COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN –November 2022

I have been busy in the garden trying to get in sorted out before the weather changes. It is getting darker earlier and half term has been and gone. Christmas is now in the shops and will soon be here. There have been changes at the top of the government, not sure what will have happened when I next write this column.

£3 million government funding boost for adults numeracy project in Leicestershire.

Earlier this year, County submitted a plan to the Department for Education for a £3 million slice of the UK Share Prosperity funding to allow it to deliver the national Multiply programme.

The funding boost means that the council will now be able to deliver hundreds of free courses over the next 3 years. They will be available to adults who do not already have a GCSE grade C/ 4 or higher in maths or equivalent, and need to improve numeracy.

Anyone aged 19 or over who fit the criteria will be eligible for the free courses. County Council's adult learning service are working with partners including further education colleges and training providers, charitable and voluntary groups, employers to deliver free numeracy courses and programmes throughout the county to help people improve their numeracy skills.

Multiple courses will be available across Leicestershire in person or online, at work or at home and either on a part-time or intensive basis.

Care technology already starting to make a difference

The county council's new Care Technology service is already providing peace of mind to families as well as helping people to remain independent in their own homes.

The service is now supporting around 400 adults across Leicestershire. Care Technology covers a wide range of equipment, such as alarm systems, falls detectors and GPS location trackers. It allows people to be monitored by trained staff in case they fall ill or have an accident. The technology involves monitoring and alert equipment. An example of the equipment in use is a discreet device, which triggers an alert if a person is alone and outside

of an agreed 'safe zone'. This technology is available round the clock, seven days a week, and prompts an imeediate alert to their family, their carers or friends.

To find out more visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology

Mysteries from Neolithic Rothley displayed at Charnwood Museum

A new display of archaeological finds from Rothley can now be seen at Charnwood Museum. The selections of finds displayed reveal a spectacular later Neolithic material culture from the time when Stonehenge was first being constructed.

Leicestershire County Council Museums recently received the archaeological from the University of Leicester Archaeological Services excavations at Rothley Lodge Farm. The rarest object to be found was the Rothley 'Face' plaque, which is a unique example of Neolithic abstract art.

Features found at the site, dating back to 2,900 BC, were a large shallow pit possibly the remains of a sunken hut, which shows signs of communal feasting. The area was filled with smashed pottery, hundreds of pieces of worked flint including arrowheads, knives and scrapers and charred remains of barley.

These findings are extremely insightful in telling us more about prehistory. The display is permanent, and entry is free.

Home is Where We Are! An Exhibition co-curated by the Gypsy and Traveller community

Home is Where We Are is a project developed by Leicestershire County Council's Cultural Participation team, Gypsy and Traveller Equality (GATE) and Foxton Canal Museum.

The exhibition has given people from the local Gypsy and Traveller community the opportunity to celebrate their culture, traditions, and stories in their own words and to share the challenges they face.

The exhibition was on display from 1st October till the 30th November at Foxton Canal Museum and the book developed by the group is available at Harborough Museum and library, and the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

In 2021, GATE's ladies group began co-curating the exhibition as part of the council's Cultural Communities Network (CCN) programme. They shared their stories and insights into their lives with the aim of dispelling myths and reducing stereotypes. Over an eight-month period, they explored, shared, and chose stories, photographs and objects which reflected their lives.

The exhibition is in the ladies' own words includes a large book which documents their chosen key themes of home, travel, birth, marriage and death, education and work and their hopes for the future.

Find out more at https://www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/traveller-and-gypsy--heritage-project/ for opening times please visit https://www.foxtoncanalmuseum.org/

1620 House & Garden shortlisted fo Tourism and Hospitality Award

The 1620's House and Garden, run and managed by County has once again made it to the final of the Leicestershire Promotions Tourism and Hospital Awards.

The house is surviving example of a family built in the 13th century and then modernised in 1618, Surrounding the house are period gardens and woodland planted as part of the National Forest.

The winner will be announced on November 24th. More information can be found at www.1620s|House.org.uk.

Britannia street petition

Following a number of concerns raised by residents about the safety of Britannia Street, following a number of accidents, how fast the traffic goes and how dangerous it is to cross near to the school. A resident has set up a petition asking for something to be done about it. The petition details are https://chng.it/B4hSNyRm.

Beware of scam energy rebate messages

Residents are being urged to be aware of potential energy rebate scammers.

There has been a rise in fake text messages and emails claiming to be from 'GOVUK' and Ofgem, the independent regulator for Great Britain.

The messages will say that the recipients eligible for a government funded energy bill rebate and will ask for them to visit a weblink which is designed to steal financial and personal information. Your bank will never ask you to supply personal information on email or text. Eligible households' will start receiving energy bill rebates from October 2022,

YOU DO NOT NEED TO APPLY FOR THE DISCOUNT, and there is no need to contact your energy supplier. The discount will be applied to your monthly household electricity bill for 6 months starting in October 2022. You will get:- £66 in October and November, £67 in December, January, February and March.

 You will get the discount monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card. Traditional prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that you will need to redeem.

Newhurst Energy Recovery Facility (ERF)

The site will take residual waste which cannot be recycled such as what is put in your black bin. This type of facility is heavily regulated with strict emission controls monitored by the Environmental Agency.

The facility is currently in its commissioning phase, so not yet fully operational. The facility will mainly accept some residual 'black bag' waste from the Council. Mostly from Charnwood and North West Leicestershire. The remaining black bag waste will go to another ERF County use in Coventry. This will reduce the amount of waste County sends to landfill.

The facility is owned by Biffa Waste Services and its operator Covanta. Therefore most of the waste going into the Newhurst Facility will come from other sources e.g. commercial waste.

What about lorries coming to the facility? – There are restrictions under the site's planning permission preventing HGVs accessing the site through Shepshed village (other than via the A512). The site can accept waste from 6am to 10 pm (Mon-Fri) and 7.30am to 4pm (Sat). No deliveries can be made on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Your help and support – my contact details

Without your help in keeping me informed regarding issues around Shepshed, I would not be able to do my job. For help and advice on County matters, I can be contacted on 01509 502974, or 07796 544817 or e mail christine_radford@hotmail.com or christine.radford@leics.gov.uk , my monthly surgery, is held on the first Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road, (opp. Tesco) You do not need an appointment; I will be there from 10-11 am