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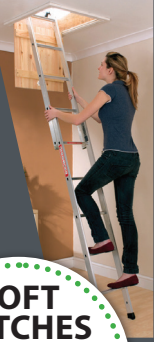
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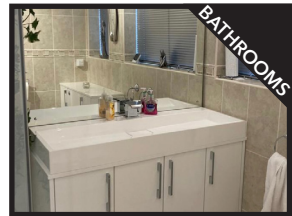
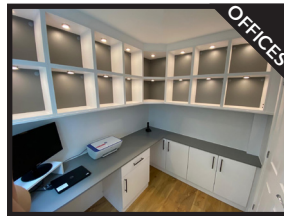
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Preparation Work Begins for New Hospital Unit

Local residents will have noticed that work has started on the new £10.5m day care unit at the Hinckley and District Hospital.

Back on 13 December the Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLRICB) said that visitors would see preparation work for the new facility begin *“in the coming weeks.”*

Asbestos will be removed from an existing building ahead of its demolition.

A new building will be created at the Mount Road site in its place to deliver a wider range of clinical specialities than currently available at the hospital.

This will include breast care, general surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, pain management, plastic surgery, podiatric surgery, renal access surgery, urology and vascular surgery.

Work to remove asbestos is expected to take place until March 2025, while a planning application for the government-funded scheme is drawn up by LLR ICB.

Chief strategy officer Sarah Prema said the facility would be *“a modern, fit-for-purpose day case unit for the local population, allowing care to be delivered closer to home”*.

The new facility follows the creation of a community diagnostic centre at Hinckley



hospital.

Bill Cullen, chief executive of planning authority Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, said: *“We welcome the continued positive work with our NHS colleagues to ensure investment in new health facilities in Hinckley for the benefit of residents in the borough.”*

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We have seen an increase in interest for holidays to Australasia, Canada, Japan and South America and our specialist travel partners that we use have in-depth knowledge in these areas. Holiday Lounge also offer Exclusive departures to various destinations including Majorca, Cyprus, Jersey and Lapland for the Northern Lights, and New for 2025 specialising in Weddings in Cyprus at the 4* Athena Beach Hotel in Paphos

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Launch of Hinckley BID's Support Sofa

Hinckley BID Launched a Support Sofa at the Britannia Centre for people to be able to visit in the town throughout January.

Monday the 13th of January marked the first Hinckley Bid Community Partnership event in Hinckley Town centre.

The support sofa is located in a dry, sheltered area near the entrance of the Britannia centre. Throughout the month, many local professionals are available to offer help and advise to anyone who needs a little or a lot of support and guidance.

The first day has already been a remarkable success! We have seen professional support from the Falcon Support Services giving homelessness advice, Racheal from Vita Health Group for mental health support, talking therapy and coping strategies as well as the Go Learn team highlighting this year's courses running in Hinckley from the Library and other local venues.

The police also popped along throughout the day whilst patrolling the town and The Active team from HBBC were on the sofa to talk health and fitness and a year of activities people can get involved with.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the public about how convenient it is to have a project running like this in the town centre that people can access whether visiting, shopping, or working in the town and to also see what support is available locally.

The support sofa is offering free, confidential support and guidance on a variety of topics including health and wellbeing, financial guidance,



family support, social support, household support and training courses. Support partners from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, local charities and the County Council will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am-2pm until February 1st. Support banners will be available throughout the Britannia Centre 7 days a week. Come along and chat with experts who can help you with your specific needs.

Also, the support sofa sees the launch of the new Hinckley BID digital loyalty card for new members who can gain access to over fifty offers from the town centre businesses every month. Users will also get entered into the monthly prize draw automatically. All you have to do is visit the sofa, scan the QR code and fill in your details and apply for yours.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Britannia Centre for letting us host this event all month and to all those teams of professionals giving support and visiting throughout the whole of January offering help, guidance, advise and support.



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Age Concern on Hand to Help with Winter Pension Credit

Recent figures show that 6,500 Leicestershire residents are at risk of missing out on pension credit this winter.

More pensioners are getting support to claim it, helping them to stay warm and well, due to a new partnership between Leicestershire County Council and Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland.

The council is using a slice of its Government-funded Household Support Fund to help Age UK so they can help more people check if they're eligible for Government support and complete the application process.

The charity has been over-subscribed with requests this year and the move is supporting them to deal with the surge in calls.

Recent figures show over half of those that qualify are at risk of missing out on pension credit.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, acting leader of Leicestershire County Council, said:



“Navigating the application process for pension credit is not straightforward. And with colder weather kicking in, we want to help as many pensioners as possible to have that money in the bank.

“Inflation may be reducing but cost of living increases remain baked in. And pension credit unlocks help with NHS costs, TV licence and Council Tax, which can make a big difference if you're struggling to pay bills.

“A small amount of cash can make a big difference and means Age UK can bolster their face-to-face support, which we know many older people value.”



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Making a Difference in

A number of individuals and groups from Hinckley were among the volunteers making a difference to the lives of others in the area recognised at a special event held at Hinckley Rugby Club.

The Making a Difference awards held annually by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council recognise and celebrate the contribution that volunteers make in strengthening the community and improving the quality of the life for residents.

Among the awards given out by Deputy Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, Councillor Richard Flemming, were:

Awards for Creating a sense of Community (Individuals) was made to:

Daniel Hope (for founding Hinckley Pride and in recognition for his impactful work in supporting the LGBTQ+ community local)

Deborah & Mark Walker (for setting up Wykin Animal Foodbank)

Heather Luckman (for supporting residents by walking with them and undertaking other voluntary work for Marie Curie Cancer Care and playing tennis with youngsters in Hinckley)

Joseph Thompson (from We Care UK in Hinckley)

Joshua Bates (Joshua was born prematurely at 23 weeks and is blind, autistic and has epilepsy. Two years ago, Joshua learned how to use a sewing machine and now makes hair scrunchies which he sells for £1 each to make money for charity, raising nearly £2,000)

Kelly Allen (along with her husband AJ, are huge supporters of the trans and LGBTQ+ community within the borough. Formerly part of Hinckley Pride and more recently forming a transgender support group)

Kirsty Smewing (is dedicated to supporting people to move from being homeless, assisting them to set up their new home)

Lynne Findley (is the 'Personal Wellbeing Support' Volunteer for the MS Society Hinckley and District Group supporting local people living with Multiple Sclerosis)

Rose Blayney (is a local fundraiser for Help for Heroes. Now over 80 years old now, she still sells



jams, marmalades and other delicacies and has raised £5,000 to date)

Sonja Hewitt (created Hope for Homeless in Hinckley over 30 years ago, helped thousands of homeless people and families in Hinckley and the surrounding area)

Stephen Beamish (has made a significant impact in the Hinckley community through his involvement with the community bowls club and the cricket club. Supporting older adults seeking companionship to energetic toddlers learning the basics of the games)

Awards for Creating a sense of community (groups):

Dawn and John Jeffery, Friends of Hollycroft Park (the husband-and-wife team organise a lot of entertainment at the park, and Dawn started the community café)

Green Towers Hinckley Club for Young People (the club welcomes around 1,000 young people each week, hosting events and activities for people of all ages)

Hinckley Mencap (self-funded and volunteer led, they hold clubs for adults with learning difficulties, including arts, crafts, sports and theatre outings)

Hinckley



Awards for Young Volunteers (individuals):

Jessica Harris (volunteers at Green Towers youth club facility in Hinckley, every Thursday and Friday for three hours each night and gives up the whole of her summer and Easter to help prepare the food for Summer and Easter club)

Joshua Bates also won an award Creating a sense of Community (Individuals)

Oscar Stoddart (for his all-round volunteering attributes to his local community i.e. Community Café and supporting other youngsters)

Awards for Young Volunteers (groups):

Green Towers Young Volunteers (Many of the volunteers have gone from being children to use the clubs to young adults to help run it, and their work is vital)

Award for 50 Years of volunteering – a new category for 2024 which aligns to the Borough Council's 50th anniversary (group and individual)

Multiple Sclerosis Hinckley & District Group (the group is 56 years old and offers friendship, support and information to young locals living with MS)

Stewart Woodward, Hinckley Sea Cadet Corps (Stewart has been instrumental to the success of the unit for the past 58 years and has held a variety of roles at unit level and in the wider Leicestershire District and Eastern area)

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Classical Concert to Support Homelessness in Hinckley

Music lovers in Hinckley can enjoy a magical evening of music this Saturday, while supporting local homelessness charity Emmaus.

The renowned Nova Orchestra Classica will perform at St Mary's Church in Hinckley on Saturday, 1 February as part of a special fundraising concert.

Tickets are available at the door for £10 or £7 for concessions with the event beginning at 7.30pm. The concert will raise funds for Emmaus, which supports up to 16 people by providing a home, support, training and work opportunities to help rebuild their lives.

This the second consecutive year the Nova Orchestra Classica has performed in support of Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland, following a



successful fundraising concert last year.

This year's programme promises an unforgettable evening of classical masterpieces, including Schubert's Symphony No. 8 The Unfinished, Haydn's Trumpet Concerto featuring soloist Paul Jones, and Beethoven's iconic

Symphony No. 5.

Dawn Wright, director of Emmaus Leicestershire & Rutland, said: "We're extremely grateful to the Nova Orchestra Classica for once again hosting this special event in support of our charity.

"It promises to be a fantastic evening of music and we hope local people will join us to enjoy the performance and show their support.

"Every ticket sold helps us continue our vital work with those who have experienced homelessness."



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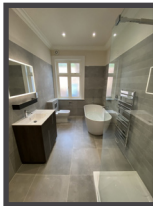
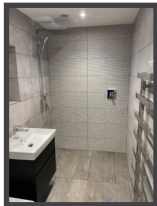
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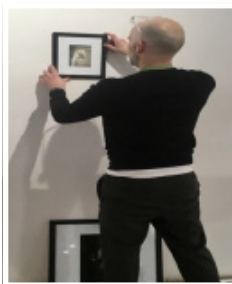
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Students Showcase Artistic Talent in Hinckley

People have until the end of this week to enjoy a free-to-enter exhibition in Hinckley, showcasing the work of talented artists from a local college.



Students from creative courses at North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College's Hinckley campus will have their work displayed at the Atkins Gallery until Friday 31 January.

Visitors will have the chance to choose their favourite artwork. They can scan a QR code on their device to submit a vote online or leave a physical vote in the comment book. The three students responsible for the artworks with the most votes will win prizes for their creations.

Next month, the college's creative arts teaching team will run a 'Collaboration' themed exhibition to showcase the creative arts facilities available at the Hinckley campus. This will run from Monday 10 February to Friday 21 February.

Cllr Mark Bools, Deputy Leader of the Borough Council, said: "These promise to be two fantastic exhibitions by both students and staff. The College has such a fantastic range of talent and I urge people to go and see the creativity on display at both exhibitions."

Carrie-Anne Abdulai, Assistant Principal at

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, said: "We are incredibly proud of the talent and hard work of our students and staff.

"These exhibitions are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their creativity and provide a glimpse into the vibrant student life at our Hinckley campus. I encourage everyone to visit the gallery and experience the incredible artwork on display."

The Atkins Gallery, on Lower Bond Street in Hinckley, is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. The exhibitions are free to enter for all. Look out for additional evening and weekend viewings on the Atkins Building website and social media @AtkinsBuilding.

A series of open events will be held in February for students looking to discover more about studying at NWSLC. To register, visit their open events webpage (nwslc.ac.uk)

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Vital Work to Holliers Walk

Important work gets underway this month in Hinckley to upgrade the Hollier's Walk junction near the town centre.

The vital works were set to begin on 20 January.

Leicestershire County Council will be carrying out the work for approximately 13 weeks and will improve pedestrian connectivity at the junction of Derby Road, New Buildings, Leicester Road and Hollier's Walk, modernising the 20-year-old signalling equipment and helping to improve traffic flow.

The work will include an upgrade to the junction's design, to allow for safer traffic and pedestrian movement. The junction's road surface will also be renewed and energy efficient LED traffic signal heads will be installed.

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for highways said: *"Hinckley is a busy, thriving town in Leicestershire and these upgrades to Hollier's Walk will help keep traffic moving for both motorists and pedestrians.*

"Investing in our road network is a key priority for the council and ensuring that equipment is up to date keeps us fit for the future."

Once completed, the scheme will help to reduce journey and waiting times and improve junction capacity by adding smart crossing and traffic detection technology, widened footway areas for pedestrians and cycle stands.

To ensure safety and efficiency, some road closures and multi-way temporary traffic signals will be necessary to complete the work.



Disruption will be minimised for road users whenever possible and advance notification and diversion signs will be in place.

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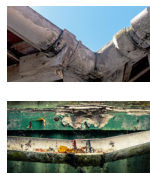
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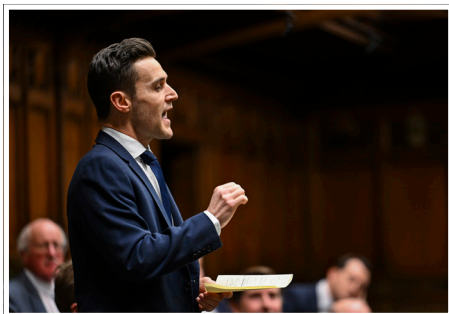


Dr Luke's Campaign Success: Securing a re-commitment to funding for Leicester's hospitals

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth and Shadow Health Minister, said *"I am pleased and relieved to see that our campaign for the Government to re-commit to funding for Leicester's two new hospitals has been successful."*

"This much-needed funding means our NHS can now continue to move forward with work for two new hospitals, a midwifery-led unit and multi-storey car park – which will be revolutionary for patients and staff across our area!"

"Everyone who has been around the Leicester Royal, Glenfield or Leicester General hospitals will know how difficult it is and how much work they need. I'm thrilled that the Government has listened to our community



who came together to call for this! While it is now looking like 2030-2035, at least our local NHS can now plan towards this timeline, even if it has been delayed by the Government's review."



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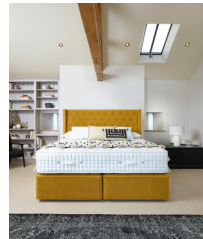
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