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# Hard Hitting Letter Presses Government for Flood Help

Councils across Leicestershire joined forces to press the Government to release cash to help flood-hit residents.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Leader, Stuart Bray, was one of the signatories of the letter.

The hard-hitting letter called for immediate cash to support those forced to leave their homes and urges a national flooding shake up.

The move came as the number of homes flooded on Monday 6 January hit 630 and continued to rise – surpassing numbers seen during Storm Henk 12 months ago.

The letter – sent to Minister for Water and Flooding, Emma Hardy MP - stressed the devastating impact on residents and businesses.

It said: *“This is the second year in a row where hundreds of residents are left homeless and local pubs, sports clubs and others do not know if they will be able to survive. Many are cleaning up after just getting on their feet after Storm Henk battered the area just 12 months ago. Residents sought shelter and support a in emergency rest centres, many with just the clothes they were wearing. It is a torrid situation.*

*“The right thing is for Government to release funding now and activate the Flood Recovery Framework to help them survive and get back to some kind of normality.”*

Emergency services, councils, NHS, voluntary agencies and worked round the clock to keep people safe and declared a major incident.

During the response Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services received 380 calls, rescued more than 60 people from properties and 27 from cars by boat.

Leicestershire Police handled over 2,100 calls - a 40 to 50 per cent rise on average daily demand and East Midlands Ambulance Service declared



a critical incident.

The letter also calls on Government to drive national changes, including help for homeowners to make properties more flood resilient, support for businesses to get insurance and a new national communications campaign.

It states: *“Our climate is changing and we need a new approach. We are seeing far more frequent events, causing greater impact and affecting areas never historically known to flood. National changes to funding and powers are required to help us better prevent and then react to flooding when it does occur.*

*“Flooding is one of the biggest threats to our communities and needs propelling to the top of the agenda. Government needs to step up and lead the conversation on how we collectively up our game in tackling flooding.”*

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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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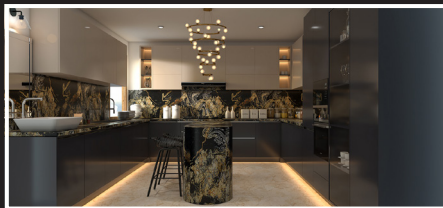
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# Carollers Sing Songs to Save Spire

A fundraising drive to raise a whopping £100,000 to support the future of St. Catherine's Church in Burbage has been given a boost – by Christmas carol singers!

A collection was held at Burbage Carols Round the Tree, which took place on December 20.

The collection raised just over £1,000. Half of that money is to be shared between the Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth's chosen charities - Twycross Zoo, Hinckley Homeless Group and Alzheimer's Society.

The other half is to be put towards St Catherine's Church Save Our Spire appeal for essential repair works to the spire, which is sinking into the ground.

Church leaders have been advised that the spire could fall in on itself as the brickwork holding up the steel girders is now beginning to crack.



Money is also being raised to invest in a glass partition that will allow the church to be used as a multi-functional space.



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# Hinckley and Bosworth MP slams Labour's decision to cut funding for church renovation scheme

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, has criticised the Government's decision to cut £19 million from the Listed Places of Worship



Scheme, which has been allocated an annual spend of £42m since it was launched in 2001 and has now been cut to a total allocation of £23m per annum.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport says the Scheme *'gives grants towards VAT paid on repairs and renovations to the UK's listed sites of worship, such as works to the foundations, masonry and monuments integral to the buildings.'* Dr Evans said *"a cut of 45% to the fund will have significant and lasting impact on local churches in need of repair."*

Funds have been used locally to support churches such as the Grade II-listed Church of St Mary the Virgin in Congerstone.

The Minister for Culture, Sir Chris Bryant MP, announced that the Scheme would be continuing for the 2025/26 financial year in a Westminster Hall debate at the end of January. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport had come under fire by Dr Evans and other MPs from across the House of Commons as the future of the Scheme and vital funding for around 20,000 listed cathedrals, churches and chapels across the United Kingdom was uncertain.

Dr Evans, who visited St Mary the Virgin in Congerstone and heard about how the church benefited from the Scheme, has criticised the Government's decision to only extend the Scheme for the next financial year, saying *"there is no sense of permanency here, it's distressing for churches and the communities that rely on them."*

Furthermore, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has now introduced a cap of £25,000 on the total amount that a listed place of worship can claim per year.

In an effort to explain the funding cut the Minister stated that of the £42m total allocated for the 2023/24 financial year, only £29m had been spent. However, analysis by independent researchers at the House of Commons Library shows that average spend for the Listed Places of Worship Scheme over the seven financial years from 2016/17 to 2022/23 has been over £31m per annum, with more than £34m spent on grants in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said *"When I was Shadow Minister in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport last year I raised concerns around the impact that delaying this announcement would have on listed places of worship and the many people and community groups that use their spaces and services."*

*"I am pleased the Government has finally agreed to extend the Scheme, however it is disappointing that funding for the scheme has been cut by £19m, a cap of £25,000 per Grant has been imposed and that the Government has neglected to give cathedrals, churches and chapels a long-term solution. I have raised these concerns with the Government and will push for answers for our community."*

Sir Chris Bryant MP, the Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism, responded to a debate in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 23rd January and said *"By tradition, a cathedral is not symmetrical because only God is perfect. I am sure this funding is not perfection in terms of what everybody would want, but I hope it is at least acceptable."*



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# Golf, Leisure and Health Spa for Market Bosworth

A mothballed golf course in Market Bosworth could become home to 126 holiday lodges and a spa.

Market Bosworth's Kyngs Golf and Country Club has been closed since 2016.

But Statue Homes has since gained permission for a new clubhouse, a 50-bed hotel and six lodges,

Now the company has asked Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for consent to build a "golf leisure and health spa" and a further 126 lodges at the site off Station Road.

The spa would include a swimming pool, hydrotherapy, training and ice plunge pools, saunas, treatment rooms, gym, dance studio, health and beauty shops and a "health bar".

The 126 holiday lodges would be "located at the upper northern reaches" of the course and accessed by electric buggies.

Planning documents submitted to the council



said the spa and holiday lodges will only be used by the members of the club, or people who are playing the course.

Nearly 30 people previously objected to the hotel plan, which was approved last year, with complaints including the golf course was not operational and that the town did not need a hotel.

Twenty-three people objected when two subterranean lodges were approved.

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# Run Talk Run in Barwell

Run Talk Run has launched in Barwell – an opportunity for people to meet up and have a chat and a run for the good of their physical and mental health.

Organisers said: *“Run Talk Run exists to make running a social way to de-stress and feel part of a welcoming community.”*

*“Whilst we chat we jog for 5km. We don’t care about speed or pace and nobody is ever left behind.”*

*“People of all levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to come along.”*

The Barwell Run Talk Run is held every Thursday evening, meeting at 5.45pm for 6pm at RB’s Coffee House, where bags can be dropped and refreshments will be available for purchase.

RB’s Coffee House is located at High Street, Barwell, LE9 8DS.



The Run Talk Run group is provided free by the Run Talk Run volunteers and is powered by the mental health charity Sport in Mind.

Organisers added: *“Don’t be nervous to join us. You are very welcome.”*

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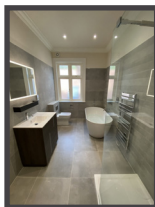
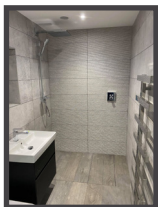
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# Earl Shilton Car Wash to Make Way for Homes

A car wash in Earl Shilton is to be demolished to make way for five new homes.

Plans have been approved for the demolition of the former petrol station in Station Road, currently home to both a hand car wash and car repair workshop.

Earl Shilton Town Council had objected to the scheme, raising concerns about possible overdevelopment on the site, as well as plans for waste bin storage.

However, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council planning officers said the site *“makes a negative contribution to the character of the area”*.

According to planning documents, the application by S&Y Motors was for outline permission, approving the access to the site from Station Road and the total number of homes that could be built, with a further application required to cement the full details.

But initial plans submitted show there would be four semi-detached homes at the front of the site and a bungalow at the back, with a parking area between them.



One resident supported the plans, saying noise from jet washes used on the premises was a *“constant nuisance”*.

They also claimed cars queue down the road to access the site - formerly a Murco petrol station - leading to frustrated drivers sounding their horns.

There had been two objections to the scheme, with people worried about loss of privacy for residents of neighbouring homes.

In a report, borough council officers said: *“It is considered that a suitably designed development of five dwellings can be accommodated on the site that complements and enhances the character of the area.”*

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# Roll up for Rainbows!



People in Leicestershire looking for a challenge for 2025 can take inspiration from Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.

The charity has launched some of its events for the year, which will all raise funds for babies, children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

From half-marathons to skydives, and abseils to It's a Knockout, all taking place in the local area, Rainbows has something for everyone.

Some of the scheduled events include the Leicestershire Half Marathon, where Rainbows has been announced as the 2025 charity partner; two skydives in Nottingham; It's a Knockout in Leicestershire; the Derby Abseil and the Loughborough Santa Run.

People can also take on a range of organised half marathons, such as the Great North Run, and raise money for Rainbows.

Claire Hoggan, Rainbows senior events officer said: *"January is a great time to sign up to an event and kick-start the new year."*

*"We have lots of fun events and challenges for the year and we think there is something for everyone."*

*"All money raised at our events goes to helping hundreds of families through their most difficult times whether that is at the hospice, in hospital or at home."*

To find out more, visit [www.rainbows.co.uk/events](http://www.rainbows.co.uk/events)

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# Britannia's Got Talent, hosted by Hinckley BID on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Sponsored by Keysound - the piano and keyboard specialist at Regent Street, and supported by Britannia Shopping Centre, Hinckley BID are pleased to present a day of live music with a piano in the mall of the Britannia Shopping Centre.

Local musician Pianocole will headline the event with a show stopping performance at 10.30am and throughout the day shoppers and visitors will be entertained by a variety of performances.

Hinckley BID is welcoming talented pianists to contact them if they would the opportunity to perform. For more info, please contact [info@hinckleybid.co.uk](mailto:info@hinckleybid.co.uk).



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# Battlefield Site Welcomes Back Visitors

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, which recently celebrated success at the awards at the Leicestershire Promotions Tourism and Hospitality Awards, has been welcoming visitors in 2025.

With the ten-year anniversary of the reinterment of Richard III taking place this year, visitors can find out more about the defeated king at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre.

The attraction was Highly Commended for the Bosworth Medieval Festival in the Best Event/ Festival with Paid Entry. It was also Commended in the Small Visitor Attraction category.

Long-time supporter of the site, Philippa Langley MBE, was also honoured at the event with an Outstanding Contribution to Tourism award.

Councillor Christine Radford, cabinet member for adults and communities, said: *"It is*



*wonderful to see all the hard work from the staff and volunteers at these popular locations recognised.*

*"It shows that our offering is up there with the very best attractions, venues, hospitality sites in Leicestershire. The day-to-day operations of all our council-run sites is no mean feat and I am very proud to see all of the hard work honoured."*

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# Boss Your Budget in 2025

Did you spend January looking at your depleted post- Christmas bank account and worrying about the year ahead financially? If so, February may be the perfect time to reassess your finances and explore ways to improve your financial wellbeing.

Here are some practical money-saving tips from local financial experts to help you make the most of your pennies.

**Create a budget** - It can be helpful to start by tracking your income and expenses. Use budgeting apps or simple spreadsheets to categorise spending and identify areas you can cut back. You can then allocate every single penny to a specific expense, from bills and rent to weekend treats. Revisit the budget as life circumstances and priorities change.

**Review subscriptions** - including streaming services, magazines, and apps. Cancel any that you don't use regularly or consider sharing subscriptions with family or friends.

**Set savings goals** - Establish clear savings goals. A target can motivate you to save more effectively, setting aside your savings at the start of each month, instead of waiting to see how much you have left over. Just £20 per month adds up to £240 at the end of the year – handy when Christmas looms.

**Review your mortgage options** - Consider reviewing your current rates and terms. By talking to a mortgage adviser or directly to your mortgage provider, you may find a product better suited to you.

**Educate yourself financially** - Take advantage of available resources and workshops. Learning more can equip you with the knowledge to make better financial decisions.



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# Can you Volunteer to Help Sapcote Memory Hub?

A not-for-profit organisation for people with mild to moderate dementia is looking for volunteers on Fridays, between 11am to 3pm.

A spokesperson said: *"Do you have any time free to join our wonderful group supporting people living with dementia? We'd love you to join us."*

The group provides cognitive stimulation therapy, activities and social interaction. It can also offer advice and support to the families of our members.

There are day clubs for people living with dementia or memory problems and they arrange activities and provide Cognitive Stimulation Therapy.

A men's group is also held on Thursdays.

A spokesperson said: *"It's amazing to be able to bring all these lovely gentlemen together for a*



*couple of hours."*

The Sapcote Memory Hub is based at Rugby House, on Hinckley Road, Sapcote. Tel: 07983 803896.

Groups are also held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information regarding volunteering on Fridays contact Kerry on 07961733519.

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# Can you Help Your Junior Football Club?

Junior football teams are thriving in our villages – and many are looking for new recruits - including clubs in Stoke Golding and Burbage.



FC Burbage is a great local club with over 500 children in more than 35 teams.

A spokesperson said: *“We sometimes struggle with capacity. Without the right amount of volunteers and coaches we can’t increase our capacity for more children to get involved.*

*“We always want to hear from new volunteer coaches who are the heart of grassroots football.”*

So, if you are passionate about football and looking to give back to the community then

volunteering for a club like FC Burbage is an incredibly rewarding experience.

They said: *At FC Burbage we’re all about community, inclusivity and nurturing talent.*

*“Your role will directly contribute to creating a supportive and enjoyable football experience for all.”*

You can contact FC Burbage via their Facebook page.

As well as FC Burbage, Stoke Golding FC Under 6s (current yr 1 children) are looking for more players to form an under 7 team for next season.

Organisers said: *“We are a friendly team who train on a Saturday morning at St Martin’s Academy, Stoke Golding CV13 6HY.”*

Anyone who is interested should contact [clarestokegoldingfc@gmail.com](mailto:clarestokegoldingfc@gmail.com) for further details.

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# Supporting Hinckley and Bosworth's army of volunteers and community groups

Here in Hinckley and Bosworth we are fortunate to have many local voluntary and community groups who do so much good in our local communities.

As local Councillor responsible for Voluntary Services it's always a pleasure to be able to meet with local volunteers and hear about the amazing work they do.

This week I attended the Annual Hinckley and Bosworth Voluntary Sector Forum at the St Francis Centre in Hinckley. It was good to speak to representatives from groups including Hinckley Museum, local Churches and Village Community groups all of whom were doing their bit to make our local communities better.

Last week I attended the Hinckley and Bosworth Learning Difficulties Friendship Group. A group chaired by a local woman Dawn Shepherd that gives people with learning difficulties the chance to have their say on making our community a better place. It was good to hear their ideas and concerns about making local streets safer and more accessible.

One of the highlights of the last year was in November announcing the awards at the Hinckley and Bosworth Making A Difference awards held at Hinckley Rugby club. This saw over 30 local community groups and volunteers receive awards for the tremendous work they do locally. Reading out the details of what the winners did to support our community gave me a real understanding of how much good work happens locally. These included people who had litter picked their local village for decades, people who offered a supportive group for people with mental health difficulties, people who had run local sporting groups for years and many



more.

Being able to visit numerous local community organisations whether it's local Church groups, Pet Food Banks, groups campaigning on health issues, local coffee mornings and Warm Welcomes, local village groups and many others is always a highlight of the day.

Here in Hinckley and Bosworth 100s of people volunteer and they all make our community a much better place thanks to their dedication and commitment.

Attached photo announcing the winners of making a difference awards

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