organisation office in Mansfield (CISWO).

Officers are able to offer advice and guidance on a range of art forms, and, where appropriate provide funds to groups already participating in the arts and those who want to introduce arts into their programmes of activity.

So, if you know of a group in your parish that wants to improve community celebrations with arts, or group that wants to try something "artsy", please get in touch with the member of the team for your area who will be pleased to help you! Projects running to date include a community garden for the Warsop Allotment Growers' Association; the development of youth music in Manton; a Festivals brochure for **Summer 2003**; and over the Christmas period, a dozen community lantern parades.

It is worth noting that the project has sufficient funds to run until the end of **December 2003** so the message to groups in your parish is to strike while the iron is hot!

James Brunt (West Bassetlaw) 01909 534146; Laura Kitchen (CISWO – p/t) 01623 625767; Leanne Taylor (Festivals) 01623 825021; Nicola Tompkins (Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood & Project Leader) 01623 824249; Janet Wallace (Ashfield) 01623 457426

Communities Get Golden Ticket To Help Themselves

The search is on for 4 less advantaged communities across the region to be part of a new scheme which will see them get

better local services and stronger economies by working together and helping themselves.

The pilot initiatives could help communities create more jobs, set up a rural bus service or other vital local facilities like childcare provision, access centres or even a chip shop.

The unique part of the 'Local Alchemy' project, being run by East Midlands Development Agency (emda) and national think-tank, The New Economics Foundation, is that it's communities themselves that get to decide on their priorities and are given all the training and tools they need to put their plans in action.

emda's economic inclusion advisor Sarah said: "We want to encourage an enterprising culture across all sectors of the East Midlands and this means across less advantaged areas too, including inner cities, rural communities and areas hit by industrial decline. Ultimately we're aiming for growing local economies and better lives for the people that live there.

"The Local Alchemy approach is about self-help, community empowerment and doing things differently. So the pilot schemes won't be given lots of money and be asked to make big changes in a short space of time. They'll need to learn how to tap into cash that's already out there."

Initially pilot communities will get a chance to understand how their individual economies work including why they're weak and how cash flows in and out of their particular community. Next they'll be given support to establish what they want to achieve and then get to grips with what they need to do to put their plans in place.

The four successful applicants will each get a bursary of £80,000 over two years to help buy in extra support for their projects,

but in return will need to match this with an additional £20,000 in cash or kind. Ten specialist project staff, currently being recruited, will offer support across the four pilots giving guidance and advice.

Communities interested in applying should contact emda's economic inclusion team on 0115 988 8409, email alchemy@emd.org.uk or check out www.emda.org.uk/alchemy for further information, eligibility criteria and application forms.

Data Protection Scam

Warning to small businesses: Do not pay over £35 to register with the Data Protection Commission

Nottinghamshire County Council's Trading Standards Department is warning small businesses against being over-charged to register with the Data Protection Commission.

Many small companies are being charged over £100 plus VAT for this service, which they could easily do themselves for £35.

Letters sent out by private companies can give the impression that they are official letters from the commission. They are often headed 'Urgent Notice' and state that the business they are writing to is not registered under the Data Protection Act 1988 and is therefore breaking the law and liable to incur a large fine. The letter then offers to register the business usually for a fee in excess of £100 plus VAT.

Graham Lambert, Notts County Council's Trading Standards Services Manager, says: "Many business people have been confused and troubled by the wording and tone of the correspondence received. Businesses can register themselves with the commission and pay only the annual statutory notification fee of £35 on which no VAT is payable. Do not be misled by these companies. They have no

connection with the Data Protection Commission whatsoever.

The Trading Standards service aims to make sure the rights of people around the County are protected. The dedicated staff work very hard to inform citizens about their rights and alert them to disreputable and illegal business practice that may catch people out."

It has also become evident that individuals posing as 'collectors on behalf of Data Protection' are visiting business premises requesting payment for Data Protection Registration. These 'collectors' may produce identification cards and receipt books. In this situation, businesses should not make any payment and inform the local police.

Details of whether a company is required to register can be found through the Commission's website www.dpr.gov.uk or by telephone on 01625 545740.

Businesses seeking further advice or information can call 0845 0505 200. This is a 24-hour number and recorded information is available outside of office hours.

Complaints and enquiries can be made online: www.consumercomplaints.org.uk. The textphone number for people with hearing difficulties is 0115 977 2395. Businesses in the City of Nottingham should telephone 0115 950 7910.

Scanner Helps Identify Pet Owners

RUSHCLIFFE Borough Council has warmly welcomed the generosity of local West Bridgford vet, Bill Bowler, who has donated a scanner to help staff identify bereaved pet owners more quickly.

Mr Bowler said: "I was alerted to this problem by a local resident, who contacted me and suggested that the Council would benefit from a scanner. She had lost a pet – and it was micro-chipped – so she could have been alerted to the fact that it had been involved in an accident.

"People love their pets – and worry incessantly when they go missing, wondering if they have been stolen or are injured or even dead. I contacted Bayer who donated the scanner to me – and I gave it to the Council, so we could make life that little bit better for anyone unfortunate enough to lose their pet."

Mick Smedley, Head of Works at the council explained the importance of the new scanner: "Each year we pick up around 100 dead pets (mainly cats) which have been involved in road traffic accidents.

"Distressed owners contact us to ask us for help, but until now it has been almost impossible to do so as identification is difficult with animals killed in road accidents. Pet owners can get their animals micro-chipped. The scanner reads the chip and the council can then get the owner's details from the national database."

The Council is seeking donations to buy four more scanners – at a cost of £100 each - so all its mobile street cleaning vans can be fitted with one. Donations can be sent to Mick Smedley, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Abbey Road Depot, West Bridgford, Nottingham, with cheques being made payable to Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Contact: Mick Smedley (Head of Works) at Rushcliffe Borough Council
Tel: 0115 914 8375

Nine months notice for major safety work at Trowell

A Nottinghamshire community has been given 9-months notice of vital safety improvements which will include the closure of a busy 'A' road for 4-weeks.

The Trowell Station bridge, on the Notts/Derbys border, carries the A609 Ilkeston to Nottingham Road over the Midland Mainline at Trowell. The 100 year old bridge, owned by Railtrack, is in a very poor condition and beyond worthwhile repair. Safety inspections are being carried out every four weeks by Railtrack and the bridge could be forced to close at anytime due to its poor condition.

Negotiations between Railtrack, the County Council, neighbouring local authorities and bus companies have revealed the best way forward is to completely replace the bridge during September as part of a £2.5 m project. A new bridge will last for around 120 years.

During the works, the A609 will be closed at Trowell for up to four weeks from **8 September to 3 October.**

The option of installing a temporary road bridge was considered very carefully by the County Council but was ruled out because the A609 would still have to be closed while the bridge was installed, extending the disruption and inconvenience for local people.

Councillor Terry Butler Cabinet Member for Environment says:

“Public safety is at stake and we must act responsibly. We want to be safe not sorry. The A609 is a very busy road and we want to make sure vehicles can continue to use the road safely for many more years to come.”

The Trowell bridge carries over 21,000 vehicles every day, including 1,200 lorries.

The County Council is providing £120,000 towards the overall costs of the project.

Contact: Environment Department 0115 977 3379

Countywide Community Strategy and Partnership

A major Stakeholder Conference was held in November last year, where delegates discussed progress towards the formation of a Nottinghamshire Wide partnership and heard a presentation by MORI Director Ben Page on a 'Liveability' survey of county citizens.

This work is continuing with the drafting of a Countywide Community Strategy, which will then be issued for consultation, prior to a further conference at the end of March, which will establish the parameters for a Nottinghamshire Partnership.

For more details contact Richard Money on Tel: 0115 977 4798 or richard.money@nottscc.gov.uk

AROUND THE COUNTY

Art Exhibition

Broxtowe Borough Council's 11th annual Indigenous Art Exhibition is to take place between 8 and 15 March 2003 at the Town Hall, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham. The exhibition is open to local artists, aged 16 and over, and will be judged by 3 professional artists before the exhibition preview. Exhibits will be on sale at the exhibition.

Contact: Broxtowe Borough Council's Arts Department on 0115 917 3481

THE A-Z FUNDING 2002-03: Regeneration & Renewal magazine's annual guide to the regeneration funding maze can now be viewed on their website at:

www.regenerationmagazine.com/attachments/a-zfunding.pdf

Broxtowe Borough Council is giving the public an opportunity to 'have a say' about planning matters discussed at their Development Control Committee.

To register to speak contact the Democratic Services Officer on 0115 917 3266

To celebrate their 21st birthday, Victim Support Nottinghamshire will be holding an event at Newark Town Hall on 1 March 2003. Victim Support are always looking for new volunteers and supporters. If you think you can help please contact Diane Robertson on 0115 852 3508.

Have you heard that farmers are being asked to put toys with their pigs so they can have a happier life and stop nibbling each other, the pigs that is not the farmers!

You could be an otter spotter!

Local people may be able to spot an otter – as the endangered species makes a welcome return to Nottinghamshire's major rivers after a 25-year absence.

Otters, which at one time are thought to have disappeared from the county totally, have now been brought back from the brink thanks to conservation work undertaken by Biodiversity Action Group partners.

To date, 40 otter holts have been constructed and placed in suitable otter habitats and work creating fish habitats on the Rivers Smite, Devon and Trent has been completed. The complementary Countryside Stewardship Scheme has also encouraged farmers and other landowners to consider otters when managing their land.

Beth Gardner, from the Biodiversity Action Group and County Council's Environment Department, said: "The County Council is working hard with other organisations in the Biodiversity Action Group to restore wildlife in Nottinghamshire to benefit the whole community and ensure that our county is a rich and diverse habitat for wildlife."

For information on volunteering opportunities to benefit the otter, or to report a sighting, please contact Eric Palmer at Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, on 0115 9588 242

WELCOME

Welcome to the following new clerks:

Mr Elliott, Willoughby on the Wolds Parish Council
Mr Stocks, Blidworth Parish Council
Mrs Wildgust, Kirton Parish Council
Miss Gundel, Perlethorpe cum Budby Parish Council
Mr Handley, Southwell Town Council
Mrs Teasel, Calverton Parish Council
Mrs Graham, Hodsock Parish Council
Mrs Girling, Walesby Parish Council
Ms Skelton, Ranskill Parish Council
Mrs Isle, Mattersey Parish Council

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.nottscc.gov.uk/council/local/parish/index.htm

Is there an article or information in your local parish newsletter that you would like to share through the next issue of Countylink? Then please contact me.

Barbara Worrall

Your County Council contact for:

Changes of Parish Clerk, Requests for extra copies of Countylink, Countylink in other formats, Articles for Countylink, or if you wish to add information/links/ photograph of your parish to your details on the NCC Website:

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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 65255

Rushcliffe Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 914 8555

Deadline date for articles for the next edition is:

19 March 2003