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# Chairman's Charity Donation

Two Leicestershire charities are £2,922 better off thanks to the generosity of district residents.

LOROS and the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance were Council Chairman Cllr Michael Specht's chosen charities during his 2012-13 year in office.



## Want to vote in 2014?

**Look out in October for the annual canvass form dropping through your letterbox. Every home will get one.**

You need to fill it in and return it to us as soon as you can, so you can vote in next year's European elections.

But even if you don't want to vote, not being on the register can affect your credit rating – a bad rating means you'll struggle to get a loan, or even a mobile phone contract.

So please complete and return your form as soon as possible after you get it.

Vision is published by North West Leicestershire District Council.

To receive a copy in large print please contact the Communications Team:

Council Offices, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ

Email: [communications@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

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Vision magazine has a circulation of 40,500 copies.

**ADVERTISING:** If you wish to advertise in Vision magazine please email [vision@socius-ltd.co.uk](mailto:vision@socius-ltd.co.uk)



# Welcome to the Autumn edition of Vision magazine



Inside this edition of Vision you can learn about how companies large and small are all doing their bit to create jobs. There's still a lot of negative talk about the economy – but here in North West Leicestershire we are very much 'open for business'.

Did you know unemployment in the district is only around 3%? Or that 38 of the county's top 200 firms are based here?

None of that happens by accident. It's thanks to a lot of hard work by our companies – from huge international companies like Pall-Ex to extraordinary people like Sharon Eason, who started 'Meals in Fields' literally from inside her kitchen larder. Find out more about her inside.

On August 15 our Business Focus team hosted a redundancy support and jobs fair – after Kuehne & Nagel announced it was closing its Bardon warehouse, with the loss of 300 jobs.

More than half – 168 people – came along to meet employers including Tesco, Pall-Ex, the GI Group (representing Marks and Spencer) and specialist recruitment agencies.

Job Centre Plus, HMRC, Stephenson College, our housing and benefits advice teams and other partners were also there to help.

And you can do your bit too. For example, every time you separate your recycling into the different boxes, you're helping keep your Council Tax bills down – because 'separating at source' means we can earn up to twice as much. That's worth £1 million a year!

We've got some tough decisions to make over the next few months about our budget and services. But there's every reason to be optimistic about the future of our district.

## Richard Blunt

Councillor Richard Blunt - Leader



01827 373111



[richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

### Our priorities:

Value for money  
Business and jobs  
Homes and communities  
Green Footprints

### Our vision:

A place where people and businesses feel they belong and are proud to call home

### KEEP UP TO DATE

Follow us and find us to be first to get the news from North West Leicestershire!



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**  
[@NWLeicestershir](https://twitter.com/NWLeicestershir)



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
where you can catch up with the latest news from our leisure centres, tourist information, recycling and our Green Footprints Challenge.

# Never too young to start up in business

**Aged 18-33?**

**Need a business loan?**

**Apply for a Start up Loan and get your business moving!**

So you've got a great business idea... but nobody wants to take you seriously. You're too young – and you don't have the money...



Not any more! Thanks to Start Up Loans, your business idea could become a reality.

Pioneered by ex-Dragons Den investor James Caan, the scheme is open to anyone aged 18 to 33 in Leicestershire.

But it's not just about low interest loans. You'll also get the support you need – including free mentoring and qualified business advice – to get your idea off the ground.

Leicester based Spring into Action is running the programme in the county. Loans are from £500 to £10,000.

Find out more at [www.startuploans.co.uk](http://www.startuploans.co.uk), email [startuploans@springtoaction.co.uk](mailto:startuploans@springtoaction.co.uk) or call the team on 0116 217 9250.



spring

# Youngsters shine in the sun

**Hundreds flocked to Coalville by the Sea in August to enjoy games, Punch and Judy, the Big Whale Show, bouncy castle, playbus, face painting and much more.**

And children were transfixed by Dr Who's famous Daleks – who didn't 'exterminate' the fun after we ticketed them for parking on double yellow lines!

**In June we held a competition that saw 100 local youngsters create designs to celebrate Coalville Twenty13.**

We had the top three designs made into special plates – and winners Lauren (left), Dylan (centre) and Jessica (right) were honoured guests of Council Chairman Geraint Jones on August 14.





# Local supplier? Meet the buyer!

**Wednesday 18 September, 7.30am to 7pm, Council offices, Coalville.**

We're spending millions to create decent homes – the biggest investment the council has ever made.

In other parts of the country, typically around 2% of the total spend goes to local firms.

But, from our first £3.5m, more than £400,000 has gone to district businesses – that's more than 11% and a great boost to the local economy.

And we want as many local businesses as possible to supply our contractors Kier and Lovell.

These major national firms need local subcontractors and suppliers – so we're asking them to use small companies registered with Buy Local, just like we do already.

We're holding a 'meet the buyer' event for small firms to find out more.

Thousands of tenants will have better homes to live in – but we want local companies to benefit too and create jobs.

The event is open to anyone – so if you want to know more about how together we're supporting local business, come along for a chat.

## Run a small business?

Register at [www.buylocalgov.co.uk](http://www.buylocalgov.co.uk)

NOW to find out more about competing for council contracts. It's easier than you think!



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# Life changing!

## Hundreds benefit from home improvements

### Tenants have praised 'life changing' improvements to their homes.

Our Decent Homes Improvement Programme has already invested £4.5m in more than 500 homes – fitting new windows, doors, heating systems, kitchens and bathrooms – by contractors Kier and Lovells.

We plan to invest a further £17m by March 2015 to improve more than 3,000 homes – creating jobs and apprenticeships, and saving tenants money on their energy bills.

Councillor Roger Bayliss, portfolio holder for housing, said: "We're determined to make North West Leicestershire a

place where people feel proud of their homes and communities.

"The Decent Homes Improvement Programme will continue to improve the quality of life for thousands of council tenants."

By March 2014, the council will invest another £10.5m to improve 1,500 homes – with a similar sized programme the following year.

The Homes and Communities Agency is funding 90% of the

programme (just under £21m) – with the council covering the rest.

Find out more at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/decent\\_homes](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/decent_homes)



**Measham tenant John Martin** has had a specially adapted kitchen and bathroom installed in his home by Kier.

**John Martin said:** "All involved were very professional and we were encouraged to have a positive input from the beginning. I was very impressed with the standard of work and how it was managed."

**"The improvements have been life-changing and the contractors were brilliant. I've been a tenant here for 23 years and it has improved things so much. I can now take a shower without worrying about slipping or falling."**



**Coalville tenant Paul Clements** had a new kitchen and a level access shower installed in his home by Lovell.

**Mr Clements said:** "My partner is so happy with her new kitchen – it makes her smile every time she goes in there."



# Benches

## at their best thanks to Lovell

One of the best things about summer is being able to sit outside and enjoy the garden.

And when the residents of Smith Court in Whitwick planned a get together for families and friends, they wanted their community looking at its best.

Step forward our contractors Lovell – who volunteered to repaint the benches. They also donated some plants for our tenants to get the place looking just great.

The idea came from our housing officer Polly Page, who was helping the residents organise their event.

Cllr Roger Bayliss, portfolio holder for housing, said: "This is a great example of how communities are made stronger when people and businesses offer some time and effort to small improvements."



Residents say thanks to Lovell for getting Smith Court looking its best!



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## What's On

[www.tamworthassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.tamworthassemblyrooms.co.uk)

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**Tom Hart Dyke  
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Tom explains his 'World Garden of Plants'

as featured on Songs of Praise

**11 October**  
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Left to right: Chairman of North West Leicestershire District Council Cllr Jones, Chief Executive of NWLDC Christine E Fisher, Pall-Ex Director Adrian Russell and Cllr Smith MBE, NWLDC Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services.

# Let's create a *lorry litter free* North West Leicestershire

One of the district's biggest companies has signed up to beat lorry litter louts – with more set to follow.

Pall-Ex is spearheading our campaign – the first of its kind in the East Midlands – to keep lay-bys and verges free of rubbish.

In July we joined up with Keep Britain Tidy and Ellistown-based Pall-Ex – founded by Ex-Dragons Den star Hilary Devey CBE – after almost a quarter of commercial drivers admitted throwing litter from their vehicles in 2013.

Hilary said: "We know that even the smallest of actions can have a big impact. We've worked hard to

make sure all our drivers operate in a responsible way and respect the environment.

"By joining forces with North West Leicestershire District Council on this campaign, we hope other companies in the area will get the message too and help make the district an even better place to live and work."

Items found dumped at lay-bys across the district include bottles of urine, bags of human excrement, discarded magazines, drink cans, food packaging and tyres.

Councillor Alison Smith MBE, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services said: "The types of waste we're

finding at these sites poses a risk to public health.

"We will be asking haulage and distribution companies to follow the lead of Pall-Ex.

"By pledging support companies will be demonstrating they have responsible staff and are committed to protecting the environment."

Pall-Ex Group is the leading provider of palletised freight distribution services in the UK and Europe.





# RECYCLING:

## Separate and save!

**Recycling isn't just good for the planet – it makes financial sense too.**

Thanks to all your hard work separating your recycling – we earned more than **£1m** in 2012.

Those extra few seconds it takes to recycle means we can offer a great service AND keep council tax bills down.

By keeping the materials separate at our Linden Way depot in Coalville we can sell them for more.

How? Because it means your recycling is cleaner – so it's more in demand and has a higher value.

Paper collected separately is worth nearly twice as much than if it was mixed with cardboard.

Separating glass bottles from your plastic and cans also helps our crews to be more efficient – also keeping your bills down.

In North West Leicestershire we recycle 47% of our waste – not bad! But together we can all do a little bit more.

Did you know? Between October and April we collected:



**1,127 tonnes of glass**  
the weight of six jumbo jets!



**1,169 tonnes of paper**

as heavy as 212 elephants. Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees!

**500 tonnes of plastic**  
enough to make 9.6 million 2 litre bottles!



## Volunteers keeping it clean

**You can help keep your community clean by fastening your box lids to stop items escaping on windy days.**

We also have a growing army of volunteers doing their bit. Our Street Action Team supported more than 1,000 people at a series of litter picking events over the last year. Together they collected the equivalent of 800 bin bags of rubbish. Every little helps our small Street Cleansing Team of just 13 litter pickers – thank you!

For example, in June and July, three volunteers from Friends of Thringstone

removed an incredible 386 bags of litter from the village. If everyone did the right thing then they wouldn't have to do it at all.

If you want to do your part email [customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk) – we'll give you bags and litter picking tools to get you started.

Need a new lid for your boxes? Need an extra red box for glass? Email [customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk) or telephone 01530 45 45 45.



# Green Footprints Awards are Go!

**Get your entries in NOW for the 2014 Green Footprints awards.**

Now in their sixth year, the awards champion businesses, schools, young people and communities who are choosing greener ways to live and work.

Making North West Leicestershire a greener district is one of our key priorities – and we expect many to once again rise to the challenge this year. There's a category for everyone.

**Find out more and apply online at [www.footprints/nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.footprints/nwleics.gov.uk).**

The deadline is Friday 24th January 2014 and shortlisted projects will be invited to the annual civic ball and awards night on Friday 4th April 2014.

Last year's winner of the Business category, Linda Shields from Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel, summed up the experience of winning: "It feels absolutely fantastic to have won the award. We are delighted – can't stop grinning about it!"

"We didn't expect to win as we were up against some other fantastic projects. We were so surprised and delighted."

"We are very keen on environmental issues and for years we have been doing things towards a cleaner environment. We have worked on some quite big projects at the hotel – so our manager suggested we enter Green Footprints."



Pictured above: All winners from this years awards.  
Below: Award sponsors Quadrant Events present the owners of the Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel with their award.

**Green footprints**  
challenge  
Awards 2014

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# Fancy a tree for FREE?

**Our overwhelmingly popular  
Free Tree Scheme is back again  
for 2013 – and this year we're  
branching out...**

We've teamed up with the National Forest Company to offer every home and community group in North West Leicestershire a chance to grow their own trees.

The scheme has already seen local people plant thousands of trees all across the district – all part of our 'Green Footprints' commitment to make us all feel prouder of our district.

And new for this year is our Hedge Fund – but not the sort favoured by London bankers! We have a limited amount of packs available – containing mostly hawthorns and a smaller number of other suitable hedge trees.

To find out more about what trees are available this year – and to place an order, please complete the form at [www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/free-tree-scheme-2013](http://www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/free-tree-scheme-2013)

The closing date for applications is **Monday 28th October** and the collection day is **Sunday 24th November** – please put the date in your diary, as this will be the only opportunity for you to collect your trees.

We'll confirm the collection point information by email. For more information email [wendy.may@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.may@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

You're never too young to plant a tree in The National Forest



# Sharon's recipe for success

## Meet the small family business helping other families all over the country....

If you're a fan of camping or caravanning, you'll know how hard it can be to cook quality, healthy meals – and find the ingredients when you're miles from home.

Sharon Eason had the same problem – so decided to do something about it.

Now, after just two years, Sharon's recipe website 'Meals in Fields' is helping people whip up delicious meals – and boosting trade among hundreds of local shops up and down the land.

The idea is simple: visit [www.mealsinfields.co.uk](http://www.mealsinfields.co.uk), look up a recipe, then find out about the nearest farm shop, butchers and greengrocers near to wherever you are on holiday.

People can leave their own recommendations about their

favourite places – including restaurants and other things to do.

Sharon says: "It's perfect for parents wanting to feed healthy meals to their kids. Every recipe has been sent in by fellow caravanners – designed to be easy to make in a small space with minimum equipment."

Sharon started Meals in Fields after she retired in 2011 by turning her kitchen larder into a small office – now she has a unit in Coalville's Springboard Centre. Husband Dave came on board when he retired in 2012 – and they've just taken on their first employee.

Local small businesses pay a small amount for a page on the website – which has seen visitor numbers rise by 400% over the last two years.

Sharon said: "I saw a letter in the Camping and Caravanning Club Magazine from someone who had cut short a holiday because the family could not face another

dinner of sausages on the BBQ. The last sentence of the letter read 'is there a website that can help me?' That's where the idea came from.

"It took two years of hard work to build the website and get people to send in their recipes. Then people started saying 'the recipes are great – but where can I buy the ingredients?'"

"So we started creating the directory of local businesses. Now not only can we help families – we're also helping small family businesses to grow too."





## What does the future hold?

"By 2015 we aim to be employing a dozen people – and be helping small businesses everywhere. By bringing us together, we can collectively start to compete with the supermarkets."

"If you're based in North West Leicestershire, we'd love to have you sign up. A basic entry is free – or a more detailed one is just £5 a month. It's all about having local knowledge – nationally."

Our Business Focus team helped Sharon find the unit at the Springboard Centre – where she uses fellow tenants BEC Business Services to handle her finances. She said: "That's a real weight off my mind and it allows us to concentrate on growing the business. Everyone here has been so helpful and supportive."

Find out more at [www.mealsinfields.co.uk](http://www.mealsinfields.co.uk)



Sharon and Dave show the way to healthy eating on the road...



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## £8m fund to create jobs

**Leicestershire's manufacturers can bid for a share of almost £8m to boost the local economy – and we're here to help you do it.**

Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP) has unveiled round three of its Regional Growth Fund – a £7.8m scheme to create more than 1,200 jobs.

Grants from £25,000 to £150,000 are on offer for local small and medium sized businesses looking to grow – providing they can raise three-quarters of the money themselves. This could include buying new machinery, property and infrastructure improvements or building expansions.

Our Business Focus team has already arranged an information session for district businesses to learn about Regional Growth Fund grants. To qualify, firms must be based in the county with a plan for growth in the next year that creates jobs. Eleven district firms have already applied.

Find out more, make an expression of interest and read the full criteria at [www.llep.org.uk/rgfllpsmegrowthfund](http://www.llep.org.uk/rgfllpsmegrowthfund)





# Better Business for All bears fruit

**We all rely on regulations to keep us safe – such as properly licensed taxi drivers and pubs and clean restaurants and takeaways.**

But companies can find the rules hard to understand – tying up time better spent generating sales and creating jobs.

So we're taking the lead with Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LLEP) to become more business focused.

We call it the **'Better Business for All'** programme – and it's two years old this month.

We're improving our support for start-up firms and those looking to relocate, and developing a single system for offering business support.

We're improving how we train our Environmental Health team, and recruiting a network of business champions so we better understand the needs of local companies.

Later this year we're trialling a system where all regulators can use information collected by just one – so companies won't have to provide it many times over.

Cllr Tony Gillard, portfolio holder for business, said: "We want to reduce both real and perceived regulatory barriers to growth. Very often companies can feel overwhelmed by the number of different regulators they have to deal with.

"We might not be able to change the law – but we should look at how we provide those vital regulation services."

Thirteen regulators are now taking part – including the Food Standards Agency and Leicestershire Police.

**Find out more: [www.llep.org.uk/betterbusinessforall](http://www.llep.org.uk/betterbusinessforall)**

## Download Festival

We would normally inspect 100 mobile food stalls onsite – now we just focus on just the 'non-compliant' food businesses. That meant 15 inspections instead of 100 - reducing the regulatory burden on safe traders.



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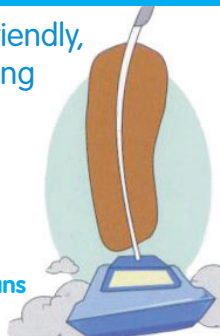
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# Teaming up to improve Coalville



Photos courtesy of Studio 17

The Coalville Town Team was formed in 2012 – after the Government teamed up with ‘Queen of shops’ Mary Portas to boost town centres. Its mission is to make the town centre a busier and brighter place to shop, work and to live.

Despite missing out in a bid for a share of the first £1.2m on offer, the group won £10,000 from the Government to become a ‘Town Team Partner’ and is a not for profit limited company.



The team set up the car park refund scheme. Shoppers can get a discount if they spend a minimum amount in participating stores.

And you may have been to ‘Motorfest’ – where car clubs and dealers exhibited in the town centre and Snibston.

Find out more at [www.coalvilletowncentre.co.uk](http://www.coalvilletowncentre.co.uk) – or search Facebook for ‘Coalville Town Centre’.



## Food and drink festival time!

It's nearly time for the 2013 Celebration of Food and Drink in North West Leicestershire – Saturday 21st September to Sunday 6th October.

We're supporting the festival – which will involve local firms offering special deals and promotions.

Ashby Tourist Information has all the details at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/whatson) and [www.somewherenice.to.go.co.uk](http://www.somewherenice.to.go.co.uk)



# Coming up

There's loads going on during September and October at Hermitage Leisure Centre.

## Sunday 22nd September:

### Sequence Dance Special, 3pm to 6pm

Featuring dance inventors Stuart Perry and Beverley Howard and live music from Gary Cole. Tickets cost £2 and you can pay on the night.

## Sunday 29th September:

### Antiques, vintage and collectors fair

Thousands of antique, vintage and collectable items for sale from quality dealers – including jewellery, vintage fashion, silver, toys, clocks, furniture and much more.

Doors open at 9.30am (traders can get in from 8.30am by showing their business card). Just £2 for adults – and free to under 16s.



## Saturday 5th October:

### Mitchell Promotions presents – British Boxing Title Fights.

The evening will feature two British title fights – one featuring local boxer Lois '2Sweet' Norman.

Tickets cost £30 standard – or £50 ringside – by calling 01332 367453 or visiting [www.mitchellpromotions.co.uk](http://www.mitchellpromotions.co.uk). Doors open at 4pm.

**FREE EVENT**

# THE BIG FAMILY BIKE RIDE

**Coalville**

**Sunday 15th September, 10am - 3pm**  
North West Leicestershire  
District Council Offices, LE67 3FJ

**Choose how you move**

**Department for Transport**

To find out more visit  
[www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk)  
or call 0116 305 3179

**Leicestershire County Council**

- See Keelan Phillips BMX flat land European Champion
- Explore the new cycle network on our cycling treasure trail
- Cycle the adventure track
- Have fun on the crazy bikes
- and lots more cycling fun

Dani King, 2012 Olympic gold medalist. Supporting cycling in Leicestershire.

# BIG plans for Whitwick

## **Fancy a coffee? Or a great day out? How about some work experience?**

Or maybe a new community centre that could transform the lives of hundreds?

Whitwick Community Enterprises (WCE) is bringing people, local groups and businesses together to improve the village.

On September 7 the group hosts the annual Party in the Park – from 11am to 5pm at Whitwick Park on North Street.

Local community groups and businesses will be out in force – with stalls to raise funds, recruit new members and promote their services. And there will be a huge range of activities for children young and old - including a chance to meet your favourite Star Wars characters!

The WCE coffee shop will provide the food, tea and cakes in the main tent and the BBQ will be busy outside.

The event is just one way WCE is strengthening the community. The coffee shop is a great place to meet people. Volunteers are

much-needed to deliver the 'Close Knit' village magazine to more than 3,800 homes.

There are lunch clubs and food parcels for people in need. And more than 100 local young people have taken part in SYNRG since 2011 – a FREE work experience programme to help them secure a job or training place.

WCE has big ambitions – including securing planning permission to build a new community centre.

**WHITWICKcommunity**  
**ENTERPRISES**  
faith in action serving our community





# Want to improve your community?

Improve your skills?

Help others?

## Then get involved!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and even keep fit and healthy – while knowing you're doing your bit for your community.

And Voluntary Action Leicestershire makes it easy to find out about new opportunities.

Here are three great ways to help improve the lives of local people – why not find out more today?

Contact Kathryn Lupton, Voluntary Action Leicestershire Volunteering and Development Advisor on 07816 218949, email: [kathryn.l@valonline.org.uk](mailto:kathryn.l@valonline.org.uk) or visit [www.valonline.org.uk/how-to-volunteer](http://www.valonline.org.uk/how-to-volunteer).

## Coalville Shopmobility

Coalville Shopmobility offers anyone who struggles to get around the use of a scooter or manual wheelchair.

It's a vital service that helps people to do their shopping and get around the town centre with ease. Anyone who has difficulty walking can use the service and joining is easy.

Volunteers answer calls, welcome new members, prepare membership forms, hire out equipment, show people how to use the scooters and more.

Shopmobility is in the top of the Belvoir Centre – next to HSBC and opposite Argos – pop in and say hello from 9am to 2pm Monday to Saturday.

**Pictured is shop manager Keith Hennessey and volunteer Phyllippe Aaron – who is also disabled and relies on his scooter to get around. He said: "Life would be very difficult without my chair - I'd be stuck in the house."**

Find out more at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/coalville\\_shopmobility](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/coalville_shopmobility)

## Victim Support volunteers

Victim Support's volunteers give confidential, emotional support to victims of crime. You'll get excellent training and work in a team providing support and guidance over the phone to help people through a difficult time.

## Volunteer mentor: Twenty Twenty

Twenty Twenty helps disadvantaged Leicestershire 11-19 year olds not in education, employment or training – and those at risk of committing anti-social behaviour or crime.

As a volunteer mentor you'll encourage young people through a 'professional friendship' to make positive decisions, develop social skills and self-confidence.



# People to Places bus hits the road!

**A brand new 15 seater minibuss has hit the road in Coalville to help people get to work.**

It's the latest part of the 'People to Places' transport service – designed for people who work shift patterns starting early in the morning or late in the evening, when public transport is not readily available.

Run by the Marlene Reid Centre's community transport team, it's for organisations with employees without transport who need to get to work. You might not live near a bus route – or not be able to use public transport.

Nikki Warrilow, Community Transport Service Manager, said: "Public transport is not always available when you need it – and people cannot always rely on others for lifts to work.

"With our minibuses local people can be assured that we will be on time and we will not let them down. It's a very cost effective way of helping local people get to work.

Shirley Norman, a regular user of the service said: "It's a fantastic service. The driver is great and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a reliable way of getting to work locally."

To find out more visit [www.mrc.uk.net](http://www.mrc.uk.net), call Nikki on 01530 512457 or email [transport@mrc.uk.net](mailto:transport@mrc.uk.net)

People to Places is supported by Leicestershire County Council's 'ChooseHowYouMove' scheme. Find out more at [www.leics.gov.uk/choosehowyoumove](http://www.leics.gov.uk/choosehowyoumove)







Pictured is Robin Pointon of Go Travel Solutions and John Merison, President of the North West Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce.

# Sustainable travel for YOUR business

**Business Travel Network for Coalville, launched in May at Stephenson College, is here to help your staff get to work. It's FREE for the first year – and costs companies from as little as £50 a year after that.**

The network is co-ordinated by Go Travel Solutions and is part of the 'Choose how you move' programme. We've already helped to sign up many companies across the Loughborough and Coalville area, as well as promoting the town's cycle network.

Members get free advice about a range of schemes – including Wheels to Work and People 2 Places – and benefit from a unique range of travel offers and discounts. That includes 10% off bus and train season tickets, money off car hire and buying bikes, and access to £5,000 Smarter Travel Grants.

**Find out more at  
[www.business-travel-networks.com](http://www.business-travel-networks.com) or  
call 0116 216 8326**



**Meadow Lane, Coalville, LE67 4BR  
Tel: 01530 834368  
[www.castlerock.leics.sch.uk](http://www.castlerock.leics.sch.uk)**

Castle Rock High School has excellent facilities available for sports clubs, meetings, children's birthday parties, keep fit classes, community events.

For further enquires regarding hiring the facilities please contact Mrs Gee at the school.

the UK's leading distributor of plastic raw materials. It registered a 59% increase in turnover over 15 months to move from 74th in 2012 to 46th this year.

The company employs 60 local people and hopes to increase turnover by another 40 per cent over the next three years. It supplies the car, packaging, electronics and medical sectors.

Managing director Mike Boswell told the Mercury: "Markets have worked for us and, despite the recession, demand for our expertise and product range has driven our recent substantial revenue growth. But we are not resting on our laurels."

One example is Ashby firm Plastribution –

## District kids triumph in local anti-smoking Oscars

CLlr Alison Smith MBE, Deputy Leader and portfolio holder for Community Services said: "Congratulations to our talented young people – their friends are more likely to listen to each other than most adults. Programmes like this help young people make lifestyle informed choices."

The Leicestershire competition, now in its second year, forms part of the National Cut Films competition.

Find out more at [www.cutfilms.org/leicestershire](http://www.cutfilms.org/leicestershire)

Above: Winners of Best Storyline  
Willesley Youth Club and below:  
Winners of Best use of Music  
Stephenson College

- **Best Performance – Castle Donington Community College**
- **Best Storyline – Willesley Youth Club**
- **Best Use of Music – Stephenson College.**



# Have your say on HS2

## The Government has invited the public to comment on its proposed route for the HS2 railway.

Since your councillors objected to the original route in February, the proposed tunnel under East Midlands Airport has been extended so it won't clash with the planned Roxhill freight depot.

But Council Leader Richard Blunt said: "HS2 will make it harder for us to strengthen tourism in the National Forest. And it will have a negative impact on our countryside and thousands of residential properties.

"We believe the Secretary of State should look again at following a route along the A38 to Derby – a city centre station there would offer far greater regeneration benefits than Toton."

You can read more about HS2 at libraries in Ashby De La Zouch, Castle Donington, Coalville, Ibstock, Kegworth and Melbourne – plus Ashby Outreach Centre and Castle Donington Volunteer Bureau. The consultation closes at the end of January 2014.

There will also be two information events – where you can quiz the HS2 team:

**Wednesday 27th November 2013, 12pm to 8pm**  
Measham Leisure Centre

**Thursday 5th December 2013, 12pm to 8pm**  
Hood Park Leisure Centre, Ashby De La Zouch

Keep up to date with developments and comment at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/hs2](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/hs2)



**Lets Eat and Drink**  
A local directory full of places to eat, drink, buy fresh and specialist produce.

## EXCLUSIVE VISION OFFER

**Buy One Get One 1/2 Price**  
Book and advert in a forthcoming publication and receive another 1/2 price

## Lets Have One for the Ladies and Something for the Men too

A focus on hair, beauty, wellbeing, fitness, fashion, sporting activities and hobbies in the local area.



**SHOP LOCAL!  
EAT LOCAL!  
CHOOSE LOCAL!  
BE LOCAL!**

## LETSGOLOCAL ...connecting local businesses

Lets Go Local produce 4 local guides throughout the year encouraging residents and businesses to shop local, eat local, choose local - **BE LOCAL.**



**Lets Do Home, Garden and Interior Design**  
A handy guide for all things DIY, your home improvements outside and in, garden design and maintenance, cleaning and interior design.

## Lets Go Network

A local networking lunch bringing together local businesses. Held on the last Thursday of every month.

For further details please email Richard on the address below

**Lets Do Christmas All Wrapped up**  
A perfect local guide to all things Xmassy including gift ideas, fashion and places to eat.



All guides have a **5000 distribution** in Ashby and the surrounding villages including **Moir, Donisthorpe, Measham, Appleby Magna, Packington, Ashby Woulds and Blackfordby**, as well as an on line turn page media edition that goes to a further **3500 local homes and businesses.**

To claim your exclusive offer call Richard on: **01530 560177** or email: [richard.beldon@letsgolocal.co.uk](mailto:richard.beldon@letsgolocal.co.uk)

# Get in shape for Santa!

**Don't forget to pick up your copy of our latest fitness class leaflet – out at the end of September.**

Inside you'll find the programme for October to December – perfect for getting in shape for the Christmas party season!

With more than 100 classes on offer across Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres, there is bound to be a class for you.

Got an iPhone? Search and download the gymjam app from the iStore now!



## October half term of fun on its way

The summer holidays have only just ended – so it's time to plan for half term!

Plans are well under way at Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres for another fun packed school holiday.

Leaflets will be available at the leisure centres and online from the end of September – so keep checking online [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/holidays](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/holidays).



## After-school activity programme back in action

If your children enjoyed the fantastic holiday activities, then why not carry on with our after-school programme?

Held Monday to Friday at both Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres, both have an extensive activities programme – including football, badminton, trampoline and gymnastics coaching and volleyball.

Find out more at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/after-school](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/after-school).

## Never too late to learn to swim!

**It's never too late to learn to swim – or improve your confidence in the water.**

We've got fantastic 'Learn to Swim' programmes at Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres and Ibstock Leisure Complex.

Classes run throughout the week for all abilities and ages – from little babies through to adults-only sessions.

Give us a call now – you could be just a phone call away from learning to swim.

Hermitage Leisure Centre: 01530 811215

Hood Park Leisure Centre: 01530 412181

Ibstock Leisure Complex: 01530 265836

Or visit [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/learntoswim](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/learntoswim)