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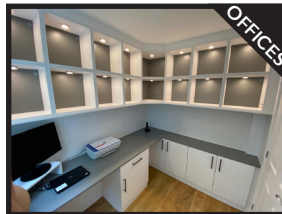
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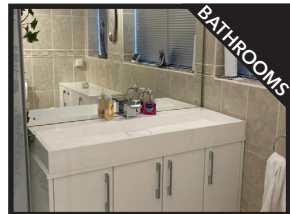
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Celebrations as Specialist Nurseries Plan Scrapped

Campaigners are celebrating after plans to stop using four specialist nurseries for pre-school children in Leicestershire, including one in Burbage, were dropped following a consultation.

Leicestershire County Council said it received “significant” feedback from parents, carers, professionals and residents.

The survey received over 2,500 responses, mainly expressing concerns, as well as a 2,000-signature petition against plans to stop using Sketchley Hill Menphys Nursery School and Wigston Menphys Nursery School as well as Lift Beacon in Loughborough and Oasis Retreat in Melton Mowbray.

Sketchley Governor Emma Beddard said: *“We are delighted with the result and that the council have realised the value of these specialist nursery schools.*

“We want to thank everyone for supporting us and completing the consultation.”

Council leader, Dan Harrison, said he had listened carefully to people’s views.

He said: *“I’d like to thank everyone who took the time to tell us how you felt. Let me be clear – we heard the outpouring of concern loud and clear. I can confirm that following the conclusion of the consultation, the Director of Children and Family Services, following discussion with the Cabinet Lead Member, has decided not to proceed with the proposals so Cabinet will no longer be considering them at its next meeting in March.*

“It’s hard not to be moved by the powerful feedback received. The views of the Full Council were also made clear last week, that



a very clear majority of elected members are against these proposals.

“These young children desperately need our support. Our intention was not to cause worry but the first-hand accounts I’ve heard and read have left me in no doubt that halting plans is the right thing to do.

“We’ve listened to the responses and acted accordingly and that’s the power of effective consultation.”



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Secondary School Places Secured

Secondary school places across Leicestershire have been revealed, with 97.8 per cent of young people securing one of their top five preferences.

Figures released on Monday 2 March (National School Place Offer Day) show that just over 7,600 students have been offered one of their preferred schools.

Nearly 90.1 per cent secured their first preference, while 5.9 per cent secured their second preference, and just over one per cent secured their third preference.

This year saw 7,810 applications received on time: a drop of 451 students on last year.

Cllr Charles Pugsley, lead member for children and families, said: *"We're extremely pleased*



that once again nine out of ten Leicestershire children have secured their first choice of secondary school.

"We understand some students were not offered their preferred school.

"Where this is the case, I would encourage any family in need of advice is get in touch with us and contact the School Admissions Service to discuss the options available, which includes an appeal."

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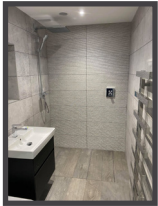


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What's In Guide

Saturday 4 April - Barwell's Big Easter Eggstravaganza

Held at Jubilee Hall in Barwell's Radford Park from 12pm until 4pm. Places for stalls may still be available for Barwell's Big Easter Eggstravaganza, which is set to take place on Saturday, 4 April. Easter will be welcomed and celebrated at Jubilee Hall in Barwell's Radford Park from 12 noon until 4pm. Among the attractions and activities will be face painting, an Easter Bonnet Competition and bird feeder making sessions. Food and refreshments will also be available. To find out about stall availability contact assistantclerk@barwell-pc.gov.uk



Every Saturday - Construction Club

Held at Sapcote Community Library. Build, create, and make friends. Join us every Saturday. Open 10am - 1pm. Free - no booking required. School age group. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/carer



Saturday 25 April

St George's Day Celebration & Scout Parade



Saturday 27 June

Armed Forces Day

Saturday 4 July

Music in the Mead (Beat Thieves)

Saturday 9 May

Launch of Music in the Mead with an 'Airbourne' special

Saturday 25 July

Music in the Mead (Charlotte Beaver)

Saturday 16 May

Music in the Mead (Julie Sings)

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 August

Feast Hinckley 2026

Saturday 6 June

Proms in the Park



Mon 3, Tues 4 & Wed 5 August

Snap Dragon Children and Families Festival

Saturday 13 June

Music in the Mead (The Alternatives)

Saturday 15 August

Music in the Mead (Different Kettle of Fish)



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Perfect Spring Day Out at Daffodil Sunday

If you're looking for a lovely Spring day out for all the family then what could be better than the Annual Daffodil Sunday Spring Fair.

Taking place on Sunday, 12 April this family friendly outdoor country fair is held with the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Denbigh, in the grounds of Newnham Paddox, Monks Kirby, CV23 0RA.

The event raises much needed funds for the upkeep of the six Revel Group Church buildings.

Last year the day enjoyed glorious sunshine and a huge attendance of more than 2,700 adults and around 600 children.

Daffodil Sunday will this year feature woodland and lakeside walks amongst the beautiful daffodils, a host of children's activities an array of entertainment, including live music and dance.



There will also be an impressive selection of gift plant and craft stalls and food and drink stalls.

Another highlight will be a Vintage Car and Tractor Show.

Organisers said: *"We're incredibly grateful for the help of all the volunteers that come together to make Daffodil Sunday, and without whom this event would not be possible.*

"We'd also like to thank our Commercial supporters who've

very gratefully donated to support Daffodil Sunday."

Tickets are available on the gate at £8 for adults, with under 16s going in for free.

Parking is free with the arrangements promised to be improved this year to avoid queues.



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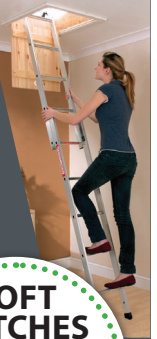
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Free Holiday Clubs and Gym Membership this Easter

Children in Hinckley and Leicestershire receiving benefits-related free school meals can take part in free holiday clubs and access free gym membership this Easter.

Families with youngsters aged 5-16 are encouraged to sign up now for the sessions, part of the government-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, coordinated by Leicestershire County Council working with Active Together.

HAF holiday club sessions are available at venues across the county and offer a range of activities including arts and crafts, sports, dance, games, and music activities, as well as a nutritious meal.



Youngsters aged 11-16 years can sign up for a HAF junior gym membership, available at their local leisure centre.

Cllr Charles Pugsley, lead member for children and families, said: *“The HAF sessions help young people build social skills and make new friends in a supportive and fun environment.*

“They also provide a great opportunity for them to enjoy and build on existing hobbies or learn new skills. I would encourage anyone who is eligible to have a look at what’s on offer this Easter.”

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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

- **Environment** - March 23
- **Planning - Tuesday** April 7
- **Admin & Finance** - April 13

Contact us ...

The parish office, at Millennium Hall on Britannia Road, is usually open from **9am to midday**, Monday to Friday.

The office will be closed from midday on Thursday April 2 until 9am on Tuesday April 7 for the Easter bank holiday weekend.

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
-  [Burbage Parish Council](#)
-  [@burbage_pc](#)

Working for Burbage every day

Every household in Burbage pays a Parish precept as part its annual Council Tax bill - but not everyone might know how that money is spent. This year, the Council has produced an attractive fold-out guide to show how your pounds are put to good use around the parish, improving community spaces and facilities, staging events and supporting public safety among other things. Copies have already been distributed to many households, with more to follow. You can also pick one up from the Parish Office.



Get in line for an allotment

The Parish Council manages more than 100 allotment plots on two sites and always has a long waiting list. If you live in Burbage and think taking on a plot could be for you, **don't delay in filling out an application form on our website, or email the Council**. It is not unusual to have to wait a couple of years or more for a plot to become available.

On the beat

Burbage PCSO Darren Stretton works closely with the Parish Council on issues affecting the community. **You can read regular parish policing updates via the Community section of our website.**

Farmers' Market

The next Farmers' Market will be held on **Easter Saturday April 4** on Burbage Methodist Church car park on Windsor Street.

And the awards go to....

Two special awards were presented at Burbage's Annual Parish Meeting, honouring an online community champion and a top allotmenteer.

The Chairman's Award, presented to an individual or group who has made a real difference in the parish during the past year went to social media maestro **Pete Earl**, who set up and runs the **Burbage Village Community Facebook** group.

Making the award, **Council Chairman David Bill**, said: "What started as a local page has grown into a community of more than 21,000 members and, for many residents, it is the first place they turn to for news, advice, support and connection."

A donation to a charity close to his heart was made in Pete's name and the **John Moore Community Vase**, entrusted to the winner for a year, was received on his behalf by his son, Martin.

The Pat Armstrong Allotment Award, for the most productive and well-kept council plot during the previous season went to **Rachel Henson, tenant of Plot 18 at Woodland Avenue**, which she has been tending with her partner since summer 2023.



The Chairman's Award was collected on behalf of Pete Earl by his son Martin.



Burbage pupils and a resident of Moat House helped to design this year's Allotment Award plaques.

Rachel received a £20 voucher donated by **Sapcote Garden Centre**, plus a £50 National Garden Gift Card and a keepsake plaque and plot signboard featuring designs by **Burbage Junior School pupils Florence Mottram and James Philp, Sketchley Hill Primary School pupil Chayce Dixon and Moat House Care Home resident June Cole**, who each received a certificate of thanks and a small gift.

The awards marked the culmination of another busy year for the Council, with the Chairman sharing highlights from the past 12 months, including projects that have been delivered, as well as exciting plans ahead.

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Bright Biodiversity Future for Burbage Common

Burbage Common and Woods will continue to be looked after and improved for at least the next 30 years following a landmark agreement.

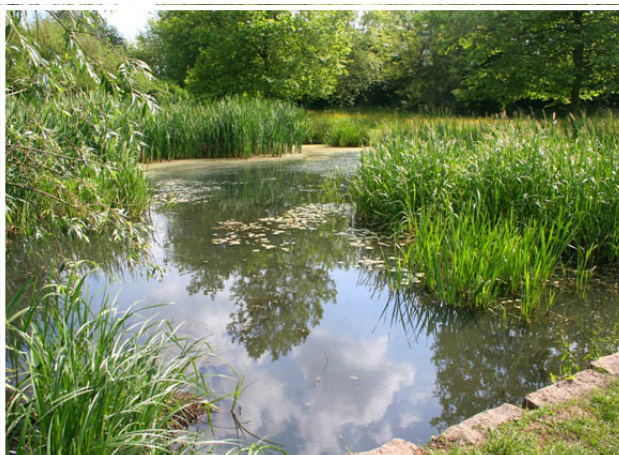
Parts of the popular nature site will be established as a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) habitat bank after an agreement with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

This will improve biodiversity and generate income to help towards the costs of providing sustainable habitat improvements there as well as other countryside sites for at least 30 years.

The additional revenue will also help Burbage Common and Woods cope with increasing visitor pressures.

BNG is a legal requirement that means when developers build something, they must leave nature better off than it was before. This is like a savings account, but instead of money it stores 'biodiversity units' created by improving nature. Developers who can't achieve their required BNG on their own land can buy these units from landowners who are on the BNG sites register.

CLlr Lynda Hodgkins, Executive Member for Parks and Open Spaces, said: "We are securing



the future of Burbage Common and ensuring that it can flourish for at least the next three decades."

The next step is to formally partner with a responsible body and agree a conservation covenant, which will set out the improvement works and how progress will be independently monitored over the coming decades.

Caroline Roffey, Assistant Director for Streetscene Services at the Borough Council, said: "This covenant is really important. It sets the expectations for the next 30 years and ensures that an independent body will regularly check our progress so we can demonstrate the 10% boost in biodiversity we've committed to."

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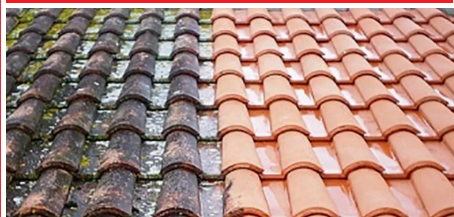
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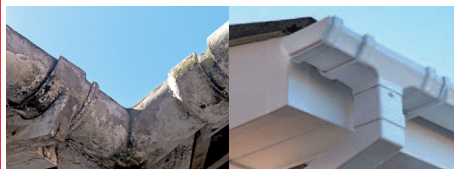
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Swim 22 Miles for Diabetes UK

DiABETES UK
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Diabetes UK is putting a call out to people from Leicestershire to take part in a sponsored swimming challenge which raises vital funds for the charity.

Swim22 runs between March 22 and June 22 and involves swimming a total of 22 miles – the distance from England to France.

Participants can take on the challenge at their own pace, in their local pool or the open water, accumulating the 22 miles across the course of the 12 weeks.

All funds raised will go towards Diabetes UK's work, funding life—saving research and helping people living with diabetes to get the care and support they need.

Actor and Diabetes UK supporter Annette Badland, whose credits include EastEnders, Doctor Who, Midsomer Murders and multiple Emmy award winning comedy Ted Lasso, is encouraging people to take part in the challenge after completing it on several occasions herself.

Annette said: *“I know firsthand that swimming 22 miles over 12 weeks is no mean feat – but the sense of accomplishment you get at the end of the challenge is unmatched.*

“Your first swim might feel daunting but take the plunge and you’ll be amazed at what your body can do.

Peter Shorrick, head of the Midlands region for Diabetes UK, added: *“Whether you haven’t swum in a while or you’re a seasoned swimmer, our team will be on hand to offer swimming tips and fundraising advice along the way.”*

In addition to the standard 22 mile distance, there are also two other challenges to choose from.

Participants can do *‘The Half’*, covering 11 miles or more experienced swimmers may wish to take



on *‘The Double’* – swimming 44 miles.

To register for Swim22, visit swim22.diabetes.org.uk.

COMPETITION WINNER

Ben from Sketchley Grange Hotel & Spa came in to choose the winner of the Traditional Afternoon Tea For 2 with full use of the leisure and spa facilities and a 25 minute treatment each. (All worth £120.00).



Congratulations to our Winner Mrs Harper from Bulkington

Thank you to all of the entries for the competition, we were overwhelmed with the response for this competition.

The Local Rock

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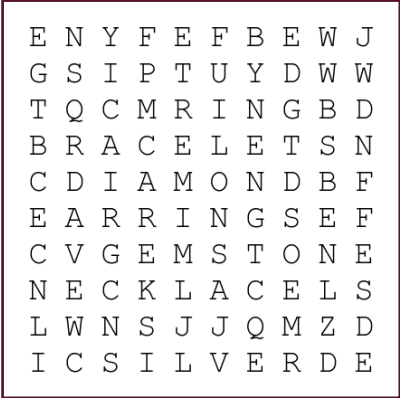
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March 2026

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*Winners will receive confirmation from The Local Rock

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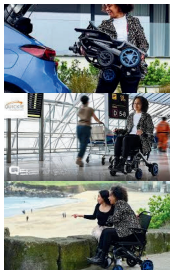


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New Laws to Protect Livestock from Dog Attacks Welcomed

Leicestershire sheep farmers have welcomed new laws to better protect farm animals from dog attacks and hopes it will help educate irresponsible dog owners.

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 will give farmers clearer and stronger legal protections against livestock worrying.

Police will have new powers under the act, including being able to seize and detain a dog and take DNA samples from it.

The National Sheep Association said worrying by dogs remained a blight on the industry.

Its survey of farmers in 2025, external found that 87% of sheep farmers had experienced a dog attack on their flock in the past year.

One Leicestershire farmer said: "Every morning I come and check the sheep. I come over the hill and there is just something in the back of my mind - are they going to be alright?"

"I've had three dog attacks in the last year - two in the spring where three lambs were killed each time."

It has been an offence to allow a dog to worry livestock since 1953, but the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said the



legislation had not kept pace with changes in the countryside.

The new law came into effect on 18 March in England and Wales and is designed to clampdown on cases of livestock worrying, give farmers greater confidence incidents will be investigated properly and hold irresponsible dog owners to account.

Camelids, such as llamas and alpacas, will also now be protected by the new legislation. A clearer distinction is also made between worrying farm animals and attacking them, to reflect the severity of the offence.

Leicestershire Police said it had received reports of 21 livestock attacks across Leicestershire and Rutland in 2025.



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Sixth Form Rugby Academy in Partnership with Coventry Rugby Club



The Hinckley Sixth Form at Hinckley School has launched its Sixth Form Rugby Academy in partnership with Coventry Rugby Club.

It promises to be a brand-New elite-level rugby Provision for the Young People of North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire.

This exciting programme will enable Sixth Form students to combine academic challenge with outstanding sporting opportunities.

Participants will benefit from elite-level training, access to professional coaching staff, and clear pathways into competitive and professional rugby.

As part of this partnership, students on the Coventry Rugby pathway will receive a minimum of 10 plus hours per week of Academy-led coaching and support, fully aligned with Coventry Rugby's performance framework and delivered exclusively by Coventry Rugby Academy staff in conjunction with their academic studies.

This balance means students at The Hinckley Sixth Form will be able to receive high-quality provision for both academic and athletic development.

Players will receive dedicated support from Coventry Rugby Academy staff while remaining fully available for training and weekend club rugby, providing a clear springboard into senior and men's rugby, as well as a direct progression route into Coventry Rugby's U18s programme.

A spokesperson said: *"Whether students aspire to perform at a high level or pursue a future in coaching, sports science, or development, our Rugby Academy offers an exceptional springboard to success."*



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Pugmarine Conquers Watery Gate

During recent months of heavy and persistent rainfall drivers were often warned, quite rightly, about the dangers of taking their cars through flooded areas, particularly places like Thurlaston's Watery Gate.

But a Nuneaton man has come up with an interesting solution, by fitting a 5ft-long snorkel to his car so he can blast through deep puddles. And he has even tested it at Watery Gate!

Charlie Burns spent £80 buying parts to turn his 1996 Peugeot 405 into an amphibious vehicle - nicknamed 'The Pugmarine'.

Charlie, aged 30, bought a metal pipe which is attached to the engine and welded onto the outside of the car, with the end above the roof line.

The pipe moves the car's air intake above water so that the engine isn't filled with water.

Charlie, a scrapyard owner, now uses the car for off-roading, exploring, and green laning - where motorists take their vehicles on unsurfaced roads.

The experienced mechanic has urged others not to try to emulate his behaviour, saying he is familiar with the stretch of water where he made the attempt and had calculated the risks while



modifying his car.

The Peugeot isn't Charlie's first attempt at making one of his cars more amenable to the water. In 2019, he bought a Volkswagen Polo and converted it into a working canal boat - all while it remained road legal.

Dubbed the 'Boatswagan', he's since taken home multiple awards for 'most eccentric boat' at the Henley-on-Thames Traditional Boat Festival, and he has taken it cruising on canals.

The Local Rock would like to join Charlie in urging readers not to emulate his actions.

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A Splash of Grease in The Crescent



Grease is the word.

Or at least it will be if you strut into Hinckley town centre on Saturday, 28 March.



Concordia Youth Theatre will on that day be performing a delightful showcase of their newest production from the hit musical, 'Grease the Musical'!

That production will be staged at Hinckley's Concordia Theatre from 23 June to 27 June.

But you can enjoy a very special taster of what is in store for audiences in the town centre from 12 noon to 12.30pm

Any T-Birds or Pink Ladies in town will experience a live showcase of this hit musical theatre production over an incredible 30 minutes, outside Cineworld in The Crescent.

Obviously, there are too many classic Grease songs to squeeze them all into a half hour performance.

But let's just say you are more than likely to hear Grease, Hopelessly Devoted to You, You're the One That I Want and Sandy, with book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, used by arrangement with Robert Stigwood.



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