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Hospital Gets New Planters Thanks to Teenage Volunteer

Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital goes into 2026 with even more vibrant spaces for patients, thanks to a teenage volunteer.

The council's Green Spaces team joined forces with the hospital staff and a group of generous volunteers to create the colourful new areas in Sunnyside's patient gardens.

Ben Roffey, a sixth form student and volunteer at the hospital, approached Council Leader Stuart Bray for his support in trying to improve the gardens for patients.

Ben said: *"I volunteer with both the hospital's Meaningful Activity Team and the council's Green Space Volunteers.*

"At the hospital, I saw how much the patients enjoy being outdoors and I knew that helping to plant flowers there would brighten their days.

"Gardening is so good for everyone's wellbeing but it was difficult for some patients to bend down, so I asked Cllr Bray for his help to get some taller pots and some more plants.

"I also ran a Halloween-themed bake sale at Hinckley school and raised £127.73 for the hospital for the plants and other wellbeing activities."

The council has provided the hospital with four planters, which were previously used in Hinckley town centre and were no longer needed, and have contributed £200 towards the cost of the planters.

The council's Green Spaces team helped to facilitate the project, designing and ordering the plants and getting everything planted.

The compost topsoil for the planters was kindly donated by JF Powners in Aston Flamville and the soil was formed from the compost produced from the borough's green waste



collections. Powners also donated a further £250 to the hospital for gardening and other patient activities.

Keryn Parish, from the hospital, added: *"I'd like to thank the council's Green Spaces team, Powners, and all of our staff and volunteers for helping to install these planters and new flowers in the patient gardens.*

"They have already brought a lot of joy to our residents. Ben and the other volunteers have shown what a huge difference people can make to the lives of others."

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Dr Luke Evans Visits Everywhere We Grow

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, visited Everywhere We Grow, a monthly pop-up for second-hand baby and children's clothes, at the George Ward Centre in Barwell.



Katie Gibson, who started Everywhere We Grow in 2021, holds

pop-up shops every 6-8 weeks in Barwell or a local nearby town to support parents with the cost of clothes, toys and accessories.

Katie, a mum of three, started Everywhere We Grow after the birth of her first child. *"I'd just had my first baby, he was growing so fast," said Katie, "and I just didn't know how people were affording to dress their babies & what they were doing with everything after they had grown out of it.*

"I thought how can I get mums together, build a community of people that are like-minded and be sociable, all while grabbing a bargain."

Friends and family support Katie with running the Everywhere We Grow pop-ups, where attendance has grown from around 60 people to 200-250.

People are asked to book tickets via www.everywherewegrow.co.uk.

The next pop-up takes place at the George Ward Centre on Saturday 31st January, where everything will be half price.

Parents who donate clothes are given a voucher towards their next purchase. Payment at the pop-up events is by cash or PayPal transfer only.

Katie Gibson, Founder of Everywhere We Grow, said *"Thank you so, so much to every single person who turned up to the recent pop-up despite the absolutely atrocious weather! We really appreciate the effort people made to still come and support us.*

"I could not run our pop-ups without my incredible friends and family, and a special mention to my husband Adam who goes above and beyond to support us.

"I'd like to take the time to give Dr Luke Evans MP a massive thanks for taking time out of his extremely busy schedule to visit our pop-up and see what an incredible community we have. It was such an honour to walk him around and show him what we have all achieved together!"

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said *"It was an absolute pleasure to meet Katie and her family, see what they have built and hear what it means to parents and families across our area.*

"I don't know how Katie manages it all – with three children and a full-time job, she has still managed to develop Everywhere We Grow into a successful regular event that has become a lifeline for parents going through hard times.

"As an MP I meet many fantastic people across our area, Katie epitomises the selflessness and community spirit that we have in Hinckley and Bosworth and I wish her and the whole team the very best with Everywhere We Grow."

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Saturday 31st Jan - Barwell

Sunday 8th March - Barwell

Saturday 21st March - Rugby

Saturday 25th April - Barwell

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Thursday – Chair Exercise

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12 – 1.15 Chair exercise
1.30 – 2.45 Seated Zumba

Wednesday
12 – 1.15 'Love to move' (for people living with dementia or memory problems)
1.30 – 2.45 Chair exercise

Thursday
1.30 – 2.45 Chair Exercise

Please call Kerry on 07961 733519 to book in

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Big Brother's Brilliant Book for Little Sister

One of the nicest stories to come out of Hinckley in 2025 was that of a kind-hearted 10-year-old local lad who wrote and published a touching children's book inspired by his younger sister's experience of living with severe allergies.

Bayln Tanna, a pupil at The Dixie Grammar School, co-authored Shyla's Secret Sadness — a beautifully illustrated story about empathy, inclusion, and understanding.

The book tells the story of Shyla, a seven-year-old girl whose allergies make daily life feel challenging and isolating.

As her *'backpack'* of medicine and worries grows heavier, she begins to feel left out — until her big brother and friends find thoughtful ways to help her feel safe and included again.

"I wanted to write something that would help kids like my sister feel less alone and sad," said Bayln.

"I've seen how hard it can be for her, and I wanted to show other children that being kind and understanding can really help."

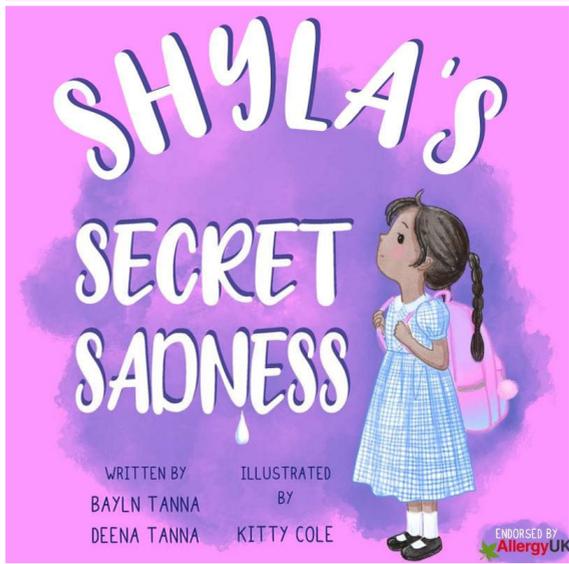
The heartfelt story has already received praise from leading allergy specialists and charities.

Dr Gary Stiefel, Consultant in Paediatric Allergy, said *"beautifully captures what so many children experience in a way that is gentle, relatable and empowering."*

Simone Miles, CEO of Allergy UK, described the book as *"a shining example of how understanding and small acts of kindness can make a world of difference."*

Bayln wrote Shyla's Secret Sadness with his mum, Deena Tanna, who said the project was inspired by their own family's experiences.

"We've watched Shyla miss out, feel left out, and carry an emotional weight that most people don't see," she said.



"This book was written to help families like ours start conversations about empathy, safety and inclusion."

Shyla's Secret Sadness is available now on Amazon, and the family plans to host school and library readings across Hinckley.

The events aim to raise awareness about childhood allergies and emotional wellbeing, while encouraging kindness among young readers.

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Spa guests can also enjoy use of the Romans Health and Leisure Club facilities.

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Looking Back Over Safer Summer Streets

Summer may seem like it was many, many months ago – but Leicestershire Police has spoken about the success of its Safer Streets Summer campaign.

On conclusion of the campaign following three months of high-impact engagement and enforcement across Leicestershire, the final month of the campaign saw particularly strong results.

And Hinckley has offered its thanks for the positive work, which has included:

Community Engagement - “*Meet the Inspector*” events were also held throughout the campaign, with September involving meetings at the Battle of Britain remembrance parade in Hinckley.

Business Engagement - Officers engaged with the night-time economy in Hinckley, offering crime prevention advice and reassurance.

Enforcement & Innovation - Operation Pedalfast, targeting illegal e-vehicle use, continued across Hinckley and other areas in September, contributing to over 480 seizures in 2025. This operation was promoted across social media accounts and has now been nominated for a national award.

Regular engagement was conducted in partnership with local authorities, with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councils playing active roles.

Hinckley BID said: “*We would like to thank*



Inspector Neil Whittle and all the police across Hinckley Town Centre for all the hard work across the summer.

“The results were brilliant, our events were covered and safe, when we did have any issues, they were solved straight away, the working across the town centre have been amazing.”

A police statement said: “*The Safer Streets Summer campaign may have come to a close, but its legacy lives on. Through visible policing, meaningful engagement, and targeted enforcement, communities across Leicestershire are safer, more connected, and better supported. The relationships built and lessons learned will continue to shape future policing efforts - ensuring that safety remains a shared priority all year round.*”

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Hinckley Honoured in Tourism Awards

Hinckley businesses and events have been honoured at the 2025 Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards.

A winner was awarded for each category, with the judges also awarding Highly Commended and Commended certificates.

Martin Peters, Chief Executive of Leicestershire Promotions, said: *“Tourism is a high pressure industry and it’s vital we recognise excellence across the sector.*

“We pride ourselves on the most rigorous assessment process, and finalists and winners receive invaluable feedback to help them develop their businesses further. Thirteen of our winners now go forwards to the national VisitEngland Awards next spring, so we wish them well and congratulate all our winners.”

A special award for Outstanding Contribution to the Visitor Economy was presented to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for their commitment and vision in creating the iconic Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail.



Leonardo Hotel & Conference Venue Hinckley Island was highly commended in the Business Event Venue category.

In the Best Free Event category both the Hinckley BID Soapbox Derby and the Hinckley BID Motor Show were highly commended.

We have been pleased to support Hinckley BID and all our local charities and communities throughout 2025.

We look forward to supporting many more local events in 2026.

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Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport (Dial a Ride) is a Charity and has been running for over 30 years and are looking for friendly drivers to **join us!**

You will meet some amazing people, whilst making a positive impact to their lives by alleviating social isolation and supporting their physical and mental wellbeing.

Volunteers will need to use their own vehicles (**car insurance will not be effected**) be over 25 years and agree to a DBS Check.

We pay for the mileage so it only costs your time.

Our volunteers say how rewarding the role is as they are helping others whilst also keeping themselves busy and staying in touch with others.



**If you are interested in helping your community, please give Lindsey Short
a ring on 01455 250462 or email dialaride21@hotmail.com**

Lifeline Alarm Service Saves Woman After Fall

The son of an elderly Hinckley woman who was saved by an alarm device after a serious fall at her home has spoken out in praise of the service that helped his mother.

Margaret, aged 90, has had to have hip replacement surgery following the incident late last year.

She was able to activate here lifeline device, which is operated by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and was immediately connected to the council's control centre.

An operator spoke to Margaret, who lives alone, established she had fallen and was unable to walk and called the emergency services within two minutes of receiving the call.

He then also notified her family about the incident.

Margaret's son, Grahame, contacted the council, praising the Tunstall Lifeline alarm and the swift actions of the council operator, ambulance service and NHS.

Grahame said: *"We want to applaud the whole operation. We were thrilled to have had such a great experience, from a quick and easy*



arrangement of installation, to the service supporting Mum."

The Tunstall Lifeline alarm scheme offers users the ability to call for help at the touch of a button at all times.

Calls are routed to the council's control centre in Burbage, where staff can get in touch with family contacts, visit if needed and call emergency services when necessary.

If you or a relative might benefit from this service, or would like to know more, more information about the Lifeline alarm system is available online or you can call 01455 251137.

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Disposing of your Christmas Tree

If, by the time you are reading this, you still have your Christmas tree up, or its lying out in the garden and you're wondering what to do with it, then read on.

If it's a real tree, it can be taken to the local tip.

In Hinckley and Bosworth this is Barwell Recycling and Household Waste Site.

And if you're signed up for the green bin garden waste collection, then real Christmas trees cut to one metre in length are suitable for garden waste collection.

And your artificial tree? On average, artificial trees need to be used for at least ten years to be as environmentally friendly as real Christmas trees.

But if it is time for a change, if it's in good shape, don't throw it away.

Instead offer it for sale, donate it to your local



charity shop or pop it on Freecycle, where it can hopefully find a new home.

If it's not usable then it will need to be dismantled and go into your general waste bin or taken to your RHWS for disposal.

Artificial trees and Christmas decorations do not belong in your recycling bin.

Looking forward to a brand new year in 2026?

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Here at The Local Rock Magazine our aim is to support all of our clients to gain as much exposure into the local community, to give them the time and experience in the advertising world, with all the knowledge that we have, our aim is to give you a service that is second to none.

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If this is something you maybe considering in 2026, please get in touch with the team to discuss your needs.

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We wish you all a Healthy and Happy New Year from all of us.

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