



# Village CTVg

summer 19



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**We are both delighted to welcome you to the summer edition of Impact, the RCC's charity update.**



The first half of 2019 has been an exceptionally busy but exciting time for the RCC. We are pleased to have secured funding for several exciting new initiatives and projects and delighted to have welcomed a few new faces into our growing staff team.

Many thanks to those of you that entered our Rural Achievement Awards for 2019. The range and quality of entries we have received this year has been amazing. Following a difficult shortlisting process, we are happy to have selected our finalists for this year, all of whom are announced later in this edition of Impact. Well done to all of you.

We would love as many of you as possible join all our finalists and celebrate our well-deserved awards winners at our annual celebration dinner. This year's event will be held at the prestigious Winstanley House on the evening of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are just £42 per person and can be booked now at [www.ruralcc.org.uk/awards](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/awards).

Thank you to those of you that choose to support the charity by joining as an annual member. Our membership costs just £60 a year and helps us to continue our work to benefit the lives of rural people and improve rural places across Leicestershire and Rutland. We will be sending out invoices this month to all those members due to renew and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your ongoing support. Over the next year we will be going through a process to review our membership offer and ensure that we continue to grow our network and effectively support and represent rural communities like yours across our two counties. Please look out for your opportunity to have your say.

We would again like to thank Allied Westminster for kindly sponsoring Impact for 2019. Allied Westminster are long and valued supporters of the ACRE Network and specialise in Village Hall insurance details of which we have shared on the back page of this issue.

**Sam Howlett**  
**Executive Director**

**Kevin Butcher**  
**Executive Director**

Summer  
Edition  
2019

# Rural Coffee Connect

## Our journey to help tackle loneliness in rural areas one cup at a time.

With a £100,000 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund already confirmed, we have spent the last few months working hard to put the foundations in place for Rural Coffee Connect.

Officially starting in the autumn, Rural Coffee Connect will hit the roads of Leicestershire and Rutland taking our pop-up café into the heart of rural communities providing an informal, no strings social space for people to meet and build connections with others in their community.

From a fundraising perspective, progress has been fantastic. In April our board of trustees made the decision to invest some of the funds released from the sale of our old office accommodation in Leicester into the project and in June we were delighted to be awarded a £10,000 Shire Community Grant by Leicestershire County Council.

In early July we picked up our brand-new Coffee Connect van which will be undergoing conversion over the next couple of months. Along side this we will be working with partners to develop our loneliness awareness training package which will be delivered through Rural Coffee Connect to help people take simple steps to identify, reach and help people within their community suffering from loneliness.

**If you think that a visit from Rural Coffee Connect could benefit your village, please get in touch with our team via [info@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralcc.org.uk) or 01455 856330.**



### The journey begins

Our Executive Director picking up our new Rural Coffee Connect van in early July.





# Working at the RCC

An insight from each member of our team into what they like most about working for the RCC

## Sam - Executive Director

"The RCC is a fantastic place to work and I have enjoyed every minute of my 11 years working for the organisation"

"The charity has always given me the freedom and support to shape and develop my own role and has invested in my development into senior leadership"



## Kevin - Executive Director

"The RCC is an incredibly flexible and forward-thinking employer"

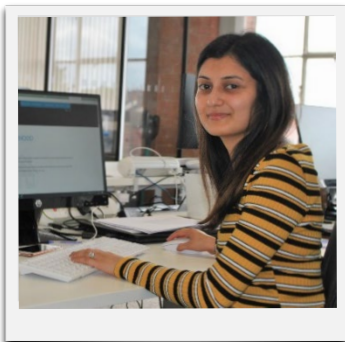
"Being flexible enables us to recruit some brilliant people and gives all of us within the team the opportunity to maintain a healthy work life balance"



## Mike - Delivery Manager

"I feel hugely valued by my managers and other colleagues at the RCC"

"I have been here for ten years and have always been trusted to manage my own workload whilst knowing that help and support is available whenever I need it"



## Jhanvi – Delivery Officer

"It is a great place to work, everyone supports and respects each other and we are all encouraged to work in our own unique style and approach"

"I always feel listened to and have good opportunities to develop and progress"

## Callum – Business Administration Apprentice

"It is coming up to my third month working for the RCC and to be honest it couldn't have gone any better"

"The team have welcomed me and made it certain that they are always there if support or assistance is needed"





**John – Delivery Officer**

"The RCC provide a nice, light, airy and comfortable office with great work, breakout and meeting space"

"The modern and open layout of the office allows me to interact freely and easily with everyone else in the team"

**Amy - Delivery Officer**

"We have a very friendly and supportive team that motivate you to work hard and achieve your best"

"Everyone always wants to help you to thrive and improve which creates a very positive and refreshing work environment"



**Joanne – Delivery Officer**

"The RCC is brilliant in its flexibility which is something I haven't experienced anywhere else I have worked"

"Being trusted to manage my own time and work is very helpful, especially as someone with a young family"

**Tori - Delivery Officer**

"The RCC is a friendly workplace with flexible working patterns and varied work"

"I really enjoy meeting with people living in the rural areas of Leicestershire and Rutland and helping to make a difference to their quality of life"



**Emma - Delivery Officer**

"I joined the RCC at the end of July and have been warmly welcomed by everyone in the team"

"My induction to the organisation has been really interesting enjoyable which has helped me settle well into my new role"

If you are interested in finding out more about the RCC team, please visit our website at [www.ruralcc.org.uk/about](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/about) or give us a call on 01455 856330



AMAZON

# Finalists revealed for 2019

We are delighted to have shortlisted 25 amazing finalists for our 2019 Rural Achievement Awards who all contribute to and improve rural life across Leicestershire and Rutland.

## Unsung Hero

### Mick Utting and Joe Chandler - Lutterworth

Described as 'real grafters' and 'local legends', Mick and Joe volunteer tirelessly to support almost every community event in the town.

### Glynn Cartwright - Melton Mowbray

Glynn is a proud, passionate man who loves his community and inspires people into acting to improve the cleanliness and environment of the town.

### Tracy Steward - South Luffenham

Tracy has run the Chater Community Choir for 7 years which along with the myriad of other activities she supports has a hugely positive impact on her local community.

### Joyce Bird - Ketton

Joyce has made a significant impact on village life in Ketton. She has given an enormous amount of her time and effort, in a most unselfish way, to the village and community including spending many years as a local Guide Leader.



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## Best Community Facility

### Markfield Community Park

A recent redevelopment of the facility has completely revitalised what had previously been a substantially mundane and under-used site.

### All Saints Church - Sheepy

The community in Sheepy has transformed its church from a tired, cold and poorly lit building into a light, warm, welcoming, flexible and inspiring space, accessible for all.



### Markfield Community and Sports Centre

Recently refurbished, the community and sports centre is modern, effective and welcoming enabling people across the community to interact positively through exercise.

### The Friendly Bench™

The Friendly Bench in Bottesford is an innovative kerbside community space designed specifically to help combat loneliness by providing a friendly informal space for people to meet, chat and strengthen their social networks.

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## Community Engagement Award



### Queniborough Gazette

Delivered to every household eight times a year, the Queniborough Gazette has made a valuable contribution to community life in the village for the past 43 years.

### Market Bosworth Town Centre Redevelopment Project

Following on from the successful development of a Neighbourhood Plan, the whole community was engaged in a variety of activities to help develop and agree a redesign of the town centre.

### Hathern Together

Set up in 2018, Hathern Together is a community led initiative to bring together clubs, societies and organisations within the village to work together providing and promoting improved facilities, services, activities and events.

### March of the Fifty – Hugglescote & Donington le Heath

To commemorate the centenary of the ending of WW1 fifty-three local men marched from Hugglescote Church to Coalville Train station recreating the march of the first fifty civilian volunteers in the country to land in France in 1914.



## Rural Service Award

### Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves Good Neighbour Scheme

Delivered by a team of 38 volunteers the scheme reaches out and helps people in the Parish including lifts to appointments or social events, befriending and support with everyday tasks.

### Market Bosworth CIC – Enjoy Market Bosworth Website

[www.marketbosworth.org](http://www.marketbosworth.org) aims to be 'the single point of information' for the town including a calendar of events and a directory of all businesses, community organisations and groups.

### Syston and District Volunteer Centre

Celebrating its 40th year, the Centre provides safe and convenient transport for those without a car and that are not able to make use of public transport.

### Leicestershire & Rutland PFA – Loan Scheme

The loan scheme is marketed as a lender of first resort, rather than of last resort. This means applicants can use the loan facility as leverage with grant funders or donors for projects which may otherwise not get off the ground.



## Rural Business Award

### Access Generation CIC

A social enterprise which aims to encourage businesses to employ inexperienced young people and empower young people and business to make the world of work more accessible.

### Thrussington Village Store

A family run independent village shop with a deli and tearoom in the beautiful Leicestershire village of Thrussington.

### Farmer Barnes Dairy

A proud working British Dairy Farm in Somerby that has installed a unique 'Cow Classroom' next to the milking parlour where the community is invited in to find out about milk production.

### The Geese and Fountain

Re-opened by new owners and with a new name, The Geese and Fountain is a traditional inn in the village of Croxton Kerrial committed to local brewers, local food producers and providing a range of community services.

### Root and Branch Out CIC

A Rutland based community interest company set up to engage communities in projects around food and the outdoors, nature and the environment.



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## Best Community Library

### Leicester Forest East Community Library

Having celebrated its third anniversary in December 2018, the Library continues to steadily achieve its aim of becoming a HUB for the community by constantly listening and responding to the needs and wants of the local community.



### Glen Hills Community Managed Library and Park Cafe

The Glen Parva based library and café are open 32 hours per week and run entirely by an enthusiastic and committed team of volunteers. The onsite café provides a vital facility for local people to connect and helps to generate income to cover running expenses of the Library.

### Sileby Community Library

Run solely by volunteers, the Library is a focal point for the village and provides a valuable community facility and service. Starting in March 2018, the Library has been completely refurbished to provide a more modern environment, facilitate broader use and to create a friendly 'book shop' atmosphere.

### Measham and District Community Library

A purpose-built volunteer run library in the heart of the village. In addition to traditional library services the facility also offers a range of other valuable community services to support disadvantaged people in the area including a food bank.





# rural19

achievement awards

BOOK BY  
18/09/19

## 2019 AWARDS DINNER

- Drinks reception
- Three course celebration dinner
- Presentation of 2019 Awards

7 - 11pm      10 OCTOBER 2019  
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# Supporting our charity



rcc

We rely on your support to continue our work to benefit the lives of rural people and improve rural places across Leicestershire and Rutland

Membership of the RCC is open to any individual, organisation or group based within or wishing to support rural Leicestershire and Rutland.

Our members help to govern our charity, shape our services, increase our impact and reach across rural communities.

[ruralcc.org.uk/join](http://ruralcc.org.uk/join)

by joining as a member for

**£60** PER  
YEAR

together we can...

PREVENT **SUICIDE** INCREASE **RESILIENCE**

COMBAT **LONELINESS**

SUPPORT **VILLAGE HALLS** IMPROVE **CONNECTIVITY**

BUILD STRONGER **RURAL COMMUNITIES**

## EXISTING MEMBERS

Invoices for 2019 are about to be sent out to all existing members due to renew. We will also be contacting you over the next year to discuss your membership and find out how we can improve our offer.



# The Friendly Bench™

**The RCC is excited to have formed a new partnership with The Friendly Bench CIC to support rural communities to install a Friendly Bench™**

The Friendly Bench™ is an innovative kerbside community space connecting people, connecting places and connecting with nature.

Specifically designed, The Friendly Bench™ is a safe, easily accessible mini community garden with integrated seating. The space is designed for people to meet, chat, connect with each other, connect with nature, reduce social isolation and increase community cohesion. These kerbside community parklets have been developed to help encourage connections between communities, help tackle loneliness and improve the quality of life of a ll, including the elderly, socially isolated and those with limited mobility.

Working with the RCC and The Friendly Bench CIC we can support you through every step to plan, install and make the best use of a Friendly Bench™ including generating local support, identifying need, finding a suitable site, securing funding, design, groundwork and installation.

**Why not find out more about the support available and to discuss the development of a Friendly Bench in your community today by visiting [www.TheFriendlyBench.co.uk](http://www.TheFriendlyBench.co.uk) or by contacting a member of the RCC team on [info@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralcc.org.uk) or 01455 856330**



The Friendly  
**BENCH™**



"The Friendly Bench is such a creative but wonderfully simple idea to help combat loneliness. It was by far one of my favourite schemes to hear about during my time as Minister, not least because it seems an incredibly cost-effective way of creating connections within a micro-community. I would love to see many more Friendly Benches across the country."

**Tracey Crouch MP for Chatham & Aylesford,  
Former Minister for Loneliness**

# Start a Conversation Conference



10<sup>th</sup> September 2019



King Power Stadium, Leicester

The RCC plays a key role in promoting and supporting Start a Conversation, the local suicide prevention campaign. As part of this work we would like to invite you to the 'Start a Conversation – Suicide is Preventable' conference on World Suicide Prevention Day, Tuesday 10 September 2019. The event will be hosted by Leicestershire County Council (Public Health) and will run from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The conference will have a broad theme of suicide awareness and prevention, with a focus on suicide bereavement.

The conference is free to attend and open to all, but places are limited so advance booking is essential. **To book your place today please contact [connor.melia@leics.gov.uk](mailto:connor.melia@leics.gov.uk)**

**For more information about our Start a Conversation suicide prevention campaign and to pledge your support please visit [www.startaconversation.co.uk](http://www.startaconversation.co.uk)**

**It's not always obvious  
someone is feeling suicidal.  
People can be good at  
putting a brave face on.**

**#StartAConversation**





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This project is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund

\*Participants must meet all eligibility criteria to be considered for entry onto the programme



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