

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Pension Credits



Department for Work & Pensions

Do you know of any pensioners who are currently struggling with their bills? According to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), around 850,000 households are missing out on vital [Pension Credit](#) support.

More than 1.4 million pensioners are currently receiving Pension Credit but there is still a large number who are not claiming this extra financial help. Pension Credit is designed to help with daily living costs for people over state pension age and on a low income.

Even a small award can provide access to a wide range of other benefits, such as help with housing costs, council tax or heating bills. For those over 75, this includes continued entitlement to a free TV licence.

An [easy read guide](#) explains how to get help and there is a [Pension Credit calculator](#) to help people work out if they are eligible. The credit can be claimed [online](#) or people can call 0800 991234 for more information. People can also seek support from charities such as [Citizens' Advice](#), [National Debtline](#) and [StepChange Debt Charity](#).



Parish Liaison

Have you booked your place for the next parish liaison meeting yet? This will take place at 5.00pm on Wednesday 22 June at the council offices.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Kelly Grove, clerk for Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council, who has kindly agreed to set the agenda and lead on the evening.

You can book your place by emailing the [Community Focus](#) team.

Interactive Walks Map



Leicestershire residents are being invited to use an [interactive map](#) to explore Leicestershire's 1,800 miles of public footpaths.

As well as highlighting over 150 specific walks across the county, the interactive map allows people to view right of way footpaths. The map also allows users to filter by routes, distance and elements of interest, such as historic locations or family-friendly walks that pass play areas. The walks can also be viewed by their difficulty, so people of all abilities can determine which ones will suit best.

Walking maps are available to [download](#) and free hard copies of maps can be requested by emailing [Choose How you Move](#), stating your name, address and the leaflet(s) you would like.



New Code of Conduct



Has your council signed up to the new code of conduct yet? Following on from the successful training sessions organised through the district council's Democratic Services team, [Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils](#) (LRALC) is encouraging all local councils to consider adopting the new Code of Conduct.

This new model code was developed at a national level by the Local Government Association and is endorsed by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

NALC Survey

NALC has published a new [survey](#) on dementia-friendly councils.



This follows on from the publication of NALC's [Dementia-Friendly Communities guide](#), which demonstrates the positive impact of building dementia-friendly communities and providing local councils with the tools to help develop their own.

This new survey aims to gather feedback on the usage and effectiveness of this publication. All responses will help support local councils in ensuring that people living with dementia and their families continue to be included in all aspects of community life. The survey closes on 22 July 2022.

Energy Rebate Scheme

If your town or parish council receives any enquiries about the Government Energy Rebate scheme, please direct residents to the district council's [webpage](#).

You will be aware that households in England in council tax bands A to D are entitled to a one-off £150 non-repayable rebate. The majority of those who pay by direct debit have been paid directly into their bank account. Anyone who pays another way, and direct debit payers still waiting, should receive a letter by the end of June with instructions on how to claim payment at the post office. Please direct residents to the [Post Office branch finder](#) for details on their nearest post office, including opening times.

If a resident is contacted by someone claiming to be from the district council and who asks for their bank details, please be aware that this is a scam. The council will never contact residents to ask for bank details by phone, email or text. For advice and reporting please visit [Action Fraud](#) and the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

National Forest Survey

The [National Forest Company](#) (NFC) is inviting stakeholders and individuals who live in the Heart of the National Forest and surrounding areas to contribute to a future vision for the Heart of the Forest by taking part in an [online survey](#).

The NFC is seeking the views of local people as to how the area can continue to develop as a vibrant and sustainable place for its communities, businesses and visitors, set within maturing woodlands. Those who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter a competition to win either two adult weekend tickets to [Timber festival](#) at Feanedock, Moira worth £260 or a £200 One4all voucher.



Trauma Training

[Trauma-informed practice](#) is all about seeking to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. Around one in three adults in England [report](#) having experienced at least one traumatic event, so there is a real need for us to focus not just on the services we deliver but also the way in which we provide them.

Charlotte Keedwell, the council's Serious Violence Reduction Officer, will be running face-to-face information sessions on 28 June at council offices from:

- 1.30-3.30pm
- 5.15-7.15pm

Topics covered will include:

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACE)
- Long-term impact of childhood trauma
- Bystander responsibilities
- The male role to end violence
- What this means for you and how you can support

Please email [Community Focus](#) to book your place.

Lead-Connect-Care



The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Health and Wellbeing team is pleased to invite you to the second ['Lead, Connect and Care' Festival](#). This brings together professionals from health and social care, emergency services, local authority and the charity sector to celebrate and explore the very best in leadership development, quality improvement and health and wellbeing.

The event, which takes place from 21st June, offers a wide range of face-to-face and virtual opportunities to connect with others. Click [here](#) to view the entire festival programme and put a date in your diary for the family fun-day festival on Saturday 25 June, 11.00-4.00pm, Leicester Racecourse.

Funding

[Community Ownership Fund](#)



This £150 million fund has been set up to help communities take ownership of assets at risk of closure. Voluntary and community organisations can bid for up to £250,000 (match funding required) in Round 2 of the fund. Parish councils cannot apply but are encouraged to support local groups. Funding may support the purchase and/or renovation costs of community assets. The [Expression of Interest](#) stage opened on 10 June and the bidding window for this round closes on 19 August.

[Shire Grants](#)



Get ready for Round 2 of the SHIRE Community Grant, which will open on 6 July. The programme enables VCSE (Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise) sector organisations to deliver community-based projects, services and activities that help to improve the lives of vulnerable people in Leicestershire. Organisations can apply for either a Small Grant (up to £3,000) or a Large Grant (up to £10,000). Parish and town councils are eligible to apply.

[LCC Monthly Funding Bulletin](#)

The latest bulletin for June has just been added to the LCC funding webpage. This contains information on a wide variety of funding opportunities and includes deadlines for applications. Always well worth a browse!

Defibrillators



The registered charity, [London Hearts](#), has launched an initiative to

assist communities to obtain life-saving defibrillator equipment.

The charity is currently offering a £300 grant towards the cost of every defibrillator it supplies across the UK. They also supply free online training. You can obtain a quote by completing a short, online application. Alternatively you can contact Tia, Development Officer at London Hearts on 02070 432493 or by [email](#).