



Christmas in the District

Markets, lights, music and more!



Remembrance Day



Local Band Fortieth Year Marches On



The country's
greenest hotel is
now open!

Will you be able to vote in the elections next year?



November 2012 will see the ballot for the first directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners for each police force throughout the country. If you want your chance to be able to vote in the elections scheduled for 15th November 2012 it is essential that your name is included on the Register of Electors.

If you have not returned your canvass form over the past couple of months, or if you have recently moved house, don't delay – register now.

Did you know that registration is available throughout the year? If you move house it is a good idea to re-register at your new address. Notifying the council tax department is not enough – each eligible elector must register separately.

The necessary form can be collected from the reception desk at the council offices in Coalville or downloaded from our website at www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/voter_registration_form/

Alternatively, you can call the elections office on 01530 454512 and we will be pleased to send you a copy.

Welcome

On behalf of the Council and elected Members we would like to thank all residents for their co-operation and patience with the changes to their collection days. By embracing these changes you are helping the Council to save 10,000 miles every year and reduce CO₂ emissions by 3,000 kgs as well as saving £100,000 a year. This is a significant contribution to our overall financial savings target of £1.5million over the next three years.



I am also very pleased to see that residents are starting to use our textiles recycling service by presenting any textiles in a carrier bag alongside their usual recycling materials. Your efforts in recycling are greatly appreciated as they help to continue to increase the recycling rate, which is currently 45% - well above the national average.

In this edition of Vision we have focused on the different towns within the District and what Christmas events are happening where. I hope you will have the time to visit your local Christmas event and can join us at the Christmas Lights Switch On event in Coalville on Saturday 26th November 2011.

I am excited to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Best Local Community Initiative award in this year's How-Do UK Public Services Communications Awards. This recognises North West Leicestershire District Council's excellent work with Charnwood Borough Council to target environmental offences during a three-month campaign called 'Don't Muck Around'. The winners will be announced on 15th November.

We are currently conducting a survey of our residents to find out how you feel about living in the District and the services you receive from the Council. We will be sending out surveys to a sample of our residents. If you receive a survey form in the post, please take the time to complete and return it to us as we value your opinions.

Thank you for your support of the Council throughout 2011 and may I be one of the first to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and successful New Year.

Richard Blunt

Councillor Richard Blunt – Leader

North West Leicestershire District Council

Council opening times over the festive period:

The council offices are closed Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th, Friday 30th December and Monday 2nd January.

Members' Surgery – Coalville and Snibston Ward

Members of the Coalville and Snibston Wards invite you to attend a Members' Surgery giving you the opportunity to raise any issues affecting your area.

The surgery is to be held at Hermitage FM Coffee Lounge, 2a Hotel Street, Coalville between 10.00am and 11.30am on Saturday 3rd December 2011.

No appointment necessary.

Chairman's Civic Carol Service

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Nigel Smith will be holding his Civic Carol Service on Friday 16th December at St Helen's Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch at 7pm.

For more information, please contact Angela Bexton on 01530 454603, or email angela.bexton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

GET YOUR FREE Benefits Health Check! tel 01530 454551

Many people miss out, because they don't realise they are entitled to extra cash, don't know how to claim or would rather make do. Pride can also stop people from applying. But it isn't charity - it is money that they are entitled to.

North West Leicestershire District Council

At North West Leicestershire District Council we want to ensure that the people in our District can lead as full and as active lives as possible by claiming their full entitlement to Housing and Council Tax Benefits.

For your free personalised 'benefits health check' please call the Benefits Section at North West Leicestershire District Council tel 01530 454551 and quote 'BTCLAIM' or check out our website for more information at: www.nwleics.gov.uk and click on Advice and Benefits. We even have a benefits calculator making it easier for you to know your entitlement without having to reveal any of your income to a third party.

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01530 454545

customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

www.nwleics.gov.uk

Contact the Communications Team on:

01530 454545 or email: communications@nwleicestershire.gov.uk if you would like Vision in large print, braille or another language.

Vision magazine produced by:



Community News

Remembrance Day

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The two minutes silence was observed around the District on Armistice Day, the day which marks the end of the First World War.

2011 saw the last surviving British soldier from the Great War pass away and it is the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion. The intervening years have seen countless soldiers, sailors and airmen risk, and sometimes lose their lives so we could enjoy our freedom.

Iraq is still fresh in our minds and our troops are still serving in Afghanistan. It is not just military personnel that the Royal British Legion supports, it is their families too.

The two minutes silence was observed on Friday 11th November at 11am, at the War Memorial in Coalville.

Remembrance Day services also took place around the District. Sunday 13th November saw the Remembrance Day Service and Parade taking place in Coalville. The event was organised by the Council in conjunction with the Whitwick Branch of the British Legion. There was a service at Christ Church, followed by a parade to the War Memorial. A short service and wreath laying ceremony then took place, before marching back to the Council Offices for the dismissal. The Whitwick Branch of the British Legion also marched from Hermitage Leisure Centre to St John the Baptist Church for their Remembrance Service.

Thank you to all who supported the Royal British Legion during 2011.



The support that the Royal British Legion gives to service personnel and their families is vitally important. This support cannot be given without funding and donations. In their 90th anniversary the Legion are raising funds through the sales of the book '90 years of heroes'. If you would like to support them by buying a book they are available in bookshops nationwide.



Local Band Fortieth Year Marches On

In March 2011 the Leicestershire Co-operative (Snibston) Band were in fine form, taking the runner-up position in the final of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain out of a total of 17 bands competing.

Musical Director, Graham Jacklin said; "This is the band's finest ever achievement. I really can't believe it. Everyone has worked so hard to make this year into a year to remember. I am so proud to be associated with the band and its members".

The band celebrated their fortieth anniversary with a special concert at The Palace in Ibstock, and were joined by one of the world's finest brass players, David Thornton, Principal Euphonium of the world famous Brighouse and Rastrick Band.

The band also performed at the Remembrance Day Service and Parade in Coalville.

For further information about the Leicestershire Co-operative (Snibston) Band contact:

graham.jacklin@btinternet.com.



Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign – 2011

The annual Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign takes place between the 21st and 25th November across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. This year the campaign will focus on the 'Hidden Victims' of domestic abuse.

Victims can come from all walks of life, regardless of economic or social background, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, age, disability or religion. However, some of these characteristics may mean that victims are more reluctant to come forward and seek help, and that they are faced with added difficulties due to their circumstances.

There are a number of services across our region that provide practical and emotional help and advice for victims of domestic abuse. Although historically these have focused on the needs of female victims, in recent years there has been a greater acknowledgement of the needs of victims across our communities and services are evolving to reflect this.

Women's Aid Leicestershire is hosting a conference on Wednesday 23rd November which will focus on issues affecting male victims from all communities.

Leicester City Council, working with the LGBT Centre (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) and DVIRP (Domestic Violence Helpline) will be focusing on abuse within the gay and lesbian community, by holding a training session and awareness stalls around the neighbourhoods.

If you wish to find out more about Domestic Abuse Awareness Week, or need to talk to somebody in confidence, please contact the Domestic Violence Helpline on 0116 255 0004.

Community News



The Owl House Day Spa

When work started on converting a former stable block and barn into a luxury day spa the number one priority was to look after the building's oldest occupants – the owls.

Before work started on The Owl House Day Spa in the grounds of the 800-year-old Langley Priory, near Diseworth, owners Lucy and Martin Goodwin had to ensure the colony of owls, which perch on the building's roof at night, would be protected.

Throughout the process of creating the Owl House Spa Lucy and Martin also kept a close eye on the environmental impact of their business. They installed money-saving insulation and a waste water recycling system, as well as asking local builders to use traditional methods to restore, protect and extend the building.

Now open for business, wherever possible Lucy and Martin have also tried to use local suppliers to reduce their carbon footprint. White Star Linen do the laundry, No. 11 Deli in Castle Donington provide picnic lunches, while freshly-baked cupcakes come from Melbourne Cakes and fresh flowers from Buddies the Florist in Castle Donington. The spa has also created eight new jobs for the area.

The Council's Chief Executive Christine Fisher visited the Owl House Spa shortly after it opened. Christine said: "The new Owl House Spa is an asset to our District and across the East Midlands region. The Council's Green Footprints Challenge encourages residents and businesses to make greener choices, and I'm extremely impressed with the spa's environmental credentials."

To find out more visit www.owlhousespa.co.uk or telephone 01332 818 818.



Help is just a tick away...

The First Contact scheme has already helped over 1,000 vulnerable adults in Leicestershire. The scheme uses a simple checklist to find out what help people require. Its motto is: 'help is just a tick away'.

For example: Mr and Mrs C, an elderly couple in Ashby de la Zouch were concerned about home security, home insulation, home maintenance and managing their disabilities. A First Contact checklist was completed on their behalf by Citizens Advice Bureau and passed to the scheme's co-ordinators at County Hall.

As a result referrals were made to Care and Repair, who carried out home repairs, checks on their insulation and home security and North West Leicestershire Older Peoples' Service who supplied a lifeline alarm. The couple were also eligible for a grant for the repairs and had a new back door, kitchen window and kitchen sink fitted. A PRIDE alarm was also incorporated in the grant.

The couple's son in law (Mr F) commented; *"My father and mother in law are so thankful for all of the services they have received...they did not know they could get help until they had the First Contact form*

completed. The help they have received means that I can feel assured that my father and mother in law can live safely and independently in their own home"

The scheme is led by Leicestershire County Council in partnership with all seven District and Borough Councils, together with a range of partner agencies.

The partnership works together to make sure that Leicestershire's vulnerable adults aged 18 and over can remain safe, secure and independent.

The First Contact scheme offers information about local groups and activities, advice and support for carers, information on children's activities for parents and guardians, falls help and advice, adult learning, help getting the right benefits, help with setting up a bank account and managing finances, advice and support for victims of crime, advice and support on anti-social behaviour/hate crime, and home fire safety checks and smoke alarms.

If you or someone you know would benefit from being referred through the First Contact scheme contact Andrew Head by telephoning 01530 454835 or email andrew.head@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Moira Furnace Museum

Moira Furnace Museum will be **closed** for the winter period of 30th October until 1st April 2012. The Craft village, tea room and country park will remain open throughout this period as usual.

The museum will still be available to group visits by prior arrangement for museum guided tours and the Joseph Wilkes boat trip. Please contact Helen Shepherd on 01283 224667 or 07976 637858 or email moirafurnace@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

During this winter's closure the museum's Management team will be working towards a major funding application to take the museum forward as well as planning a programme of events for summer 2012.



Housing News

New rules for council house funding

Councils across the country are preparing for the introduction of new rules to control the money spent on council housing, which will start in April 2012.

Under the current scheme, money is moved around between councils through a national housing subsidy system. North West Leicestershire will pay £4.5 million of tenants rent into the national pot this year, with other councils being given money back out of this pot depending on their circumstances. The whole system will change as each council becomes "self financing". This will mean the Council has to make a one-off payment to the Government next March in return for no more annual subsidy payments.

Details of the final deal on offer from the Government are expected in November 2011, and from this we will be able to work out exactly what the new rules will mean for tenants of North West Leicestershire.

The Older Persons Working Group - could you volunteer your time?

To provide the best service we can to older people, the Council continuously reviews the services it provides. To help with this the Older Persons Working Group was established, to enable customers to make a positive contribution to shaping older persons services for the future.

To ensure this Working Group is a true reflection of the people who use our services we are looking for new representatives who are family members of service users and private lifeline customers.

Decent homes for all council tenants by 2015

Following a multi million pound award of grant funding by the Government, the Council will soon be starting a major three year improvement programme. This is designed to ensure all tenants homes meet the Government's Decent Homes standard by 2015. As well as new doors and windows, many tenants will also benefit from new kitchens, bathrooms and upgraded central heating systems, as well as other improvement work.

The detailed plan will be completed soon and we will be consulting with the tenants affected early in the New Year, with the work to start from June 2012.

If you would like more information about these articles please contact **Chris Lambert, Head of Housing and Customer Services on 01530 454 780.**

Do you Tweet?

A growing number of people are using Twitter to keep up to date with the very latest news, including the Council's Head of Housing and Customer Services, Chris Lambert.

Chris said, "It's important to use all the communication channels we can to let the public know what we are doing as a Council, and this is just one more free way of getting our messages across".

If you would like to follow Chris he can be found at @NWLHoHCS.

Housing Annual Report 2010/11

If you would like to know how we performed in 2010/11, take a look at our Housing Annual Report which you will find on our website at www.nwleics.gov.uk. A big thank you to all our tenants involved in helping put this report together. For a printed copy, please contact Ketan Mehta, Performance Officer on 01530 454784, or email ketan.mehta@nwleicestershire.gov.uk



Christmas in Castle Donington

Castle Donington is situated in the north of the District and has a population of just under 6,500.

Castle Donington is close to East Midlands Airport which has recently won two major awards - Airport of the Year at the National Travel Trade Gazette (TTG) Awards and Star Regional UK Airport at the Travel Bulletin 2011 Star Awards.

The village is home to the world famous Donington Park racing circuit which hosts the British Touring Car Championship, European Truck Grand Prix and British Superbikes. Donington Park is also the annual venue for the Download Festival which attracts 70,000 rock music fans to the area.

Castle Donington has a varied calendar of town centre events including the Medieval market which is held on May Bank Holiday Monday in the High Street and a Music in the Parks event at Spital Park. During the last week in October the town hosts a travelling fair, which is known locally as the Donington Wakes. The event lasts for three days and celebrated its 731 year birthday this year. Permission for this fair was granted in 1278 by King Edward I to Henry De Lacy making the charter amongst one of the oldest in existence.

On the second Saturday of every month there is a Farmers' Market. Since 2005 the market has been managed solely by volunteers. It currently has between 12 and 18 local, seasonal stalls. Cookery demonstrations take place by local chefs and entertainment provides a great community atmosphere.

Useful websites:

- www.eastmidlandsairport.com
- www.castledonington.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/
- www.donington-park.co.uk/

Castle Donington

Christmas Cheer!

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 5PM

5:00pm St Edwards Churchyard
Candlelit procession

5:30pm Market Place
Turning on the Christmas lights followed by Carol Concert
Santa and his **REAL** reindeer!
Shops open for the evening

Christmas in Ashby



Festive shopping and entertainment in Ashby de la Zouch on Saturday 3rd December (10am - 4pm) will bring the town alive in the run up to Christmas.

A market, grand tombola, Hermitage FM, children's rides and community stalls will line the street. The afternoon will finish off with carol singing around the Christmas Tree with Concordia and Donisthorpe School Choir followed by a snowflake finale. For further information call 01530 454678/ 01530 411767.

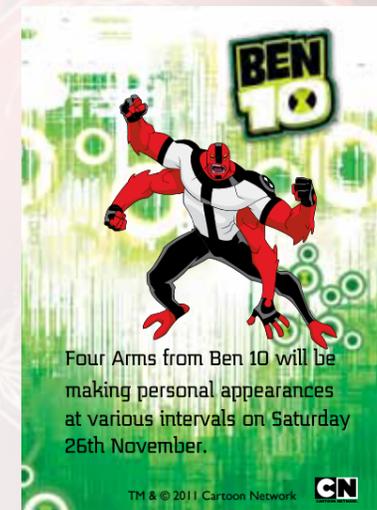


Christmas in Coalville



Join us for some Christmas celebrations in Marlborough Square on Saturday 26th November 2011.

Local band 'The Inspired' and school choirs will entertain families and tribute band 'Totally Take That' will take to the stage for the lights switch on late in the afternoon. Along with Santa and his reindeer and an appearance of children's favourite Four Arms from Ben 10, it should be an afternoon to remember. The event runs from 2.30pm with the Christmas lights switched on at 5pm followed by a snowflake finale. For more information call 01530 454603.



Four Arms from Ben 10 will be making personal appearances at various intervals on Saturday 26th November.

TM & © 2011 Cartoon Network CN

Situated in the west of the District Ashby has a population of about 12,000 people. The name 'Ashby' appears to be from the Saxon 'aesc' meaning Ash and 'byr', a habitation. 'De la Zouch' was added in 1160 when Norman nobleman Alain de Parrhoet la Zouch inherited his position as Lord of the Manor by marriage. One of the main attractions is the ruined Norman manor house, Ashby Castle, where Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned. As well as its very own castle Ashby boasts a Museum situated in North Street which has won Museum of the Year awards in 2007 and 2010. The Museum organises talks and evening classes, holiday activities for children and young people, guided walks, special events and offers research facilities. If you want to know more about your family history or the history of Ashby then give the Museum a call on 01530 560090.

Ashby also has a great social calendar with the Arts Festival in May/June, Statutes in September and the Christmas event in December. The Venture Theatre provides a spot of culture with regular productions by the Ashby Dramatics Society.

You won't be short of shops in Ashby either with great service and unique products available in Ashby's many stores. A variety of locally owned and specialist shops trade alongside famous high street names, as well as the delightful award-winning Mill Lane Mews.

Useful websites:

- www.ashbydelazouchmuseum.org.uk/
- www.ashbyventuretheatre.org.uk/
- www.ashbydelazouch.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/
- www.somewherenicetogo.co.uk
- www.english-heritage.org.uk
- www.ashbytcp.org.uk

Ashby Farmers' Market

A local market for local people

Ashby Farmers' Market has just celebrated its 5th anniversary and is proving ever more popular with local shoppers, so a big THANK YOU to everyone who supports us. The market meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at Manor House School.

Don't forget the special Christmas market on Brook Street on 17th December. For a list of market dates in 2012 contact Cathy Springthorpe on 01530 261660 or email: Cathy@cjspringthorpe.co.uk



Coalville is the administrative centre of North West Leicestershire District and has a population of nearly 33,000 people. As its name suggests the town grew out of the coal mining industry and George and Robert Stephenson and William Stenson all have links to the town through mining or development of the railways.

In the heart of the National Forest Coalville also benefits from some fabulous green spaces on the doorstep including the Urban Forest park which now boasts a state of the art climbing frame trail, Snibston County Park (designated in 1993 as Leicestershire's first Local Nature Reserve) Nature Alive (a former coal stocking yard and settling pools for Snibston Colliery) and of course Coalville Park itself.

Coalville is home to Snibston Discovery Museum, a multi-award winning, flagship museum. Snibston has the largest fashion and costume display outside London and is the biggest interactive science, design and technology museum in the East Midlands.

Coalville's very own theatre, the Century Theatre is thought to be the only solid structure, fully equipped, mobile theatre in the world. Now permanently based

at Snibston, primarily as an historical artefact, it continues to provide quality touring theatre, music, comedy and educational activities for the community. A monthly film night is definitely worth a visit.

Coalville has a great range of shops and services available from bespoke bridalwear retailers to restaurants, pubs, beauty salons and banks. If it's fresh fruit and vegetables you're after then Coalville market has the answer as well as some more unusual stalls such as bicycle repair and haberdashery.

Useful websites:

- www.centurytheatre.co.uk/
- www.leics.gov.uk/museums/snibston



TRIBUTE BAND 'TOTALLY TAKE THAT' WILL PERFORM ON 26TH NOVEMBER

FREE PARKING EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER

All Council-owned town centre car parks in Ashby and Coalville will be free to shoppers every Saturday during December.

Christmas in Ibstock & Measham

The Ibstock Christmas Festival takes place on Friday 9th & Saturday 10th December.

There will be a parade from St Denys Parish Church to Ibstock Palace which starts at 7pm led by the Ibstock Scout Band. It will feature Chinese lion dancers, Father Christmas and reindeer. There will be mulled wine and hot mince pies at the Palace and a small fair. The festivities at the Palace will continue the following day with a community morning and then entertainment by local children at 3pm.

Ibstock is to be found in the south of the District and has a population of over 6,000. The name suggests that a Saxon chieftain named 'Ibba' established a settlement here – that is, 'Ibba's Stockade'.

Ibstock is home to the Ibstock Palace which is one of the earliest existing examples of a purpose-built cinema in the country and has been converted for use as a general purpose community venue. The Palace is entirely run by volunteers and has a packed annual events programme.

Ibstock in Bloom is a regular winner and in 2010 was awarded silver in the East Midlands Region group.

Closely integrated into the life of the town is the Ibstock Business Centre which manages 12 business units and provides office to office services such as faxing, photocopying and printing. The Centre also houses a Community Information Centre with public internet access and a newly established Community Art Gallery.

Close by is the Sence Valley Forest Park, 150 acres of woodland, lakes and grassland ideal for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

Useful websites:

- www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/ibstockcc
- www.ibstockbusinesscentre.co.uk
- www.thepalaceibstock.co.uk
- www.forestry.gov.uk

The Measham Christmas lights switch on event on will take place on Thursday 1st December between 6pm and 8pm.

There will be entertainment in St Laurence's church, carol singing, a raffle and a treasure hunt. Father Christmas will also be making an appearance and there will be late night shopping for everyone to enjoy.

Measham is located in the south west corner of the District and has a population of around 5,000 people. Joseph Wilkes, an industrialist and entrepreneur, is a key figure in the history of Measham and is credited with the development and expansion of the village in the 18th century.

History enthusiasts can find out more about the history of Measham in the museum which houses local mining artefacts and the Hart Collection (collected by father and son who were local doctors, it provides an insight into local health care over a period of one hundred years).

A key activity in the Measham social calendar is the Heart of the Forest Festival. The Festival attracts many thousands of visitors every year, all eager to witness the fantastic spectacle of the largest street parade in rural Leicestershire. The next Festival date has already been set for 23rd June 2012.

Measham is also home to the Community Office which provides a base for managed workspace and includes activities aimed at improving the economic, social and cultural future of the village.

The office is the base of the Ashby Canal Restoration project which is working towards restoring the Ashby Canal from Snarestone to Moira.

Useful websites/contacts:

- Measham Museum – tel: 01530 273956
- www.ashbycanaltrust.co.uk
- www.heartoftheforest.co.uk
- www.ashbycanal.org.uk

The country's greenest hotel is now open!

The Council's Green Footprints Challenge encourages individuals, community groups and businesses to choose greener ways to live and work. The Council is therefore delighted to have the country's greenest hotel within our District, showcasing new technologies and energy saving features that give this strikingly designed building a greener footprint.

Chairman of the Council, Councillor Nigel Smith attended the recent opening of the hotel and said;

"I'm delighted to welcome Radisson Blu to our District. For the last few years, the Council has worked hard to improve the quality of new developments, with efforts to improve both the design and green credentials of new buildings.

Radisson Blu has achieved both of these ambitions with flying colours. It is an understatement to say the green credentials of this new hotel are

impressive as North West Leicestershire is now home to the country's greenest hotel! I'm also impressed with the hotel's striking appearance, in particular the two striking aluminium 'wings' that take their inspiration from the airport next door. I commend the vision and enthusiasm of Radisson Blu, East Midlands Airport and the design team at Leach Rhodes Walker Architects."

The Council's Green Footprints Awards will take place at Radisson Blu in April 2012. Christine Fisher, Chief Executive said;

"Our Green Footprints Awards recognise those that are leading the way for more environmentally friendly ways of living and working. It therefore seems fitting that this fantastic event for our community takes place in the country's greenest hotel."

For more information on the Green Footprints Challenge visit <http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk>



L to R: Chairman Nigel Smith, Gemma Steel and John Richardson (Head of Community Services)



Olympic hopes for North West Leicestershire

North West Leicestershire District Council is continuing to recognise the sporting achievements of local residents. Gemma Steel who lives in Whitwick is a great example of how the Council's investment in sport and physical activity has paid off.

Gemma Steel said; "I started to run to keep fit and joined the 'Hermitage Harriers' running club in 2006. I then went on to take part in races locally, winning 12 races within one year. From then I have never looked back."

Hermitage Harriers Running Club was founded in June 2003 following substantial support and guidance from the District Council, including the provision of a regular base at the Council's award winning Leisure Centre. Since then the club have gone on to attract well over 100 affiliated members and have just hosted their 5th annual 10k road race.

Gemma has now represented Great Britain twice in the European and World Cross Country championships and represented England 7 times, winning in Hannut, Belgium where she represented England in the Lotto Cross Cup. Gemma has also beaten her running idol Paula Radcliffe and has come 2nd in the UK Championship. Gemma's ambitions for the future include winning the national cross country title in 2012.

For more information on how to join the Hermitage Harriers please contact andyb@hermitageharriers.co.uk, visit www.hermitageharriers.co.uk or ring Hermitage Leisure Centre on 01530 811215.

Stories in the Community



Hailed a massive success!

Charnwood Borough Council and North West Leicestershire District Council joined forces to target environmental offences during the three-month Don't Muck Around campaign.

The blitz, which ran between June and September, saw an overall 50 per cent fall in litter from cars, a 14 per cent reduction in fly-tipping and a 41 per cent drop in dog fouling across both districts.

Council enforcement officers also got tough on offenders by issuing 53 Fixed Penalty Notices.

The campaign used a range of tactics and high-profile events to tackle offences and promote the crackdown.

Alison Smith, North West Leicestershire District Council's Deputy Leader and Portfolio holder for Community Services, said: "I'm thrilled that people have taken responsibility and helped us reduce the number of incidents we have had to tackle.

"The work doesn't stop here though and I hope people continue to help us keep our District clean, tidy and healthy for everyone."

The campaign saw a range of awareness raising public participation events. Public events included filling a car full of rubbish collected in a day from roads around McDonald's in Coalville, creating a 'grime' scene at B&Q in Loughborough to demonstrate how Council investigators trace fly-tippers, and staged a day of canine capers in Queen's Park, Loughborough with Houndhog Day.

Enforcement activity included increased surveillance, high profile patrols and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices against offenders.

To report an environmental offence contact our customer service centre on 01530 454 545.



Better Business for All – A local solution to aid economic recovery

Launch of FREE advice and support service for local businesses.

The scheme which provides businesses with a single point of access into the regulatory system was developed following a successful pilot run by North West Leicestershire District Council.

Better Business for All is Leicestershire's response to addressing the Government's number one priority of aiding economic recovery and bringing the country out of recession.

If you require advice and support to help you meet your statutory obligations then please ring 0871 384 3185. Additional support is available at www.llep.org.uk/betterbusinessforall

Calls provided by BT will be charged at up to 8p per minute. Mobile and other provider's charges may vary and are more likely to cost more. *Prices correct at time of going to print.*



Lee Mansfield - Environmental Health Team Manager at NWLDC

New parishes target quality

North West Leicestershire's two newest parish councils – Hugglescote & Donington le Heath and Whitwick – both have aspirations to achieve Quality Parish status by the end of their first four year term.

The two new urban parishes were elected for the first time in May.

Phil Ellis, Interim Clerk to both, said; "There's been a lot of work in the early stages to put the foundations in place to get them up and running. Both are committed to working closely with others in the delivery of local services and being strong voices for their local communities."



OUR DISTRICT – OUR FUTURE CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION UPDATE

In June the Council undertook further consultation on its emerging Core Strategy which will set out a 'blueprint' for how the District will develop over the next 20 years. The Council would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation. In total over 1,500 responses were received.

The consultation asked the following four specific questions.

Q1 Should we have a target of 8,000 or 10,200 new homes?

A The majority of respondents supported the figure of 8,000 although some would prefer to see this reduced further. However, representations from developers pointed out that the Council needs to provide evidence to justify a lower figure.

Q2 Do you support our proposal to not build on the Green Wedge?

A The majority of respondents supported the proposal not to build on the Green Wedge.

Q3 How should we distribute the remaining 35 homes per annum across the rest of the District [outside Coalville]:

- a) Equally distribute to each of the settlements listed?[Ashby, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham] or
- b) Distribute to each of the settlements listed in some other way? or
- c) Distribute to the various other villages across the District? or
- d) A combination of b) and c)?

A There was some support for each of the options but options (a) and (d) were those most favoured.

Q4 Do you agree that we should not allocate land for strategic distribution?

A The majority of the respondents supported the approach not to allocate land for strategic distribution believing that there is enough warehousing in the District already.

More details about the responses received can be found in a report to the Council's Cabinet on 18th October 2011 which (along with other reports and evidence) can be viewed at http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/core_strategy.

Work is ongoing to ensure the Council has a robust evidence base to support the Core Strategy. It is anticipated the Council will make a decision on the final Core Strategy early next year. We will provide further updates as work progresses.

Planning News

New 'A' rated developments start to take shape

North West Leicestershire District Council's newest Design Ambassador has been out on the road this autumn visiting a number of new developments across the District. In autumn, the District Council welcomed Councillor Trevor Pendleton, Portfolio Holder for Planning as a Design Ambassador. Councillor Pendleton joins existing ambassadors Councillor Richard Blunt (Leader of the Council), Christine Fisher (Chief Executive) and Steve Bambrick (Services Director).

Councillor Pendleton explains;

"The District Council has been working hard for a number of years to raise the design quality of new housing developments across the District. We're no longer in the business of creating estates, instead we want to create memorable places where people are proud to call home."

Work is underway at three new 'A' rated developments - Discovery Gardens, Coalville and Poppyfields, Ellistown by David Wilson Homes and Darcey Park by Bellway Homes. Councillor Pendleton visited all three developments to present representatives with their 'A' rated certificates.

Councillor Pendleton explains;

"Under the ourplace™ scheme, we rate developments against the national Building for Life standard. Building for Life assesses the design quality of individual homes and the development as a whole. It's not easy to achieve an 'A' rating and both Bellway Homes and David Wilson Homes are to be commended for the time, effort and expense they've invested into creating these new developments. We're pleased to see these three developments selling extremely well - healthy sales not only proves that North West Leicestershire is a great place to live, but also demonstrates that people do value homes and neighbourhoods that have been thoughtfully designed."

like a copy of the ourplace™ brochure that explains how the scheme works, please contact Stefan Kruczkowski, Urban Designer on 01530 454 768.

* Please note that the District Council only started rating developments in April 2010. Therefore developments that secured planning permission before April 2010 have not been rated and will not display rating certificates.



L to R: Peter Rodway, Bellway, Cllr Richard Blunt, Ben Smith, Bellway, Cllr Trevor Pendleton and Nick Wilkins, Bellway



L to R: Steve Bambrick, the Council's Director of Services and Deputy Chief Executive, Cllr Trevor Pendleton Portfolio holder for Planning and Engagement and John Reddington, David Wilson Homes.

Buying a new home?

If you're buying a new build home, look out for ourplace™ rating certificates in Sales Offices*. You'll be able to find the best developments in your area by visiting www.findourplace.com or by looking out for ourplace™ branded flags that fly above 'good' and 'very good' rated developments.

For further details about the ourplace™ scheme or if you do not have access to the internet and would

Recycle more over the Christmas period...

Christmas is a busy time for everyone and we create more waste at Christmas than at any other time in the year. We like to make sure your family have all the information they need to recycle as much as possible during the festive period. So we are running through the different containers and the types of things you can put in each to be recycled.

Textiles: You can now recycle your unwanted shoes and clothes. Please put them in a carrier bag and place next to, or on top of, your red box for our crews to collect.

Red Box: Your red box can now take mixed plastics, like yoghurt pots and margarine tubs, not forgetting all the plastic bottles.

- Hard plastics packaging (clean food trays, fruit punnet trays, meal trays, yoghurt pots)
- Plastic bottles
- Food & drinks cans (including aerosols and clean foil)
- Glass bottles & jars (keeping your glass in a separate red box really helps the crews)

Blue Bag: We have newly designed weighted blue bags, so they now hold more, and shouldn't blow away in strong winds.

- Newspapers & magazines
- Wrapping paper (all types)
- Letter & bills (with private information torn off)
- Brochures & telephone directories

Yellow Bag: Think of all the cardboard boxes that end up in the house over Christmas, boxes for toys, boxes for chocolates, boxes for gadgets, we can recycle them all.

- Corrugated cardboard boxes
- Thin cardboard boxes
- Christmas cards
- Any cardboard packaging at all (please make sure all cardboard is flat packed no bigger than 2ft x 2ft)

Compostable Garden Bin: Those people with real Christmas trees can rest assured that we will recycle them when the garden collections start back after Christmas. Just remember, it has to be inside the bin with the lid shut, or if it won't fit, then by the side so our crews can spot it.

- Grass cuttings and garden prunings

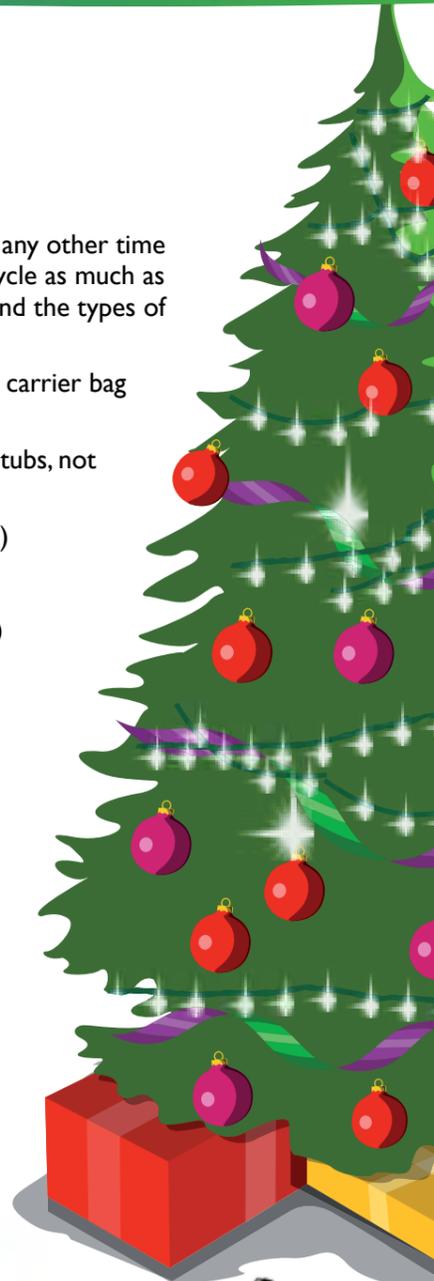


Freeuse it at Christmas time

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving gifts, the bigger the better. But if we all get new things, what do we do with the old things, that most probably still work. Well thousands of

people in Leicestershire will head straight for www.freeuseit.org. The ever popular reuse website will make sure your old items go to a new home, or give you a chance to grab a bargain. The site has already reused more than

60 tonnes in the last two years, so why not check it out, and remember...if you don't use it, freeuse it.



Leisure News

Christmas Opening Times

Date	Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Measham Leisure Centre	Castle Donington Community College	Ashby Tourist Information Centre
Fri 16th Dec	7am-11pm	7.15am-8pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-5pm	9.30am-5pm
Sat 17th Dec	7.30-11pm (Hermitage) 8.30pm (Hood Park)	9am-5pm	9am-5.30pm	9am-2pm	9.30am-4pm
Sun 18th Dec	7.30-9pm (Hermitage) 11pm (Hood Park)	9am-5pm	9am-5.30pm	Closed	Closed
Mon 19th Dec	7am-11pm	7.15am-9pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-9pm	9.30am-5pm
Tues 20th Dec	7am-11pm	7.15am-9pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-9pm	9.30am-5pm
Wed 21st Dec	7am-11pm	7.15am-9pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-9pm	Closed
Thurs 22nd Dec	7am-11pm	7.15am-9pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-2pm	9.30am-5pm
Fri 23rd Dec	7am-7.30pm	7.15am-8pm	Closed	Closed	9.30am-12.30pm
Sat 24th Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun 25th Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 26th Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 27th Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed 28th Dec	Closed	Closed	9am-8pm	Closed	Closed
Thur 29th Dec	7am-8pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	Closed
Fri 30th Dec	7am-7.30pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	Closed
Sat 31st Dec	7.30am-4pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun 1st Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 2nd Jan	7am-5.30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 3rd Jan	7am-11pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	9.30am-5pm
Wed 4th Jan	7am-11pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	Closed
Thurs 5th Jan	7am-11pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	9.30am-5pm
Fri 6th Jan	7am-11pm	Closed	9am-10.30pm	Closed	9.30am-5pm
Sat 7th Jan	7.30-11pm (Hermitage) 8.30pm (Hood Park)	9am-8pm	9am-5.30pm	Closed	9.30am-4pm
Sun 8th Jan	7.30-9pm (Hermitage) 11pm (Hood Park)	9am-5pm	9am-5.30pm	Closed	Closed
Mon 9th Jan	7am-11pm	7.15am-9pm	9am-10.30pm	9am-9pm	9.30am-5pm

All times correct at time of going to print. Last admission will be one hour prior to the closing time.

Please be aware that the fitness class programme will be altering over the Christmas period due to the above changes in opening times. To stay up to date, please log on to www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/fitness_classes

Double success for Leicestershire badminton youngsters

In a recent National Badminton Tournament held at Babington College, Leicester, Leicestershire's young players had a clear sweep winning both Boys and Girls under 12yrs Doubles. This is a brilliant achievement as its the first time since the tournament began in 1980 that Leicestershire players have won this event.

Against strong opposition from 9 other counties Zoe King and Rachel Wen won the Girls Doubles and Sam Wood and Jai Chandarana won the boys.



L to R: Rachel Wen, Zoe King, Jai Chandarana and Sam Wood

Fitness memberships – join now and save yourself up to £25

If you are looking to get into shape before Christmas so that you can fit in to that dress or suit then why not take advantage of our exciting November offer and save yourself money!

By simply signing up to become an Active Fitness Plus or Aqua fitness member during November you can save up to £25. Active Fitness Plus membership offers unlimited access, subject to programming, to the swimming pools, fitness classes, health suite and fitness suite. If you are more of a swimmer then the Aqua fitness membership offers unlimited access, subject to programming, to the swimming pool, health suite and aqua aerobics.

If the whole process is daunting, don't let it be, simply give us a call and talk to one of our instructors and they will advise you of what option is best. Once you are a fitness member your membership is valid at Hermitage, Hood Park and Measham Leisure Centres so there is no excuse that you can't get to the leisure centre.

If you are looking for even more discounts, log on to www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/corporatemembership and see if your company is registered as a Corporate Member. If they are then you can take advantage of a 25% discount.

For more information, please contact Hermitage Leisure Centre on 01530 811215 or Hood Park Leisure Centre on 01530 412181 and ask to speak to a member of the gym team.

Student memberships launched

Following customer comments, Hermitage, Hood Park and Measham Leisure Centres are excited to announce the launch of the brand new student membership package. Launched last month, this new package offers full time students unlimited access to facilities such as the swimming pool, health suite, fitness classes and fitness suite, dependant on programming and age restrictions, all for £30 a month.

This new membership also offers students the advantage of not having to enter in to any contracts or set up any direct debits with them able take out membership for the months that they want.

For more information and to check your eligibility, please log on to www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/student_membership. Please be aware that a one off joining fee is payable.

Green Footprints Awards – still time to nominate!

Do you know a green-minded school, youth group, community group or business that deserves recognition? If so, there is still time to nominate them for a Green Footprints Award. This is the fourth year of the awards, which are run by North West Leicestershire District Council as part of its Green Footprints Challenge.



Each category recognises people or groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the environment in North West Leicestershire:

- Schools
- Partnerships and Community Groups
- Sustainable Urban Design
- Children and Young People
- Businesses

Those who have been shortlisted for the awards will be invited to the awards ceremony, which will be held as part of the annual Civic Ball on Friday 27th April 2012. The closing date for the awards is 31st January 2012, so get your green thinking hat on and nominate someone you know. For further information log on to www.nwleics.gov.uk/footprints or call 01530 454545 for an application form.

Sponsors of the Green Footprints Challenge:



Carbon emissions cut by 12%

As part of its Green Footprints Challenge, the District Council has been making great strides in reducing its own carbon emissions. Staff have managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12% over the last year by identifying and running a number of projects:

- Installation of gas Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units at both leisure centres
- Reduced electricity use through staff behaviour campaigns such as the Big Switch Off
- Improved electricity and gas monitoring by installing automatic meter reading equipment
- Improved how the council fleet operates, resulting in fewer trips and less fuel consumed

- Run green-driver training sessions for Housing staff
- CHP units at both leisure centres have been particularly effective, with over 750,000 kWh of electricity produced on site since their installation.

Hood Park Leisure Centre has reduced its Display Energy Certificate (the energy certificate that all public buildings are legally obliged to display) rating to 69 from last year's score of 72. Hermitage Leisure Centre has maintained its score of 69, with both leisure centres falling well below the national average of 100 for leisure centres of similar sizes.

Further carbon and cost saving projects are planned across the Council for the year ahead. For further information log on to:

<http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk>