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National Grid Hinckley volunteers help bring Café culture to community centre

Volunteers clear and prepare gardens for new summer café project

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- Home-handy DIY team paints fences and sheds
- Make-over helps Gwendoline House achieve aims

A group of National Grid volunteers has spruced up a community house for people to enjoy its gardens, and a soon to be launched café.

The five helpers painted fences and sheds, in preparation for the café at Gwendoline House in Hinckley, Leicestershire.

The café – to be opened later this summer – will provide a friendly meeting place for the many people who use the centre as a “One Stop Shop” for help and support, including a young parents’ group, arts and crafts and fun days.

Tanya Hutchinson, National Grid co-ordinator, said: “This was the first time that this group of staff have ever done a volunteering challenge, and it’s been a great one. We found it really rewarding and have a huge sense of achievement in making a positive difference to the local community in which many of us live and work.”

Katharine Lightbown, of Leicestershire Cares, added: “We’d like to say a huge thank you to the National Grid team for all their hard work and sterling efforts. They’ve done a great job and having the gardens looking neat and tidy means so much to everyone who uses them.”

Gwendoline Community House was developed through the Hinckley and Bosworth Crime and Disorder Partnership and opened in 2004. It is located in an area of multiple deprivation.

Councillor Chris Boothby, Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety said: "The Community House aims to work with local residents and young people, encouraging them to become involved in community projects. It is fantastic that National Grid has been able to support the Community House through its volunteering scheme and contribute to increasing the sense of pride in the area."

The house strengthens and supports people in the community, looking to improve the quality of their lives and others.

The project, linking National Grid and Gwendoline House, was organised by Leicestershire Cares.

Leicestershire Cares brings local businesses and communities together, for the benefit of all, through employee volunteering.

Leicestershire-based companies who are interested in participating in future Team Challenges should contact Leicestershire Cares on 0116 275 6469.



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Notes for editors

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- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

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Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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