Monday 17th February 2025 - Edition 366

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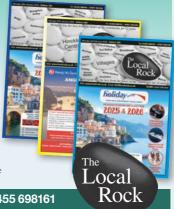
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Dog Adoption Information Morning at Leicester

Animal Aid

A local cat and dog rehoming charity is holding a special event where potential adopters can find out more about the process and see residents looking for forever homes.

Leicester Animal Aid will be holding the Dog Adoption information morning at its Centre, in Huncote, on Saturday 29th March from 10am to 11.30am.

This event will take place in the Charity's newly refurbished training barn where visitors will be able to see the dogs in a fun, informal setting where they can exhibit their natural behaviours and put their best paw forward. Information and advice from qualified, well-informed staff will be available.

At the event, those who wish to take the next step can register their interest in their preferred dog. However, anyone who thinks they may like to adopt a dog now or in the future is welcome.

If you would like to attend this free event, you can contact the Centre or complete an online



booking form through L.A.A.'s website www. leicesteranimalaid.org.uk/events



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Detectorist Unearths Roman Coins in Sapcote

A metal detectorist from Sapcote has unearthed a haul of 50 Roman coins expected to fetch between £1,200 and £1,500 at auction!

David Dunn, 42, made the discovery on 19 July 2023 when he decided to revisit the field near his home in Sapcote.

He said: "something told" him to go to the field, which he had visited "numerous times" and after his metal detector picked up a faint signal, he found two Roman coins in the same hole.

Mr Dunn, who has been metal detecting for two years, said he went to get the farmer and dug a further two feet (61cm) down where they found 50 coins.



Mr Dunn said: "Many of the coins that I found were in really good condition with perfect portraits – it was a once-in-a-lifetime find."

Mr Dunn took the coins in a briefcase to his local





finds officer, who spent a year offering them to various museums, which did not wish to claim them.

The Antoninianus coins will now be sold in one lot at Noonans Mayfair on 18 February in a sale of British and ancient coins.

Mr Dunn added: "The money doesn't interest me - just finding history is what I love.

"The farmer has had a rough few years since Covid so I'd like to give him the majority of the money if it can help in any way."

Noonans coin expert Alice Cullen said: "The Antoninianus was a coin used during the Roman Empire thought to have been valued at two denarii.

"This hoard dates from the reigns of Carausius who usurped power in 286 after the Carausian Revolt, and declared himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul."



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Sporting Heroes from Burbage and Barwell Honoured

Martial arts practitioners in Burbage and a volunteer at a Barwell football club were among those honoured at the recent Hinckley & Bosworth Active Awards, celebrating local sporting heroes at a ceremony at Hinckley Rugby Club.

The awards, which recognise the impact that sport and keeping active can make to the lives of residents across the borough, were presented by Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Bools.

Special guest Vikki Macqueen BEM was also on stage throughout the night to celebrate the winners. Macqueen is a former Saracens, Lichfield and England rugby player and founder of Didi Rugby.

Among this year's award winners were: Junior Club of the Year: Burbage Taekwondo Academy

In the last year, the academy successfully raised money for eight students to go to the Taekwondo World Championships in Uzbekistan. They were the only UK representatives among 1,200 competitors from 34 countries. Instructors Miss Lyn Talbott and Mrs Maxine Higginson were instrumental in securing sponsorship for the trip.

This award gives special mention to Master Wayne Higginson, a former Taekwondo World Champion who is committed to sharing his expertise and inspiring the next generation of martial artists.

Volunteer of the Year: Rebecca Preston Rebecca started out at AFC Barwell as a parent and spectator but now volunteers as club secretary, helping the club win Leicestershire and Rutland County FA Football Club of the Year 2024

As secretary, Rebecca liaises between the club's 21 teams and the leagues they compete in. She has also helped to arrange the club's

annual children's Christmas party, decorated the clubhouse and taken on kitchen duties.

Rebecca's dedication and impact extends beyond playing sports. Without volunteers like Rebecca working hard behind the scenes, a lot of clubs would not exist.

Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Bools said: "I would like to congratulate all nominees and the individual award winners. Yet again, judges have had the most difficult task picking winners in each category. The sheer number of worthy nominees is inspirational.

"It is vital that we recognise those individuals across the borough who go above and beyond. Keeping active and helping others to do the same and pursue dreams or even just take up a new hobby for physical and mental health should be celebrated and from the stories I have heard tonight we have a wealth of experience and talent in Hinckley and Bosworth - they all deserve our warmest congratulations and appreciation."



We're opening our doors for Let's Dance! LET'S GET MOVIE

We are excited to announce that we are joining the Let's Dance Campaign!

This is a fantastic nationwide initiative spearheaded by Angela Rippon to bring people together through dance.

We invite you to join Dance with Hollie for an Open Day!

Since I started the Silver Swans adult ballet classes in 2021, I now have added low impact tap, Ballet Pilates (ballet 'on the ball') and Dance-sit to the timetable.

Classes are weekday mornings and are in a fun, supportive and encouraging environment, following safe dance practice.

Dance is a great way to build muscular and bone strength, improve balance, coordination, memory, cognitive function, flexibility and endurance. The social side of dance is a great way to meet new people, as we do meet up outside of the classes and do events that bring us together. I am a firm

believer



that dance is for anyone, there is no age barrier!

Dance with Hollie classes have something for everyone, from Silver Swans Ballet and low impact tap, to floor based exercise to seated dance.

All classes are free to try so you can find your right dance fit, try something new, get back to something you once loved or just find a new way to get active and keep moving!

With the support from Let's Get Moving and the Let's Dance Campaign, come and visit me on my Open day on the 2nd March at Evergreen Hall Sharnford, see my new branding, discuss why dance is important and have a natter - It would be lovely to see you.



MOVING



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Bring Back Beavers to Combat Flooding!

Recent floods in Leicestershire prompted a fascinating suggestion for a possible solution – bringing back beavers!

Alberto Costa MP, who represents South Leicestershire, claims dams built by the creatures "help reduce water flow and flood risk"

His comments came after hundreds of homes were flooded and a major incident declared in Leicestershire early in January.

Costa said the reintroduction of beavers would need to be done in collaboration with local farmers to ensure risk to land is minimised.

Ben Devine, head of nature recovery at Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, said beavers were once widespread across the country and "played a crucial role in our wetland landscapes until they were hunted to extinction in the 16th Century".

He called them "nature's finest wetland engineers" and said they helped "create habitats that benefit other wildlife".

Mr Devine added: "Research by the University of Exeter and Devon Wildlife Trust based on a



ten-year study of wild-living beavers in Devon shows that the animals are having a positive impact on flood and drought alleviation.

"The Wildlife Trusts are committed to working with communities and authorities at catchment scale ensuring robust feasibility and consultation to support successful wild beaver releases across England and Wales."

A government spokesperson said: "Flooding this winter has shown there is much more work needed to be done to protect communities from the devastating impact it leaves behind.

"We are working with Natural England to review options on species reintroduction, including beavers."

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Work and Pensions Minister unaware of Labour's changes to Inheritance Tax on pensions

When quizzed about forthcoming changes to Inheritance Tax on pension contributions, Labour's Work and Pensions Minister, Sir Stephen Timms MP, said he "wasn't sure" what the Conservative MP "was referring to."

Rachel Reeves announced in the Autumn Budget that, from April 2027, pensions would be taxable under changes to Inheritance Tax.

Currently, if you die aged 75 or over your loved ones will pay tax on your pension at their personal income tax rate. Under the Government's new plans people will pay a 40% tax on their pensions above the threshold.

According to official data from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), 153,000 estates will be subject to the tax once Labour's new rules are in place. Government estimates suggest the change will raise almost £1.5 billion by 2030.

In a debate on the Social Security Up-rating Order, an annual statutory instrument which cements uplifts to State Pension in line with the Triple Lock, Conservative MP Dr Luke Evans raised the looming IHT changes. "The new Government are making changes to inheritance tax and where pensions fall," he said "but much of the public do not realise that that will have big implications for them as their pensions will be subject to tax and inheritance tax."

The Leicestershire MP then asked if the Government would "consider a campaign to let people know that that change is coming."

In response Sir Stephen Timms, Social Security Minister since July 2024, said "I am not quite sure what change the Hon. Gentleman is referring to."

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said "The simple fact that a Pensions Minister isn't sure of what



the changes are shows why the Government needs to do more to let people know about this change and how it would impact them.

"Pensions are notoriously confusing, and we've seen, particularly with many of the comments made by WASPI campaigners, that people don't always understand what impact these changes have on their future finances.

"The Minister said in his response that communication and planning is key, I hope the Government will do more to raise awareness around how much of an impact their death tax will have."

Mel Stride MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, said "Labour's own Ministers don't know what was in their Budget, but Britain's pensioners certainly do.

"Labour have already snatched away pensioners' winter fuel payments. Now some are faced with difficult decisions around legacy planning and could end up being taxed twice. Many may not even know this change is coming.

"Under new leadership, the Conservatives will ensure pensioners are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."



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Students Secure Special Glasses for Special

Players

Young footballers with visual impairment in Nuneaton can now play the game with special sports glasses – thanks to a group of talented students.

The Level 5 HND Social and Community Work students from North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College successfully completed a pioneering project to supply specialist spectacles for young people with vision impairments who play sport.

This innovative initiative, to develop a professional presentation aimed at improving access to football for visually impaired athletes, involved a collaboration with Level 4 Graphic Design students and Weddington Football Club.

The students raised awareness about the difficulties faced by young athletes who cannot wear traditional glasses while playing sport, which often means they miss out on opportunities to showcase their talent to scouts.

With support from Community and Voluntary Action Nuneaton and Bedworth, known as (CAVA), and funding through a Warwickshire County Council grant from Councillor Robert Tromans, the students have been able to provide sports glasses that will allow these young footballers to play without limitations.

Laura Fullylove, a student who worked on the project, said: "Being part of this project has been an incredible experience. Designing sports goggles for visually impaired young footballers has given me a unique opportunity to apply my skills in a meaningful way.

"It's great to know that our work could help these athletes perform at their best and break barriers on the field. I hope this project inspires



others to think creatively about accessibility in sports."

Cllr Robert Tromans, Weddington division, said: "I am so pleased to have been able to support the bid from Weddington Junior Football Club. Promoting physical activity is important and these goggles will help enable local children, who need corrective vision, to enjoy football."

Michelle Black, CAVA Funding and Group Development Officer for Nuneaton and Bedworth said: "We are delighted to have been part of this project. Seeing the students' passion and commitment to making sport more accessible for all young people was truly inspiring."

Susan Adcock, Academic Coordinator, added: "The collaboration between the Social and Community Work and Graphic Design Higher Education students has been inspiring."

Peter Everitt of Weddington Football Club said: "Our football team has a long-standing commitment to inclusivity, and these glasses are a game-changer for the young athletes who struggle with vision impairments, giving them the confidence to fully engage in the game and demonstrate their talent on the field."



Burbage Parish

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

- Annual Parish Meeting March 3
- Parish Council <u>7pm</u> March 3
- Planning
 February 24, March 10
- Administration & Finance February 17
- Environment March 17

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.

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Burbage Parish Council



We're recruiting!

The Parish Council is looking to employ a new, full-time grounds maintenance operative to join its small, friendly team. For full details please either visit our website, pick up an application pack from the Parish Office, call or email, using the contact information listed left. Applications must be received before midday on Friday February 21.

Seasonal gardener sought

The Parish Council is inviting tenders from gardening contractors to help care for its planters and planted public spaces across Burbage on a seasonal basis from 1st April to 30th September 2025, averaging 10 hours per week. To view full details of the contract, please either visit our website, pick up a tender pack from the Parish Office, call or email, using the contact information listed left. Interested contractors are encouraged to arrange escorted site visits prior to tendering. Tenders must be received before midday on Friday March 7.

Crime prevention support

The Council has donated £500 towards crime prevention and road safety items to be sold or given to residents and victims of crime across the parish by Burbage PCSO Darren Stretton.

A Helping Hand

The Parish Council has agreed to Burbage Helping Hand volunteers having free use of facilities at Millennium Hall for another 12 months. The next pop-up shops will be on **Wednesdays February 19 & March 19 from 1.45pm**. To donate food or funds, please call Teresa on **07785 246086**

Farmers' Market

The next Burbage Farmers' Market of the year will be held on **Saturday March 1** on Burbage Methodist Church car park on Windsor Street.

Council Newsletter February 2025

Awards at Annual Parish Meeting

Two awards are to be presented to parishioners at the Annual Burbage Parish Meeting on **Monday March 3** at Millennium Hall.

The **Chairman's Award** is given to a group or individual whose efforts have made a positive impact within the parish in the past 12 months, while the **Pat Armstrong Allotment Award** is presented to the tenant of the Council plot judged to have been the most productive and attractive over the past year.

The meeting, which starts at **6.30pm** is open to all and gives residents an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Council. Council Chairman, Cllr David Bill will report on issues addressed and projects carried out by the Council in the past 12 months, and attendees will be able to ask questions.

A competition to design winner's plaques for the Allotment Award, named in memory of a former Council Project Officer, was entered by pupils from Burbage Infant and Junior Schools and residents of Moat House.

Designs by pupils **Elsie McWilliams, Rosie Jones & Blake John**, and residents **Lily Sharratt & Robert Payne**, pictured below, will feature on plaques to be put on the winning plot and for the winning tenant to keep.

The winner of the Chairman's Award will be presented with the John Moore Community Vase, named in honour of a former Council Chairman, to hold for a year.









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New Zoo Arrival and Chance to be a Junior

Keeper

Twycross Zoo has welcomed another new arrival – and local kids are being invited to guess its weight and win the chance to be a zookeeper for a day!

The zoo is delighted to announce the birth of a female vicuña. Native to the Andes of South America, baby vicuñas — known as cria, which is Spanish for baby — belong to the same family as llamas, alpacas, and guanacos.

Although zookeepers suspected the mother was pregnant from her behaviours, vicuña are experts at concealing their pregnancies with the natural shape of their bodies and thick woolly fur — a strategy they use to protect themselves against predators.

The newborn arrived in January and has quickly settled into the zoo's herd, which now includes four vicuña — and remarkably, within 20 to 30 minutes of her birth, she was already standing and starting to suckle.

Twycross Zoo's Assistant Curator (Mammals), Yianna Cooling, shared: "Welcoming a new vicuña is an exciting moment for the team.

"Vicuña are fascinating animals, and we're excited for visitors to see the newest member



of our herd as she grows and explores her surroundings."

To celebrate this exciting new arrival, Twycross Zoo has launched a competition, inviting children to guess the baby vicuña's birth weight for a chance to win an exclusive Junior Keeper experience.

This half-day experience offers a unique behindthe-scenes look at the role of a zookeeper.

Alongside an accompanying adult, the winner will learn about the zoo's incredible animals, learn about their diets and behaviours, and even help with essential daily tasks like food preparation and mucking out.

Visit Twycross Zoo's Facebook page to join in the competition: www.facebook.com/twycrosszoo





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Fines or Fun in The Sun?

At this time of year plenty of families will be thinking about their summer holidays – and considering whether or not its worth facing the consequences of taking their child out of school.

A record 443,322 school holiday fines were issued in England last year, according to new figures from the Department for Education (DfE).

And one local family is defending their decision to face the fine.

"My son doesn't do well in large crowds," says Sarah, who paid a

£320 fine for taking her two children on holiday with her partner during school term time.

Sarah's 10-year-old son, Tyler, is autistic and has ADHD, and struggles to cope with large groups of tourists during the school holidays.

It means Sarah has to choose between avoiding popular destinations, or visiting them in the quieter periods during the school term.

In July 2024 the family went on holiday to Turkey during the summer term, which meant the children missed six days of school.

Sarah told the BBC she has even considered home-educating her children, adding: "I feel like I don't have full responsibility for them, the fact I can't pull them out of school for a holiday."

The DfE says it is aware of discrepancies between local authorities issuing fines, which is why from August 2024 new statutory guidance set national requirements for issuing school fines.

How much do you get fined for taking a child out of school for a holiday?

In August 2024, the DfE introduced a new national framework to bring councils more in line with each other. However, it says it is the local authority's responsibility to decide when to issue fines to parents.

The government says, in most cases, schools and local authorities will try to provide support to help improve a child's attendance – but if this is ineffective or the absence is for an unauthorised term-time holiday, parents may face a fine.

According to DfE guidelines issued in August



2024:

Schools must consider fines if a child misses five or more days unauthorised

Fines rise from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days

If a parent gets a second fine for the same child in three years, it costs £160 immediately

For a third unauthorised absence, other action like prosecution is considered. A court appearance could result in a fine of up to £2,500.

The DfE says money from fines goes to the local authority.

For many families, cost benefits also play a huge part in the decision to take holidays during term time, with trips often costing thousands more during the school holidays.







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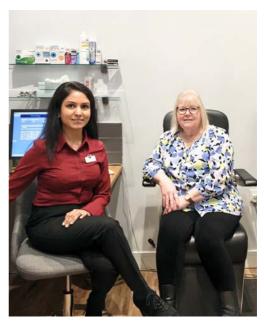
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"I can't stress enough the importance of having regular eye tests. If I hadn't visited Optical People when I did, I might not have known about this serious condition."

"I'm so grateful that my problem was picked up and dealt with so efficiently.



Optical People Optometrist (left), Pooja Raninga, with Patient, Sheryl Walker (right).

I now encourage everyone to have regular eye exams—they could save your sight, just as mine did."
- Sheryl Walker

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Many eye conditions, such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal conditions, can develop with no obvious symptoms. Regular eye tests can detect these issues early—ensuring the best outcome for your vision.



Meet the Optical People team in Hinckley (from left to right) - Caitlyn Bellerby, Lauren Dexter, Pooja Raninga, Ravi Saigal and Neil Tredell.

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Making Space for NatureHave Your Say

There's still time for people who care about wildlife in our communities to have their say on an ambitious draft strategy to make space for nature across Leicestershire.

People have already shared their views on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) since the consultation was launched in January.

The LNRS has been developed by Leicestershire County Council and partners to safeguard nature and allow it to recover by conserving and improving habitats and biodiversity.

The consultation runs until Friday 28 February and wants to hear from residents, farmers, landowners and other interested groups on the draft strategy.

The main points include:

- A look at how habitat loss, shrinking species populations and the effects of climate change can be tackled
- Priority habitats and species that need urgent attention
- What action is needed to build a healthier, more connected natural environment



 Creating space for nature to flourish while supporting local people and their livelihoods.

The draft strategy also highlights important habitats including woodlands, wetlands, and urban green spaces, along with key species that need help.

The survey can be viewed at www.leicestershire. gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/draft-local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-leicestershire-leicester-and-rutland

Responses to the consultation, which runs until Friday 28 February, will be used to develop the final version of the LNRS, which will be published in the summer.

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Appeal after tiny puppies abandoned

Blaby District Council is appealing for information after a litter of eight tiny puppies were dumped at an industrial estate in Enderby.

The puppies, barely two weeks old, were found on Monday 20 January on Quarry Lane by a driver from Castle

Freight. He spotted a box as he was driving into the firm's gates around lunchtime.

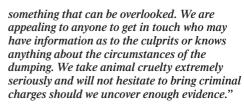
The cross-breed pups were first taken to a vet before being handed to the Council's partners Animal Care Services.

Luckily the pups were found to be healthy, despite their trauma, and were taken to a rescue centre. New homes have already been found for them.

The callous incident has prompted an investigation by the Council with officers keen to hear from anyone who may be able to help.

Councillor Les Phillimore, Blaby District Council Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, said: "These poor animals have not had the best start in life, to be discarded like trash in near freezing temperatures just weeks after birth is nothing other than cruel and heartless. Thankfully they were found before any real harm could come to them and swift rescue action ensured their ordeal was limited. I'm delighted they are healthy and have been found new homes.

"The heartless abandonment, however, is not



Anyone who was in the area between 11.30am and 2.30pm on 20 January and saw anything unusual or perhaps has dashcam footage, CCTV or door camera footage of the location is asked to contact the Council. Depending on evidence gathered the Council could bring charges under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Please email the Licensing Department at licensing@blaby.gov.uk



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Health and care careers and jobs event

Find out about the wide range of health and care career and job opportunities by meeting people from a wide range of NHS, social care and other healthcare organisations, teams and services. A free careers and jobs event is being held at The Kube at Leicester Racecourse in Oadby, between 09:30am and 2pm on Saturday



8 March. At a similar event last year around 2000 people attended and many successful applications were made.

During this year's event you can learn more about opportunities for patient-caring roles in hospitals or in the community including caring, therapy, nursing; alongside non-patient facing support roles, such as administration and technology. You can also find out about volunteering opportunities.

Friendly and knowledgeable staff from a huge cross-section of professions will be available to answer your questions and give you an insight into what their jobs involve.

There will also be:

a range of interactive displays;

information about career progression, including apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities; how to access courses and the qualifications we can help you gain;

top tips on how to apply for jobs; and details about a wide range of staff benefits and how we support our staff's health and wellbeing. Organisations that you can meet at the event include:

- · Army Reserve Medical
- · DeMontfort University
- · Inspired to Care
- Job Centre Plus
- · Leicester City Council
- Leicestershire Health Informatics Service
- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
- · LOROS Hospice
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
- · University of Leicester

Our free health and care careers and jobs event will be held at The Kube, Leicester Racecourse, Oadby LE2 4AL on Saturday 8 March 2025 between 9:30am and 2pm.

To register your interest please visit: bit.ly/HealthcareCareers25



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