

CAN FCN HELP YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?



Whether the issue is personal or business-related, FCN is here for you. FCN run a confidential, national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am-11pm and our volunteers provide free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to anyone who seeks help. Over 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's support and we

can help with a variety of issues, such as: Farming, Business, mental and physical health and family matters.

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. FCN have a network of over 400 volunteers across England and Wales, many of whom are involved in farming, or have close links with agriculture, and therefore have a great understanding of the issues farm workers and farming families regularly face. Since 1995, FCN have helped thousands of people deal with a variety of issues, including financial difficulties, animal disease, mental health and family disputes. Their volunteers will "walk with" you and help you find a positive way through your problems - for as long as it is needed.

Help Line: 03000 111 999

e-helpline: chris@fcn.org.uk

To find out more about the work of FCN please [click here](#)

FCN Newsletter please [click here](#)

STATISTICAL DIGEST OF RURAL ENGLAND PUBLISHED



Official statistics concerning rural England are published regularly by Defra. The latest June 2018 edition of the "Statistical Digest of Rural England" contains a wide range of useful statistics and is available via this [link](#).

These cover:

- Rural population & migration
- Rural Economy
- Rural living

Defra's June 2018 "[Rural Economic Bulletin](#)" comparing high level economic indicators across rural and urban England has also been published. The four indicators currently used are:

- claimant count – proportion of working age population claiming unemployment benefits
- economic activity – proportion of economically active population unemployed and proportion of working age population in employment
- redundancies – number of redundancies per 1,000 workers
- house prices - average house prices and annual percent change

House of Commons Library

FLY-TIPPING - THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE



The Commons Library briefing paper gives a general overview of the extent of the problem of fly-tipping in England and the powers and responsibilities of the Environment Agency, local authorities and landowners to deal with it. It also sets out recent Government actions to tackle it and proposals for reform.

Government plans for reform

The Government has concerns about the situation where householders allow an unauthorised person to take their waste away, and where the waste is then fly-tipped. In January 2018 it published a consultation on proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector & introduce a new fixed penalty for the waste duty of care. Further proposals related to fly tipping are expected in a forthcoming Resources and Waste Strategy.

Full report please [click here](#)

Source: www.parliament.uk Published Monday, June 25, 2018

RURAL RESIDENTS HANG UP ON MOBILE BANKING, REGULATOR FINDS



Consumers in rural areas of the UK are far less likely to use their smartphones for banking than their urban counterparts, a survey says. The findings, from the UK's financial regulator, are set to reignite the debate over bank branch closures - particularly in rural locations. However, its report also suggests that those in rural areas are more satisfied with their financial circumstances. The Financial Conduct

Authority also exposed a north-south savings divide. The data comes from a renewed assessment of a survey of 13,000 people's financial lives by the FCA.

The survey, first published in October last year, found an estimated 4.1 million people are in financial difficulty due to missed domestic or credit bills. An older population and patchy broadband and mobile coverage will be among the reasons for a take-up rate of just 23% in mobile banking and a 54% take-up of internet banking in rural areas, compared with 45% and 78% respectively in urban areas.

Hannah Maundrell, from comparison website Money.co.uk, said: "Millions of consumers in the UK are facing financial difficulty due to missed bills - without easy access to sort out these sort of debts, the lack of branches coupled with a lack of decent broadband and mobile signal in rural communities could create a perfect storm and really needs to be investigated."

[Click here](#) for the full article

M&S, SAINSBURY'S AND TESCO TEAM UP ON CLOSED-LOOP SOLUTION FOR BLACK PLASTICS



Supermarket giants Tesco, Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer (M&S) have collaborated to introduce a solution for hard-to-recycle black plastic that places recycled content into food-grade packaging. The supermarkets worked with recycling and packaging production firm Viridor on the recycled solution, which will enable 120 tonnes of plastic to be recycled in the UK every month, starting from July, with the volume expected to rise over the next 18 months.

The solution enables machinery in recycling plants to accurately detect the black pigment in hard-to-recycle packaging items such as food trays and separates them for shredding, melting and re-use in new packaging; a feat which had not previously been achieved at the UK's waste processing facilities.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove hailed the discovery as a "breakthrough", claiming that it may enable the UK to export less of its plastic waste. Currently, two-thirds of plastic waste in the UK is exported to be recycled and only 9% is recycled domestically, according to the latest Green Alliance.

Please [click here](#) for further reading

CALL TO ENTER 2018 HIGH STREET AWARDS



Rural communities across the UK are being urged to back their local high streets by entering them into the Great British High Street Awards 2018. Run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the awards recognise and celebrate local achievements on high streets, supporting the communities they serve.

The Great British High Street awards will also champion 'Rising Stars' – the most ambitious high streets which are taking a lead and working together to revive, adapt and diversify. By shining a light on great examples of how high streets can meet the challenges of changing consumer behaviour, the awards will provide all communities with top tips for success. Communities Secretary James Brokenshire said: "The Great British High Street Awards acknowledge how vital high streets are to our nation. They are crucial in creating jobs, nurturing small businesses and driving local and regional economies." High Streets Minister Jake Berry said: "The Great British High Streets competition this year will celebrate the creativity of the many businesses in the UK which are providing the shops and services so vital to our economy." To find out more and enter please [click here](#)

DO YOU WANT TO HELP INSPIRE AND LEAD YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS ESSEX?



Essex Police are currently recruiting for Volunteer Police Cadet leaders.

Following the success of the Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) scheme across the county, Essex Police are looking for more Volunteers to work alongside their existing Police officers, staff and Specials to become Volunteer Leaders, assisting with running weekly VPC evening sessions.

Previous experience in working with young people would be an advantage but is not essential; training and support will be given.

For more information about the role, please contact:

Force Volunteer Cadet Coordinator Neil Dibell on 101 ext 110025.

If you are interested in volunteering, then please submit your expression of interest to:

volunteer.police.cadets@essex.pnn.police.uk

Volunteer Police Cadets is a national, uniformed voluntary youth organisation and is currently being delivered successfully in Essex and many other force areas.

The scheme is open to young people aged 13 -18, including those vulnerable to crime or social exclusion. The VPC offers a fantastic variety of opportunities to the young people involved, many of which would otherwise be well beyond their expectations.

The aim is to prepare young people for their future by providing varied activities and opportunities to develop qualifications, enhance their inter-personal skills and confidence, and achieve a sense of pride through supporting community policing.

RCCE – HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH PLOT COMPETITION PLANTING DAYS



Primary School Category: The winning primary schools planting day took place at Notley Green Primary School, an exuberant morning was spent with class 4 (ages 8-9 years) where we all learnt a great deal from Hannah Powell (Perrywood Garden Centre). The children were extremely enthusiastic and showed great maturity whilst listening to a very informative session. It was clear they thoroughly enjoyed the planting experience and were happy to get stuck in! We were delighted to hear all about Notley Green's

forest school activities which are mostly child-led and have included:- scavenger hunts and mini beast safaris, den building, mud kitchen 'cookery', tree planting and gardening!



Special Schools Category: The winning special school's planting day took place at Cedar Hall School, and we welcomed back Alison Findlay from Royal Horticultural Society. The children who joined us were part of the school's gardening club, they were all very keen and extremely helpful, which included some hard digging! The gardening area provided is an amazing facility for all the children to engage with, and it was fantastic to hear that some of the food grown is sold as an additional income to help support their passion for gardening.



Growing Communities invited all children in primary schools and special schools of Essex to take part in designing a healthy kitchen garden plot and also create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using the produce.

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please e-mail info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

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