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# BURBAGE GOES TO THE CIRCUS!

## Great fun for all this May

The ever-popular Burbage Scarecrow Festival returns for its sixth year over the weekend of 17th & 18th May. With a theme of 'Burbage goes to the Circus' the event promises to be a firm favourite amongst locals.

Grove Road Schools' PTFA are encouraging Burbage residents to get their thinking caps on and enter a scarecrow into this year's festival to be in with a chance of winning first, second or third place. Entries can be made until 6th April by visiting [pta-events.co.uk/groveroadschoolsptfa/](http://pta-events.co.uk/groveroadschoolsptfa/) or scan the QR code to take you straight to the booking portal.



In addition to scarecrow spotting, this year there will be a Spring Fair on Saturday 17th May from 1.30-4.30pm at Burbage CofE Infant School on Grove Road. The fair will bring together craft stalls, food vendors, a performance arena showcasing local talent, FREE children's activity tent, and much more! Plus, lots of family fun



with face painting, a tombola, hook a duck, splat the rat and drench the teacher. This popular stall gives children the chance to soak their favourite teachers and is back by popular demand!

The event is generously sponsored by local businesses Body to Baby, Holiday Lounge Burbage, Sweet Pea & Snapdragon, Swim Station Swim School and Windsor St Dental. Without their support the event simply couldn't take place.

For more information and updates head to the Grove Road Schools' PTFA page on Facebook.

All proceeds from the event go to Grove Road Schools' PTFA.

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# Act Now for a VE Day Street Party

Local communities are being encouraged to apply for free road closures to host street parties to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May.

The historic anniversary, commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe, takes place on Thursday 8 May, and celebrations are being planned across the country across the weekend from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 May.

Leicestershire County Council is waiving the usual fee for closing roads in order to hold events, to help support communities and groups who want to organise events.

The deadline for applications for a free road closure to allow a celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day to be held is Friday, 21 March.

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for highways, said: *"The 80th anniversary of VE Day is an historic event for the country - and the county of Leicestershire.*

*"We want to help people to celebrate and encourage communities to come together to mark this special occasion, so we'll be waiving road closure fees.*

*"However, if you are planning an event, such*



*as a street party, you will need to let us know in good time, so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place."*

The council is also offering free loans of signs and cones for event organisers, which will need to be collected from and returned to the Mountsorrel Highways Depot. These also need to be applied for by the deadline of Friday 21 March.

Guidance on organising an event and an application for a road closure is available on the county council's highways pages or by e-mailing [eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk](mailto:eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk)

Communities across Leicestershire are invited to get involved in the commemorations by hosting parties of celebration throughout the day in the streets, gardens, churches, town halls, pubs, and clubs.

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# Rail Hub Refusal Welcomed

News that the Government has refused permission for a massive new Rail Hub on land near Junction 2 of the M69 near Burbage has been welcomed by local politicians.

The Secretary of State has turned down planning permission for the scheme from developers Tritax Symmetry to build on 650 acres of land close to Burbage Common.

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said:

*"What a huge success for our community! After years of this hanging over us, and all the hard*

*work from everyone in our area, we've finally had confirmed what we knew all along; this project is inappropriate.*

*"This will be a huge relief for many people across our area. Any perceived benefit of the Hinckley NRFI was clearly outweighed by the construction and operation of this site, and I'm so pleased to see it has been rejected.*

*"The impact this would have had is so significant I am pleased the Government has finally heard the concerns from Councils, infrastructure groups, the Planning Inspectorate, environmental campaigners, the*



*public and local MPs, and seen sense to turn down the proposal.*

*"While the developers still have a chance to appeal the decision, I hope they choose not to, given the strength of feeling and the substance of the Planning Inspector's report.*

*"I would personally like to say thank you again to everyone who gave their time and effort to make their objections known, I know it's been a long road but we finally did it!"*



Hinckley councillor Michael Mullaney, who campaigned against the plans, has also welcomed the news.

He said: *"I'm delighted that the Freight Depot plans have been turned down. For years we have fought plans for a rail freight depot locally. The Freight depot would have blighted Burbage Common and added huge numbers of lorries to overstretched local roads.*

*"A big thanks to all the local residents who supported the campaign to stop it. This is really welcome news"*

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# Spring has Sprung with Wolvey Fair Announcement

Spring may still be teasing us with its arrival – but you know it is truly here when those lovely spring fairs start taking place in our village communities.

And on Saturday 22 March Wolvey Village Hall heralds the arrival of the season with its Spring Fair.

The Spring Craft Fair will run from 10am to 3pm, with stall set up from 8.30am.

There will be loads of craft and artisan stalls and refreshments will be available.

For anyone wishing to be involved, tables cost just £10 each, which is payable on the day and measure 6ft by 2ft 6inches.

Organisers said: *"We are very excited for the Spring fair, following on from our successful Christmas fair last year!"*

*"We are hoping to be even bigger and better than last time and so there are still some spaces for stallholders. If you'd like to take part, please get in touch to book your table."*

If you would like further information or would like to book a stall please contact the organisers at [admin@wolveyvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:admin@wolveyvillagehall.co.uk)

Also, don't forget that Messy Church is on



Sunday, 23 March from 3.30pm-5.00pm. All are welcome, with no charge but donations always welcome. Fun for all the family.

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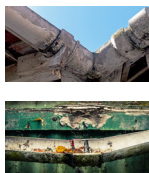
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# On Track for May Opening of Diagnostics Hub

Plans are on track for Hinckley's new diagnostics hub to open in May, according to an NHS body.

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) said the £24.6m facility would provide about 89,000 diagnostic tests per year in Hinckley.

These tests will include CT and MRI scans, endoscopy, X-ray and ultrasounds, delivered by the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) NHS Trust.

Construction on the site has been under way since April last year at Hinckley and District Community Hospital.

The LLR ICB said *"significant progress has been made"* over recent weeks, despite a January break-in at the site, for which four men were arrested.

Helen Hendley, director of planned care for the LLR ICB, said: *"We've made great progress*



*on the new facility, which will make a big difference to local people when it opens.*

*"It will help to reduce waiting times and provide a more convenient facility for people in the community.*

*"Providing services closer to people's homes and where they work improves access to health services. We're excited to see the positive difference this facility will make."*

The other hub in the county - at Leicester General Hospital - has been running since 2021.

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# Christian Aid Spring Fayre at St Mary's

Ahead of Christian Aid Week, which takes place in May, a Christian Aid Spring Fayre is being held at a Hinckley church in April.



Christian Aid is a national charity that works tirelessly to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, and provide disaster relief all around the world.

It is made up of 41 Christian churches in Great Britain and Ireland.

The Hinckley Christian Aid Spring Fayre, which is to be held at St. Mary's Parish Church, Hinckley, will take place on Saturday, 26th April 2025 from 9.30am to 1.30 pm.



It won't just be members and volunteers from St Mary's taking part – representatives from churches across Hinckley will be involved.

A spokesperson for St Mary's Parish Church said: *"It is one of our major fund-raising events for this worthy charity and all proceeds go to Christian Aid."*

*"It is also a multi-faith event with volunteers from most, if not all, of the local churches manning a variety of stalls from cakes to bric-a-brac, plants to toys and much more."*

*"The prices are incredible and many regulars are able to shop for Christmas presents."*

Christian Aid Week is a fundraising week that asks people to donate their time, money, and voices to help end global poverty. It's the longest-running fundraising week in the UK.



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# 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

- **Planning**  
March 24, April 14
- **Administration & Finance**  
April 7
- **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**.

## Follow us ...

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



[www.burbageparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.burbageparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**Burbage Parish Council**



**@burbage\_pc**

## Rail Freight hub REFUSED

As this newsletter was going to print, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that development consent for a National Rail Freight Interchange near Junction 2 of the M69 had been refused. For the latest news and reaction please visit our website and social media channels.



## VE Day 80 street party

Burbage residents are invited to pack a picnic and join a celebratory street party to mark the **80th anniversary of VE Day, on Sunday May 11**, on Grove Road. The event, with live music, will run from midday to 4pm, with a road closure between the junctions of Twycross Road and Love Lane to be in place between 10am and 6pm. Tables for six cost £30. **Expressions of interest should be made to the Council before April 13**, by phone, email or in person using the contact information listed left. If interest exceeds availability, names will be drawn at random and successful applicants notified by April 17.

## BCAF support

Tickets for **Burbage Festival (BCAF)** events, which run from **May 1 – 18** this year are on sale now via [www.bcaf.net](http://www.bcaf.net). The Parish Council is donating £1,500 towards the cost of staging the festival and offering free use of Millennium Hall and Pughe's Paddock for some of the organised events.

## A Helping Hand

Burbage Helping Hand will next hold pop-up shops at the Millennium Hall on **Wednesdays March 19 & April 16 from 1.45pm**. To donate food or funds, please call Teresa on **07785 246086**.

## Farmers' Market

The next Burbage Farmers' Market will be held on **Saturday April 5** on Burbage Methodist Church car park on Windsor Street, when the Ukulele Ladies will be performing.

## Meet our top award winners

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr David Bill presented two special awards at the **Annual Parish Meeting** on March 3.

Members of the Royal British Legion Burbage branch were presented with the **Chairman's Award** for 2025 together with the **John Moore Community Vase** to hold for a year in recognition of their support for the Council and the community.

Cllr Bill said: **"The branch has supported the Council for several years, volunteering at events and carrying out gardening work across the parish. Many of our events would be unable to run without their support. Three years ago, the branch offered to take over the organisation of the Christmas Market, which is a mammoth task. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and ongoing support."**



Members of the Royal British Legion Burbage branch won the 2025 Chairman's Award



Pat Armstrong Allotment Award winner Wayne Hayes with some of the winning plaque designers

**The Pat Armstrong Allotment Award** for the 2024-25 season was won by **Wayne Hayes** who has tended **Plot 2** at the Council's **Woodland Avenue** allotment site, with his wife Sandra, since 2014.

Members of the Council's Allotments Working Party, together with the two previous award winners, judged plots for maximising potential and tidiness.

Mr Hayes received a £20 voucher donated by **Sapcote Garden Centre**, plus a £50 voucher for a garden centre of his choice and plaques to mark his achievement featuring designs by Burbage Infant School pupil **Elsie McWilliams**, Burbage Junior School pupils **Rosie Jones** and **Blake John**, and Moat House residents **Lily Sharratt** and **Robert Payne**, who received certificates in recognition of their contributions.

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# Doorstep Scammers Operating in Hinckley Area

An urgent warning has been issued after fraudsters were reported to be targeting homes in the Hinckley area.

Trading Standards officials said doorstep traders had been cold-calling properties and attempting to pressure residents into immediate roof repairs.

The alleged scammers point out potential leaks or other work they claim is required. Officials said residents should obtain at least three quotes before agreeing to any improvement or maintenance work.

They are advising homeowners to be cautious when answering their doors to unexpected callers. They have also warned residents to never pay in cash or make full upfront payments.

A spokesperson for Leicestershire Trading Standards said: *"If you are unsure of who is knocking at your door, do not answer. If you*



*open the door to a cold caller, keep the door chain on and shut the door at any time to end the conversation."*

The authority is asking residents to note down the time, descriptions of persons including clothing and any vehicle details if safe to do so. Trading Standards said anyone who feels threatened or intimidated should call 999.

Residents are also being asked to inform their neighbours if they are able to do so. Anyone seeking advice or wanting to report suspicious activity should call Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133.

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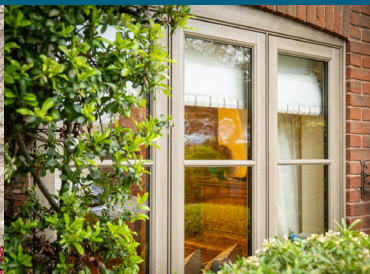
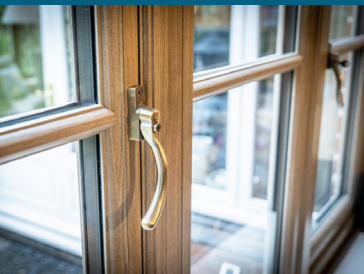
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# Keep Dogs Under Control at Bradgate Park

As spring begins to bloom in the coming weeks and months more people in the area are likely to take the opportunity for a stroll in Bradgate Park, Leicestershire's only Medieval Deer Park.

With over 830 acres, steeped in history and teeming with wonderful wildlife, it's the perfect location to get back in touch with nature.

However, dog owners are being asked to keep their pets under control at all times and to be mindful of the wildlife at the nature spot as multiple deer have died recently.

A spokesperson for the park said: *"We've had multiple incidents recently where dogs have chased wildlife, resulting in the tragic death of four deer in just the past month!"*

*"A high-speed chase can stress and injure animals, sometimes fatally, especially when they are forced to flee for their lives."*

Dog owners are therefore being asked to keep pets under control at all times, especially in the



upper area of the park.

Park representatives added: *"Be mindful of wildlife, especially in areas where deer are present. Wildlife protection is a shared responsibility."*

*"If you're walking or letting your dog run off the lead in the upper area of the Park, please ensure they are kept under control at all times."*

If you have any concerns during your visit, you should contact the Estate Office on: 0116 2362713.



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# Plans for the First Services on the M69

Plans for the first services on the M69, by the A5 at Burbage, have been approved by one of the two councils required.

Welcome Break wants to create petrol stations, a main building with fast food, coffee and convenience shops, a gaming zone, seating, toilets and showers, and units for drive-through businesses to use.

Despite traffic concerns, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council gave its blessing to the development, off the Stretton Baskerville Roundabout on the A5 at Burbage, at a meeting on 18 February.

The site, currently an unused former compound, sits on the border of Leicestershire and Warwickshire, so approval is also required from Rugby Borough Council.

Rugby council currently expects to rule on the plan by this month and the meeting heard the Warwickshire authority is set to approve the development “*shortly*”.

Welcome Break said the facility would create the equivalent of about 120 full-time jobs.

Businesses named in the plans include KFC, Starbucks, Burger King and Pret A Manger.

The services at junction 1 would have 272 car



parking spaces, picnic and dog walking facilities, and parking for HGVs, coaches, caravans and motorbikes.

These would include 37 charging stations for electric vehicles, Welcome Break said.

Some councillors expressed concerns over the impact on the A5.

The vote to approve the plans was almost unanimous, with only one councillor choosing to abstain.

The road, which links Leicester and Coventry, opened in 1977 but has never had a formal service station.

Currently, motorists using the M69 have to exit the motorway to find petrol and facilities, or wait to reach Leicester Forest East on the M1 or Corley on the M6.

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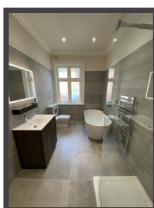
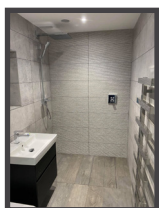
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# The Pierce Perspective – the Link Between Horticulture and Mental Health

Andy Pierce is a local man who established **The Pierce Perspective**, with a mission highlight the connection between horticulture and mental health, promote sustainable practices, and create spaces where people can improve their well-being.



The Pierce Perspective has established projects and partnerships in the area that include:

**Wellbeing Garden in Burbage** – continuing to grow with donations from local businesses and a £5,000 grant from East Midlands Railway (EMR). This space will be a sanctuary for people to connect with nature and find support for their mental health.

**Workshops and Courses** - designed to support individuals with low-level mental health concerns, catering to a variety of groups—including veterans, young people, and those looking to reconnect with nature. Latest addition is **'Nature Connection for Wellbeing,'** led by Alison Broughton, which includes forest bathing, nature journaling, and mindfulness exercises in a woodland setting at Burton Farm Café.

**Station Adoption at Hinckley Train Station** - gathering volunteers for the project, transforming the space using horticulture to create a more welcoming environment for the local community.

**Alternative Provision & Mental Health First Aid for Schools** - developing an alternative provision portfolio for schools. Alongside this,

working on a mental health education plan to equip school leavers with mental health first aid skills, helping them support themselves and others.

**ACCEPT Research Project with Leeds Beckett University** - a research project in partnership with the ACCEPT Project, Leeds Beckett University, and Alison Broughton. Research will explore the effectiveness of nature-based interventions in improving mental health and well-being, reinforcing the vital link between nature and recovery.

**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Days** - recently working with Jaguar Land Rover during a fantastic CSR day, with another lined up with Wincanton. Always open to welcoming more businesses to get involved.

**New Fundraiser: Build and Race the Lake** - a unique fundraiser where teams will construct their own rafts and race across the Mental Health Lake at Burton Farm.

Every Donation Makes a Difference. Donations play a crucial role in keeping these projects running. Every contribution helps fund Mental health workshops, Community Wellbeing Garden initiatives, School mental health programmes and Research into nature-based interventions.

If you'd like to support, donations can be made here: <https://donate.justgiving.com/charity/thepierceperspective/donation-amount>

A 2025 Charity Calendar is still available, featuring stunning community-submitted photos, helping to raise funds for ongoing projects. You can order here: <https://www.thepierceperspective.com/product-page/the-pierce-perspective-2025-charity-calendar-a3>





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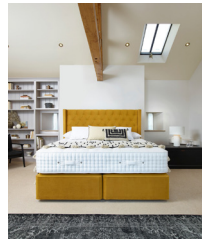
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**A message from your Local Conservatives:**

**What a huge success for our community!** After years of this hanging over us, and all the hard work from everyone in our area, **we've finally had confirmed what we knew all along; this project is inappropriate.**

This will be a **huge relief for many people across our area.** Any perceived benefit of the Hinckley NRFI was clearly outweighed by the construction and operation of this site, and **I'm so pleased to see it has been rejected.**

The impact this would have had is so significant and I'm relieved the Government has finally heard the concerns from Councils, infrastructure groups, the Planning Inspectorate, environmental campaigners, the public and Alberto and I as local MPs, and seen sense to turn down the proposal.

I would personally like to say **thank you again to everyone who gave their time and effort to make their objections known, I know it's been a long road but we finally did it!**

