

WARWICKSHIRE VIEW

www.warwickshire.gov.uk
AUTUMN 2002



**Warwickshire
creates the
sound of music**

INSIDE

**Midlands Airport Proposals
Chart Topping Success
News From Your Area**



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Front cover photograph of
Warwickshire Schools
Environment Day

Foreword by Leader of the County Council, Ian Bottrill

WELCOME to the first edition of Warwickshire View, a magazine that will regularly update you on what your County Council is doing for you.

Warwickshire is a great place to live, work or visit and in this magazine you'll find news about many of the exciting things that are happening around the county, successes achieved by the County Council (many in partnership with other councils and agencies) and other projects that are ongoing. We have also focused on special events in your area (see local news and updates on pages 17-23).

Everything we do at the County Council is aimed at meeting our six key aims to improve your life. We want to:

1. promote lifelong learning;
2. create a vibrant economy;
3. improve health and welfare;
4. reduce crime and improve safety;
5. look after the environment; and
6. give you better access to our services.

We hope you enjoy reading about them here. If you have any views or suggestions on what you would like to see, please do drop us a line (address details on back cover).

Thank you



Ian Bottrill, Leader
Warwickshire County Council



Editor's Welcome

Your chance to win a prize!

I do hope you like this first edition of our new magazine written especially for you, the people of Warwickshire.

There's a lot going on and we believe we're doing a good job, but there's always room for improvement and we want to know what you think.

We hope that reading about the range of activities here will prompt you to give us some feedback – and help win you a prize. Let us know if you have a view, suggestion or comment upon anything featured in the magazine. The first name drawn at random from those who come back to us with feedback by 27 November will

win a case of champagne. *

So come on, make sure you fill in this coupon and return it to me (address details on the back cover) or email me on ninaheath@warwickshire.gov.uk

Thanks, Nina Heath.



Name _____

Address _____

Comment _____

*The draw will place on 29 November



Creating a Vibrant Economy

A thriving economy brings the benefits of a better quality of life to everyone in Warwickshire, both now and in the future. Warwickshire County Council is working hard on social and economic regeneration to create an environment in which our county can flourish.

Encouraging People Back to Work...

Helping people overcome the barriers that prevent them getting work is one way we are trying to boost employment in the county. A major barrier for parents who want to return to work is often child care. To help overcome this:

- ▶ Ninety new places are being created at 'before and after' school clubs in five primary schools: St Nicholas, Kenilworth; Wheelwright Lane, Ash Green; Nethersole School, Polesworth; Wootton Wawen Primary School; and All Saints, Leek Wootton.
- ▶ £1 million is being invested to create 250 new nursery places in the areas that most need them – Camp Hill, Stockingford, Abbey, Chilvers Coton and Attleborough in Nuneaton, Bedworth Heath in Bedworth, and Newbold in Rugby.

Improving Employment Skills...

Equipping the next generation with the best employment skills for the future is a vital area of the County Council's work. A range of projects teaming up Warwickshire businesses with local schools is helping forge closer links between business and education.

One example of this is Nuneaton's St Nicolas Church of England Primary School, which has won special praise from Warwickshire's Education Business Partnership for its work with the local business community. By forming partnerships with companies such as Dobies Garden Centre, Saturn Industries and Asda, the school has involved children in a range of activities to boost their understanding of the world of work. Children have studied types of transport at Birmingham Airport, looked at different food groups at their local Asda store, and conducted a shopping survey at Nuneaton's Marketplace. Another partner example is the Create! initiative which, with the help of local artist Ali Rice, harnessed the creative talents of schoolchildren to help brighten up workplaces with a range of lively art and other creative work.

In short

- ▶ As part of a scheme run by Rugby Library, around 30 adults have taken part in reading sessions at local primary schools.
- ▶ A vibrant economy doesn't just mean large organisations - more than 80 local artists (and budding artists from many of our schools) showed off their creations this summer during Warwickshire Arts Week. All kinds of arts and crafts, from hand-made furniture to new media installations, were on show in houses, gardens and galleries across the county.
- ▶ £20 million is being spent over the next three years for the Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone. This includes projects to develop a more diverse and dynamic business base, ensuring the 52,000 Warwickshire residents there benefit from new employment and training as well as promoting communities of interest and social enterprise.



⋮ PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING

Photographed by Nick Hayes

Whatever your age, your job or your status in life – it's never too late to learn. Whether it's a pottery class or a PhD in Applied Physics, we can all enrich our lives and expand our horizons by studying. And Warwickshire County Council's role is to make sure everyone in the county has the opportunity to do just that.

Never Too Late...

'Never too late' is a motto two groups of pensioners at sheltered housing complexes have taken to heart. One group of women (including several over 80s) from the Hill

Street Community Centre in Rugby learnt flower arranging. Whilst another mixed group of over 70s at the Albert Square complex in Rugby grappled with the mysteries of the mouse (the non-furry kind!), email and with 'surfing' the internet. After completing two computer courses the pensioners report that they can now keep up with their grandchildren!

Doesn't Have To Cost a Thing...

You will soon have access to computers in all our 31 libraries. So if you want to find out more - go and have a play at your local library.



- ▶ IT Access zone at Rugby Library
- ▶▶ Getting tuned in
- ▶▶▶ Juthika Dasgupta leads a library session as part of the 'Musical Stories' project



Not Just in a Classroom...

Learning is more than just going to school, as hundreds of Warwickshire youngsters have discovered. They have been learning about geography and foreign cultures in four major multi-cultural festivals in Rugby, Bedworth, Stratford and Leamington

Spa. Activities at the festivals ranged from Chinese calligraphy to Gujerati nursery rhymes, from Indian bhangra dancing to Latin American salsa dancing.

Learning about other nationalities has important social implications – it plays a vital role in helping fight racial prejudice in the community.

Tolerance and Understanding

An initiative called Warwickshire Against Prejudice aimed at school staff, governors, county councillors and community groups, looked at racial harmony work in our schools.

It raised awareness of the County Council's race equality website, which includes guidelines on fighting racial harassment.

To visit the site, go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk and click on the A-Z index for a link to the Racial Equality pages.

Learning is more than just going to school as hundreds of Warwickshire youngsters have discovered



▶ Uniting to make their voices heard - Warwickshire Against Prejudice

In short

- ▶ The 16th Chamber Music Festival was a great success this year with more than 2,300 singers and players of all ages taking part all over the county in 11 festivals.
- ▶ The County Council is aiming to provide free pre-school education to 90 per cent of three-year-olds by 2004, using extra funding from the Government.
- ▶ Eleven Warwickshire schools have each won an Artsmark - a prestigious arts award from the Arts Council - for their excellent range of arts activities. The awards include four of the top gold and silver awards.
- ▶ Professional musicians using instruments from a range of cultures played at county libraries in 'Musical Stories- Making Music with your Toddler' offering free workshops and "how to" sessions.
- ▶ Families tackled line dancing, crafts, computers and face painting at a Family Fun Day in Newbold on Avon Village Hall in Rugby.
- ▶ Adult Learner's Week in North Warwickshire offered a spicy programme during its roadshow round the villages - activities including Indian cookery, text messaging, glass painting, aromatherapy and learning to use a laptop.



Reducing Crime and Improving Safety...

Caring for people in Warwickshire means looking after their health and safety. It means looking after the whole community in all aspects of their lives – whether it's protecting them from crime or fire, fostering children or making sure they know their rights.

Fire and Rescue...

Firefighters in Warwickshire spent the summer enjoying a taste of fame. They appeared in a television documentary series in July produced by Carlton Television.

The series, "Fire and Rescue", gave a fascinating insight into the work firefighters and their support staff give to our county. Away from the limelight, the service has been doing a lot of groundwork with young people. Students from across the county have been learning basic fire fighting skills in a training programme called Firebreak. The students are selected by schools to train for one day a week, over 12 weeks. As well as improving safety, Firebreak aims to give them confidence and a sense of teamwork, community spirit and responsibility.

This also ties in with the safety sessions being provided by the County Council's Fire and Rescue Service for pupils and adults who have special needs in a num-



Picture supplied by Coventry Evening Telegraph

ber of schools and colleges. An element of fun helped with the serious safety message, in the form of trying on fire kit, looking at fire engines and squirting lots of water. Young Firefighters, a scheme for 11 to 17-year-olds, is another great success story. Firefighters give up their own time to run the scheme, training the youngsters for a nationally accredited qualification.

A grant of £120,000 from Connexions, the Government's support service for teenagers, was awarded recently to improve facilities, provide equipment for Young Firefighters and to support working with young people across the county.

Firefighters are also involved in a new school subject – Citizenship. 11 and 12-year-old pupils at 21 county secondary schools get visits from fire crews to learn about fire safety and arson awareness.

Crime and Safety...

On the crime front, the County Council has been involved in teaching youngsters about the dangers of getting involved in crime – another five schools were visited this year by the County Council and members of the Prison Service, Police, Victim

Support, Ambulance Service and Magistrates. The scheme, called Prison Me No Way, targets areas with a high crime problem.

Preventing Repeat Crimes...

A variety of partner agencies also make up the Youth Offending Team who work to prevent young offenders committing further crime as well as tackling the causes of crime and preventing youngsters from getting into crime in the first place. The team has been keeping teenagers busy with the Summer Splash Scheme while their mums and dads get support with Parenting Support Groups at five county parenting centres. Primary school children have taken part in community safety workshops called Crucial Crew.

Summer of Fun...

An unusual combination of "Chips and Sport" has helped children stay out of trouble over the summer. A real drop in youth crime at Whitnash was seen over the six weeks when children up to the age of 17 were tempted, with the offer of free chips and fizzy drinks, to take part in sports such as football and basketball.



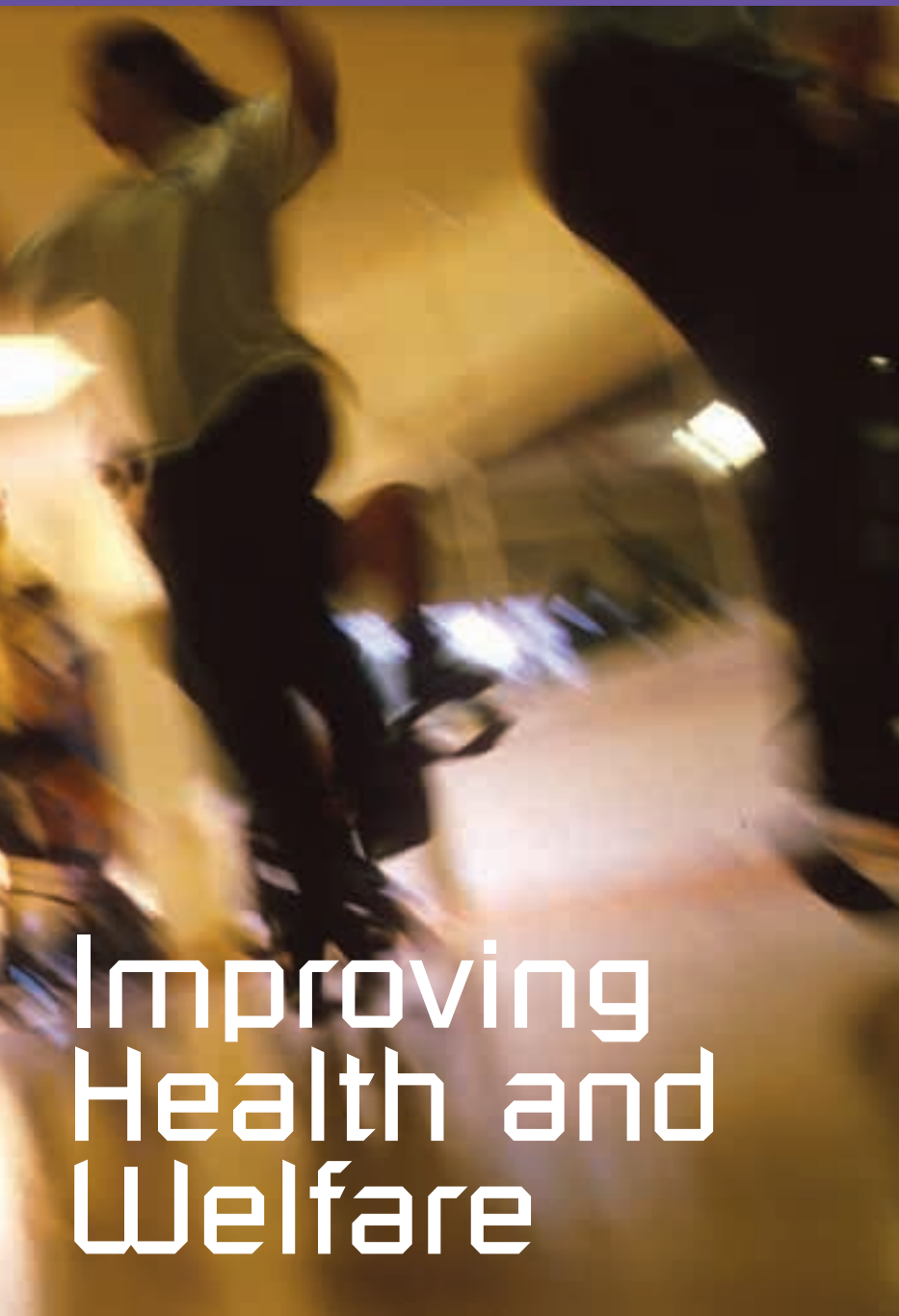
▲ Young Firefighters wear new uniforms

In short

- ▶ Following several tragic fires on the Camp Hill housing estate in Nuneaton, firefighters trained local residents to help them fit smoke alarms. Over 2,000 smoke detectors have now been installed.
- ▶ The County Council has been spreading the road safety message to local drivers. Posters seen across the county have added a face to the familiar speed camera logo to demonstrate how speed affects people's lives. Further details can be found on www.smilecamera.co.uk which includes daily information on where the safety cameras are operating.
- ▶ We are improving bus stops in the county i.e. better lighting, raised curbs, protection from the elements and good quality large print timetables: all bus stops will be revamped by 2006.
- ▶ Last year a local traffic calming scheme was implemented at Budbrooke Primary School, Hampton Magna as part of the Safer Routes to Schools Initiative.
- ▶ You can obtain information on safety advice, (as well as have some fun on the children's section) from our website. Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Did you know?

Warwickshire fits free smoke alarms for the elderly and other more vulnerable members of society? This year a further £30,000 was received to continue this work, including fitting special alarms for the deaf.



Improving Health and Welfare

Warwickshire County Council works hard to improve the lives of people in our county by providing care, help and support to those most in need (and to those who look after them).

Boost for Foster Carers...

In recognition of the difficult and worthy job they do, Warwickshire foster carers have benefited from a 50 per cent rise in their allowances this year.

Experienced foster parents can also now get extra payments under the Foster Carer Fee Paid Scheme, designed to recognise their skills. For details, contact Hazel Platt, on 01926 413345.

Another key aspect of caring for the carers is offering help and advice to groups who might not automatically go and look for it. The support service in Rugby was conscious of a need to reach out to carers from ethnic minorities and held a special multi-cultural event in April. Carers of sick or disabled people from the town's ethnic minority communities learned more about the services on offer, and enjoyed a fun day in the process.

The County Council has also set up a special support group for Asian and African-Caribbean parents who care for disabled children. These carers make less use of County Council services than other groups



Picture supplied by Rugby Advertiser

▲ Caring for carers - Kalesh Mistry with a model of the Goddess of Fire.



Picture supplied by Coventry Evening Telegraph

▲ Wheels in motion - launch of new cycle route



▲ Goodbye to our Director of Social Services, Trish Haines



▲ Woodloes Junior School created a display as part of the 'Work Places Create Project'

Photographed by Derek Cooknell

so this support group aims to encourage them to get together in the Nuneaton and Bedworth areas. Helping people of all ages with learning disabilities is another key target for the County Council, and thus a new centre dedicated to day care has opened at Alne Bank, Alcester. The new centre is part of a £1m County Council scheme for people with learning difficulties in the Stratford District.

All these initiatives are in line with the County Council's policy of Social Inclusion, which means we want all our citizens to be involved in our community, including anyone who might feel excluded because of race, disability or any other factor.

New Role...

Warwickshire County Council's Director of Social Services, Trish Haines, is leaving the Authority in October to become Chief Executive of Reading Borough Council.

Trish, who has been Director of Social Services for almost five years, will take up the helm at Reading – a major unitary authority – in October. She said: "While I am looking forward to the challenge of my new role in Reading, I will very much miss Warwickshire. I have been very pleased with Warwickshire's achievements – we were recently praised by the Social Services Inspectorate for major reductions in delayed hospital discharges, and continued excellent performance in child protection. I believe we have laid sound foundations for further improvements and I look forward to hearing about Warwickshire's successes in the future."

A new Director is expected to be appointed in the New Year and will be known as Director of Social Care and Health to reflect the County Council's greater involvement with health issues and health improvement.

Warwickshire foster carers do a difficult and worthy job

Health Options

- ▶ Warwickshire is promoting cycling as a safe and healthy way for children to get to school. The Dunchurch to Ashlawn School Cycle Route opened with a Bike Try-Out Roadshow.
- ▶ The County Council is working to make workplaces and schools into healthier places. The Healthy Schools and Health at Work awards schemes are designed to help schools and workplaces develop healthy activities and practices.
- ▶ The County's Trading Standards Service has successfully prosecuted a West Bromwich trader for failing to correctly label a product as genetically modified. It was the first national prosecution of its kind. East End Foods was fined £4,000 with £12,000 costs.



YOUNG PEOPLE

Today's young people are our citizens of the future and here at the County Council we are doing all we can to nurture and guide them. We take a look here at the great contributions they are already making.

Charter stuff...

Teenagers from all around Warwickshire have come up with some great "STUFF". STUFF – Super, Terrific, Unique, Fantastic Fings – is the name of the Youth Charter that more than 150 of our young people put together at their own Youth Conference in Stratford-upon-Avon in February. The conference was organised by the County Council so that 12 to 18-year-

olds could debate issues which are important to them and make them the basis of the Warwickshire Youth Charter.

The Charter will be presented to local councils and authorities, outlining how they can help improve opportunities for young people.

It contains a wide range of issues which the youngsters debated at the conference – from tackling racism and better measures against bullying, to cheaper more frequent transport and more facilities for young people.

The conference also included elections for Warwickshire's four new Youth MPs, to represent the county in the UK Youth Parliament.



Picture supplied by Leamington Spa Courier

▲ Young people will be able to apply for small grants to develop their ideas on crime reduction.

▲ Chris Rowe hopes to inspire others

Elected were Gurpreet Gill, 17, from Kingsbury, North Warwickshire; Kiran Basra, 15, from Whitnash, Leamington Spa; Scott Rowland, 17, from Kineton, South Warwickshire and Katy Ingram, 15, from Rugby. Another 60 young people have been

7,500 primary school children, with workshops about community understanding. Meanwhile one youngster from Leamington Spa hopes to inspire others with the experiences of his three-month expedition to Chile.

contributing to life in the county in a musical way – at top speed. They produced a top quality performance in just five days.

Another 60 young people have been contributing to life in the county

Youngsters from schools across Warwickshire took part in The Game of Destiny, a new production from the Warwickshire County Music Theatre Company. The cast of 60 produced the entire show, an original production of an ancient classical tale, from scratch in just five intensive days before performing in venues around the county.

▶ 'Wren's Last Gift', a piece of music theatre by a Warwickshire writer, was toured by Warwickshire young performers for audiences of

The trip was organised by Raleigh International, and 18-year-old Chris Rowe (who recently left the care of

the County Council at Newbold Lodge Hostel in Leamington Spa) was involved with other volunteers in several community projects. He helped build an information centre near a big river for an endangered species of deer, finished off building a football stadium and also went trekking in the mountains. Chris hopes talking to other youngsters about the community work he was involved in will inspire others to take part.

Details about Raleigh International's Expeditions for this year can be found at www.raleigh.org.uk



▶ Another 60 young people have been contributing to life in the county with the Game of Destiny.

Crimebeat

Warwickshire Crimebeat is a new initiative aiming to encourage young people to become directly involved in crime reduction activities and creating safer communities. Once the initiative is up and running, young people will be able to apply for small grants to develop their ideas on crime reduction and turn them into successful projects. Types of projects can vary (e.g. from producing CD-Roms to targeting car crime) but must meet set criteria. If you would like to find out more about Warwickshire Crimebeat, contact 01926 413280.

- ▶ The County Council offers a range of special help to young people who are disadvantaged. One example is our work with 16-18 year-olds who are preparing to leave Council care and live on their own. Through our Pathway Plan, we offer young people advice on education, training and employment, give them practical help when they need it, and offer an out-of-hours telephone helpline.
- ▶ Got a consumer problem? Then getitsorted@warwickshire.gov.uk the new email consumer advice service for Warwickshire students.

Charm

CHARM (Children Area Risk Management) is an initiative which aims to use a multi-agency approach to preventing and reducing crime and disorder in young people in Warwickshire. CHARM meetings are generally held every two months between the County Council, Police, Health and voluntary organisations to discuss children and young people at risk of becoming involved with crime.



GIVING BETTER ACCESS TO OUR SERVICES

Computers and the internet put a huge amount of information at our fingertips. In Warwickshire we're working hard on one of our main objectives – to promote Access to Services – by making sure technology gives residents better access than ever before to the County Council and its services.

Chart Topping Success...

Warwickshire's website www.warwickshire.gov.uk is one of the best in Britain – and that's official! It has been voted one of the top 10 shire council websites in the country,

giving residents easy access to a huge amount of valuable information. We're working hard to make sure

We're working hard to make sure our county is plugged in and able to enjoy the benefits of the information age.

our county is plugged in and able to enjoy the benefits of the information age. That's why we've set up eight new state-of-the-art computer learning centres for communities in Warwickshire. The centres are based at: Hurley Village Hall, North

Warwickshire; Vale View Community Centre, Stockingford, Nuneaton; Hill Street Youth Centre, Rugby; The Benn Education Centre, Claremont Road, Rugby; Lillington Youth Centre, Masons Avenue, Leamington; Ocean Drop in Centre, Augusta Place, Leamington; Keresley Community Centre,

Howat Road, Keresley Village; and Bedworth Heath Community Centre, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth. The centres have computers, internet access, printers, scanners and digital cameras and are free to local people. Three of the centres: Vale View, Hill

Picture supplied by Leamington Courier



Picture supplied by Coventry Evening Telegraph



- ◀ Building work begins for the new County Record Office
- ◀◀ IT at Leamington Library

Street and Lillington, also have special equipment for people with disabilities.

We've also made some major improvements to our website:

- ▶ It's easier to find out about everything from evening classes to your local primary school at the new Learning Homepage. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/learning

- ▶ For mums and dads there's advice on everything from chickenpox to bullying, finding childcare to choosing a school or a modern apprenticeship, at the Parents Zone. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentzone

- ▶ You can fill in an online form to add local events to our Events Diary. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/events

- ▶ You can find out details of over 5,000 local clubs and societies on our Community Information database. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/community

- ▶ You can renew your library books online, as well as searching the library catalogue. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wild
(We're working on the next step reserving books online too.)

- ▶ You can make a consumer complaint or a business information enquiry. Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

- ▶ Over 230 computers with free

internet access for the public are being put into libraries.

- ▶ UTOPIA is a project that is looking at technology to improve services for older people – the County Council won £1.45 million funding from the government for this project.

Face Lift Fun at Bedworth...

Bedworth Library has undergone a face lift with the installation of a new set of automatic doors. Staff and customers are thrilled with the improved access.

Improved Facilities for Disabled People...

More Flexibuses have been introduced in North Warwickshire to service the rural communities. The Flexibus has features such as an electric lift, accommodation for wheelchairs and an on-board care assistant. There is also the facility to book 24 hours in advance, and if you live not too far off the beaten track you could be picked up from your house. The Flexibus service has also recently won the George Marshall Trophy Award for its services to aiding visually impaired people. Meanwhile our countywide bus pass, costing £10, entitles anybody who qualifies for concessionary travel within their district or borough to travel anywhere in Warwickshire for half the normal fare, as well as to some towns and cities in neighbouring counties.

Better Service Information...

Information is now being produced in large print and with a simple routing system like the London Underground. All bus timetables are now on the Warwickshire County Council website www.warwickshire.gov.uk - click on transport and then public transport information.

Easier Access for Businesses...

Keeping in touch was the theme of a Business Breakfast we held in Rugby, giving the local business community a direct link to county councillors and officers to discuss transport, the environment and culture.

- ▶ Warwickshire's County Record Office at Priory Park is being refurbished and extended. Around £2m is being spent to improve access to public records for people in the county; the office is due to re-open in the spring. Meanwhile, a small record office service is still running from Warwick Library.

- ▶ Kingsbury Water Park can now offer greater access to visitors with mobility problems, thanks to the provision of two new electric scooters. Visitors will be able to borrow these free of charge, helping them to explore parts of the park they might not otherwise be able to reach.



Picture supplied by Coventry Evening Telegraph



▲ Councillor Richard Grant - Education Portfolio Holder



▲ Councillors Gordon Collett, Ian Bottrill and Jerry Roodhouse

Listening to You - Working Together



The County Council has streamlined the way it operates so that you can see more clearly how decisions have been made, who has made them and how, ultimately, you influence them.

So, how does the County Council decide what to do for you? Decisions are taken by councillors – people you elect from your local area to represent your views – who are then separated into those making decisions through the Cabinet Teams and others who can examine and question those decisions through Scrutiny and Review Teams. The Leader of the Council chairs the full Cabinet in which he

and nine other Cabinet Members have responsibility (a portfolio) for one of the following service areas:

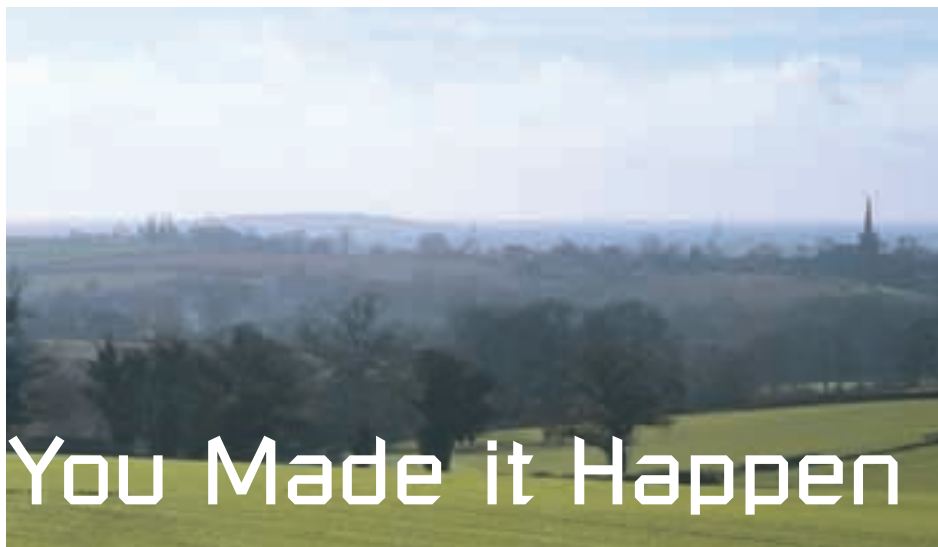
- ▶ Public Information and Safety
- ▶ Regeneration and Planning
- ▶ Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Young People, Lifelong Learning and Families
- ▶ Adult Services
- ▶ Supporting Communities
- ▶ Resources Management
- ▶ Policy and Governance
- ▶ Government and Performance Management

In this way there is clear accountability for decision making in the County Council. But what exactly

leads to discussion and decisions – well, local opinion is taken into account very early in the process.

To do this the County Council has five Area Committees, one for each district or borough area, which regularly meets with the public and discuss issues. Meetings are open to residents – who can play an active role in the decision-making process. So why not go along, have your say and get involved – it's an opportunity to improve the area you live in. For details of meetings in your locality, see pages 17-23. You will also find details on the County Council's website

www.warwickshire.gov.uk



You Made it Happen

More Money for Education...

One important education issue illustrates how the public can influence County Council actions. Parent power is helping the County Council to put right a wrong – and could secure an extra £8m for our schools. A petition being signed by thousands of parents will complain that the Government is not fair in its funding of the County's schools. Its contributions per primary school pupil in Warwickshire are £94 less than the national average. For secondary pupils the Government's con-

tributions are £130 less than the average.

The petition formed part of Warwickshire's "Fair Funding" campaign, which hopefully will encourage the Government to introduce a fairer formula to allocate school funds.

Countryside Recreation...

Last year we asked you about what you did in your spare time and what would encourage you to use the countryside more. You said "clearly marked short walks" – so we

Helping You...

A Community Development Fund has been launched this year for you. The Fund is available for voluntary and community organisations to bid for help with projects which will achieve lasting benefits for their communities. A total of £125,000 is available (up to £5,000 per project).



produced an Easy Access Trail which has been launched this summer. The trail covers 10 walks which are suitable for all the family including people with mobility problems.

Help Us to Improve Your Health

Recent legislation has given councillors power to monitor and scrutinise local health issues from January 2003. But before the County Council decides on a programme of scrutiny for 2003-2004, it wants to identify the health issues that are most important to local people.

All residents are invited to give their views – by email or through this magazine – on which health issues or services should be looked at first.

This is just one way in which the public can influence Warwickshire County Council's policies at the very beginning of the decision-making process.

Health Service Reply slip

To give us your views about any health issues or services that need addressing you can email andrewlawrence@warwickshire.gov.uk or complete the reply slip and send to Andrew Lawrence (address details on back cover.)

Name

Address

Age

Health issues I would like to see examined by the County Council include:

Looking after

the Environment



Picture supplied by Leamington Courier

▲ Education Centre at Ryton Pools

More Green Initiatives

- ▶ Fake branded goods seized by our trading standards service over the past three years have been resold to benefit a child health charity. Counterfeit CDs, videos and clothing were taken to a recycling centre, where all recorded material was wiped, and all labels and branding marks removed, before being resold, with all profits going to the Birth Defects Foundation.
- ▶ The County Council's recycling scheme is already bringing benefits to the local environment. Plastic milk bottles collected in Stratford have been used to make new drainage pipes, some of which are in turn being laid at the County Council's new recycling facilities at Burton Farm Household Waste Site.

We all need to look after the places where we live and work, not just for ourselves but for future generations. Warwickshire has plenty of beautiful places to be proud of and there are many projects to help keep it that way.

Young and Green...

When it comes to caring for the environment, the County Council believes it is never too early to start. Nearly 300 children from 11 schools had fun studying their surroundings during Warwickshire's Schools Environment Day, an annual event which this year was held at Charlecote Park, near Stratford on Avon, and linked with the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The youngsters learned how they could do their bit to protect the environment, especially by re-using and recycling. Activities included a Weapons of Sound workshop, in which children recycled gas pipes, barrels and dustbins as musical instruments, with a grand performance at the end of the day. Pupils also took part in pond dipping sessions, studying water samples to find out about cleanliness and oxygen levels. They found out what it was like to be a bat (catching its prey without using sight) and played the Sustainability Game – an open-air quiz which encouraged them to think about how they treat their surroundings. To complement one-off events such

as this, the County Council is also helping to teach people of all ages about the environment with a new, £318,000 visitor centre at Ryton Pools Country Park, near Bubbenhall. Once a landfill site, the 100-acre country park is a prime example of how things can be re-used. The new building comprises a classroom, information centre and gift shop.

The opening ceremony was another chance to promote the environmental message to the next generation. A class of children from the nearby Provost Williams Primary School, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, took part in a pond dipping session, as well as providing pictures for an exhibition of children's art.



Picture supplied by Stratford Herald

▲ Plastic milk bottles are used to make new drainage pipes



THE Area Committee in North Warwickshire has been building links with the district's youngest citizens, holding its May meeting at Polesworth School and inviting the school council to attend. It's also been finding out about young people's transport problems. North Warwickshire Rural Transport Partnership produced a video called 'Impossible Mission' which examined how the lives of young people are affected by transport in North Warwickshire. Officers went out during the evening and weekend to talk to young people on the streets. The video was shown to the Government's Social Exclusion Unit.

The committee has also welcomed visitors to its meetings from North Warwickshire Youth Forum.

Other groups in North Warwickshire district have benefited from cash from the County Council's Well-Being Fund. The Older People's Forum – run by older people for older people – was granted funding for its A-Z Guide to Services for Older People in North Warwickshire.

The Council for Voluntary Services received a grant to

enable them to bring together voluntary and community groups with key statutory agencies and elected members every two months.

Finally, County Council funds helped pay to upgrade a minibus so it can carry double the number of standard wheelchairs and accommodate wheelchair users in electric, self-propelled wheelchairs.

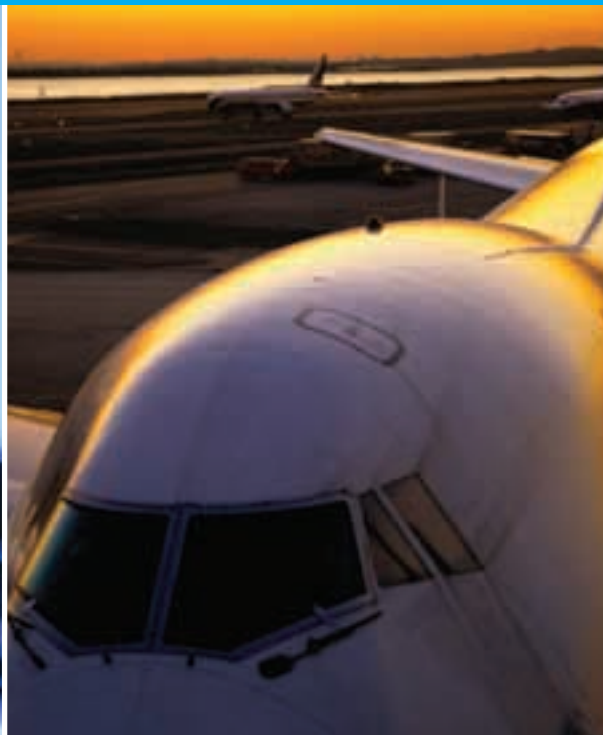
SPECIAL EVENTS:

October: Warwickshire pensioners will again be offered free electric blanket tests. To register your interest, please leave your name and tel. number on 0800 413332

October 11: National Bookstart Day – ask your local library for details of events.

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November: Community Fire Safety events promoting Firework Safety at fire stations across the county – check press or your local library for details.



Airport proposals

If you live in Warwickshire you can't have failed to have noticed recent publicity about the Government's proposals for airport developments in the Midlands. They are concerned that airports in the south east of England are reaching saturation point and that of course people living in the Midlands only make the matters worse by travelling south to use them.

The Government's consultation documents set out a range of options for airport developments in the Midlands, including three different scales of expansion for Birmingham Airport or the alternative of its closure and the development of a large new airport in Warwickshire, located between Rugby and Coventry.

Options for the expansion of East Midlands Airport at Castle Donnington are also included. Clearly people in Rugby and the surrounding area have strong views about a possible new airport. The site identified is the old airfield near Stretton under Fosse. And, if it were to go ahead it would mean 157 houses in and around the villages of Church Lawford and Kings

Newnham would be lost. There have already been a number of public meetings and petitions about it. Like all proposals there are pro's and con's – an airport of this scale (bigger than Heathrow) would clearly bring a lot of employment (59,000 jobs) and industry to the area. If the Birmingham Airport expansion plans are chosen then this would also affect our county in other areas. So for the time being the Council (both members and officers) has not taken any position on the proposals, on behalf of the population of Warwickshire. Instead we are gathering information and data so that we can give an informed response to the Government by 30 November (when the consultation period closes). In November there will be a special meeting of Warwickshire County Council where councillors, representing you the citizens of Warwickshire, will consider all the data and give an informed response. We have appointed independent consultants (Jacobs Consultancy) to advise the County Council on the relative impacts on Warwickshire of the proposed options for expansion.

They will look at things like the impact on our economy, environment and other important issues. At the same time, another independent consultancy (RBA Research) are helping us to gauge public opinion via our Citizen's Panel (a representative group of 1,000 Warwickshire residents), in depth focus groups and surveys like the one opposite. We are also working with others, like BBC WM, to hold public interest debates. And, we have set up liaison arrangements with other authorities in the area at senior political levels ensuring that information is effectively exchanged.

The questionnaire on the next page gives you an opportunity to tell us what you think on these proposals. The questionnaire can be cut out and returned to us via freepost or if you prefer completed on-line via our website –

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/airport
If you wish to know more a full copy of the Government's proposals can be obtained from the DTLR's website at **www.airconsult.gov.uk** or by ringing 0845 100 5554.



airport survey

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

The Government wishes to develop the UK's airport capacity, which does not currently meet demand. Its proposals set out a range of options for airport developments in the Midlands, including three different scales of expansion for Birmingham Airport or the alternative of its closure and the development of a large new airport in Warwickshire, located between Rugby and Coventry. Options for the expansion of East Midlands Airport at Castle Donnington are also included. *Warwickshire County Council would like to know residents' opinions on these recent proposals. All responses will be treated with the strictest confidence and analysed by independant consultants, RBA Research Ltd. Please return this form as soon as possible in order that we can have an early indication of public opinion in Warwickshire.*

Your postcode: _____

1. In the past 2 years, have you travelled by air, either abroad or to another part of the UK?

- Yes
- No

2. Which airports have you travelled from?
(PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)

3. The following are four broad options for overcoming the issue of lack of airport capacity. Which one would you prefer?
(PLEASE TICK ONE ONLY)

- Restrict growth of airports throughout the UK
- Expand existing airports including the Midlands, but not the South East
- Expand existing airports in the UK, including the Midlands and the South East
- Expand existing airports and create new airports where needed

4. If growth were to be concentrated at one particular airport in the Midlands, which of the following would you prefer?
(PLEASE TICK ONE ONLY)

- Expand Birmingham
- Expand East Midlands
- New airport
- None of these
- Don't know

5. If there is expansion of existing airports or new airports created, how do you think it should be funded?
(PLEASE TICK ONE ONLY)

- Totally from taxes
- Mostly from taxes
- Mostly from higher air fares

- Totally from higher air fares
- Other
- Don't know

6. Expanding local airports or creating new airports locally has both benefits and drawbacks. What would you say are the main drawbacks to having airport expansion locally?
(PLEASE WRITE IN)

7. What are the main benefits to having airport expansion locally?
(PLEASE WRITE IN)

Please cut along the dotted line and return in an envelope to the **freepost** address below by 25 October 2002. If you prefer to complete this entry online please go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/airport

Midlands Airport Proposals, RBA Research Ltd, FREEPOST NEA12144, Leeds, LS1 4ZA.

No stamp required

RUGBY DISTRICT

RUGBY's Area Committee has been busy seeking the views of local people – and they have responded in record numbers. Because of the enormous local interest in the issues surrounding the future of the Wolvey School Annex, Shilton, the Council held its July Area Committee meeting in Shilton itself. More than 50 members of the public attended and raised questions on issues ranging from transferring pupils to the main site at Wolvey, to concerns over bridge weight limits.

In future the County Council hopes to hold further meetings at venues around the district, for local people to raise issues of concern and hear them being discussed.

The County Council has also been forging closer links with the local business community in Rugby with its second Business Breakfast event. Local business people met with members of the County Council at The Business Resource Centre in May to talk about local hot topics such as transport and the environment.

The County Council followed up the meeting with a questionnaire to everyone who

had been invited, asking for their comments on the format. A further meeting is planned for November.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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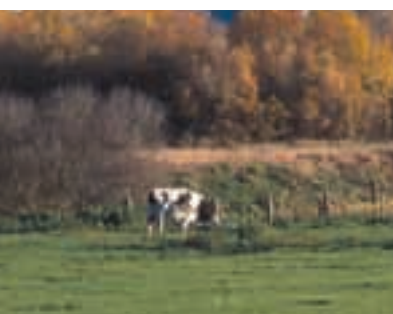
October 10: National Poetry Day. Jean Binta Breeze, performance poet, will appear as part of Black History Month at Rugby Library - check press or your local library for details

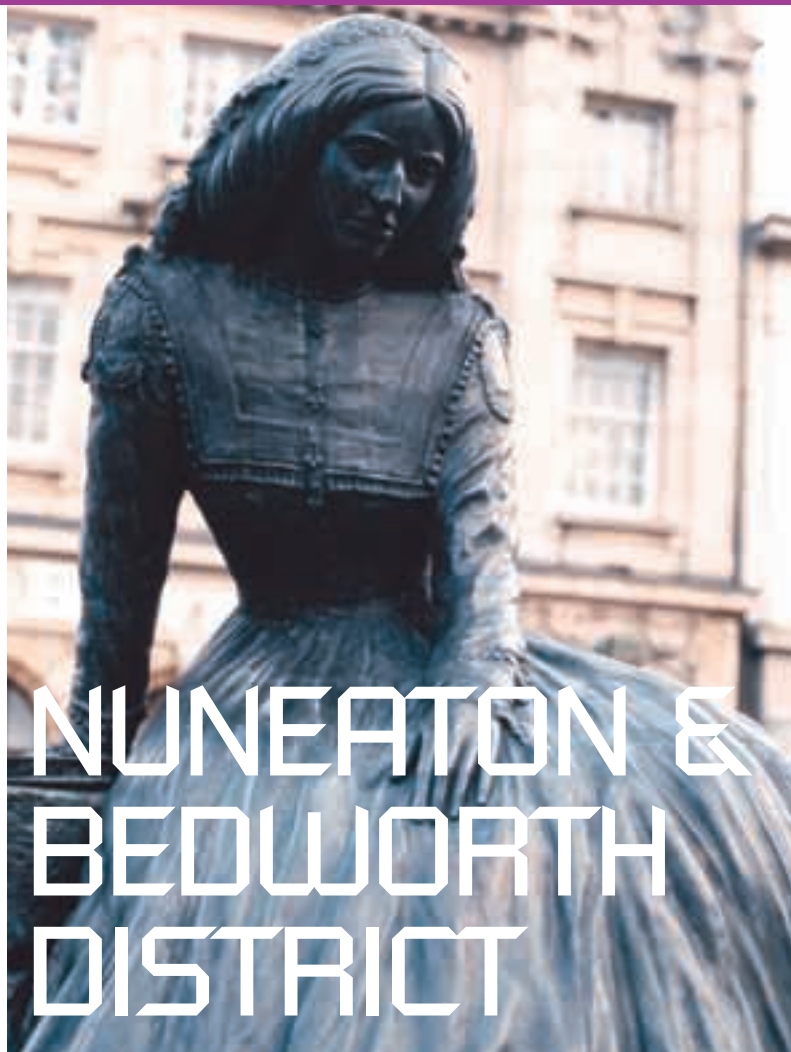
October 11: National Bookstart Day – ask your local library for details of events.

October 11-13: Family Learning Weekend – check press or your local library for details

November 20: Rugby Area Committee meeting at 6.30pm Rugby Borough Council - Council Chamber.

November: Community Fire Safety events promoting Firework Safety at fire stations across the county - check press or your local library for details.





THE County Council's Well-Being Fund is designed to support projects in the local area which help to improve your quality of life. In the past six months, a number of projects in Nuneaton & Bedworth district have benefited from the fund. Babies Need Books is a campaign which encourages parents and children to get together for regular reading sessions right from the start. A grant from the Well-Being Fund helped to pay for special information packs to give out to new parents at baby clinics.

There was also funding for vital smoke alarms to be fitted for residents in need at Camp Hill, Nuneaton. The fund helped disabled people in the area by helping the Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) to increase the production and distribution of the disability information newsletter 'Disnews' and the taped version 'Talking Disnews'.

Voluntary workers also got a helping hand from the fund. The Nuneaton and Bedworth Voluntary Sector Consortium is currently raising cash to pay for a Community Resource Centre for 10 local voluntary sector organisations. The consortium received funding from the County Council to help them get the project to the building stage.

Young voluntary workers in the district also received funding. The County Council supports a number of projects helping the young to help local people in need, including Community Needs Awards – special grants for young people working on local environmental and community projects.

Finally, Mental Health Service users in Nuneaton and Bedworth are being given easier access to information about services which could improve their well-being thanks to modern technology. The County Council has provided Nuneaton-based mental health charity - Kaleidoscope - with a mental health grant, which has been used to fund computers.

Two computers are situated in the Kaleidoscope building in Nuneaton town centre, with another at mental health charity, Mind, on Queens Road, Nuneaton.

Service users in Bedworth can access their computer at New Horizon on Leicester Road, Bedworth. The computers will enable the district's mental health service users to access Warwickshire's new mental health information website at www.inet-online.org.uk

OUR special events in Nuneaton & Bedworth are hard to beat. Recent successes include:

- ▶ Born before 1952 New Beginnings. Over 1,000 people attended this special spring event for the over-50's, which was designed as an entertaining and fun way for people to find out more about the services, activities and help available in their community.

- ▶ Multi-cultural Family Well-Being Day. This June event was a friendly and fun way to help people find out about their local health services. Around 500 people came to the event, which was a joint initiative between the County Council, local ethnic minority groups and the Primary Care Trust.

The committee also gives a helping hand to a number of other community projects in Nuneaton & Bedworth, for instance, helping to provide multi-purpose temporary buildings and helping to set up the Healthy Living Network project to reduce inequalities in health.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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October 11: National Bookstart Day – ask your local library for details of events.

October 11-13: Family Learning Weekend – check press or your local library for details.

November 27: Area Committee meeting, 6pm, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

November: Community Fire Safety events promoting Firework Safety at fire stations across the county - check press or your local library for details



STRATFORD DISTRICT

The County Council's Area Committee has been keen to form even closer links with local people this year, with a plan to hold its meetings at various venues around the district, and encouraging people to come along and raise questions of local interest. The committee tried this out for the first time at its July meeting which was held at Studley, and hopes to continue the experiment at other venues around the district in the near future.

Meanwhile, local groups and organisations in the Stratford District have benefited from grants from the Area Committee's Well-Being Fund totalling more than £65,000 in the past year.

One scheme that benefited is the Taking Care Project, which has been teaching local children the skills they need to keep themselves safer in a range of different situations.

Another is the project to set up a permanent building for the Voluntary Sector within Stratford-upon-Avon. Most of the voluntary organisations working in Stratford cur-

rently have their headquarters in Leamington Spa, yet serve the whole of South Warwickshire. Funding helped project members devise a business plan and set them on the road to secure further funding from other sources. Thirdly, there was help for the Inclusive Leisure Activities Project (ILEAP), a charity funded by the BBC's Children in Need. This is an organisation which works to create and sustain equal access and inclusion for disabled children and young people to community provision and facilities. Disabled young people are invited to register with the project, and choose an activity they would like to do. They then link up with one of the project's youth workers, who give support both to the leisure providers and the young people.

The County Council has also made major improvements in its services to people with learning disabilities in the district this year. It has invested a total of £1m to create four new day centres, replacing the old Greenway Centre. The first of these, Alne Bank, opened in May, followed by two in September at Avon Bank and Brook Bank. The last centre, at Stour Bank, Shipston, is due to open in October.

Major Refurbishment of Stratford Library...

A £500,000 project to refurbish Stratford Library is under way, turning it into one of the major Library and Information Centres in the county. The refurbishment will give the library a new information centre, with 18 computers available for public use, a new children's library, including computers and a buggy park, and a healthy living area providing health and welfare information. The refurbishment is being jointly funded by Warwickshire County Council, Stratford Town Trust and Stratford District Council. Contact Stratford Library for more details on 01789 296904.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

October: Warwickshire pensioners will again be offered free electric blanket tests. To register your interest, please leave your name and tel. number on 0800 413332

October: New day centre to open for people with learning disabilities at Stour Bank, Shipston. Date to be announced. Contact: Mervyn Jefferies, 01789 269391

October 11: National Bookstart Day – ask your local library for details of events.

October 11-13: Family Learning Weekend– check press or your local library for details.

November 27: Area Committee meeting, 4.30pm, Elizabeth House, Church Street.

November: Community Fire Safety events promoting Firework Safety at fire stations across the county - check press or your local library for details

THIS is a great area for special events – and the County Council is doing its bit to make sure it stays that way. The Warwick Folk Festival, a major national and international event which takes place in July, got a helping hand from the County Council this year with a grant from the Well-Being Fund. This helped meet the costs of the usual programme of events, activities and street entertainment in Warwick town centre, which are free of charge and accessible to all.

The County Council has also been helping to fund various projects around the district. Bishops Tachbrook Juniors FC had a contribution from the Well-Being Fund towards installing an all-weather multi-sports surface. The whole village will be able to use the new surface for a range of different activities.

A major community venture in the north of Warwick, 'The Gap', has been going from strength to strength, with the help of two grants from the Well-Being Fund. One was to help refurbish the newly acquired St Johns Hall. The second was the funding of a project to improve the health and well-being of older, disabled or disadvantaged people.

The County Council has also co-funded production of new information packs for carers in south Warwickshire, which can give individual carers targeted information based on where they live.

The Warwick Area Youth Forum is another group benefiting from County Council support. This group of enthusiastic young people is working with the County Council to help ensure that services provided for young people meet their needs.

Projects now in the pipeline include a residential course for some of the young people involved in the group. If skateboarding is your thing, you can look forward to having an even better time at Warwick's St Nicholas Park, with improvements to its skate-

board ramp set to go ahead. The ramp is to be refurbished and re-equipped thanks to County Council funding and the help of the King Henry VIII Charitable Trust.

The County Council also gave a contribution towards the annual Khalsa (orthodox Sikh) Sports Festival in Leamington, which attracts participation and sponsorship from the local community (as well as bringing visitors to the town from other parts of the country) and introduces Asian sport and culture to the Leamington community.

Improvements to Wren Hall, a community village hall in Wroxhall, are also to be funded through the Well-Being Fund. This popular community venue will now have updated facilities, including much better access for disabled people.

There was also funding to set Racing Warwick Football Club on the road towards developing the club as a community football facility. The Club will now be able to draw up a bid for a substantial grant from the Football Foundation, an organisation set up by the Government and major footballing bodies to encourage grassroots football.

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October 2 and October 9:

Pincushions - textile workshop. Participants will be able to complete their own embroidered and decorated cushion to take home. The workshops are suitable for beginners, and all materials are provided. Please book. Cost for both workshops: £10. 10:30am to 1:00pm, Activity Centre, St John's House Museum, Warwick.

October 9: Big Writing author event: Judith Cutler, crime writer, Kenilworth Library, 7.30pm.

October 10: National Poetry Day. Once Below a Time - the life and work of Dylan Thomas. Warwick Library, 8pm.

October 11: National Bookstart Day – ask your local library for details of events.

October 11-13: Family Learning Weekend – check press or your local library for details.

October 15: Artistic Licence drawing and watercolour workshop. Led by artist Geoff Tristram. Materials provided – but please bring watercolour sets if you have them. Please book. £9, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Activity Centre, St John's House Museum, Warwick.

November 26: Area Committee meeting, 6pm, Shire Hall, Warwick.

November: Community Fire Safety events promoting Firework Safety at fire stations across the county - check press or your local library for details



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