



# Britain in Bloom 2011

Following the success in last years East Midlands in Bloom award when we not only won our category but achieved a well deserved Gold Award; the East Midlands committee have asked Oadby and Wigston to represent the region in the small city category in the national Britain in Bloom finals. This is a tremendous honour and will once again raise the profile of our borough.

Anyone who wants to know more about Britain in Bloom or wishes to find out how they can join in should contact Simon Lucas on (0116 )257 2839 or Graham Lamb on (0116) 271 7777

## Floral Displays Competition

This year's floral display competitions were officially launched by the Mayor on Saturday 2 April at Brocks Hill Environment Centre. Residents came along to not only pick up entry forms but also see to and hear about the activities that are carried out in the borough by members of Pride of the Borough.

The competition has 5 main categories Best front Garden, Best Container, Best Retail or Commercial, Best Floral Pub and Best School Garden. Within the container category there is a section for children.

New for 2011 we have added a category for the Best Planted Unusual Container. All you need is a container

with space to hold compost, suitable plants and your imagination!

We are once again holding the Neil Mason Environmental Award to recognise an unsung hero who does voluntary work to improve the environment of the borough.

All the rules and how to enter are on the entry form which can be collected from the main Council Offices, local libraries, Oadby Depot and Brocks Hill Environment Centre. The form can also be downloaded from the Pride of the Borough Web site [www.prideoftheborough.org](http://www.prideoftheborough.org)



## Benefit cheats claimed almost £4,000

Two benefit cheats who falsely claimed almost £4,000 between them, appeared before Leicester magistrates on Wednesday (16 February 2011).

Isobel Wilkinson (35) of Bennett Way, Wigston and Paul Astley (54) of Tudor Road, Nuneaton both admitted defrauding the Council's Housing Benefit Team.

The court was told by the Council's solicitor, Kalv Garcha that Wilkinson failed to tell the council about her increases in Tax Credit payments over a two year period. As a result, she had been overpaid £1,996.09 in Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

Meanwhile, Astley had failed to notify the Council that he had returned to full-time work and continued to claim Council Tax Benefit. The Council's solicitor mentioned how Astley further showed disregard to his fraudulent actions by then submitting a fresh application for Council Tax Benefit. Over a two year period he received £1,792.60, to which he was not entitled.

In addition to repaying the amounts they fraudulently claimed, both defendants were fined £115, plus a victim surcharge of £15, and were ordered to pay £100 each towards the council's costs.

Speaking after the case, the council's Strategic Investigations Manager, Claire Webber, said: "When claiming benefits, a customer's obligations

are simple: tell the truth and report changes in your or your household's circumstances promptly.

"As a result of their failure to report their changes, both Miss Wilkinson and Mr Astley will have to repay their benefits as well as gaining a criminal record.

"In the current financial climate, more and more people are tempted to take chances with the benefit system when they find themselves in financial difficulty. They claim for help that they know they shouldn't receive and if caught, can face criminal prosecution.

**If you know or suspect that someone is cheating the benefit system, call the Council's Fraud Investigation hotline on Hinckley (01455) 255683. All calls are confidential".**



# To lay or not to lay a hedgerow?

Hedgerows are habitats of national importance for many species of bird, bats and insects and are recognised as such in the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan. They are particularly important in Leicestershire and Rutland as the two counties have a low percentage of woodland cover.

## To lay...

The term hedge-laying is an old one, stretching back many hundreds of years and referring to the traditional skill of laying vertical tree stems (pleachers) between a horizontal and 45 degree angle and interweaving them to form a living fence. Hedge-laying also helps to thicken out the base of the hedgerow by preventing gaps appearing and this was the main reason it was originally carried out to prevent livestock from escaping out of fields. Hedge management is best undertaken when the plant is dormant which is between mid-October and the end of March, but by leaving it to the later months of the winter season it means that birds can take advantage of the berries over a cold spell.

## or not to lay...

Hedges which are not layed tend to grow out over time, become thin at the base and in the continued absence of management grow out into lines of trees. This is one of the main reasons for hedgerow decline as the hedge plants will eventually start to die off leaving gaps in the hedge.

## However...

It is never a good thing to hedge-lay all the hedgerows in one area at the same time – the reason being that variety is the spice of life and wildlife like the different structures and heights that shrubs and trees can provide at different stages of growth.



## Hedge-laying in the Borough

### Oadby Grange

Once a hedge has been planted it normally needs to put on about 10 to 15 years growth before being hedge-layed. Below is an example of a hedgerow which has been growing for 10 years in the vicinity of Florence Wragg Way, Oadby. Over three weekends in January and February 2011 students on a hedge-laying course have layed 200 metres of hedgerow on behalf of the landowner.

### Brocks Hill

Brocks Hill Country Park's conservation volunteers have recently completed 20 metres of hedge-laying outside the environment centre as part of the ongoing work on site. They meet every Wednesday between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m., so if you would like to become involved in helping the park staff conserve the country park, please contact Helen Gregory, Countryside and Biodiversity Officer on (0116) 257 2651 or email: [helen.gregory@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:helen.gregory@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)



THE SOUTH WIGSTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Meets on the  
2nd Wednesday  
of the month at  
7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

at the  
Fairfield Community Wing  
Cheshire Drive  
South Wigston

*New Members are most Welcome*  
Telephone: (0116) 278 6089  
or 278 7392

## Fairfield Primary School Community Wing

The newly refurbished community wing at Fairfield Primary School in South Wigston was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Michael Griffiths on Tuesday 7 December. The works were funded by the Council through community grant funding for the area, these funds have been used to enhance community facilities in priority neighbourhoods within the borough.

For information about community facilities in South Wigston contact the Priority Neighbourhoods Manager on Leicester (0116) 257 2675.



## Calling all groups and clubs in the area

**Are you planning to run a holiday scheme or activity programme this summer?**

**Would you like to promote your scheme through our residents newsletter, Letterbox?**

If so, please contact the Leisure Development Officer for the council with details of your programme. This can then be included in the next edition of 'Letterbox' which is delivered to 23,000 households in the borough. Please provide all relevant information by Friday 6 May 2011, contact details as follows:

Telephone: (0116) 257 2673. Email: [avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

# Do you want to represent your district in the 2011 Youth Games?

A **FREE** sports opportunity for you to try out a sport of your choice and possibly represent Oadby and Wigston in the Youth Games finals!

With just over a year to go to the 2012 London Olympics, there has never been a better time to get into sport. The Youth Games finals will be held in the World-Class sports facilities at Loughborough University, which will be used by the Great Britain Olympic Team and Japanese Olympic Team next year for their pre-games training.

## All you have to do is:

- Choose a sport from the list below
- Attend the team trials for that sport
- If selected, ensure you are available to compete in the Youth Games finals on Sunday 10 July in Loughborough (free transport provided)

Sorry . . . but if you are county standard or above you are not eligible! This event is for grass-roots sub-county participants.

Parents will need to complete an

enrolment form, (forms are available at first session) and participants need to either live or go to school in Oadby and Wigston to be eligible to take part.

## Dates for your diary:

- Youth Games Celebration Launch Evening, Tuesday 5 July 2011 at Parklands Leisure Centre, (5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
- Youth Games Finals, Sunday 10 July 2011 at Loughborough University (all day) Free transport provided

## Athletics *(girls and boys)*

School Years 5 and 6

Date: Monday 13, 20 and 27 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Guthlaxton College, Wigston (sports field)

Team to consist of 6 boys and 6 girls, competing in a multi-event competition. Each athlete will compete in a run; 1 jump; throw and relay event.

**Events:** Running: (75m sprint, 150 sprint, 600m middle distance)

Jump: (vertical jump; standing long jump; standing triple jump)

Throw: (soft hammer; bull nosed javelin; ball push)

Relays: (4x100m girls, 4x100 boys; 4x100 mixed)

## Badminton *(girls and boys)*

School years 9 and 10

Date: Wednesday 8, 15 and 22 June

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby

Team consisting of 4 boys / 4 girls, plus one reserve per gender. A match consists of 4 games, 2 girls doubles and 2 boys doubles.

## Basketball *(girls and boys mixed team)*

School years 5 and 6

Dates: TBC

Time: TBC

Venue: TBC

A squad to consist of up to 10 players

## Basketball *(boys only)*

School years 7 and 8

Dates: TBC

Time: TBC

Venue: TBC

A squad to consist of up to 10 players

## Cricket *(girls and boys)*

School years 5 and 6

Dates: Monday 13, 20 and 27 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Beauchamp College, Oadby

Team to consist of 8 players. There must be a minimum of 2 girls playing in the side throughout the competition.

## Gymnastics *(girls and boys)*

**Key Steps 2** School years 3 and 4

Dates: Thursday 9, 16 and 23 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Parklands Leisure Centre (sports hall)

Team on the day to consist of 8 participants. Anyone that attends a gymnastics club for more than 2 hours per week, or is a competitive member of British Gymnastics is ineligible to take part

## Hockey (Quicksticks) *(girls and boys)*

School years 4 and 5

Dates: Wednesday 8, 15, 22 and 29 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Guthlaxton College, Wigston (All Weather Pitch)

Team on the day to consist of 6 players, 4 playing at any one time.

## Hockey *(boys only)*

School years 7 and 8

Dates: Wednesday 8, 15, 22 and 29 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Guthlaxton College, Wigston (All Weather Pitch)

Up to 10 players in the team, 7 on court at any one time.

## Netball High 5's *(boys and girls)*

School years 5 and 6

Dates: Sunday 12, 19 and 26 June

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Guthlaxton College, Wigston (netball courts)

Up to 9 players in the team, 5 on court at any one time.

## Netball *(girls only)*

School years 7 and 8

Dates: Sunday 12, 19 and 26 June

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Venue: Guthlaxton College, Wigston (netball courts)

Up to 10 players in squad with 7 on court at any one time.

## Rowing *(girls and boys)*

Concept 2 Indoor Rowing (girls and boys)

School years 7, 8, 9 and years 10 and 11

Dates: Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 June

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Venue: South Leicestershire College, South Wigston

There will be two separate age group competitions.

Each team to consist of 4 boys and 4 girls.

## Swimming *(girls and boys)*

School years 4/5 and year 6

Dates: Sunday 12, 19, 26 June

(plus 3 July 2011 for training for those selected for our team)

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Oadby Swimming Pool

Team to consist of 8 swimmers per age group (4 girls and 4 boys). The finals in Loughborough will incorporate two separate competitions (year 4/5 competition / year 6 competition). Swimmers must be able to swim at least 25 metres competently using an ASA recognised stroke. Competition format: 25m and 50m distances in all four strokes, plus relay events.

## Table Tennis *(girls and boys)*

School years 7 and 8

Dates: Monday 13, 20 and 27 June

Time: 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Venue: South Wigston High School (Sports Academy)

**For more information please contact our Leisure Development Officer, Avril Lennox, on Leicester (0116) 2572 673 or by email: [avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)**

Leicester-Shire & Rutland  
**YOUTH GAMES**

