



Letterbox

Our Way to Better Customer Care

Brocks Hill Visitor Centre

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 26 November

Free entry

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Local crafters, local charities, children's crafts, cakes, plants and Santa's Grotto.



Swap Day and More

Saturday 3 December

Have a pre Christmas clear out. Please bring along any good quality books, toys, craft effects, plants and small household items between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon (Sorry we are unable to take electrical goods). You can take away donated items between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Spend time enjoying the day's other attractions: Mayor's Charity cake stall, Pets as Therapy tombola with meet a pet and drop in children's craft activities.

For more information please contact Brocks Hill Country Park and Visitor Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ. Telephone: Leicester (0116) 257 2888 www.brockshill.co.uk



Homecoming Parade in Wigston

The Royal Anglian Regiment homecoming parade took place in Wigston on Sunday 9 October 2011 at 12 noon.

The local Territorial Army infantry soldiers from the Third Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment were given formal recognition when they returned home in October. Over the past six months 120 soldiers have been deployed on operations in the United Nations buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The soldiers were invited to take part in homecoming parades in Leicestershire during which they, for the first time, exercised the great honour of the recently awarded Freedom of Oadby and Wigston.

More than 1,000 people lined the streets and followed the parade. There were many proud



parents, families and friends of these soldiers who came out to show their support.

Silver Gilt for Oadby and Wigston in national competition

Following our success in the regional East Midlands in Bloom Competition in 2010, Oadby and Wigston were asked to represent the region in the Small City category of the prestigious national Britain in Bloom Finals. This put us against more well known places such as Newcastle-under-Lyme, Bath and Derry in Northern Ireland.

The judging took place in early August when two judges were taken on a 3 hour tour of the Borough, this included visiting areas such as Little Hill Primary School, Peace Memorial Park, Brocks Hill Country Park and areas maintained by neighbourhood groups, concluding at the University Botanic Garden. During this visit they met staff and community groups.

The results were announced at the awards ceremony held in St Andrews

at the end of September. We are delighted to have achieved a Silver Gilt Award, which was the highest level of any entrants in our category.



Please see the middle pages for our annual consultation. Please complete the questionnaire and send it to us by Monday 19 December in a Freepost envelope provided with this publication.



Paying your Council Tax the easy way

Why not pay your Council Tax bill by direct debit? Choosing direct debit is easy and you can make payments on either the 1st or the 15th of each month. Setting up a direct debit is simple, just call us with your bank details and we will do the rest. Our telephone number is Leicester **(0116) 288 8961**.

If direct debit is not for you, then why not try the Council's automated payment line to pay your Council Tax. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: All you need is a touch tone phone, your Council Tax reference number (on your bill) and your payment card. The automated payment line will guide you through what you need to do and even give you a receipt number at the end of the call. Call Leicester **(0116) 257 2850** to make your payments.

Council gives out Taxi Awards

The Council has announced the winners of its good practice awards 2011 for both taxi drivers and private hire operators, introduced to promote good practice within the trade.

The winner of this year's driver award is Mr Narinder Chopra. The private hire operator of the year award went to Oadby firm, Direct Taxis.

Councillor Mrs Helen Loydall, the chairman of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee said "The Council is keen to promote good practice in the taxi trade and would like to congratulate Mr Chopra and Direct Taxis on winning these awards, which recognise their achievements as top performers. They are an example to the taxi trade within the Borough."



Fair Processing Notice

Each year we take part in data matching exercises as part of the National Fraud Initiative to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. This is one of the ways in which we meet our responsibility of promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money.

Data matching involves comparing sets of our data, such as the payroll, council tax, business rates or benefits records, against other records held by us or other bodies to see how far they match. The data is usually personal information and is therefore carefully protected by ourselves and other bodies taking part in the process.

Data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims, reductions and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it indicates that there is an inconsistency that requires further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The processing of personal information by us for data matching exercises is carried out in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988; specifically under section 29 of that act, we do not require the consent of the individuals concerned. All bodies participating in the data matching exercises receive a report of matches that they should investigate, so as to detect instances of fraud, over or under payments and other errors, to take remedial action and update their records accordingly. For more information visit our website at:

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/data_protection

Taxi Operator Prosecution

Imran Hussein of Averil Road, Leicester, appeared in Leicester Magistrates Court on Friday, 7 October 2011, charged with operating private hire vehicles without an operators licence.

Mr Hussein had allowed his private hire operator licence to lapse but continued to take bookings despite having no licence to do so. As a consequence of this, passengers would have been uninsured for any journey taken throughout this unlicensed period.

The Licensing Team through active enforcement proved that Mr Hussein had been taking private hire bookings

and that as a result, he should have had a private hire operator licence in place.

When he appeared in court, Mr Hussein pleaded guilty to the offence. In mitigation, he argued that his licence had lapsed for no more than a few days.

Kalv Garcha, prosecuting solicitor for the Council invited the court to not accept such mitigation and instead to consider that whether the licence had lapsed for a few days or a few months, Mr Hussein had put the public at risk by allowing the licence to lapse. Ms Garcha also stated: 'The defendant was well aware of his obligations and duties as a private hire operator.'

The District Judge sentenced Mr Hussein to pay a fine of £110 and ordered him

to pay the Council's prosecution costs, amounting to £250 together with a victim surcharge of £15.00.

Speaking after the case, Gary Waterfield, the Council's Senior Legal and Licensing Officer, said:

"Our primary consideration is always public safety and it is a matter of public concern that Mr Hussein put the public at risk by operating without a licence. The Council takes a serious view of such matters".

If you suspect that a taxi is unlicensed, tell us so that we can do something about it. Call the Licensing Section on telephone number Leicester **(0116) 257 2732**.



‘In Bloom’

It has been a busy year for Pride of the Borough not only organising our entry into the regional East Midlands in Bloom competition, and the Britain in Bloom finals, but also hosting the regional awards ceremony attended by over 250 people in the Cedar Suite at Parklands Leisure Centre.

We are delighted that we achieved Gold in the East Midlands in Bloom competition for the second successive year. Each year every point has to be earned again and our improved score shows an improving standard we can all be proud of.

Little Hill Primary School represented us in the regional Best School Garden competition and achieved a very creditable high scoring Silver Gilt. This prestigious award shows the tremendous work of staff and pupils to develop their gardens, and involved the whole school in growing their own vegetables and becoming more aware of their environment.

Evelyn Brooker of Wigston, winner of our own Front Garden Competition for the last two years, represented us in the regional Best Front Garden category and achieved a Gold award. Evelyn, ably supported by her husband Rupert, created a superb garden and fully deserved the award. They have also been very supportive of improving the look of the Borough and have encouraged friends, neighbours and relatives to enter the local competition too.

The judges also recognised the work of the volunteers at Brocks Hill Country Park with a Judges Award. Led by Helen Gregory, Countryside and Biodiversity Officer, an average of 12 volunteers attend each Wednesday to carry out a range of activities that help to maintain and improve the country park which is so popular with residents.

As reported on the front page we achieved a very commendable Silver Gilt Award in what is probably the premiere horticultural based award in the country, Britain in Bloom. This is a tremendous achievement for us and an improvement on a previous entry into the national competition in 2006, and caps off a good year for Oadby and Wigston.

Feedback from the judges has given us further hints, tips and ideas for next year. Already volunteers have been out bulb planting and we look forward to a glorious spring.

Graham Lamb, secretary of Pride of the Borough says “These successes could not have been achieved without the support of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and in particular staff at Client Services. Many staff have gone beyond the call of duty to help get things ready for the judging whilst still maintaining a high standard across the Borough. It is only by working together we can achieve the results we have.”

Floral Display winners

It has been another difficult year in the garden but nonetheless there have been some glorious displays in front gardens that we can all enjoy and appreciate as we travel around our Borough.

Pride of the Borough organise Floral Display competitions to recognise the hard work that residents put into these displays and this is evident with the increasing standards our judges see each year.

This year we introduced a new category for the most unusual container, this has shown some great ingenuity with entrants planting up such things as a beach bag, complete with beach scene, a bike, a BBQ and a bath. The winner used a piano as her container! We also had a series of planted pots assembled to create ‘Grannie Annie’

The winners are:

- Best Front Garden** Mrs W Robison of Oadby
- Best Container** Mrs J Wright of Wigston
- Best Children’s Container** Miss E Clothier of Oadby
- Most Unusual Container** Mrs S Shipp of Wigston
- Best Retail/Commercial** Penney’s Florists, Wigston
- Best Pub Floral Display** Navigation Inn, Kilby Bridge
- Best School Garden** St John Fisher School, Wigston
- Best Photographic** Mr D Price of Wigston
- Neil Mason Environmental Award** Mr A Newton of Wigston

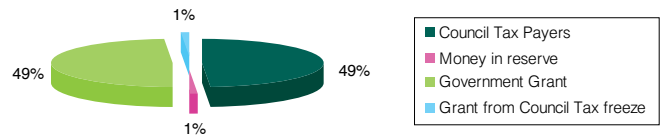
The winners received their awards at the annual awards and celebration evening held at the Brocks Hill Country Park in early October.



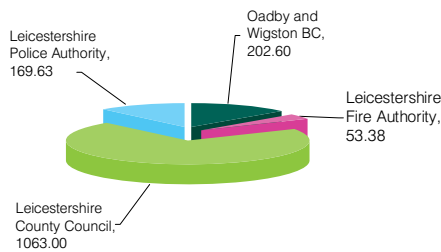
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council 2011/12 Council Spending

The Council obtains the money to fund the services we provide from a variety of sources. Just less than half our money comes from Council Tax and the same comes from Government Grant. We have had a significant cut in Government Grant from last year. This means the Council has had to be smarter in the ways in which it saves and spends its money. Last year we promised to review non-statutory services and this year we are giving each household the opportunity to participate in telling us what services are important by filling in the enclosed questionnaire.

Where does our money come from



Band "D" Council Tax £1,488.61

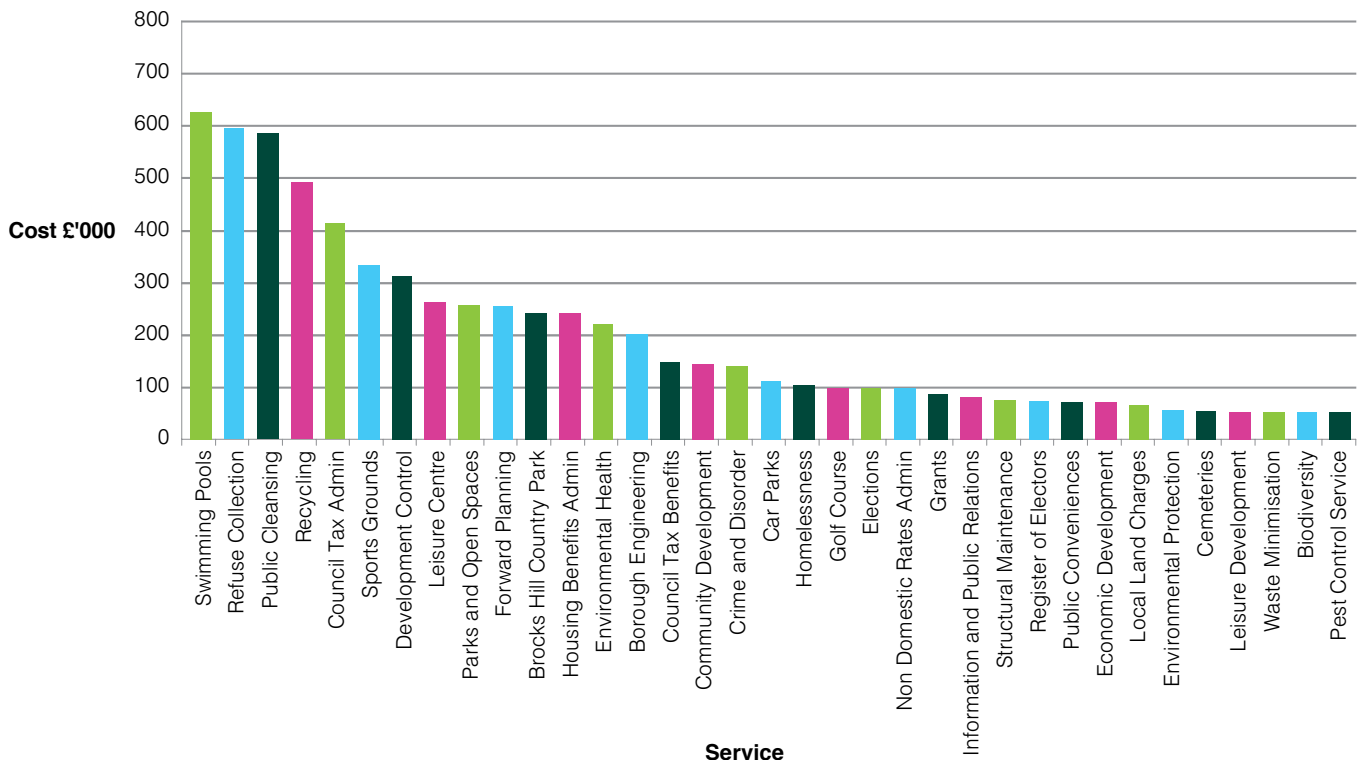


Every household is set into a band ranging from A to H, which determines how much Council Tax is paid. Nationally band D is used when quoting an average figure. This year (2011/12), for a band D taxpayer Oadby and Wigstons' share of the Council Tax is £202.60 of the £1488.61 collected from each household. This is the same as last year.

What is the money spent on?

In 2011/12 the Council budgeted to spend a net £7,380,000 on running the direct services that you receive. This is an 11.9% decrease on the previous years net budget spend of £8,383,000. The chart below shows the major categories of spend on services within the Borough:

Cost of Services



Cock-a-doodle don't

The number of complaints about noisy cockerels received by the Environmental Health Department at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is on the increase.

Every day most of us are responsible for making noise of some sort or another. This can affect our neighbours, especially where it occurs regularly or at unsociable hours. A cockerel kept in an urban area and crowing early in the morning is likely to fall into this category.

I own a cockerel – what can I do to reduce the chance of disturbing my neighbours?

Here is some practical advice if you own, or would like to keep a cockerel -

- Please consider whether you really need a cockerel - hens will still lay eggs without one.
- Check the property title deeds to make sure you are allowed to keep poultry.
- Check whether you need planning permission for the enclosure the bird is kept in.
- Competition – Other cockerels in the area will cause them to compete with each other and may result in even more crowing.
- Housing – Coop the cockerel and keep the coop as dark as possible to minimise early morning crowing as a cockerel will crow as soon as light enters the coop. You could try covering the coop to prevent light entering in or letting them out later in the morning.
- The coop ceiling could be lowered to prevent the cockerel throwing its head back to crow
- Location – try to house the bird(s) as far away from your neighbours as possible to reduce the likelihood of complaints.
- Prevent smells and infestation of rats and mice by cleaning out the enclosure frequently.

If I am disturbed by a cockerel – what should I do?

The owner of the cockerel may be genuinely unaware that their animal is causing a disturbance and therefore speaking to your neighbours may be the quickest and most effective means of resolving matters.

If this isn't successful, contact Environmental Health and we will record your complaint.

What will we do?

First we will ask you to complete diary sheets to record details of how and when the cockerel is disturbing you. This must be done in all cases as it tells us

- How long the crowing lasts – it is more likely that the law will consider nuisance is being caused if the cockerel is crowing for long periods.
- When it is happening – it is more likely the law will consider nuisance is being caused if the cockerel is crowing at unsocial hours i.e. night, early morning or late evening.
- How long it happens for – the more often the crowing affects you, the more likely the law will consider it as a nuisance.

When we have this information, we will discuss with you the options that are available. For example we may decide to visit in person to witness the disturbance. However, this is not always possible due to the unsocial hours. Therefore we may choose instead to install noise recording equipment.

If we are satisfied after a period of time that a statutory nuisance exists under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, a notice may be served requiring that the nuisance is stopped. This does not necessarily mean stopping the noise altogether. It can include reducing it to an acceptable level.

For more information on this or any other Environmental Health matter, please contact us on env_health@oadby-wigston.gov.uk, telephone Leicester (0116) 257 2601 / 2669 or via our website at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/noise

Your Views Matter

We are looking at ways of improving the environment and would like your feedback on the following issues relating to the use of roads, footways and grass verges.

Have you recently been affected by vehicles parking on grass verges or by the playing of games on highways?

(Please tick as appropriate)

- Vehicles parking on road margins and grass verges
- The playing of games on highways to the annoyance of local residents
- Both of the above

Please state the name of the street/s affected:

- Oadby
- Wigston
- South Wigston (please tick as appropriate)

This feedback form can be completed and returned to the Council Offices or at one of your local libraries. Completed forms should be returned to the by Friday 23 December 2011 to Legal Section, Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire. LE18 2DR. An electronic copy of this feedback form can be found online at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

Dropping litter could be costly

Litter has a detrimental effect on the environment where we live. Disposing of litter inappropriately is unacceptable and according to a recent survey by the Clean Up Britain Campaign picking up litter cost local councils nearly £1 billion last year. Not only is it anti-social and unpleasant, littering is also a criminal offence, and those that drop litter in any place, can be fined or face a court prosecution.

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council is currently working in partnership with the Leicestershire Enforcement Forum with an aim to raise awareness of this issue on a county wide basis. 48% of people responding to a Keep Britain Tidy survey were unaware that they could be fined for dropping litter and the same percentage admitted to having dropped litter.

A person is guilty of an offence if they throw down, drop or otherwise deposit, and then leave, any litter in any place. This includes litter which is thrown out of a vehicle window. If you are caught committing an offence of dropping litter in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, you are liable to a fine and prosecution of up to £2500 in a magistrates court. To avoid prosecution you may be offered a £75 fixed penalty notice as an alternative to court proceedings. If the penalty notice is refused or not paid, then court proceedings will begin.

When you think about litter, items associated with eating and drinking such as fast food wrappers often come to mind. In practice however litter could be something as small as a sweet wrapper, piece of chewing gum, fruit or cigarette ends, cigars and other smoking related products.

Please help to keep our Borough tidy by using the bins provided or by keeping your litter with you and disposing of it at home.

For more information about street cleansing, please contact our Client Services section by email to clientservices@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or by phone on Leicester (0116) 257 2830.

For Environmental Health, please contact us on env_health@oadby-wigston.gov.uk, telephone Leicester (0116) 257 2601 / 2669.

More information can be found on our website at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/public_cleansing



Young people introduced to the wonders of nature

Environmental Youth Group to start at Brocks Hill Country Park

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, supported by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, will be giving a group of 13-19 year olds the chance to get involved in a wide range of tasks to give them first hand experience of the natural world. Among these tasks will be designing and building a bird feeding station, reedbed management, scrub clearance, building bat and bird boxes and investigating pond wildlife. They will provide a photographic record of the site and Lucas Marsh Local Nature reserve, design and create an audio trail.



The 'Oadby and Wigston Nature, Environment and Wildlife Team' or NEWTs will meet twice a month at Brocks Hill Country Park – once on a weekend day and once on a weekday evening. The young people will be planning and organising the activities with the supervision of LRWT staff. Involvement in the project will provide the young people with a range of new skills and they will be able to gain accreditation for the Duke of Edinburgh's, Vinolved and John Muir Award Schemes.

The Grant award was made under the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots Programme. Simon Bentley, Director of the Wildlife Trust, said: "We are delighted with the grant award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which will enable us to launch an exciting project to engage young people with their local natural heritage in Oadby and Wigston and provide new volunteering opportunities."

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with this project, please call Rachel Ibbotson NEWTs Project Officer on Leicester (0116) 272 8866.

Exercise (Health) Referral Scheme

Are you scared of joining the scheme? Then don't be...

On the 6 month anniversary of my 1st of 2 heart attacks I went to the gym and walked and cycled and cross trained for a total of 65 minutes. Then in the afternoon I played 9 holes of golf. Not bad, I think, for someone who hasn't really exercised properly for years.



When I came out of hospital, having had a stent inserted in the diagonal artery and having been diagnosed as having a severe impairment of the left ventricle, I was initially quite apprehensive about exercising. I didn't need doctors or nurses to tell me I needed to exercise – its just common

sense that exercise would help my recovery after all the heart is a muscle and all muscles need stretching.

Two days after I came out I took my first tentative steps – a walk of less than a mile partly downhill to a local pub to have a cup of tea with some friends I had arranged to meet there. I took it slowly, had a cup of tea, and then the prospect of walking home up a fairly steep hill hit me – would I be able to get back up it ok? I had my GTN spray and a mobile phone but... Kindly, one of my friends offered to walk me back and I got home safely and reasonably proud of my achievement. Walking further and further day by day, a little faster – pushing it just a small amount each day but not overdoing it.

Then came the cardiac assessment – I was deemed to be too fit to go to the normal rehab at the hospital – I could go straight to the gym under the GP referral scheme.

I visited the gym and met Jenny Chambers – my cardiac exercise mentor if you like. I was pretty scared of being in the gym environment – all those dashed fit people running on treadmills, cycling at ridiculous speeds and cross training or rowing vigorously! I hadn't been in a gym since school and this was extremely daunting.

After my initial meeting with Jenny, I

went back a few days later and she showed me how to use the equipment; cycling first, treadmill walking then a bit of rowing. I probably did no more than 15 minutes in total, but I was also introduced to other people on the GP referral scheme. Just normal people, who had experienced similar health problems to me, some had been coming for weeks some not. They were all determined to improve their health.

Jenny was there throughout my GP referral period to make certain I didn't push myself too hard and to assist me in utilising my time best. I decided I would keep going to the gym and improve my health too! 12 sessions later I joined the gym and now go regularly – at least 5 times a week, normally for an hour or so using different pieces of apparatus. Jenny continues to be very helpful and watches over me although she is not required to.

I feel fitter, and healthier and happier – the feeling of well-being after the gym is great and I have lost nearly 1½ stones in weight.

I can still recall my trepidation at going to the gym and understand why people feel that way, but get over the apprehension and you will reap the benefits.

Chris Nunn

Senior Citizens 'Young At Heart' Day – 22 September 2011

What a successful day!

Over 140 people attended the 'Young at Heart' day this year and the weather was very kind to us.

The participants took part in New Age Kurling, Short Mat Bowls, Nintendo Wii Sessions, Laughter Yoga, Tai Chi, Nordic Walking, a Leisurely Stroll, Back Care Session and Zumba Gold. For the less active there was Flower Arranging, Greeting Card making, Head Massage and Makeovers.

In the afternoon they enjoyed a session of bingo and were entertained by Daryl and Paul who got a lot of people doing the jive followed by a tea dance led by Pam and Chris Leach.

Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Special thanks from the Senior Citizens Action Group go to:-

Kirby and West, Asda, Sainsburys, John Lewis, Midlands Co-operative, Wilkinsons and Dunelm Mill for their generous donations for prizes for the day and raffle prizes for our Christmas Forum.



Brocks Hill and Peace Memorial Park receive prestigious Green Flag Awards

These two local parks are two of the best in the country!

Brocks Hill in Oadby and Peace Memorial Park in Wigston are two of the best in the country – and that's official!

These parks received the Green Flag Awards, a sign to visitors that the park is well-maintained and well-managed, with excellent facilities. These are high-quality green spaces in Oadby and Wigston.

In 2011, 1,288 parks and green spaces will fly either the Green Flag or Community Award, a sign that the value of green space is widely acknowledged as vital to our communities.

Councillor J Kaufman, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council said, "I am a regular visitor to Brocks Hill and I am delighted but not surprised that once again we had received the Green Flag award. Well done to all concerned."



Ade Edmondson at Brocks Hill

Ade met New Parks Hand Bell Ringers at Brocks Hill Country Park and rustled up a plate of Bosworth Jumbles when the crew filmed a sequence for his new series 'Ade in Britain.'



Ade with the bell ringers at Brocks Hill

The programme will see Ade Edmondson travelling round the British Isles from county to county on a Great British culinary trip. He will take in traditional foods, iconic buildings, beautiful landscapes, fantastic wildlife and meet heart-warming characters in a celebration of what makes Britain so uniquely British.

Produced by the team behind Independent Television's (ITV) hit series, 'The Lakes' and 'The Dales', this series harnesses Ade's passion for food and great British traditions.

The programme has one episode on Leicestershire, where the New Parks Hand Bell Ringers are filmed, joining Ade for the final part of the programme. In this sequence, Ade listens to a performance item and cooks a little traditional dish to share with the performers.

'Ade in Britain' is a 20 part series for ITV1 daytime scheduled for broadcast later this year.

Glass collection now in your area

The long awaited glass recycling scheme is now available to all houses in the Borough. Boxes and leaflets have been delivered to households who did not have a glass recycling box. Just a reminder please place your box at the edge of your property by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day and please remove the lids and rinse the bottles, especially sauce and jam jars to prevent contamination. If you require a box for recycling your glass bottles and jar please contact customer services on telephone Leicester (0116) 257 2830.

Thank you for recycling.



Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign

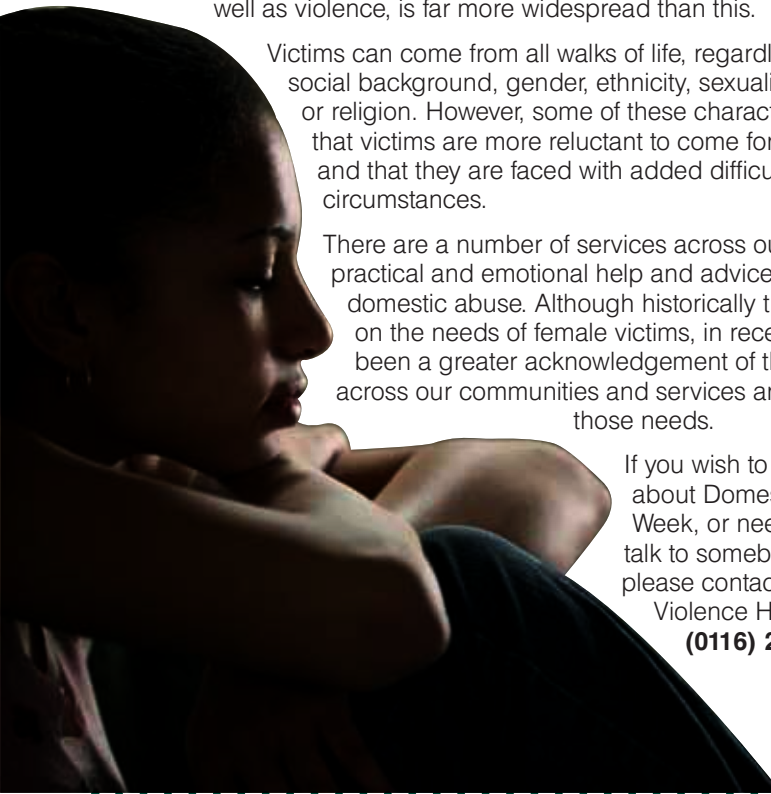
The annual Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign takes place between the 21 and 25 November across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

This year the campaign will focus on the 'Hidden Victims' of domestic abuse. People often associate domestic abuse with violence by a man against a woman. However, domestic abuse, which includes the controlling and isolation of victims as well as violence, is far more widespread than this.

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 focussed 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 meet those needs.

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 Leicester (0116) 255 0004.



Sale of autumn plants and bulbs

A sale of autumn plants and bulbs in Chestnut Avenue, Oadby, held by the Rotary Club of Oadby, raised £254 towards the cost of re-planting and refurbishing the "Welcome to Oadby" sign which the club, together with the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde, helped provide for the Borough in September 2009.

Some shoppers were tempted into making donations in return for free pears donated by a member of the Rotary club.

Rotary Club of Oadby president Martin Wragg said:

"This is part of the club's continuing commitment to Oadby and its citizens, to help maintain and improve the environment in which we all live.

"We are grateful to our customers, suppliers and to the manager of Lloyds TSB Bank for allowing us to pitch our stall on their frontage.

"We aim to be back in the spring and hope we will get the same generous response," said Mr Wragg.

Photo shows Rotarian Richard Baker serving a customer.



A Race Night

A Race Night organised by the Rotary Club of Oadby raised £771 towards the £950 needed by Age Concern Oadby and Wigston to replace the indoor bowling mat at the charity's Paddock Street centre.

The mat has been used by up to 20 bowlers every Tuesday afternoon for the last 20 years or so.

Each of the eight sponsored races featured six wooden horses whose moves were controlled by the roll of dice, one coloured and one numbered. The Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, Councillor Linda Broadley and her husband Frank, also a councillor, played their part by rolling the dice and moving the horses.

Mrs Broadley also drew the raffle, with prizes including tours of the Tigers' stadium on Welford Road, the City's King Power stadium and even a Mankini like the one worn by Borat in the film Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan.

The Rotary Club also presented £50 to the Wings Appeal, in gratitude to Ron Rockett, Ray Warrington, Pearl Moran and Jack Pellington, from Wigston Royal Air Forces Association who ran the event.



What A great sunny day for the Radio Leicester sunday morning programme to be broadcast from the Wigston home and wonderful garden of Lion Chris Huscroft and his wife Jan during 'Open Gardens' weekend.

All proceeds from the weekend went to charity.

Shown in the picture is left to right, Tony Wadsworth, Chris Huscroft, John Florence and Jan Huscroft.



Local Choir Hits the High Notes

After only one year Sing4Fun, The South Wigston Community Choir has become well established with over 50 members from the local area and beyond.

Sing4Fun started in April 2010 when Oadby and Wigston Community Action formed the choir to provide a focus for people in the South Wigston area, to come together and sing for enjoyment.

Starting with only 16 voices a small choir was created and soon it had grown to almost 30 when they gave their first concert to friends and family in St Thomas's Church in July of the same year. By Christmas the choir had grown again to just over 40 singers, when they performed their first concert to the public. By Spring of 2011 the choir had over 50 members and were invited to sing before an audience of 200 of the Borough's senior citizens at the annual concert, alongside other performers and musicians, and now they are planning for their next concert.

Sing4Fun is a community choir for those who enjoy singing, there are no auditions and there is no requirement to read music. There is only one thing that is asked; Sing and enjoy. For all those who say, "I can't sing", come along and we will change your mind, because everyone has a voice and everyone can sing and enjoy.

One of the main reasons for their success is the boundless enthusiasm of the two musical leaders; Katy Dent and Lydia Hind, both professional musicians, who's vitality and energy are infectious.

Sing4Fun are now looking to enlarge and are seeking new members, especially men, who enjoy the simple pleasure of singing out loud, alongside like minded other people. The choir sing a wide variety of songs from pop, traditional, African, modern and folk with a little Hebrew thrown in for good measure and one thing is for sure, it will be enjoyable.

Sing 4Fun meet every Wednesday, at St Thomas's Church Hall, Blaby Rd, South Wigston between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. New members are always welcome and need to be aged between 11 and 111.

See us on www.sing4funchoir.btck or contact Richard on Leicester (0116) 288 9238



New community flat open day in Wigston

The neighbourhood beat officers from Wigston have welcomed the opening of a new community flat in Boulter Crescent.

The new facility, which is open to the public, opened on Wednesday 6 July in a converted flat that is a joint initiative between Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Housing Services and Wigston and South Wigston Neighbourhood Action Team. It aims to give the residents of the Borough improved access to the agencies using it.

The community flat which is fully DDA (Disability and Discrimination Act) compliant will provide office and desk space for a variety of agencies, including the neighbourhood beat officers and a meeting space for agencies and community groups.

Councillor Linda Broadley, Mayor of Oadby and Wigston and ward councillor for Wigston St Wolstan's said; "It is vital that local people have more of a say in what happens within their local area and feel they have a voice.

Overall, this flat is about improving the quality of life for local residents bringing local agencies and the community together. I hope that everyone will know about this facility and feel encouraged to use it. On behalf of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council I wish to thank the local Police and all involved in making this happen."

Wigston residents will be able to visit their local beat officer every Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The dates and times that the various agencies will be attending the flat will be published on the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council website and on the door of the flat.

The Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator can be contacted with any queries on Leicester (0116) 257 2687.



Oadby Summer Sizzler event held on 24 July

More than 1,000 people got together for a summer fun day at the Oadby Community Centre on Sandhurst Street. Visitors of all ages browsed more than 50 stalls offering crafts, food and hair braiding.

It was a hot sunny day with many stalls displaying various goods to shop from. A number of local organisations were also present including 'Pride of the Borough' and Islamic Relief. Razia Noor Mahomed had a cake stall and she said, "It has been a fantastic turn out, we have egg free cakes, especially for people who have allergies."

A creepy-crawly house with reptiles, insects and birds was set up in the community centre at the mosque. The Animalman, Roger Pearson commented that adults were more reluctant to try holding the animals than their children. He said children were making lots of new friends and it was a great atmosphere.

Organiser Hafeez Katif was delighted with the number of visitors and stall holders he said, "We wanted people from all communities to come and enjoy a day of fun and shopping. We have been overwhelmed with the response. I think the highlight has been our creepy-crawly house!"

He said that he would like to make this fair an annual event.



Sport Relief 2012



Following the success of the Sport Relief Mile at Leicester Racecourse in 2010, the second Leicester Racecourse fun run event will be held on Sunday 25 March 2012, in aid of Sport Relief. Last time the event raised a huge £26,000 for charity and had over 700 attendees. We need your help to better this target in 2012.

You can sign up for a 1, 3 or 6 mile lap (run all at your own pace). There will be entertainment on the day and refreshments will be available for you to purchase from the racecourse. There are 3 race start times, all between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enter online now at www.sportrelief.com and search for the Leicester Racecourse mile.

Active Together teams from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Blaby District Council are organising the event and we need local volunteers to help with the running of the day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Active Together team on Leicester (0116) 257 2681 or email active.together@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Get Active with Active Together!

Do you want to get more active? Why not view online the Active Together Oadby and Wigston page which contains physical activities for adults and families? There is something for everyone including pilates, netball, family classes, walks, kurling, urban rebounding, laughter yoga, zumba and much more.

The Active Together project aims to increase the amount of physical activity local residents participate in on a regular basis in Leicestershire. Despite

the proven benefits, not enough local residents participate in enough activity to benefit their health. Health professionals recommend at least 30 minutes of exercise for 5 days a week. Are you doing your 5x30?

Lots of the classes and sessions are arranged at local church halls, community venues and public places, so you won't always have to go to a sports facility to take part.

You can keep up to date with new activities Active Together deliver at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/activetogether. For more information or for hard copy fliers, please contact



the Active Together team by calling Leicester (0116) 257 2681 or email active.together@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Council's double Olympian to organise Borough 'welcome' for London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay



We are proud to confirm that on Monday 2 July 2012, the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay will visit the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. As a host location our Borough extends an invitation to all our local residents and surrounding communities to welcome the Olympic Flame and share in the excitement the Relay will bring.

The Borough is one of over 1,000 villages, towns and cities announced by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games through which the Olympic Flame will be carried by Torchbearers during the Torch Relay, which is presented by Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung. Full details of the route will be announced closer to the time.

On 27 July, 2012, the eyes of the world will be on London for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games as the Flame arrives at the Olympic Stadium for the lighting of the cauldron to signify the start of the Games.

Councillor John Boyce, Leader of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council said, "It's great to link Oadby and Wigston to a National event. We are thrilled that the torch is coming to the Borough, we feel it's a fantastic opportunity for all of our community

to get involved locally with sports and healthy living."

The Borough Council employs a double Olympian as its Leisure Development officer, Avril Lennox MBE. Avril is playing a key role in organising local 2012 events and said, "As a former competitor I have stood in two stadia and witnessed the breath taking spectacle of the torch arriving and being lit to start the games. Now, we will all get to see and be part of the torch coming to our Borough, what a fantastic moment for our community and its residents to be part of the world's biggest sporting event."

Sebastian Coe, Chair of LOCOG said: "We are thrilled to confirm that the Borough of Oadby and Wigston will act as host location for the Olympic Flame, extending an invitation to people in Oadby and Wigston and the surrounding areas to welcome

the Olympic Torch Relay during its journey around the UK. This is the UK's moment to shine and I want to encourage people across Leicestershire to start planning how they can be part of this once in a lifetime opportunity and show their support for the inspirational Torchbearers chosen to carry the Olympic Flame as we count down to the start of the Olympic Games."

The Borough will be making plans to involve the community in welcoming the Torch and further information will follow in the Spring edition of Letterbox. Also look out of updates on our website: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk. In the meantime, if you are a former Olympian or a nominated Torchbearer then please get in touch with Avril Lennox on Leicester (0116) 257 2673 or email: avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

Oadby and Wigston Grant Schemes

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) and the Local Sport Alliance (LSA) are pleased to announce the following funding schemes.

Community and Youth Grant Scheme

The OWBC 'Community and Youth Grant Scheme' aims to provide financial assistance to local clubs, organisations, youth groups and in exceptional circumstances individuals, in order to fund one-off projects.

Local Sport Alliance Coach Scholarship Scheme

The LSA provide support for sports volunteers or coaches to access National Governing Body Level 1 and 2 coach education awards.

Sports Grant Scheme

Young people aged 18 and under, competing at county level or above can apply for £100 funding to assist with the cost of sports equipment, training and travelling expenses.

For further information please contact Avril Lennox on Leicester (0116) 257 2673 or email avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Alternatively visit the Council's website: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk

A change to our opening hours

From week commencing the **30 January 2012 on Wednesdays only**, the **main Council Offices and telephony switchboard will close to the public at 4:00 p.m.** This early closure will enable staff to hold training sessions that will provide a better service to our customers.