

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

in collaboration with



"COMMUNITY CONNECT"

*Hinckley & Bosworth
Community Volunteer Sector
Quarterly Newsletter*

Photograph courtesy of Witherley Memorial Playing Fields Group – Children
Playground WetPour Project – Supported by Making a Difference



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Kev Taylor

Editor's note:

I am pleased to present the 5th Edition of your Quarterly VCS Newsletter – "Community Connect".

As many will already know the VCS Project is funded by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and delivered by The Rural Community Council.

It's been great to attend numerous community events during the last few months meeting & assisting our VCS Network Groups. As ever remember we are always here to help if you need:

- Connections with likeminded groups locally
- Recruiting Volunteers
- Accessing Grant Funding



Main story VCS Grant Funding

Information on current deadlines and access to application assistance

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council
in collaboration with



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REDGATE FARM



ANIMAL SANCTUARY

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Spotlight Membership

Find out more about some of our VCS Network Members



VCS GRANT FUNDING

**CvF & MaD Grants
OPEN FOR APPLICATION**

Richard @ Outreach VCS Hub Event

Visit us at our mobile hub Mondays - For More Details Contact Richard on rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk

Fridays at The Atkins Building Hinckley 10:00 – 12:00 & 14:00 – 16:00

I am pleased to reiterate that funding provided by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council via Making a Difference (MaD) and Community Volunteer Fund (CvF) Grants remains open for this financial year, 2025/26. We are currently welcoming applications from Network Members.



*"When we gather,
possibilities ignite—join
me at my drop-in event
and discover how we can
magnetise compassion
for our communities."*

- Richard VCS Delivery
Officer

Help & Assistance with Application

With Grant Funding now open re applications, the following deadline dates for Making a Difference applications have been scheduled:

Wednesday 12th November

Help is available from your VCS Delivery Team to complete your application;

we are on standby to help – drop us a line at either ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk or rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk to arrange an appointment for a 1-2-1 workshop.



What Your Group Needs to Access Grant Funding via VCS

To apply for VCS Grant Funding, you will need the following documents:

- A completed Application Form
- Group Management Documents
- A bank account in the name of the Group applying

If your group doesn't have a Community Bank Account or a Treasurer's Account, get in touch as we can help in providing documents to assist.



VCS Grants Making a Difference in our Communities

The Pierce Perspective

Cultivating Community Wellbeing Through Sustainable Initiatives

In their efforts to promote wellbeing and mental health within the community, The Pierce Perspective harnessed the power of social media and local partnerships to share their mission far and wide. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn served as vital conduits for engaging with followers and stakeholders, while local networks—including Hinckley & Bosworth VCS contacts and school partners—helped amplify their reach. Regular project updates not only fostered community interest but also cultivated a remarkable volunteer engagement that promises to enrich the lives of young people in schools.

As The Pierce Perspective reflect on their journey so far, they recognise that there's nothing quite like the commitment they've seen from the community. The vision behind their initiatives is fuelled by a deep passion to serve, to expand mental health services, and ultimately, to save lives. Their approach emphasises the importance of green co-production skills, especially as they relate to mental health. By creating safe spaces that harness the restorative power of nature, The Pierce Perspective aims to deliver sustainable outcomes that resonate deeply within the community.

Noteworthy Achievements

Three key outputs illustrate the progress they've made in this venture supported by a HBBBC Making a Difference Grant:

1. ****Installed Solar Energy Infrastructure****: This foundational step enables The Pierce Perspective to host sustainable events and workshops, reducing carbon footprint and showcasing the potential for eco-friendly practices.
2. ****Research-Backed Programme Development****: Alison's dissertation has been instrumental in shaping quality interventions, enhancing both their credibility and effectiveness.
3. ****Groundwork for Sustainable Community Engagement****: We have successfully secured new volunteers and partnerships while preparing our site to host upcoming therapeutic programs that will benefit many.

'This endeavour really brings people together & share knowledge to sustain earth whilst improving mental health, to be a community'

- Service User The Pierce Perspective



Celebrating Successes and Navigating Challenges

The Pierce Perspective journey has been marked by significant successes and valuable lessons learned:

- ****Successes****: The partnership model has proven effective, with substantial community backing providing a solid foundation for future initiatives. The installation of sustainable infrastructure sets a promising long-term course.
- ****Challenges****: Some timeline were encountered with adjustments made due to various factors, including partnership support, inclement weather, and supplier delays. These experiences highlighted the need for adaptability.
- ****Learning****: Incorporating flexibility into our planning has emerged as essential, especially for outdoor projects. Additionally, building a stronger network of volunteers early on contributes to resilience and operational strength.





VCS Grants Making a Difference in our Communities

The Pierce Perspective Continued.....



Stakeholder Contributions

Success is deeply intertwined with the generous contributions of several local businesses and organisations in addition to **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Voluntary & Community Sector**:

- ****Eco Window Systems****: Provided crucial material support and sustainability advice for our Wellbeing Garden's construction.
- ****Coventry Timber****: Donated timber for raised beds and seating areas ensuring accessibility.
- ****Wincanton and JLR****: Engaged in CSR initiatives, offering volunteer workforce support to facilitate practical tasks at our site.
- ****Amazon BHX7****: Recently committed to supporting the garden initiative and mental health programs through CSR volunteering and potential funding.
- ****Local Suppliers****: Contributions from All Hire Sales, Tesco, B&Q, and Sapcote Garden Centre have been invaluable in providing equipment, plants, and gardening supplies that shape the therapeutic environments.



*'For More Info or To Get Involved
Contact: Andy Pierce at
thepierceperspective@outlook.com
or visit*

<https://www.thepierceperspective.com/>



Impact on Local Schools

Through the ****Growing Green Minds**** workshops, the Pierce Perspective have engaged 15 local schools, providing horticultural resources to enhance their outdoor spaces. This collaboration supports the development of sensory gardens and wildlife areas that promote mental health, mindfulness, and sustainability education among students.

Conclusion

At The Pierce Perspective, their work is about more than just creating a garden; it's about fostering a vibrant community united by knowledge sharing, environmental stewardship, and improved mental health. Each partnership and contribution brings them one step closer to realising a vision where nature and wellbeing intertwine. Moving forward they remain committed to serving the community, nurturing the seeds of change, and celebrating every life touched along the way.

**Together, building a brighter,
healthier future for all.**

How the VCS Partnership has Helped

In the world of grant funding, it is crucial that a community group has their own named bank account.

With financial sector regulations being strict in this area almost all funders will now only pay grant funding into a business account in a groups name, but fear not if your group doesn't have one here at the VCS, we can assist with an application by helping to provide crucial documentation such as:

- Group Constitution Document
- Safeguarding Policies
- Risk Assessments

All of which are needed to make the application to various banks. but don't just take our word for it we have helped numerous groups including:

- Sing & Social Group
- Ratby Memories Meeting Group

In helping with needed documentation these groups are well on their way to securing additional grant funding from sources such as Asda Community Fund making their groups more sustainable for the future.

If your group needs help with their documentation and finding a Treasurer's Account for your group, please do not hesitate to get in touch and let us help you continue your crucial great works within the Borough.

"The help provided by Kev at the VCS has really helped me launch the group"

- Jane Rayne, Ratby Memories Meeting Group



Get in Touch

Email: ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk

Tel: 0800 772 0045

RCC Website:

<https://www.ruralcc.org.uk>

Find Us on:

Facebook: [\(20+\) Hinckley & Bosworth VCS Network Group | Facebook](#)

WhatsApp:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EosnUmWLz1UEj4FIgFR8Sq>

VCS Documentation Assistance

Group Documentation Writing

Find out more about the local works the RCC is carrying out in your local area.

With projects aimed at enhancing and improving the lives and experience of our local communities.

For more information and to learn about our recent Community Awards celebrating 'Community Heroes & Groups' please follow the link below or JOIN US using the QR Code.

The Rural Community Council

Working in Hinckley & Bosworth



JOIN US

For More Info
Search

<https://www.ruralcc.org.uk>

W.O.W – Warm Optimistic Well 2

Our team is travelling to all corners of rural Leicestershire and Rutland, popping up warm and welcoming spaces for people to connect and explore creative ways to stay warm, well, and save a bit of money too.

Halls Together 1

Halls Together is led by John Preston, our expert advisor based at the RCC, John is available to provide bespoke advice and guidance on all aspects of hall management, resources & training.

Neighbourhood Mental Health Café – Earl Shilton 5

Our friendly team of staff and volunteers are not medical professionals; however, they have been mental health first aid trained and have the time to listen and support you. They all have great knowledge about mental health and wellbeing services around the area and can help you to access these as needed.

M.A.C- Cadent Mobile Advice Centre 3

Launching April 25 our holistic mobile advice centre. Will be travelling throughout rural Leicestershire with our Rural Advice Centre with advisors trained to provide free in person advice on a range of issues including:

- Energy saving & Carbon Monoxide safety
- Money saving and affordable living
- Food bank referrals
- The Priority Services Register
- Housing, benefits and other local authority services
- Employment, training, and job search
- Mental health and wellbeing

BUILD & HIRE 4

BUILD – Working within Bagworth, Markfield, Ratby & surrounding villages

HIRE – Working within the Borough

Supporting individuals who face barriers to accessing education, training and employment.

The project supports individuals by providing personal coaching sessions in your local area. These sessions will develop your skills and confidence to access education, training and employment.

The project will work with individuals to boost their confidence and help them to develop their skills and experience through volunteering, employment, training and skills development.

Spotlight Membership

Featured Network Members – June 25



Redgate Farm Animal Sanctuary

Redgate Farm Animal Sanctuary: A Place for Animal Care and Community Support

Redgate Farm Animal Sanctuary is located at 233 Shaw Lane, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9PW. We welcome visitors to meet our diverse range of animals available for rehoming. While we do not charge an entrance fee, we kindly request a donation upon your arrival or exit to support our ongoing animal care efforts.

To reach us, take the M1 motorway and exit at junction 22, continuing onto the A50/A511 toward Coalville. You will find us just after the turning for 'Billa Barra Lane' on the left-hand side. Look for our large red gates and the sanctuary sign at the bottom of the slip road. If you're coming to view the animals or simply wish to visit, please stop outside the large red gates, follow the instructions provided to enter, and remember to close the gate behind you after driving in.

"If your group would like to feature in this segment next quarter, please reach out at ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk

*Sponsorship Opportunities**

By becoming a "Friend of Redgate," you can sponsor an animal and help ensure their well-being for a year. The minimum sponsorship amount is £10 per animal, which comes with a certification bearing your name, a selection of pictures of the animal, and quarterly newsletters to keep you updated about life at the sanctuary. This sponsorship makes for a thoughtful gift for animal lovers.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always on the lookout for volunteers, including individuals seeking to fulfill Duke of Edinburgh Award requirements or gain work experience. Your assistance, even for just a couple of hours a week, is invaluable.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us through our website's contact page.

<https://www.redgatefarmanimalsanctuary.co.uk/>

Hinckley & Barwell Gaming Groups



Join the Fun with Hinckley & Barwell Gaming Groups!

Are you ready to dive into a world of board games, RPGs, and video games? Join us for some fun evenings where you can meet new friends and enjoy your favorite games in a friendly atmosphere!

Hinckley Gaming Group

Location: The Greyhound Pub, 9 New Buildings, Hinckley LE10 1HN

When: Monday evenings from 7 PM to 9 PM

Barwell Gaming Group

Location: The George Ward Centre, LE9 8DG

When: Tuesdays from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Cost: each **free** to attend!

Whether you're a seasoned gamer or just curious to try something new, we welcome players of all ages and skill levels. It's a great opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for gaming!

For more info:

Contact: Christy Waring, Local Area Coordinator *Phone:* 07947 949721 *Email:* christy.waring@leics.gov.uk

Wykin Animal Foodbank

WYKIN ANIMAL FOODBANK



I've set up an animal foodbank for those families who need a helping hand, when funds are low. I have many years experience with animal care, including volunteering and working in several animal rescue centers and pet shops.

I'm Hinckley based, and welcome collections, and can arrange drops off for those who do not have transport.

Please contact me for a confidential chat about your furbabies needs, and I'll do my best to help.

Donations are always gratefully received. The group shows PayPal and Amazon Wishlist details, to be able to donate; and I also welcome in person donations. I've already received huge amounts that have gone on to help lots of struggling families who overwhelmed with appreciation.

Your continued help and support is vital, to help make this voluntary group, thrive!

Please don't be embarrassed, you can remain anonymous if you wish.

All I ask, is that you pay it forward when you can; for the next family in need.

Much love, Deb ❤️

For More Info Visit:

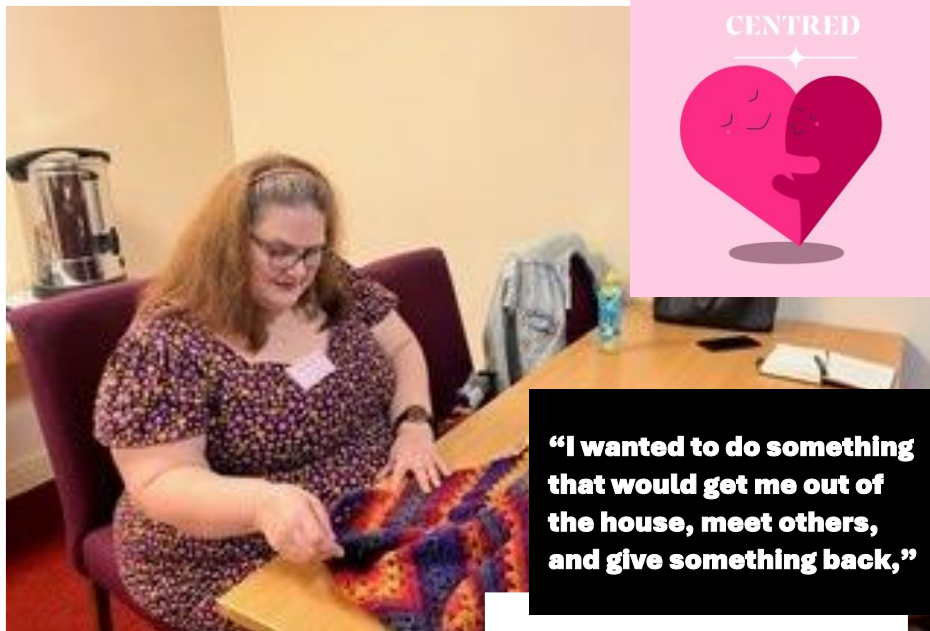
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3721472971499794/>



Thimbles Sewing & Crafting Group

Please come along & join in a paper crafting demonstration from our guest speaker on **Saturday 4th October 2025** 2pm x 4.30pm.

To book your free place & for further details of the event & joining our group, contact Sue at thimbleshinckley@gmail.com



"I wanted to do something that would get me out of the house, meet others, and give something back,"

Volunteer Spotlight

Michelle's Volunteering Journey:

Meeting Place Mental Health Café

Michelle has dedicated her Tuesdays from 1 PM to 3 PM at the Meeting Place Mental Health Café, a role she enthusiastically embraced after facing personal challenges.

Her journey to volunteerism illustrates the transformative power of giving back to the community while engaging in fulfilling activities.

Following a job loss, Michelle felt compelled to seek out opportunities that would not only help her reintegrate into a routine but also

provide her with a sense of purpose.

"I wanted to do something that would get me out of the house, meet others, and give something back," she explains.

During her initial visit to the RCC HUB in Hinckley, she encountered Richard, who introduced her to various volunteering opportunities. It was the mention of crafting that particularly resonated with her passion.

CENTRED



Michelle's VCS Journey:

"I jumped at the chance to pass on my skills and knowledge to the clients at the Café," she remarks.

Michelle describes her experience as **"brilliant."**

Drawing upon her background as an ex-nurse, she finds great satisfaction in assisting the clients who attend the café. This unique blend of her nursing expertise and her passion for crafting has allowed her to create meaningful connections with the attendees.

"I've been able to help the clients that attend the café," she notes, highlighting her dual role as both a facilitator and a supporter.

When asked if she would recommend volunteering to others, Michelle's response is unequivocal: **"Absolutely, give it a go!"** She emphasises the personal rewards of volunteering, such as forging new friendships and enhancing her social network.

Additionally, she appreciates how this experience enriches her CV, showcasing her

commitment to community service and skill development.

Michelle's journey exemplifies how overcoming adversity can lead to positive outcomes through volunteerism. By sharing her talents and experiences at the Meeting Place Mental Health Café, she not only contributes to the well-being of others but also finds joy and fulfillment in her own life. Her story serves as an inspiring reminder of the impact that dedicated individuals can have on their communities.

For more info on the Meeting Place Mental Health Café visit:

enquiriescentred@gmail.com

Want To Get Involved or Know Someone Looking for a Volunteering Role Locally ?

If you know anyone who would like to volunteer locally help them take the first step today and embark on their own volunteer journey to make a difference.

Visit the Rural Community Council website:

[HBBC VCS Partnership - RCC](#)

or email to schedule an appointment

rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk

Interested in volunteering locally?

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

in collaboration with



What can you get out of volunteering?

At the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council funded Volunteer & Community Sector initiative we want to make sure you get as much out of volunteering as you put into it. That's why we work hard to match your aims, goals, aspirations, personality, available time and everything else with opportunities in your area.

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Canvassing our wonderful volunteers to understand what they've gained from their experiences with us. Their answers show that volunteering is not only good for the local community but can improve your physical & mental health & wellbeing. Here are just some of the things our volunteers have said they get from giving their time:

New skills & valuable work experience

Making new friends

Better physical & mental health and wellbeing

Giving something back

Improving your confidence

Sense of connection to others in the community



Still have questions or want to find a role locally?

We understand that you might still have questions about volunteering or want to know what roles are available locally.

If so, contact Richard or Kev at

rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk

Or

ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Hinckley Community Shed Project

COMMUNITY SHED

OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

COMMUNITY MEETING



Thursday 25th September 2025

19:00 hrs

The Queens Head Pub, Upper Bond St, Hinckley, LE10 1JR

Let's Discuss the Proposed Development of a Hinckley Community Shed

We're excited to invite you to our public meeting to kickstart an amazing new initiative: the Hinckley Community Shed Group!

Whether you're looking to connect with like-minded individuals, share your skills, or just enjoy some good old-fashioned camaraderie, this is the place for you!

Help us in forging a community asset for the future as we set the groundwork for our very first shed in the Hinckley area! This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of something new and meaningful in our community.

If you're enthusiastic about working on projects, learning new skills, or simply having a great time making new friends, we want you on our team! All are welcome—bring your ideas, energy, and spirit!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: Nicola Dutton

Nicola.Dutton@leics.gov.uk

Tel: 07526 928318



Community Shed Group Meeting

I would like to extend my thanks to Christy, Nicola & John at Community Shed for inviting us to your 3rd Group Meeting.

It was truly fantastic to present the Voluntary & Community Sector Initiative to your group & I look forward to working with you all in the future.

The Community Shed is a new Hinckley initiative looking for local like-minded individuals to get involved.

Their next Community Meeting is Thursday 25th September at the Queens Head Pub, Hinckley.

For more info contact:

Nicola.Dutton@leics.gov.uk or
Tel: 07526 928318

If you're group has an event, you'd like us to attend, please get in touch at;

ktaylor@ruralcc.org.uk or
rstyles@ruralcc.org.uk

Community Shed Group Meeting





BARWELL GAMING GROUP

FREE TO ATTEND



Tuesdays
2:30-4:30 PM
The George Ward Centre LE9 8DG

All are welcome to join our new Hinckley Gaming Group

We're excited to invite you to our established Barwell Gaming Group an amazing initiative bringing gamers together!

Whether you're looking to connect with like-minded individuals, share your skills, or just enjoy some good old-fashioned camaraderie, this is the place for you!

Help us in shaping our community group for the future as we grow our community Gaming Group! This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of something meaningful in our community.

If you're enthusiastic about board games including RPG simply having a great time making new friends, we want you to join our group!
All are welcome—bring your ideas, energy, and enthusiasm!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: Christy Waring
email: christy.waring@leics.gov.uk
Tel: 07526 928318



HINCKLEY GAMING GROUP

FREE TO ATTEND



Monday Evenings
19:00 – 21:00 hrs
The Greyhound Pub, 9 New Buildings, Hinckley LE10 1HN

All are welcome to join our new Hinckley Gaming Group

We're excited to invite you to our new Hinckley Gaming Group an amazing new initiative.

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Help us in shaping a new community group for the future as we set the groundwork for our community Gaming Group! This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of something new and meaningful in our community.

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FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: Nicola Dutton

Nicola.Dutton@leics.gov.uk

Tel: 07526 928318



Volunteer Recruitment

Want to help improve local access to affordable food? Join us at our first volunteering event!

4.30 pm
30
Sep

Affordable Food Volunteering Event

LBC, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton,
LE9 7AW

07896 491663

Help Shape the Future

 **Spread the Word**



If you know of any Community Groups, Clubs, Non-For-Profit Groups in your area please put us in touch!

“Help Grow and Shape the Future of Your VCS Network by Spreading the Word”

**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Don't be shy! If you have a good news story or even just want to advertise an event or services in our next edition of

**“Community Connect “ –
September 25 - get in touch.**

Remember the VCS is a free resource funded by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for you our local Community Sector Groups.

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