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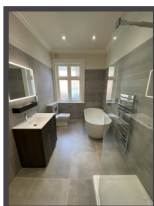
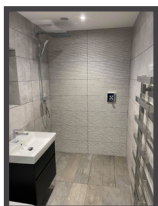
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Racing Star Jake Dixon raises £30,185 for Young Lives vs Cancer

At the recent Moto2 Grand Prix at Silverstone, star biker Jake Dixon wasn't only racing for pole position and

a place on the podium – he was also raising vital funds for children and young people with cancer, inspired by young cancer patient Luca, aged 5 from Leicestershire.

For the race at the iconic Silverstone Circuit, the Home of British Motor Sport, Jake wore a specially designed helmet featuring Luca's handprints, which was won by a lucky winner through a prize draw. The draw raised an incredible £60,370; vital funding which will go to support charities Young Lives vs Cancer and Wishes 4 Kids.

Jake Dixon said - *"I'm delighted to have raised so much for children with cancer, and I want to thank everyone who got behind the prize draw and donated. I'm really proud to raise such vital funds because I've seen first-hand the difference these charities make to the lives of children and young people with cancer and their families."*

Luca's dad Sylvain Guintoli a former champion motorbike racer turned motorsports pundit, said, *"This prize draw and the personalised helmet with Luca's handprint on was Jake's idea. It has been very emotional, but it feels really special to be able to help the charities who have helped us as a family and helped Luca. This is our way of giving something back."*

Lucy Fisher, Young Lives vs Cancer Fundraising Engagement Manager, said - *"When a child or young person is diagnosed with cancer, their whole world can feel like it's falling apart. The impact of cancer on young lives is more than medical and it's felt by the entire family. From the moment of diagnosis, Young Lives vs*

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Cancer's specialist social workers provide day-to-day support for each child, young person and family.

"We rely on donations to fund our vital work, so we can't thank Jake, Luca and Sylvain enough for their fantastic efforts. We also extend our thanks to MotoGP, TNT Sports and Silverstone for providing an incredible platform to promote the prize draw and for galvanising the Moto2 community."

"Thanks to Jake and to everyone who donated. Their support means Young Lives vs Cancer will be able to help even more young people with cancer to get the right support when they need it most."

For more information about Young Lives vs Cancer's work, go to www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk

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Children design new anti-littering posters for Hinckley and Bosworth

Following a borough wide competition, nine local children will have their anti-littering posters displayed across Hinckley and Bosworth and online in 2025.

The winning entries will be made into large format posters, with the competition split into two categories: ages four to seven; and ages seven to 11.

Staff at the Borough Council were delighted to receive so many fantastic entries and have picked two winners. However, with the competition being so close, runners-up have been chosen, and their posters will be also shared across the council's social media pages.

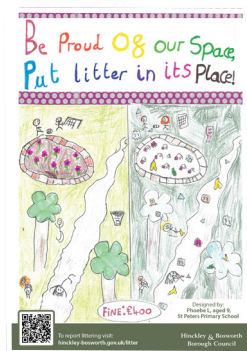
The winners are:

- Alby Morfill (7), Battling Brook Primary School, Hinckley
- Phoebe Light (9), St Peter's Primary, Market Bosworth

And the runners up are:

- Emily (7) and Nella (5) Karwat, Saint Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Earl Shilton
- Hayden Murataj (5), Westfield Infant School, Hinckley
- Rosie Cheetham (5), Mercenfeld Primary School, Markfield
- Willow Cheetham (9), Mercenfeld Primary School, Markfield
- Olivia Hoare (9), Townlands CofE Primary Academy, Earl Shilton
- Katie (10), Thornton Primary School, Thornton
- Savanah (9), Dorothy Goodman School, Hinckley

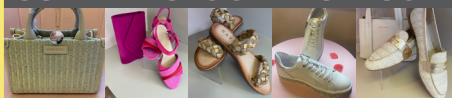
Cllr Lynda Hodgkins, Executive Member for Clean Neighbourhoods, said: *"It has been lovely to see so many fantastic entries into the competition, and I would like to thank everyone who entered for taking part. You all did a great job; it was a difficult process to choose the winners."*



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Volunteer Drivers Needed for Vulnerable NHS Patients

Volunteer drivers are needed in Leicestershire to help NHS patients reach vital appointments.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) relies on a small but dedicated group of volunteer drivers who last year completed more than 2,500 journeys, covering a total of 47,500 miles – the equivalent of nearly twice around the world.

These journeys ensure that patients who may be isolated, vulnerable, or without transport can still attend essential healthcare appointments.

Minaxi Patel, voluntary services manager for LPT said: “Our volunteer drivers offer a vital service for our community and mental health services and we’re so grateful for their support.

“But we still need more help. Just a few hours a week behind the wheel could make a huge difference to our patients.”

All that’s needed to get started is a good geographical knowledge of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, a full driving license with at least one year’s experience and enthusiasm to help patients get to their destination.

Volunteer drivers at LPT do more than just drive. They offer reassurance, a friendly face, and practical support at what can be a daunting time for patients. Training is provided.

David Hodson is one of LPT’s volunteer drivers who began volunteering with the Trust in 2020 as a vaccination steward. He said: “As soon as the main vaccination period was over I thought what else can I do. I have always loved driving and have a good knowledge of Leicestershire and asked if the Trust needed any drivers.

“I never thought that at my age I would find a group of people, from the volunteer staff, other drivers and all the medical staff and clinicians,



who I can call my friends.

“After three years driving, I am still as enthusiastic as I was on day one and I feel I am contributing to help those less fortunate than me.”

To find out more and apply to become a volunteer driver visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk/volunteerdriiving or contact our volunteering team lpt.volunteering@nhs.net.

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Have Your Say on Rights of Way

Local walks, new opportunities for volunteers and better signs are included in a new plan designed to boost rights of way – and people are urged to have their say.

Leicestershire County Council is encouraging residents to complete a short survey about its 1,915-mile network of paths, used for activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding.

Earlier this year, over 1,000 people gave their views on how the network could be improved and these responses were used to inform the plan.

Council Leader Dan Harrison said: *“We’d like to thank everyone who took the time to give us their views earlier this year. Your views have helped to inform this new plan, which includes establishing new ‘greenways’ (multi-purpose paths) as well as providing more easy access*



paths to better connect communities.

“Now we’re asking for you to spare a few minutes again, this time to let us know how you travel along our rights of way, what you think about the plan and if you feel there is anything else we could do to make improvements.”

People can view the council’s draft ‘Rights of Way Improvement Plan’ 2025-2035 and give their views via an online survey.

The consultation is open until 14 August 2025.

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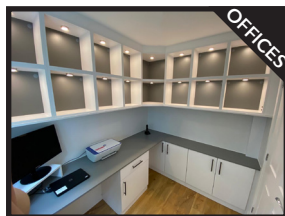
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New Leader for Blaby District

Blaby District Council, the authority which oversees Stoney Stanton and Sapcote as well as many other towns and villages, has sworn in a new leader.

The change comes following a change of the District's Conservative Party leadership.

Councillor Ben Taylor has taken over the role from Councillor Terry Richardson, who has led the authority for the last decade.

Councillor Taylor, who joined the Council in 2015 and represents the Fosse Highcross Ward, said: *"I am extremely honoured and privileged to have been elected Leader of Blaby District Council and will work tirelessly for the people and communities of the area."*

"I want to thank Councillor Terry Richardson for his outstanding leadership over the past 10 years. I look forward to working with officers and our communities to continue delivering high quality services and shaping a positive future for our District."

The meeting also confirmed changes to the Council's Cabinet, which is now made up of:

Leader – Cllr Ben Taylor

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, People and Transformation Cllr Cheryl Cashmore

Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Assets Cllr Nigel Grundy

Portfolio Holder for Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Cllr Les Phillimore

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Strategic Growth Cllr Mike Shirley

Portfolio Holder for Health, Community and Economic Development Cllr Nick Chapman

The outgoing Leader said: *"It has been the honour and privilege of my life to serve as Leader of the Council for the last 10 years. It*



is something I never imagined I would have the opportunity to do, and I have worked tirelessly during that time to do the very best for the residents of Blaby District, our officers and councillors."



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Minister to meet with Hinckley MP over funding for Battling Brook

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, has spoken in Parliament about concerns shared with him by Battling Brook Primary School over the state of two classrooms and the Government's rejection of funding.

Earlier this year, the local MP met with the headteacher of Battling Brook Primary School in Hinckley, Mrs Mathie, to see two classrooms which have fallen into disrepair and are no longer fit for use due to leaks and mould.

Battling Brook set about trying to urgently get the problem resolved, and enlisted the help of Dr Evans to raise the issue with the Department of Education and help with the application.

Speaking in the House of Commons Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said "I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the process of getting some of the funding. Battling Brook is a small primary school in the heart of Hinckley. It's well-loved, but it's had problems with two of its classrooms having damp and falling into disrepair, so they can't use it.

"They've applied for the Condition Improvement Fund, but have had it declined. They feel that goalposts have been shifted. There was a delay in the Condition Data Collection report by six months, so they were marked down culminating in them not getting the funding they need.

"Will the Minister meet with me so that I can go back to Battling Brook to make sure they get the funding so they can open their classrooms in September again for the primary pupils of Hinckley?"

In response Stephen Morgan MP, Education Minister, said "I thank the Member for Hinckley and Bosworth for his question. He has not been shy to lobby me on these issues. I'd be very happy to meet with him further. He will know that the Department does provide advice and support on a case-by-case basis."



Speaking afterwards, Dr Evans added "When I visited Battling Brook Primary School earlier this year, Mrs Mathie and the Governors shared concerns with me about two of the classrooms which have fallen into disrepair and are no longer fit for use.

"When red tape and failings beyond the control of the school stop vital progress, this just doesn't sit right. I want to help Battling Brook with the support and funding it needs to get the classrooms reopened so they can be there for the pupils.

"I will be meeting the Minister and making the case to the Government for funding, while providing Battling Brook with my full support in navigating the processes to ensure that the much-needed improvements aren't stopped simply because 'computer says no'."

Battling Brook Primary School say "The continued deterioration of these classrooms impacts the integrity of the whole block and, due to concerns linked to water ingress, electricity has been turned off. This means that during the winter, the areas of the school which border these classrooms are extremely cold. As a school we are extremely concerned about the structural integrity of the mobiles and what will happen if it is fully breached.

"As you can see from the photos, there is rotten flooring, leaks which are coming through the ceiling and mould over the walls.

"The school has submitted an appeal and hopes the Department for Education will reconsider its decision to decline funding for the replacement classrooms, to allow the school to give pupils the best education possible."

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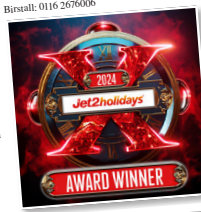
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Hinckley and Burbage Lions

It was a proud moment for Hinckley and Burbage Lions President Robin Wilson when he handed over a special cheque recently.

His aim after taking office was to raise £3000 in one year, to help the fight against cancer project.

And at a recent meeting of the club, he was able to achieve this ambition, after members had backed the scheme with a busy year of fundraising activities.

Watched by members of the club Robin handed over the cheque to the chair of the Hinckley branch, Vicki Dolphin and asked her if the donation could be shared between bowel cancer for both men and women and children's cancer



and she will arrange for this to be spent locally. Sometimes, a plan hits the spot, as this did, and it gives a good feeling to be a Lion and helping to make a difference to our communities.

Enough said but think about getting in touch if you would like to know more. The Lions meet on the second Monday of the month at 7pm at the Plough Inn, Hinckley or cheque them out on their Facebook page for more details.]



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Formally launched in 2022 by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) to provide mental health support in local communities, the Neighbourhood Mental Health Cafes celebrated three years of success this May, having grown to a network of 25 cafes offering 40 weekly sessions that support an average of 800 people each month.

And that includes Neighbourhood Mental Health Cafes in Earl Shilton and Hinckley.

Rob Melling, mental health transformation manager at LPT said: *"The huge numbers of people visiting our mental health cafes each month demonstrate how important it is to have local offers of support for people."*

"The cafes are run by local voluntary sector partners who understand their communities and provide that warm, supportive space where people can just turn up and talk to someone."



The cafes provide a warm welcome, offering immediate, local support from people who truly understand the communities they serve. They have become a meaningful and supportive space where people can connect, talk openly, and get practical help when they are in a crisis. Whether someone's struggling with their mental health or just needs to feel heard, the cafes are here to help—without judgment.

Earl Shilton Neighbourhood Mental Health Café – provided by Rural Community Council. Mondays, 10am – 1pm and 1.30pm – 4.30pm. The Stute (Earl Shilton Social Institute), 12-14 Station Road, Earl Shilton, LE9 7GA. Phone: 07519 316461. Email: vmarciniak@ruralcc.org.uk

Hinckley Neighbourhood Mental Health Café – provided by Turning Point. Wednesdays, 1pm – 7pm. Hinckley Baptist Church, Baptist Walk, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1PR. Email: leicestershire.helpline@turning-point.co.uk



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Scouts are growing in Leicestershire

Did you know that in the last two years, the number of children and young people (boys and girls aged 4 to 17) involved in Scouting in Leicestershire has grown by nearly 6%? There have been significant increases in Squirrels (children aged 4 to 6), Scouts (children aged 10 to 14) and Explorers (young people aged 14 to 17) due to the brilliant and varied programmes and activities organised by volunteers (aged 18+). However, there are 1300 children and young people on the waiting list to join and there is a call for more volunteers so children and young people can learn skills for life, try new activities, make new friends and have fun.

With activities ranging from air activities to experiments, fire safety to pioneering and street sports to water activities, there is something for everyone. Children and young people will also learn skills for life ranging from independence to leadership, problem solving to self-confidence and social skills to teamwork.

Across the County there is a call for volunteers to help in a variety of roles. These roles include working with Squirrels to working with Explorers, looking after the finances of a Scout Group, fund raising, IT or looking after the Scout headquarters. There are lots of opportunities to use your skills or learn new ones. If you want to stay in your comfort zone, you can. If you want to be taken out of your comfort zone, you can. Whatever time you can give, we would be able to find a role for you. There are also opportunities to gain qualifications in activities such as archery, canoeing, hill walking, narrow boating.

In a recent survey, nearly 80% of people felt that volunteering improved their wellbeing. In the same survey, 80% of people agreed that their lives were enriched by giving up their time to help others, and nearly 70% said they had gained new skills and knowledge through the training they have received while volunteering.

In a recent report by Steph Simmons she said, *“Joining scouts will lead to lasting memories and thrilling experiences for your child which will expand their self-belief, helping them realise there’s nothing they can’t achieve.*



whilst having fun! Whether it’s camping under the stars, navigating obstacle courses, canoeing on a river, or participating in international jamborees, scouts enjoy an array of exciting activities that fuel their sense of adventure.”

Adult volunteer Nigel, said, *“Volunteering with Scouts is a great opportunity to help young people learn and develop skills along with having fun and trying out new activities. It’s also a great opportunity to learn and develop new skills yourself, make friends, try new activities and take pride in seeing young people develop.”*

He added *“As volunteers we can help put the foundations in place. We then encourage the children and young people to build upon them as they try new activities and learn skills for life. Children and young people want adventure and we provide the opportunity to have those adventures.”*

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Great Fun at this Years Mallory Mile

Well done to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Mallory Park Racing Circuit Real Motorsport Limited, the team running cycling at the Mallory Circuit for a great evening of fun at this years Mallory Mile on Monday 9th June to celebrate National Bike Week.

The event held at Mallory Park Circuit in Kirkby Mallory was our first time at the event and what a great evening of fun it was, surrounded by hundreds of people we set off for our first mile around this much loved track and we enjoyed it so much we ended up doing ten.

It was great to see so many people in attendance in a lovely friendly atmosphere, the BMX stunt riders provided great entertainment throughout the evening, their tricks and skills had everyones attention.



Afterwards the children were awarded a certificate, glow in the dark safety bands and a water bottle. All in all a brilliant well organised event that has now become a firm fixture on our family calendar and best of all it was all FREE.

Look out for next years Mallory Mile details in the The Local Rock



By James & Josh Local Rock Team

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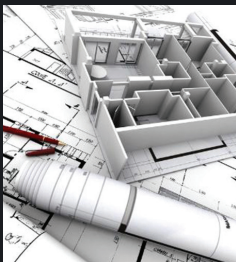
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