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New Hospital School in Hinckley

A new school has opened in Hinckley which helps young people return to their mainstream school.

The Children's Hospital School has launched The Phoenix Learning Centre at the Atkins Building.

The centre offers 12-week placements for young people aged 11-16 who have been unable to attend school for health reasons, mostly anxiety and other mental health conditions.

Children who are inpatients at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and the Beacon Adolescent Inpatient Unit at Glenfield Hospital are also taught by the school.

The new base has been established because of increasing referral numbers in the area. It means children referred in Hinckley and Bosworth will no longer have to travel to Leicester for their education.

It improves students' chances of successfully reintegrating back to their school if they remain in their community. A base in Hinckley also reduces travel times, costs and associated impacts on the environment.

Stephen Deadman, Executive Headteacher at The Children's Hospital School, said: "We are delighted to open a new learning centre within the Atkins Building to support those from the local area who are unable to attend their school due to physical and / or mental health



issues.

"The Children's Hospital School has supported young people from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for many years and having a centre locally means that students are able to remain within their community which we know increases a successful transition back into school.

"We are grateful for the welcome we have received and look forward to seeing the Phoenix Learning Centre grow over the coming years."

Cllr Mark Bools, Deputy Leader of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, said: "The Phoenix Learning Centre will be of great benefit to children across Hinckley and Bosworth as they work towards getting back into their regular school."



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Top Tips for Children's Winter Wellness

The cold winter months are now well and truly upon us - the time of year when our little ones become ever more susceptible to seasonal bugs and illness.

To help parents and carers keep their kids healthy in the winter months the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has put together its top winter wellness tips:

- 1. Make sure you have self-care essentials at home: We'd recommend: a thermometer, plasters, child-friendly paracetamol and ibuprofen, antiseptic cream, an ice-pack and antihistamines. Store medicines in a cool, dry, lockable cabinet, out of reach of children and always check the dates on medicines.
- 2. Know where is best to get help: There are lots of places you can get help for illness and injury locally. For minor ailments you can treat at home, check out the advice on the winter wellness hubs or the NHS website.

If you need more support for illnesses such as bad coughs and colds, earache and diarrhoea, you can speak to your local pharmacist. If your child is ill and symptoms don't improve with home treatment - or you are worried, contact your GP. If you need advice from a health visitor or school nurse, The Healthy Together Helpline can be reached on 0300 300 3001. Calls are answered from 9am - 4.30pm on weekdays, excluding bank holidays. If you need help

with an urgent medical problem, contact NHS 111. If there is an emergency go straight to A&E and call 999 if a life is in danger.

3. Get their jabs: Ensuring your child is up to date with immunisations helps to protect them against illnesses such as measles, meningitis, whooping cough, RSV and flu. Vaccines can be given in specialist clinics, at GP practices or in school. The School Aged Immunisation Service is currently offering all children and young people in primary, secondary and special schools a free flu vaccine - details will be sent to parents and carers through your child's school. For more information about local vaccination go to: https://leicesterleicestershireandrutland.icb. nhs.uk/your-health/vaccinations/

It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection, but if you or your child have missed a vaccine, contact your GP to catch up.

- 4. Keep hands clean and bin tissues: Regular hand washing and using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes helps to prevent the spread of germs. Make sure tissues are binned after use.
- 5. Practice healthy lifestyle habits: Eating a balanced diet, taking part in regular exercise, and getting sufficient sleep are the best ways to keep all the family healthy.











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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 Governmentfunded 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 our Village Communities



A number of individuals and organisations from Burbage, Earl Shilton, Barwell and Stoke Golding were among volunteers making a difference to the lives of other people in Hinckley and Bosworth 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 presented by Deputy Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, Councillor Richard Flemming, were:

Awards for Creating a sense of Community (Individuals):

Alan Dayman (for his litter picking around Burbage. Alan has a heart of gold and a desire to keep his beautiful village in pristine condition, an unsung hero)

Andy Pierce (awarded for creating The Pierce Perspective, a charity, operating from Burbage, dedicated to enhancing mental wellbeing)

John Ashford (Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Tom Eatough Court, Earl Shilton) Awards for Creating a sense of community (groups):

Burbage Patient Participation Group (a group of volunteers at Burbage Surgery who help improve liaison with patients)

Stoke Golding Community Facebook Page (providing information and support to Stoke Golding residents)

Awards for Protecting, Supporting and Improving our Environment (groups):

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan Committee (The Neighbourhood Plan advisory committee have worked tirelessly over the last few years to make the Neighbourhood plan. It has taken many, many hours of hard work and dedication to produce the plan to help shape the village as the community wishes)

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

Barwell Church Lads and Girls Brigade (run by Vaughan Cooper and Barbara Davies for over 50 years. A place where children learn to mingle, play games, learn an instrument, and have fun)





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New State-of-the-Art Medical Facility in

Barwell

A new medical centre capable of treating thousands more patients has opened its doors in Barwell.

The new two-storey building will offer expanded services, including minor surgery, mental health support and physiotherapy.

The £3.6 million development includes 12 consulting rooms, 52 car parking spaces and six cycle racks for visitors.

The building, located off the

High Street, replaces the former Jersey Way centre.

Dr Mark Findlay, GP Partner at Barwell and Hollycroft Medical Centres, said: "After 17 years of planning, we are thrilled to move into our new centre, through which we can now provide our patients and staff with the space and resources they deserve.

"We are located much closer to the local pharmacy, we're on a bus route, and we have ample parking."

The development required demolishing an unused brownfield site that previously housed a vehicle workshop and warehouse, contractors confirmed.

Adrian Grocock, Group Managing Director at contractors G F Tomlinson, said: "To deliver this contemporary medical facility, which will significantly enhance access to vital healthcare services for the Barwell community, has been an honour.

"With our extensive experience in healthcare schemes, we understand the crucial role such facilities play in improving lives. Seeing this project come to fruition is a proud moment for our team."

The project team worked with local schools and



supported LOROS Hospice through community initiatives during construction, they added.



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Meetings for the month ahead

Council meetings are usually held on Mondays at Burbage Millennium Hall and members of the public are welcome to attend. Agendas are published three working days ahead of each meeting and can be viewed on the Council website. At the time of printing, the following meetings, starting at 6.30pm unless otherwise indicated, were scheduled

- Planning Committee -January 27, February 10
- Administration & Finance
 Committee January 20, February 17
- Environment February 3

Contact us ...

The parish office, at Millennium Hall on Britannia Road, is usually open from 9am to midday, Monday to Friday.

The best way to make contact is to email **info@burbageparishcouncil. gov.uk** or to call **01455 637533.**

Follow us ...

For more news, updates, and links to useful sites, please visit:

www.burbageparishcouncil.gov.uk

Burbage Parish Council

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Burbage Parish

Making a Difference

Burbage volunteers have been recognised for their contribution to the community through the Borough Council's 2024 Making A Difference Awards. Litter picker **Alan Dayman**, The Pierce Perspective charity founder **Andy Pierce** and members of **Burbage Patient Participation Group** received awards at a special ceremony from the Deputy Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth, Burbage Parish Councillor Richard Flemming.

Neighbourhood Plan survey

Time is running out for the chance to help review Burbage Neighbourhood Plan and shape the way you would like to see the parish develop in the next 20 years. An **online survey** can be found on the Parish Council website or by scanning the QR code here.



Carols collection appeal boost

A collection held at Burbage Carols Round the Tree on December 20 raised just over £1,000, with half to be shared between the Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth's chosen charities - **Twycross Zoo, Hinckley Homeless Group** and **Alzheimer's Society** – and the other half put towards St Catherine's Church **Save Our Spire** appeal.

Community Pet Foodbank

Community Pet Foodbank pop-up shop will be at Millennium Hall on **Wednesday February 12 from 2pm**. To find out more or to donate food or funds please call **07526 083947**.

A Helping Hand

Burbage Helping Hand pop-up shop will be at Millennium Hall on **Wednesday February 19 from 1.45pm**. To donate food or funds, please call Teresa on **07785 246086**.

Farmers' Market

The first Burbage Farmers' Market of the year will be held on **Saturday February 1** on Burbage Methodist Church car park on Windsor Street and will have a Valentine's theme.

Council Newsletter January 2025

Parish precept confirmed for 2025-26

The Parish Council has approved an annual increase of £2.25 on the Parish precept for a Band D property - that's 2.9% - for the Council Tax year 2025-26.

It will mean that, from April 1, households of Band D properties will be charged £79.84 as the parish share of their annual Council Tax bill, with the cost to households of all other bands across the parish increasing by the same percentage.

The precept will generate £486.265 to help the Council continue to provide and improve facilities and services such as community buildings, public open spaces, recreation arounds and sports pitches.

Despite continuing cost increases to the parish, the tax increase is lower than last year's. Fees charged for the use of Council facilities, including Burbage Cemetery and allotments. will go up on average by 2%, compared with last year's 6% rise.

The Council's Principal Officer & Responsible Financial Officer Juliet Perry said: "The aim of the Parish Council is to continue to deliver a high level of services and facilities as well as move forward with improvements, initiatives and new facilities within the parish."

The parish precept forms just one part of the Council Tax bill received by every household. The bill also includes charges from Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police.

Tributes paid to founding Parish Councillor

Parish Councillors and Council staff have been deeply saddened by the death earlier this month of Parish Councillor Mrs Ann Hall.

Cllr Hall and her husband Peter, who died in January 2020, were founder members of the Parish Council when it re-formed in 1986. with Peter elected its first Chairman and Ann taking the chain of office in 1995.

As a Liberal Democrat, holding her seat for all but 4 years, she was most recently elected to serve Lash Hill ward in May 2023 and had been sitting on all the Council's main Committees as well as chairing its Allotments Working Party.



Cllr Hall also served as a Borough Councillor from 2007 to 2015, representing Burbage St Catherine's and Lash Hill ward.

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr David Bill, said: "The Parish Council has a particular reason to be grateful to Ann, as she and Peter were among the driving force which brought the Council into being in the first place.

"Their names are inscribed on the Chairman's chain of office but they were friends stretching back over 40 years."



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Public chooses Hollycroft Park, Hinckley as one of country's top 10

Park users across the country have once again voted for Hinckley's Hollycroft Park as one of their most impressive green spaces in the 2024 People's Choice Awards - a Top 10 park in the country.

Research shows that for parks to be able to contribute to improvements in health and wellbeing, they must be accessible, well-managed and maintained, and offer something for everyone within the community.

This year, Hollycroft Park was

one of 2,227 UK parks and green spaces which met the standard of the Green Flag Award, the international quality standard managed by Keep Britain Tidy which recognises and rewards wellmanaged parks and green spaces.

Now communities have revealed the park is among their top ten favourite Green Flag Award parks in the 2024 People's Choice Awards.

Cllr Lynda Hodgkins, the Borough Council's Executive Member for Street Scene Services, Parks and Open Spaces said: "The news that Hollycroft Park has for the third time been voted in the top 10 nationally is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make the park a great space that everyone can enjoy. I must also thank our fabulous team of volunteers 'Friends of Hollycroft Park, who are a tremendous support, we couldn't do it without them and finally thank the residents and visitors who have so obviously enjoyed visiting the park for voting."

Commenting on the results, Green Flag Award Manager Paul Todd MBE said: "Parks are a crucial part of this country's green infrastructure, providing free opportunities to access physical and mental health benefits even



in the most built-up urban environments.

"We believe everyone, wherever they live, should be able to access and enjoy safe, highquality green space, so to have achieved this recognition from the public is testament to the tireless work by the thousands of parks staff and volunteers up and down the country to make their parks and green spaces wonderful places everyone can benefit from.

"We'd like to congratulate to our worthy winners on their incredible achievement."

For more details about the awards and the winners, visit www.greenflagaward.org



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New Freight Rail Hub Details

Sapcote could see an improved pedestrian area, a widened footpath and a relocated bus stop after further details were revealed for the proposed £750m freight rail hub in Leicestershire.

Tritax Symmetry wants to build the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) on 662 acres (268 hectares) of farmland.

In September, the government said it was "minded to refuse" plans for the complex while extending a consultation on the project before making a final decision in March.

Tritax has now responded to the Department of Transport over concerns raised. .

The concerns included the potential impact on Sapcote of lorries travelling through the village, and possible issues at junctions on the M1 and M69 motorways.

Documents submitted on behalf of Tritax suggest a number of "enhancements" in Sapcote in addition to a previously mooted zebra crossing, including improvements to the pedestrian area outside the Co-op, footway widening and moving the bus stop from in front of the Co-op further



east along the B4669.

Other issues addressed by the documents include the potential impact on the Narborough level crossing.

Interested parties now have until 7 February to make further comments for consideration by Secretary of Transport Heidi Alexander.

If the scheme goes ahead, nine warehouses and a rail terminal will be built, as well as a new access road to the M69.

Tritax says it will create more than 8,000 jobs and will generate £24m a year in business rates.

However the proposed hub has proved controversial with South Leicestershire MP Alberto Costa and Hinckley and Bosworth MP Luke Evans claiming there was "overwhelming opposition" to the huge scheme.



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Hinckley & District Parkinson's Group

We are already well in to 2025, but looking back at the past year you may be wondering whether we are any closer to finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease?

Canadian Michael J. Fox is well known as a film actor – including the 'Back to the Future' series – but after being diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1991 he became determined to find a cure for the disease and in 2000 set up the Michael J. Fox Foundation in the USA to help fund research. His worsening symptoms [particularly memory loss and speech difficulties] meant that he effectively retired from acting in 2020, although last June he appeared on the Glastonbury stage playing the guitar with Coldplay!

In his end of year message about his Foundation he wrote of more funding than ever before going into research, with greater public awareness of the illness. The Foundation funded a record number of projects, with teams working hard to discover the biology behind Parkinson's to find the next discovery that may lead to a cure. Similar work is going on here in Britain through the Parkinson's UK organisation and a breakthrough is always possible at any time.

The Parkinson's Group at Hinckley continues to support those with Parkinson's locally as well as raising funds particularly to support the research work going on in the Leicester Universities. Regular meetings continue each month on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2.30 on February 9th at the Mary Forryan Centre {LE10 1LW}; 'Get Active' Tuesday exercises at 3.00 at the St. Francis Centre; 'Movement to Music' [2.30] and 'Singing for Fun'; [4.00] at Elmesthorpe Village Hall on Friday afternoons; Our Carers Group is on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the same time as the exercise class, and there's Bowling at Barwell on the 4th Wednesday, February 26th. If you want to come along to the informal tea and chat, with the closure of Dobbies at Stapleton, the venue for the next 'Drop In' at the time of going to press was uncertain, but members will



be circulated or they can ring Janet Kavanagh on 07932615233. Janet can also answer any other enquiries about the Group.

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Local Farms and Muddy Roads



Farming work is an important part of our rural economy in Leicestershire, but ongoing poor weather conditions, especially in the winter months, can make it difficult for farmers to avoid leaving trails of mud on roads.

Muddy roads can be difficult for road users, and the National Farmers' Union regularly provides advice on this issue to farmers directly.

They encourage the use of 'Slippery Road Surface' and 'Mud on Road' warning signs, cleaning vehicles before driving them on public routes, as well as including road sweeping and cleansing in their routine ploughing, spraying and harvesting operations.

Where required, district councils will cleanse muddy roads as part of their environmental duties.

The county council may provide additional warning signage for motorists when needed and may even serve notice to those who continually muddy roads as a last resort, as well as recovering expenses incurred, in line with the Highways Act 1980.



If you notice a muddy road which has not been cleansed in your area, please contact us via 'Report a road problem' online form or by email cscparishes@leics.gov.uk so that an assessment can be carried out.



Edition 364

Tips to Avoid Burst Pipes as Temperatures Drop

Severn Trent Water has issued advice to customers to help them avoid burst pipes as temperatures in the Midlands have plunged.



Kelsey Martin, water efficiency manager at Severn Trent, said: "Freezing conditions

followed by warmer weather can cause bursts.

"In cold weather, the water in your pipes can freeze and expand. It blocks them and can cause bursts including when they unfreeze in warmer conditions, causing damage to your home.

"But you can get prepared by spending a few minutes now going around your home and wrap up any pipes to protect them from the cold. Don't forget pipes in sheds, garages and outbuildings, plus any outside taps.

"Pipe lagging and tap jackets can be found at local hardware stores, they're easy to fit and could save you and your household a lot of hassle this winter.

"Finding where your stop tap is and knowing how to turn it on and off is also important in case you get a leak at home. They're usually found under the kitchen sink, downstairs toilet or utility room."

Top tips for protecting pipes:

Wrap all pipework, fittings and storage tanks in unheated areas of your home (such as lofts, roofs, outbuildings and garages) with insulation. It's best to use good quality waterproof foam lagging which can be found at your local DIY store, or at the moment, for free on the website at stwater. co.uk/savewater.

If you have outside taps, either insulate them or drain them down to the pipework that links to the tap. If you're concerned about your own DIY abilities, a registered plumber can check your household pipes to make sure they're properly lagged and fill in any gaps. Severn Trent supports watersafe.org.uk – a dedicated online search facility for qualified and approved plumbers, so you can get plumbing help from someone you can trust.

If you do have a problem with your water supply this winter, with either low pressure or no water coming out of your taps, first check to see if your neighbours are having similar trouble. If their water supply is normal it's likely that you'll need to call a plumber. If more than one household is affected then call the Severn Trent 24-hour emergency number to report the problem - 0800 783 4444.

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Twycross first Tiny Tot of 2025



The first baby of the year has arrived – at Twycross Zoo!

The much-loved Leicestershire tourist attraction has proudly announced its first new primate arrival of 2025 = a coppery titi monkey.

And the infant is a real daddy's kid – since its arrival it has been cared for by its father.

The species is native to South America's rainforests, particularly in Brazil, Peru and Colombia.

The coppery titi is named for its distinctive burnt-red, copper-hued fur.

Since the infant's arrival, it has been cared for by its father, who becomes the primary caregiver 48 hours after birth.

He will continue this role until it reaches around six months and can explore its enclosure on its own.

Twycross Zoo's Primate Curator, Matthew Ford, said: "We are thrilled to welcome a coppery titi monkey, born as part of our ongoing conservation efforts. "At the end of last year, the coppery titi monkeys moved into a newly renovated enclosure designed by our expert team of zookeepers include climbing structures, natural vegetation, and plenty of opportunities to encourage natural behaviours."





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