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Kids Enjoy Emergency Services Day in Crescent

Families turned out in force to enjoy Emergency Services Day in Hinckley.

Taking place at The Crescent on Wednesday 22 July, the event offered a chance to meet the people behind the uniforms – and see some cool vehicles and kit!

Vehicles and uniformed officers were on display and available for photos and engagement on the vital services they provide to our community.

The free event was organised by Hinckley BID as part of its Summer of Fun.

They said: *"It was fantastic to see so many families enjoying the day, meeting our amazing emergency service organisations and learning more about the incredible work they do."*

"Thank you to Hinckley Police, Leicestershire



Search and Rescue, Leicestershire & Rutland Blood Bikes, Your Local Air Ambulance WNDLR, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Hinckley Station and the Fire Safety Team for making the event so special."

They also thanked Earl Shilton Camera Club for taking the photographs on the day.

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Nature Safari From Your Doorstep

Green spaces across the parish of Burbage are a boon for biodiversity, from small areas of grass deliberately left to grow long on Council-managed parks, to the wild acres of Burbage Common and Woods.



So, if you've seen a species you recognise, from a blue tit to a bluebell, please follow the links to submit your sighting."

Data about even the most common species is important to build up a picture of what plants and creatures are doing well and what is in decline and will help to inform

ongoing conservation efforts.

Now, the school summer holidays are offering the perfect opportunity to get out and about and explore. Burbage Parish Council supports a page on the Leicestershire & Rutland Naturespot website www.naturespot.org.uk where people are invited to submit photos and records of wild flora and fauna found around the parish.

If you don't know what it is that you've come across, whether insect, grass, bird or mammal, there are lots of photos on the site to help you identify them.

The Naturespot team says: *"We would like more wildlife observations from the parish."*

Burbage Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently being reviewed for an update, recognises the importance of the natural environment and includes policies to protect and enhance green spaces across the parish.

The Plan says: *"A shared positive understanding and experience of the local environment supports the development of a healthy and united community across the generations."*

The Parish Council-managed green space at Canberra Way, pictured, offers a haven of natural habitats for flora and fauna.

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Darren Returns from Dream World Cup Trip

Back in May The Local Rock told readers about Hinckley man Darren Thompson, who was jetting off to The World Cup using money he saved by quitting alcohol.

Now the recovering alcoholic has returned to the UK after spending the past few weeks following the Three Lions around the US and Mexico.

The 53-year-old said it was an *"amazing trip of a lifetime"* and hopes his story can help to raise awareness and inspire other people struggling with alcohol addiction.

The sales manager said he had dreamed of going to a World Cup ever since he watched England play Spain on TV at the 1982 tournament when he was 10.

He decided to go for it this time round and was successful in obtaining a ticket for every England game.



Thompson said his highlight of the tournament was England's 3-2 win against Mexico on 5 July.

"It was just amazing," he said. "Being in the atmosphere, being surrounded by England fans."

"I've met so many fantastic people and opposition fans, especially Ghanaian fans, they were amazing."

"We were all dancing. I absolutely loved it and had the time of my life."

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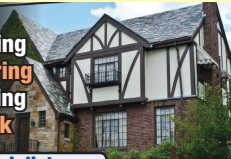
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Hinckley Town Cricket Club Seeks New Players

Hinckley Town Cricket Club is actively recruiting players. And it's an even more attractive proposition since the opening of its new clubhouse in May, as reported recently in *The Local Rock*.

Now the club is looking for new players and asking anyone who is interested to get in touch.

The hope is that, with this new clubhouse, HTCC will continue to grow from strength to strength, both on and off the field.

Vicky Macqueen, Hinckley Town Cricket Club Commercial Manager, spoke of *"the rejuvenation of our cricket community, bringing everyone back together with the common goal to bring the cricket club back to life."*

She also thanked Head Groundsman Barry Orton "who has been focusing on keeping the grounds beautiful!"

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, said *"It's a beautiful setting which I'm sure will be well-used by our community for many years to come."*

"Well done to John, Paul, Vicky, Jodie and everyone in the Club for their perseverance. It's a great achievement and I look forward to seeing the team grow!"

If you are looking to join the club as a player or hire the venue, you can follow up here: chairman@htcc.co.uk



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Wistow Maze Competition Winner

Congratulations to the lucky winner Mrs Humphreys of Stoney Stanton, who was delighted at winning the Wistow Maze competition and is looking forward to exploring her day out with her grandchildren. We received an exceptional amount of entries. Thank you to everyone who entered we will be bringing you another competition very soon. The Local Rock ♥




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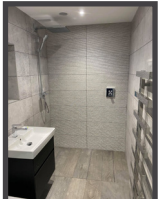
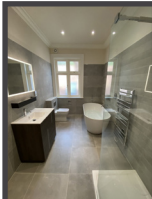
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With so much fascinating countryside and landmarks on our doorstep, the group is able to offer a full varied programme of walks and social events throughout the year.

Walks vary between 5 -12 miles, with something for everyone.

There are half-day walks on Saturdays, and full day walks, Thursdays and Sundays. Evening walks, often with a pub, are arranged throughout the summer.

The group travels to the Cotswolds, Derbyshire Peak District and other counties within the

Midlands. It also offers Coach Rambles, Pub Walks, and Hotel trips away.

As with many other Ramblers groups, the group is also active in the community – members of Hinckley Walking for Health and supporting the weekly local Walking for Health walks.

The group meets on Burbage Common on Wednesday and often has 60 walkers over three walks for varying length and abilities.

Join this friendly group! You will be welcome to join them on any of their walks.

A spokesperson said: *"Once you've experienced the fun and exhilaration, it's just a case of becoming a member."*

For more information visit www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/hinckley-group

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Working with the local community for 15 years

"Burbage Parish Council has been grateful for the support of The Local Rock for more than 16 years"

The Local Rock team does more than just provide space for the Council to promote its work maintaining and enhancing facilities across the parish, it takes a genuine interest in the Council's efforts on behalf of the community. When The Local Rock heard recently that trees planted by the Council to mark the platinum jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II had been vandalised, it made space on a page just as the magazine was going to print, to allow the news to be included at the earliest opportunity. It is this shared concern for the community that makes the Parish Council and The Local Rock such good partners.



Parish Councillors in Burbage plead for people to respect their environment following damage to trees planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy

Dear Sirs, We may not have a tree as iconic as the Spire in Salisbury, but surely it seems we do have a right to the same tranquility to enjoy simply because they can.

As councillors, we work hard to create an environment that is pleasant to be in. In 2022, we had all residents vote for planting 70 trees in the Earl Shilton and Queen's Green Canopy. The 70-year vision of our town, one that will be carefully tended to by future generations, did not come from us. For the past four years—a crucial period in the life of a young tree—they have successfully nurtured them and helped them thrive.

Over the weekend, however, a significant act of vandalism destroyed one of these trees and left another badly damaged. Whoever carried out this act will have hurtled to friends about what they had done: neither they were even encouraged to do it, but only because it was a crime to be punished. A tree has been lost, and with it, part of the vision of the 70-year plan to mark the Queen's remarkable reign.

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Councillor Bob Houghton, Chair of Burbage Parish Council, and Cllr Will East, Cllr of Earl Shilton, who chairs the Queen's Green Canopy project in the parish, stand in front of one of the damaged trees in the park.

We rely on the whole community to respect and support the work we take to create lasting memories and improve the environment. By raising awareness, we hope to encourage further acts of vandalism of this nature.

In response to this incident, Parish Councillors are discussing with officers from Hinckley and Bosworth Council the possibility of installing CCTV cameras within the park. The aim is not only to identify those responsible should further incidents occur, but, more importantly, to act as a deterrent and protect the trees and facilities that bring joy to the whole community.

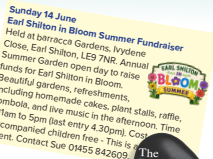
These trees were planted not just for today, but for future generations. They stand as a living memorial to a remarkable reign and as a reminder that the decisions we make today shape the environment we leave behind. Let us work collectively to ensure they remain for future generations to enjoy.

"A huge shout out from the volunteers at Earl Shilton in Bloom to the amazing team at Local Rock Magazine!"

"As a small charity, we don't have spare funds for marketing, so their support has meant so much to us. They kindly included details of our Summer Fundraiser in two editions leading up to the event, helping us reach so many more people.

They've been so friendly and supportive to deal with throughout the process, and we really can't thank them enough.

We certainly won't hesitate to ask for their help again in the future. Thank you for supporting Earl Shilton in Bloom!"



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

"A massive congratulations to the whole team at the Local Rock who are celebrating 15 years of keeping us informed and entertained!"

"I'm grateful for the support they have shown me since I became your MP and, on behalf of our community, I'd like to thank everyone at The Local Rock who works hard each week to ensure the very best magazines are distributed to thousands of homes across our area.

"We all know the value this magazine brings, telling local stories to local people. In this day and age, the chance to tell stories about our community is so important and the popularity of the Local Rock reflects that!"



The Local Rock

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See The Artist's Process at Atkins

Art lovers have until 14 August to enjoy the Atkins Gallery's Annual Open Exhibition, with a theme that puts the spotlight firmly on human creativity.

The Artist's Process invites visitors to look beyond finished artworks and explore the creative journeys behind them.

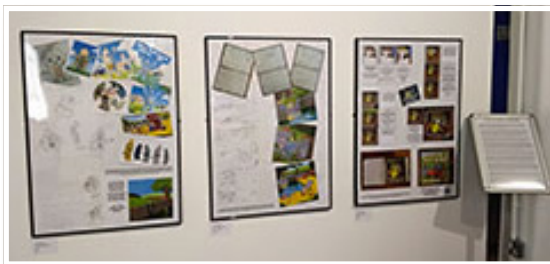
In contrast to AI-generated art, the exhibition showcases the inspiration, experimentation and personal development involved in creating original work.

Featuring 10 local artists, the exhibition includes sketchbooks, diary entries, progress photographs, and other materials that reveal how ideas develop into completed pieces, offering visitors a unique insight into the human creative process.

One highlight is local illustrator John Stilgoe's display documenting the creation of *The Adventures of Walter the Waller*.

The children's book was developed in collaboration with local author and heritage crafts specialist Alan Chamberlain after the pair met through an earlier exhibition at Atkins Building.

Visitors will be able to view early concept sketches and follow the evolution of the book's illustrations from initial ideas to publication.



Councillor Mark Bools, Deputy Leader of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, said: *"This exhibition is a celebration of human imagination and creativity. It gives visitors a rare opportunity to see the ideas and hard work that sit behind every finished artwork, while showcasing the wealth of artistic talent we have in the borough."*

As part of the exhibition programme, Castle Baroque Players will perform a free lunchtime recital on Wednesday 5 August, from 1pm to 2pm. The Leicestershire-based ensemble will present music from seventeenth-century Italy on authentic period instruments. No booking is required.

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.





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Age UK a Lifeline for Linda and Dorothy



More than 2.1 million unpaid carers in the UK are now aged 65 and over, according to Age UK's latest analysis.

One is Leicestershire's Linda, now in her 70s and caring for her mum Dorothy who recently turned 104.

Behind the celebrations is the reality of supporting an elderly parent while managing later life herself.

Linda says support from Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland has become *"a lifeline"*.

Each week, Dorothy meets her companion Sam at Wistow Garden Centre through the charity's service, to enjoy tea and scones in the café.

Linda knows that her mum is happy, safe and looked after, with time to focus on her own wellbeing.

The friendship began after Linda contacted Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland to help her mum apply for a Blue Badge. She learned about the charity's companionship



service, which matches older people with companions based on shared interests and personalities.

"Sam isn't just someone who visits Mum," said Linda. *"She's become a real friend."*

"Mum absolutely lights up when she knows Sam is coming. It's given Mum something to look forward to every week."

Sam says: *"Spending time with Dorothy is a real joy. I always leave looking forward to our next visit."*

Dorothy also receives support through the charity's Deep Clean Service.

Linda added: *"Without that help I'd be trying to look after two houses. It means I can focus on spending quality time with Mum, rather than worrying about everything else."*

Linda hopes her story will encourage other older carers to seek support.

Tony Donovan, Chair of Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland, said: *"With the right support in place, older people can continue enjoying life, and carers can have the reassurance and time they need to look after themselves."*



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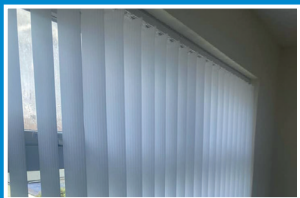
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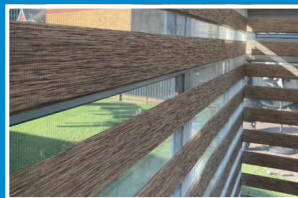
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Hinckley and Bosworth Statement on Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has announced its decision on local government reorganisation for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Government has confirmed that from April 2028 there will be two unitary councils to deliver all services to residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Those councils will be: A unitary council covering Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and parts of Blaby, Charnwood, and Harborough.

A unitary council for the remaining area of Leicestershire and Rutland. This means that the whole of Hinckley and Bosworth will be in the council covering the remaining area of Leicestershire and Rutland.

All council services are continuing as usual. There is no need for residents to do anything at this time. Any significant changes will only come into effect in 2028.

Following the announcement Council Leader for Hinckley & Bosworth Stuart Bray said: "I

have consistently argued that borough councils like Hinckley & Bosworth provide strong local services, local knowledge and close connections with the communities they serve.

"While I do not believe abolishing district and borough councils is the right approach, the Government has made its decision, and our focus must now be on securing the best possible outcome for residents. This was not part of Labour's election manifesto, and many people will question whether there is a clear mandate for changes of this scale. I hope the new Prime Minister listens carefully to local communities as these reforms progress.

"We will continue to be a strong voice for this borough, working with partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to protect local services, represent our communities, supporting our staff and influence the future arrangements. Throughout this process, our priority will be standing up for residents and ensuring Hinckley & Bosworth's interests are not overlooked."



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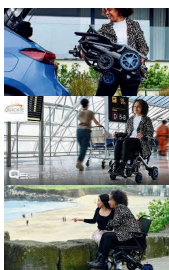
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Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead once again awarded coveted Green Flag Awards

Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead have once again raised the prestigious Green Flag Award, an international quality mark for parks and green spaces. It comes as the internationally recognised standard for parks and green spaces celebrates its 30th year.

These parks are among the 2,391 in the UK to achieve this recognition.

This double celebration marks Hollycroft Park's 17th Green Flag Award and Argents Mead its 10th Green Flag Award. The awards are a fantastic testament to the hard work, passion and dedication of the team and volunteers who care for these green spaces, ensuring it is maintained to a high standard for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Councillor Lynda Hodgkins, the Borough Council's Executive Member for Street Scene Services, Parks and Open Spaces, expressed her delight: *"We are thrilled to announce that Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead have once again been honoured with the Green Flag Award. This recognition highlights the tireless and ongoing efforts and commitment of our team in making these green spaces enjoyable for everyone."*

She added: *"A special thanks goes to the Green Spaces team for their hard work across both parks, and particularly to the Friends of Hollycroft Park Group. Their dedication has been instrumental in Hollycroft Park receiving its 17th Green Flag – a truly remarkable achievement."*



Paul Todd MBE, Green Flag Award Manager at Keep Britain Tidy, said: *"Parks are essential public spaces that support our wellbeing, our communities and our economy. Yet for millions of people, particularly in the most deprived areas, local parks simply don't feel safe or welcoming."*

"With public services under pressure, investing in parks is not a luxury, it's a practical, preventative solution and one of the most visible ways to improve people's quality of life."

"Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead have shown what can be achieved when parks are properly supported and managed. As we celebrate 30 years of the Green Flag Award, we want every community to have access to green spaces like this that are safe, welcoming and maintained to a high standard."

"Congratulations to everyone involved."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under contract from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

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Good News for The Cock at Sibson

For decade upon decade The Cock Inn pub in Sibson was a much-loved destination of choice for residents of both Hinckley and Nuneaton.

Famous for its stories of highwayman Dick Turpin using it as a hiding place filled the place with romance and history, making it an ideal 'date' venue.

Now, restoration work to bring it back into good repair is now under way, marking a welcome step forward for the historic building.

The work follows Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's decision to grant listed building consent for repair works and follows pressure from the Council and local residents to see the building brought back into use.

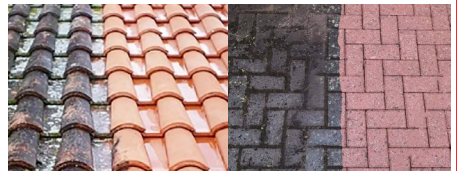
Contractors appointed by Star Pubs, the building owners, began internal works earlier this week. A new listed building application is expected to be submitted shortly for further works to ensure the building's long-term preservation.

The news follows a strong show of local support, with more than 2,500 residents signing a petition presented to Full Council in April calling for the historically significant pub to be renovated and reopened.

Council Leader Stuart Bray said: *"It is very encouraging to see work now under way at The Cock Inn. This is an important building for Sibson and the wider area, and these repairs are a significant step towards securing its future. We know how much this pub means to the local community, and the council has been committed to working with Star Pubs and doing all it can to support its preservation and help bring it back into use."*



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