

leicester link



Ride the
wheel
of light

**Council on
social media**



P5

**Universal
credit**



P16

**Stay well
this winter**



P30

**What's
on**



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First Turkish restaurant to serve alcohol in Leicester



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CONTACT THE COUNCIL



Welcome to your new look Leicester Link. I hope you like the fresh design and find it clear and easy to read. The magazine looks a little different but still contains all its regular items keeping you up to date with council news and what's on in Leicester.

These days there are many different ways to keep in touch with the council, and more and more people prefer to do so online. Turn to page 5 to see how we use social media to tell you about the latest news and events. You can also now follow me on Twitter:

@CityMayorLeic

We're coming to the end of a very busy year in Leicester. After a superb festival surrounding Rugby World Cup 2015, we're launching our biggest ever Diwali celebrations. These will extend over two weeks and across more venues in the city centre.

Thousands of you will no doubt enjoy a ride on Leicester's Wheel of Light, which is by Belgrave Road during Diwali and moves to Jubilee Square for Christmas. My very best wishes for all the celebrations ahead.

Sir Peter Soulsby | CITY MAYOR

[@CityMayorLeic](https://twitter.com/CityMayorLeic) leicester.gov.uk/citymayor

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COVER: Leicester's Wheel of Light

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Tel: 0116 2734237

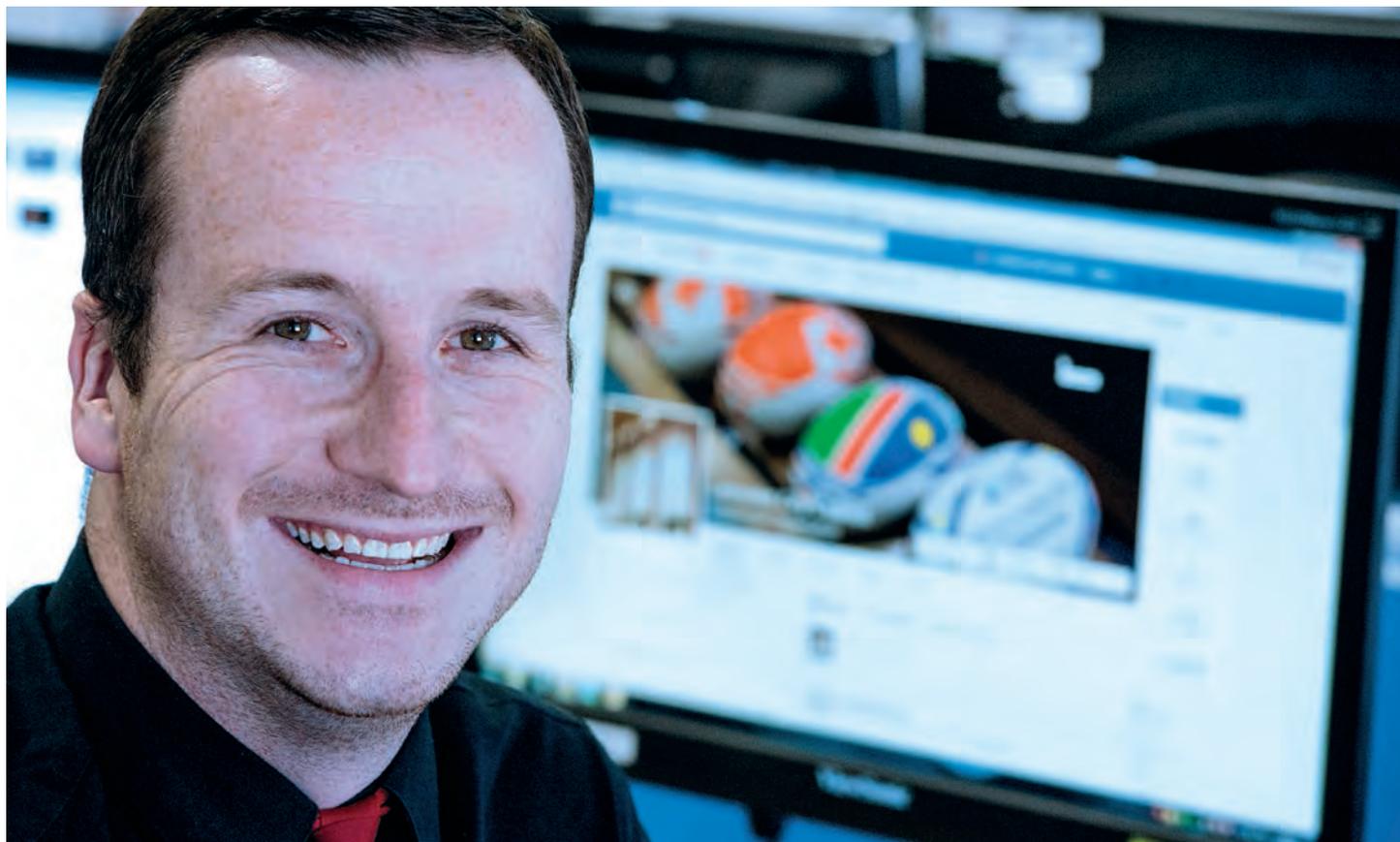
Kiddycare Little Willows, Thurnby Lodge

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www.kiddycarenurseries.co.uk





Get social!

Using social media to talk to residents saves both time and money. Link spoke to digital media officer Ian Gallagher to find out more.

Why does the council use social media?

One of the main reasons is to let people know how they can access council services quickly and easily online, rather than having to phone or visit us in person. We can also offer advice to members of the public who have queries about services.

Another key use is to promote local democracy and the city of Leicester and all the good things we do in it. People know we collect taxes and bins, but they might not know that we organise events such as the City Festival, Abbey Park fireworks and last year's Kasabian gig in Victoria Park.

Give us an example of how the council uses it

The demolition of the New Walk Centre is a good example. On one hand, people were very interested to see footage of the building being demolished – we were on the ground on the day and so were able to put out live footage of the event. Our 15-second video of the demolition has been currently viewed more than 218,000 times.

On the other hand, social media played an important role in communicating key messages around the demolition, such as road closures and exclusion zones. It was the first

place people came to ask us questions about what was happening on the day - we were able to answer those questions in real time.

How does this benefit residents?

It's simply the quickest and easiest way there is to communicate with residents. It's also very cost effective – approximately 240 times cheaper for us to answer a query online than to do it face-to-face. So it potentially represents a massive saving for taxpayers. ■

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 [@Leicester_News](#)

 [/leicestercitycouncil](#)

 [/leicestercouncilnews](#)

You can find out about the other social media profiles run on behalf of the council at [leicester.gov.uk/socialmedia](#). Many councillors also have their own Twitter accounts – details on pages 40-41.



Story of Parks

This year, local people can get involved with three mini-projects about the history of their local green spaces. It's part of Story of Parks, a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Twenty of the main parks and cemeteries in Leicester will be hosting events and activities until 2017. Our Parks will record the stories and memories of people who use them. In Discover Parks a team of volunteer researchers will uncover the hidden history of green spaces to create new

text panels, leaflets, activities and much more. Talk Parks is a programme of free public talks.

Please get involved if these interest you. You can also find our volunteering opportunities at do-it.org by searching 'heritage' in Leicester or download the volunteer programme from storyofleicester.info/parks

Jessica Boydon **0116 454 4935**
storyofparks@leicester.gov.uk



COOKE
TRAINING SERVICES

Beaumont Leys digital

We need your help to gather information about the digital skills of people in Beaumont Leys as well as their access to broadband at home. In return for completing a 5-10 minute survey, you could receive a free, fully refurbished computer system. These are on a first-come, first-served basis as we only have limited stock.

If you live in Beaumont Leys and want to take advantage of this offer please phone Cooke Training on **0116 2128 491** or email cookelearning@gmail.com

Or you can visit Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Centre, off Astill Lodge Road, during normal working hours.

Feel good films

Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre has joined forces with Leicester City Council to run a programme of films specially selected to lift the spirits, make people laugh and feel happier. Films To Make You Feel Good will bring a cinema experience closer to you, with big screens and popcorn to boot.

Over the coming months, community centres and libraries across the city will be screening a series of classic and recent films, bringing communities together to enjoy a movie and a chat with their neighbours. The events are open to all and we would particularly like to invite those of you who sometimes

feel lonely or isolated at home. We are also working with Age UK to help develop its befriending scheme, so that older people can attend events with a companion.

Venues include: Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, Coleman Neighbourhood Centre, Fosse Community Centre, Tudor Centre, Pork Pie Library and Community Centre, East West Centre and Beaumont Leys Library.

Tickets will be available at the events or in advance from some venues. To find out dates and times, ask at your local venue or go online: phoenix.org.uk/whats-on/community-cinema

 [/leicesterlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/leicesterlibraries)
 [@leicesterlibrar](https://twitter.com/leicesterlibrar)

For enquiries about Phoenix's community cinema programme email sallie.varnam@phoenix.org.uk





Forward Together in St Matthews

Eleven services now operate from the St Matthews Centre including housing, libraries, community services, STAR, income management and community wellness. With so many local services sharing space, resources and knowledge, it is much easier for local residents to access them. The centre has become a focus for the local community, bringing residents of all ages together.

Forward Together is a project funded by St Matthews Big Local and Leicestershire Police. Every Saturday evening, 9-11pm, it provides a safe place for young people to meet, play football or table tennis or simply socialise. If you live in the St Matthews area and are aged between 16 and 25, feel free to come down and get involved.

Neighbourhood buildings

Three community buildings owned by Leicester City Council in the city's Fosse and Braunstone wards are to be leased to local organisations to manage and ensure they continue to be open for public use. This is part of the Transforming Neighbourhoods programme.

The new leases specify that the buildings must remain accessible to the whole community. Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre in Pool Road is to be leased to the Leicester Events Group, which works with young people to develop dance and acting skills.

In Braunstone, Cort Crescent Community Centre will be leased by the Forward in Faith Ministry, a religious organisation which plans additional facilities for fitness, education and life skills training. Finally, Trinity Life Church will take on the nearby Braunstone Oak Centre in Bendbow Rise, where it wants to develop a new childcare service, a job club and café.



Youth project

Phoenix Cinema and Arts Centre is working with Soft Touch Arts on a new film project coming to two community venues in the Braunstone and Fosse wards this winter. Working with Leicester City Council's neighbourhood team, Phoenix will bring a series of classic films and artist led workshops to offer 12 to 15 year olds the chance to try something new, learn new skills, make friends and enjoy a fun and creative evening together.

The workshops, delivered by Soft Touch, will include slam poetry, DJing, graffiti, dance and animation. A film documenting the project will be shown at Phoenix in the spring. The sessions are supported by the council's ward funds and Leicestershire Police and are free for young people to attend.

SEARCH FOR: Cinema Den Leicester
f phoenix.org.uk



Think when you drink

National Alcohol Awareness Week (16 to 22 November) encourages us to think about alcohol and the risks associated with drinking.

Drinking too much increases our risk of becoming ill. Illnesses that are linked to alcohol include liver disease, cancer, stomach ulcers, raised blood pressure, stroke and dementia.

It also increases the risks of wider social impacts such as domestic violence, mental illness and sexually transmitted infections.

Drinking too much can also affect our relationships, our work, our bank balance, our appearance and our mental health. Keeping within the recommended units for alcohol can help us reduce the risks.

The government advises that women drink no more than two to three units of alcohol a day, while men drink no more than three to four units a day. Pregnant women and those engaging in potentially dangerous activities should drink less or nothing at all.

Remember the number of units you drink will depend on the strength and size of your drink. One unit is equivalent to 10ml or 8g of pure alcohol. Unfortunately it's not as simple as one drink, one unit.

leicester.gov.uk/ourhealthycity



City supports ex-servicemen and women

Leicester City Council has renewed its covenant with the armed forces, a commitment to support ex-servicemen and women. The covenant currently covers housing, revenue and benefits, and adult learning. The council is also committed to a programme of respect and remembrance, centred around Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Our housing policy ensures that retiring members of the armed forces have a home to return to. Those that apply within five years of leaving active service are placed in social housing and referred to council services for support as required.

A community support grant assists vulnerable people in emergency situations. Food, goods and vouchers can be provided and we can offer

help for ex-personnel to move to suitable housing if they are leaving supported accommodation. A council tax exemption can be offered for accommodation which is set aside for armed forces personnel.

Adult learning opportunities are available to all. However, sometimes ex-servicemen and women are entitled to discounts for courses. These are granted on a case by case basis and aim to give retiring service personnel the best prospects of employment upon returning to civilian life.

Councillor Stephen Corral, armed forces champion, said: "Leicester City Council aims to recognise the exemplary service of our servicemen and women while providing the best possible support once their time in the forces comes to an end."

Search for 'armed forces covenant' on leicester.gov.uk



Green flags in parks

Leicester is lucky to have many parks and green spaces, all to be enjoyed by local people. The Keep Britain Tidy campaign recently acknowledged each one of our parks for their beauty and upkeep. A total of 17 city parks and green spaces have been awarded green flags – putting them among the best in the country.

This news is particularly exciting for staff and volunteers at Victoria Park, Braunstone Park and Bennion Pools, whose efforts have been recognised with a green flag for the first time. Green flags are awarded on the basis of community involvement,

cleanliness of the park, and whether it is welcoming and well maintained. It is a testament to the work of staff in our parks service that we have achieved a clean sweep.

Councillor Piara Singh Clair, assistant city mayor responsible for culture, leisure and sport, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Leicester, with more of our parks and green spaces than ever before flying the coveted green flag.

"I want to thank all of the community volunteers and friends of our parks who have helped us to gain these awards."



Lord Mayor

In May Councillor Ted Cassidy MBE was elected as Lord Mayor of Leicester. Councillor Cassidy is delighted to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Leicester and promote the civic heritage and culture of the city.

He has chosen to help charities that focus on the mental health and well-being of children and young people: The Spark Arts for Children, which provides opportunities for children to discover and enjoy the arts, and Place2Be, which offers mental health support in schools.

The Lord Mayor has a background in social work and is keen to be actively offering assistance to young people in Leicester. He said: "I am committed to supporting the area of children's mental health and well-being, which is something that often falls under the radar."

During his year in office, the Lord Mayor will attend various key events, including the annual Remembrance Day service and parade, as well as events within the voluntary and business communities.

lord.mayor@leicester.gov.uk
0116 454 0020

Reporting bogus faith healers

The council's trading standards team has joined forces with the police and community leaders in an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of bogus faith or spiritual healers.

These people claim to be able to help those experiencing poor health, business or marital disputes, or who wish to find partners for their children, but they are in fact committing fraud – often costing their victims thousands of pounds.

Bogus faith healers prey upon vulnerable people and are often active within South Asian and African communities. They offer services through radio and newspaper adverts, and flyers, making claims that are impossible to fulfil – while taking money from their victims.

Unfortunately, people who are the targets of this kind of deception often don't see themselves as victims until it is too late. If you are worried that someone you know may have fallen victim to a bogus faith healer, or are aware of someone acting fraudulently and claiming to be able to perform miracles in exchange for money, there are a number of ways you can report your concerns.

The non-emergency number for Leicestershire Police is **101**, or you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Alternatively, you can reach Leicester City Council's trading standards team on **0345 404 0506**.



People of all ages are invited to take part in a poetry competition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2016.

The theme for the competition is 'Don't stand by' – a call to action in today's world and an opportunity to discuss the current relevance of the holocaust and other genocides.

hmd.org.uk

Poems must focus on bystanders to genocides that have taken place since 1939.

The age groups for entry are: primary age, 11-14, 15-18 and over 19s, and the closing date is 1 December.

To enter email **leicesterhmdpoetry@yahoo.co.uk** giving your name, contact number and age group.





School admissions now online

For the first time, parents can now apply for all their children's school places online at the same time. Applications are now open for all year groups together (primary – infant and junior – and secondary as well as in year transfers), instead of at different dates as before.

We hope that this will make it easier to apply for the school of your choice but please note that each year group still has a separate closing date – 31 October for secondary and 15 January for primary, infant and junior.

Applications received after these dates will be considered as late and dealt with after those received on time. So if you apply late, you are less likely to get your preferred school.

As always schools will offer help and advice sessions for parents who don't have online access or don't know how to complete an application.

Applicants for secondary places will hear which school they have been allocated on 1 March, junior places on 18 April and primary on 16 April.

leicester.gov.uk/admissions

Get set for winter

Now that the weather is turning colder we are starting to think about how to prepare and keep well in winter. There is a lot you can do to keep the bugs away – turn to page 30 for advice.

It is also important to 'Choose Better' with regard to health care. Your pharmacist or NHS 111 may be a better option than your GP or A&E services.

Check your medications, prescriptions and care plan and make sure that you are up to date and have medication in stock, including repeat prescriptions. This will prevent unnecessary journeys outside if the weather does turn nasty.

You could also check on others to make sure that they are prepared. You may have a neighbour, friend or relative who finds it difficult to get out in the winter months. A phone call or visit may mean you pick up on an illness that may otherwise go undetected. Things to look out for are people not opening or closing curtains or not answering the phone, the house seeming dark or cold, or them just not seeming themselves.

leicester.gov.uk/ourhealthycity



Leicester open for business

This autumn, Leicester Business Festival will welcome a host of industries, businesses and services to our city. Running from 26 October to 6 November, this brand new festival will be a celebration of innovation and skills.

You can take part by registering to attend an event online. With eight sectors hosting talks, workshops and displays, there is sure to be something to interest you.

We live in one of the most culturally and professionally diverse areas of the country, offering huge opportunity for investment. Leicestershire is the largest economy in the East Midlands, worth £19.4 billion per year and is home to 33,000 businesses with 435,000 employees.

Allister de Ternant, chair of the Leicester Business Festival steering group, said: "Leicestershire is a fantastic place to set up and run a business, yet traditionally we haven't been vocal enough about that. This is set to change with the inaugural Leicester Business Festival. The event will be prominent nationally and run by businesses for businesses."

leicesterbusinessfestival.com



NEWS SHORTS

Ready to switch

Ready to switch uses the combined purchasing power of our communities to negotiate cheaper prices with energy providers. If they wish, households can switch energy providers as part of a group, and everyone saves on their own energy bill. It is always up to individuals to decide whether or not to switch.

It's easy to register – all you'll need are the details of your current energy supplier, tariff and energy usage.

readytoswitch.co.uk

As part of the annual canvass to register voters, the city council has been writing to all Leicester households asking whether the information that appears on the electoral register for those living at that address is correct.

If you have received this letter, please act on it. Every household in Leicester must respond, even if you know you are already registered – you are

legally obliged to do so. It's quick and easy to respond and can be done online. If we do not get a response, one of our canvassers will be visiting your address in the coming months.

Being on the electoral register can help you in a number of ways, especially when applying for credit in the form of a mobile phone contract, mortgage or a loan.

leicester.gov.uk/registertovote
0116 454 2000



This autumn, while you're enjoying Diwali, Eid, Navratri or Bonfire Night, remember to look after yourself and your home.

Celebrate Safely is a joint campaign run by Leicestershire

Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire Police and Leicester City Council.

Go online for tips to help make sure your celebrations stay safe and happy.

leicester.gov.uk/celebratesafely



New Changing Places toilet

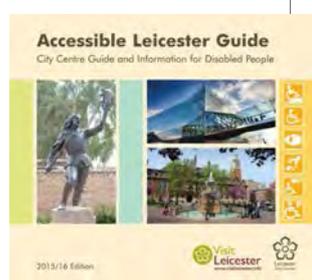
A brand new facility for people with profound disabilities is now open in the city centre. The council has installed a Changing Places toilet at its City Hall headquarters on Charles Street. This is a part of our commitment to improve access to community facilities for disabled people. It is available from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. To check opening hours on bank holidays, phone **0116 373 7770**.

For a list of all the other Changing Places facilities in Leicester go to **changing-places.org**

Other useful information for disabled people and carers can be found at **disabledgo.com** or via the Accessible Leicester Guide detailed below.

Accessible Leicester Guide

The council has published a new edition of the guide to help people with disabilities get around the city centre. The Accessible Leicester Guide 2015/16 is packed with information on city centre shops and services, their locations and accessibility. The free guide is available online and from a number of outlets including the council's customer service centres, Visit Leicester and Highcross shopping centre, as well as libraries and community centres.



leicester.gov.uk/accessibleleicester



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Your child may be entitled to 15 hours of **FREE** early education per week if you are receiving a qualifying benefit and have a household income of £16,190 or less.

To find out if your child is eligible:

Telephone: 0116 454 1100

Web: families.leicester.gov.uk/earlyeducation

or go to your local Children, Young people and Families Centre.



Smarter and safer

The council's housing team has been busy making improvements across the city

Shops spruced up

Recent refurbishments of the communal areas around the Bewcastle Grove shops have produced excellent results. With a specific budget set aside for the development of shopping areas in Beaumont Leys and Mowmacre, we've given residents greatly improved facilities.

Outside the Mowmacre tenants' association building, new seating areas have been installed and the surrounding area re-paved and smartened up. One local resident said that the work is "a marked improvement on what was here before. The whole place looks more inviting now."

These improvements are just one example of the work to create safer, cleaner, shared spaces across Leicester.



Improvements in Braunstone

In Braunstone we have replaced soffits and fascias on council-owned bungalows and replaced supporting walls around Blackmore Drive. The existing soffits and fascias were wooden and required constant maintenance. These have been replaced with UPVC fittings, which are easier to maintain and improve the look of the properties.

The new supporting walls replaced older structures which had disintegrated over time. The older walls were beyond repair and had the potential to cause a safety issue. A project was set up to rebuild the worst affected walls, bringing a significant visual improvement to the area.

Knee-high fencing saves verges

The housing team has installed knee-high fencing in Netherhall after residents complained about the state of grass verges.

Previously, inconsiderate drivers parked their cars on the verges, causing the grass become boggy during periods of wet weather. Now, the newly-installed fencing prevents this, and has created visually appealing green spaces.

Beautiful bulbs planted at Thurncourt

Outdoor shared areas around the shops on Thurncourt Road have been landscaped and smartened up. We have removed unsightly concrete and overgrown shrubs, jet-washed retaining walls and re-painted a canopy. To add some colour to the area, we installed small planters containing beautifully flowering spring bulbs. ■



LEFT:
Work carried out in Mowmacre and Braunstone



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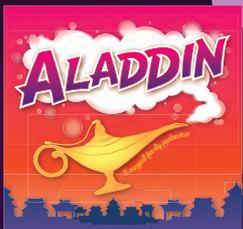
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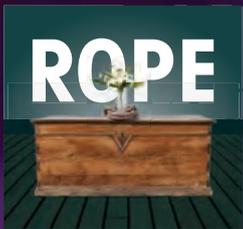
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Fare Guide

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Email: infohighfieldstaxis.co.uk

Website: highfieldtaxis.co.uk

Website: highfields.taxis@yahoo.com

Call 0116 262 4004
or book online

Lock changes and key safes

Being locked out of your home can be a distressing and embarrassing ordeal. For many, a spare key is just a quick call to a relative or neighbour away. But what if you live alone or haven't entrusted a spare set to someone?

When tenants call the council for a lock change this can cost up to £80. This situation can be avoided with some forward planning. Having a key safe fitted, or leaving a spare key with your neighbour or relative could save you a lot of money and frustration.

You can arrange for the council's handy person service to fit a key safe for you. Costs are based on ability to pay and range from £50 to £65. ■



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

0116 454 5120

leicester.gov.uk/housing

Bathroom conversions

A project to relocate some council tenants' bathrooms within their homes has had great success in Braunstone. In total, 43 council properties have had a third bedroom converted into a family bathroom, with their existing

downstairs bathroom becoming a utility room.

The scheme has created much-needed two bedroom properties in the area, while exempting some existing tenants from the government's 'bedroom tax'. In addition, rents on

the converted properties have been reduced by between £6.24 and £7.58 per week.

The newly-installed bathrooms have greatly improved these properties, with much better facilities for tenants and better use of internal space. ■



Are you ready for

Universal credit is a new system of benefits for those who are unemployed or on a low income. It will replace six existing benefits and in Leicester it comes into effect for some people in January 2016.

The benefits that universal credit will replace are income-related jobseekers' allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, income support, child tax credit, working tax credit and housing benefit. The new benefit is being introduced in stages to people who are making new claims, single people first.

What do I need to do?

To prepare for universal credit, there are several things you can do. As the benefit is paid directly into a bank account, check that your account can receive automated payments. Also, you will be responsible for making any rent payments to your landlord, so make sure that you are able to set up a direct debit or standing order. Your bank will be able to help with this.

Also take some time to consider your budget. Universal credit will be paid monthly, so it is important to make sure you have enough money to cover your bills and expenses for the full month. You can get help if you are not sure how to do this.

How to apply

All applications for universal credit will be made online at gov.uk/apply-universal-credit. There are no paper forms to fill in. If you don't have a computer, you can use one at your local library or job centre. To find your local library, visit leicester.gov.uk/libraries.

There is also support for people who are less confident online. For help filling in your online application call **0345 6000 723** from a mobile, **0845 6000 723** from a landline or, if you have a hearing impairment, text phone **0345 6000 743**. Remember to ask for a call-back once you are connected, so that you don't have to pay for the call.

Before you claim, you can check what you are likely to receive from the new system by visiting universal-benefit-calculator.co.uk/universalcredit. This will give you a better idea



universal credit?

of what to expect before you apply. Note that it can take several weeks before you receive your first payment.

You must also accept a 'claimant commitment', which outlines the rules you must follow to receive and continue to receive universal credit. It is important that you read this commitment carefully so that you fully understand what you need to do.

After you submit your form online, further interactions will be face-to-face at your local job centre or disability benefits centre, by phone or by post. These are to confirm your identity, to sign your claimant commitment, for work search interviews with your jobs advisor and budgeting support.

When things change

Finally, it is important that you notify the Department of Work and Pensions immediately if your circumstances change. This could include you starting or leaving work, somebody joining or leaving your household, or a change of address. Failure to notify the DWP could mean your benefits are not paid on time, or are stopped altogether. You may also have to pay a penalty of £50. You can report any changes in circumstances to your local job centre or disability benefits centre. ■

Need to know

- Universal credit will replace:
 - **income-based jobseekers' allowance**
 - **income-related employment and support allowance**
 - **income support**
 - **child tax credit**
 - **working tax credit**
 - **housing benefit.**
- For single people making a new claim in Leicester, it starts on 25 January 2016.
- Universal credit is administered by the Department of Work and Pensions via JobCentrePlus, not Leicester City Council.
- If you currently receive housing benefit from Leicester City Council, you do not need to apply for universal credit. Your case will be moved over to universal credit at some point in the future. We will write to tell you when this happens.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Council tenants	0116 454 1007
Private tenants	0116 454 1006
Citizen's Advice	citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits or 0300 330 1025
Money Advice Service	moneyadviceservice.org.uk or 0300 500 5000

leicester.gov.uk/universalcredit

COULD YOU FOSTER? a two-year-old?

We are now looking for foster carers for children aged two and over. So, if you can put a smile on the face of a toddler, please get in touch.

“Fostering is easily the best thing I have ever done. I love seeing the children laugh and play so carefree now. I’ve helped them get their childhood back.”

Fran – Leicester foster carer.



Call us on 0116 454 4500 or visit www.leicester.gov.uk/fostering

All our carers enjoy outstanding support and training, payments to recognise skills and commitment, regular placements and planned breaks.

Our next event is at St Martins House, Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5PZ on Thursday 19th November – we’d love to meet you anytime from 5pm-7pm.

Love to learn

One of Leicester City Council's family learning tutors has won a national award for her work helping people to improve their basic skills.

Karen Scott was named Tutor of the Year by NIACE, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education. As a family learning tutor, she helps adults get back into learning and develops their maths and English skills.

A council tutor for 11 years, Karen works with people who are socially disadvantaged, as well as many people who have English as a second language.

"This award demonstrates the quality of teaching on offer"

Karen said: "I'm delighted to receive this award. I try to instil in my students the same love of learning children have – the curiosity, the need to find answers, the driving force that propels people forward. Many move onto other courses and into employment or further education."

Assistant city mayor for jobs and skills Councillor Sue Waddington said: "It's great news that Karen has got this award. I'm pleased not just for her but for all of our adult learning service, because this award demonstrates the quality of teaching on offer for people who want to learn throughout their lives."

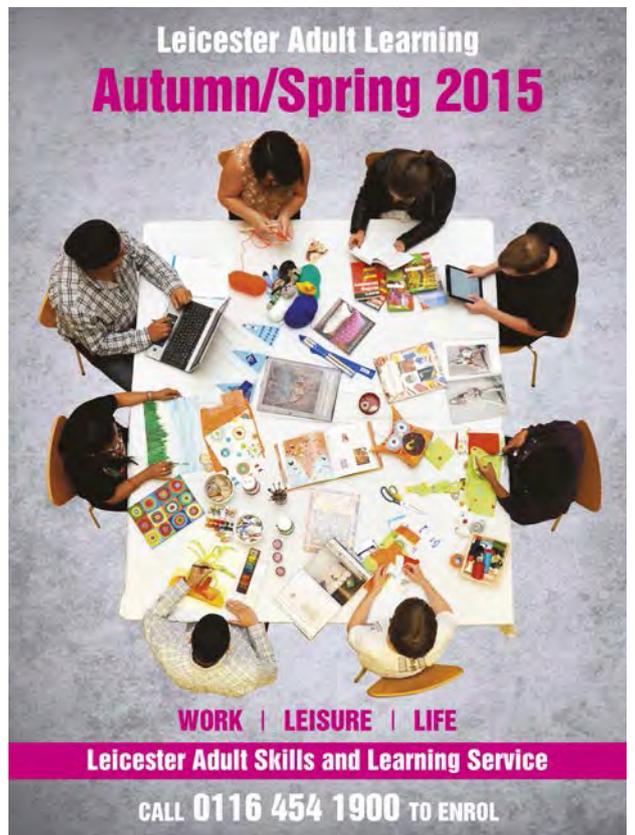
Family learning is a great way for families to learn together, with mums and dads learning new skills alongside their children. This can help children do well and help young children prepare for school.

As well as family learning, Leicester Adult Skills and Learning Service (LASALS) provides a wide range of courses aimed at getting people back into employment, updating their essential skills or learning a new skill or hobby.

Courses vary from ICT, business administration and childcare to arts, crafts and fitness. We also offer courses that aim to give people confidence looking for work. Some courses, such as entry level Maths and English, are free. Others are subsidised depending on circumstance. ■



TOP:
Tutor of the Year Karen Scott (right) receives her award



FULL INFORMATION ON COURSES:

leicester.gov.uk/adulteducation 0116 454 1900

FAMILY LEARNING: **0116 454 1888** or **alison.greet@leicester.gov.uk**



Whatever the weather

Snow to sunshine, all year round. We're here to offer advice and practical support to help keep things running as usual

ABOVE:
Flooding in
Knighton

Winter service

During wintry conditions, Leicester City Council's overnight road gritting programme makes roads safer for the morning traffic. We aim to keep our most important roads, including all main roads and bus routes, clear of ice and snow.

Although we don't treat side roads, we have over 300 grit bins positioned in trouble spots for the public to grit nearby roads and pavements. This winter we will be providing 250 extra grit bins.

Flooding

Flooding can be caused by rainfall, melting snow, rivers, water rising out of the ground or sewers overflowing. It can be very unpredictable and dangerous, causing damage, disruption and occasionally loss of life.

If you feel that your property may be at risk we encourage you to sign up to Environment Agency Flood Alerts. Their website also provides practical information on what to do before, after and during a flood. Council staff visit known areas of risk offering advice and support. Please see the website for details.

To help flood water drain away and lower the flood risk to your property, consider the following:

- Flood barriers across doorways and air brick covers may stop water getting in.
- Water butts can store excess water for the garden.
- Lots of greenery and plants in your garden can use up and store water.
- Concrete surfaces in the garden stop water draining away. Consider a surface the water drains through instead.
- Report flooding incidents in your area.
- You could volunteer to become a flood warden and help your community.

Top tips for bad weather

- Check the weather forecast and listen to traffic and travel updates before starting your journey. Take steps to protect your property against bad weather.
- Drive carefully and don't assume that all main roads are as safe to use as in normal conditions.
- Dress for the weather and take some extra layers in case.
- Could you do anything to help vulnerable people in your community who can't get out in bad weather?

Rain gauges

We have installed water level monitors and rain gauges across the city to better understand the effect of heavy or prolonged rainfall. This will help us prepare for extreme weather and to make sure the city is ready.

leicester.gov.uk/flooding

Shared Lives celebrates anniversary

We look at a unique arrangement offering people long-term, respite or day care in a carer's home



LEFT:
Bill is happy and settled

Now in his 80s, Bill is the oldest person in Leicester City Council's Shared Lives scheme. He's celebrating his one-year anniversary living with carers Bernie and Chris at their home.

After Bill was diagnosed with dementia, he met Bernie and Chris through the Shared Lives matching process. When Link visits, Bill is sitting in his usual place watching a film. He jokes: "I can't understand why I'm so popular."

Bill is very sociable and enjoys company – he likes it when Bernie and Chris's grandchildren come round. "It's a busy house," he laughs.

Dignity and independence

The change in Bill is remarkable in this past year. He remains physically active, and his confidence has improved, especially now that Bernie has helped him get new glasses, better fitting shoes and a new hearing aid. He's regained his independence and dignity. Bernie says: "Bill's got much more mobility now, it's good that he's able to shave himself and take his plate to the kitchen."

Bill feels very settled. "I've got used to being here. Bernie's a good person and her husband's a good man. I always want to stay with this lady and her husband. I'd be lost without them." Bernie and Chris have made caring their career and Bill is now part of their family set-up. They receive an allowance for caring for him, and are able to combine that with their other jobs.

Living with an octogenarian requires special skills and understanding. Bernie and Chris provide the physical help, friendship and home that Bill needs.

We ask Bill if he'd recommend the Shared Lives scheme. He says: "Yes I'm happy here. I think it would be good for other people."

Could you be a Shared lives carer?

Our Shared Lives carers come from all walks of life – they may be individuals, couples or families in the local community. They receive support from Shared Lives workers, training and development, and a financial allowance.

- 12,000 people use Shared Lives in the UK. About half of those, like Bill, are living with carers full time.
- Shared Lives schemes are growing by about 14 per cent each year.

- There are over 8,000 Shared Lives carers in the UK.
- Shared Lives costs less than other forms of care: for example, an average saving of £26,000 a year for people with learning disabilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

0116 454 3740

sharedlives@leicester.gov.uk

leicester.gov.uk/sharedlives

IMPORTANT - Please cut out and keep

Important changes to your waste and recycling collections this Christmas

If your normal waste and recycling collection is on **TUESDAY** or **FRIDAY** you will be affected this Christmas. If your collection is on a Wednesday or Thursday these will continue as normal.

FRIDAY COLLECTIONS

Your waste and recycling will not be collected on **FRIDAY 25 December 2015**
- instead we will collect it on **TUESDAY 29 December 2015**.

Your waste and recycling will not be collected on **FRIDAY 1 January 2016**
- instead we will collect it on **FRIDAY 8 January 2016**.

TUESDAY COLLECTIONS

Your waste and recycling will not be collected on **TUESDAY 29 December 2015**
- instead we will collect it on **TUESDAY 5 January 2016**

The household waste recycling centres at Gypsum Close and Freemen's Common will close early at 2pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. They will also be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your co-operation

For further information, visit: leicester.gov.uk/recycling

0116 454 1002

f /orangebags @orangebagsleics





LEFT: Household recycling centres accept a huge range of items, from old toys to Christmas trees

Pass it on this Christmas

With Christmas just around the corner, you might be hoping to have a surprise or two waiting under the tree – but it probably won't come as a shock to learn that the average household produces over a third more rubbish than normal over the festive period. Fortunately, most of this seasonal waste can be easily recycled using your normal orange bags.

Wrapping

For example, once the presents have been unwrapped and you begin tackling that mountain of discarded wrapping paper, one quick way to find out whether or not it can be recycled is to scrunch it up in your hand... unless it springs back into shape, it can be recycled.

Trees

With one in three of us having a real tree in our homes – that's over four

million extra trees grown – what should you do with it once Christmas is over? Waste service development manager Luke Crown has the answer: "Once the decorations are down, you can take your old tree to one of our household waste and recycling centres, or have it collected as part of the bulky waste collection service and have it recycled."

Pass it on

A new council scheme means that other bulky items such as your unwanted furniture could find a new home. Luke explains: "If you're planning to give your home a new look this Christmas, for example by upgrading your old sofa or dining table, then why not pass it on to someone in crisis? If it's clean and in good working order, we can make sure it gets to someone who really needs it."

It's not just furniture which can make all the difference to those in need, as Luke continues: "Other reusable

items can be taken to the LOROS re-use shop at the Gypsum Close household waste and recycling centre – and if you're planning a new wardrobe in January, then there are plenty of local clothes recycling banks or charity shops around to donate your old clothes to.

"In fact, it's never been easier to make recycling the one New Year's resolution we can all stick to."

Re-use at Christmas

Stuck for things to do in the Christmas holidays? Get crafty with recyclable materials. There are lots of ideas of things to make online and it can be a great way to occupy the children before and after the big day.



leicester.gov.uk/recycling



We offer a wide range of English and Indian food veg/non veg in a friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy.



- Private parties welcome
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- Call us now on 01664 424 323 for a quote
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Tel: 01664 424 323 www.spicenick.co.uk

Blue Peter Bar & Grill, 3-5 Law Street, Leicester LE4 5GR
Tel: 07745 71 72 93 / 0116 266 52 19 www.bluepeterspice.co.uk



Thinking about your future?
With high student achievement rates, supportive staff and state-of-the-art facilities, Gateway can help you reach your goals.

Sports and leisure facilities are available for use by the community, enquire for details.



Colin Grundy Drive, Hamilton, Leicester, LE5 1GA
For the Open Day: 0116 274 4500
For Sports Facilities: 0741 457 131
www.gateway.ac.uk

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- ✓ No hidden fees
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Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland Insurance Services Ltd
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Leicester
LE1 6DN

Open Mon-Fri 9:30am to 4:00pm



You can also call your local Age UK office:
0800 032 0438*
www.ageukinsurance.com



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*Exceptions include subsidence, for which there is typically a £1,000 excess; £100 subsidence excess for properties under ten years old; £245 excess for escaping water claims. If you call the 0800 number and your local office is not available, your call will be answered by Age UK Enterprises or Ageas Insurance Limited. Age UK Enterprises Limited is a commercial services arm of Age UK (registered charity number 1128267) and donates its net profits to Age UK. Age UK is a registered trademark. The use of the name and logo 'Age UK' is done so under licence agreement between Age UK and Age UK Enterprises Limited. Promoter: Age UK Enterprises Limited, Tavistock House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA.
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Are you aged 60 or over and seeking secure accommodation in the heart of Leicester?

Trinity is a long-established housing foundation offering modern, comfortable and secure sheltered housing accommodation in an excellent location.

We are situated at the corner of The Newarke and Western Boulevard, opposite Castle Park, and within 10 minutes' walk of most amenities in the City Centre, such as Highcross Shopping Centre.

For more information please visit our website at:

www.trinityleicester.org.uk
or call **(0116) 255 4911**


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

The Old Horse, The Globe, Upstairs at The Western and the pub's former life as a hotel

Local histories

Leicester is home to many pubs with rich and varied histories. At a time when many people worry about the loss of local establishments, it is interesting to discover how some have stood the test of time and continue to take a central role in their communities. With a bit of exploration, you too could find some amazing facts about your local watering hole...

The Globe on Silver Street was built around 1720, making it one of the oldest pubs in Leicester. Before becoming a public house, it was used to hold women awaiting execution on Gallowtree Gate.

By the second half of the eighteenth century, the Globe also housed a commercial exchange. Nathaniel Corah sold stockings there, before going on to become one of the most successful textile merchants in England. Between 1836 and 1875, Leicester's police force used the Globe's upper rooms to host meetings. A well-preserved Georgian brick building, today the pub hosts Women's Institute meetings, a book

club, and even morris dancing displays.

The Western in Westcotes was built around 1870 as a hotel for rail and canal workers. Recently the pub was recently named 'an asset of community value'. This means that if the brewery decided to sell, the local community would have six months to put together an offer and take on ownership. The Western qualified for this accolade partly because of the range of community activities and events it hosts, including Upstairs at the Western, Leicester's only pub theatre.

The Old Horse on London Road traces its history back to 1850, when it was built as a coaching inn. Victoria Park was previously Leicester's racecourse, and the pub provided room and board for its well-to-do visitors.

The pub got its name as a rest point for the big workhorses that pulled goods out of Leicester, up the steep incline of London Road. The 'old horse' would be changed for a new team to continue the journey on to the capital.

A pub of real character, the Old Horse's whole ceiling is covered in

hats and teapots, each of which has been donated by a regular visitor. It also serves as clubhouse to Aylestone Athletic Rugby Club and the beer garden has a pétanque terrain, with the pub's own pétanque team competing at county level. ■

Paranormal pubs?

Both the Globe and the Old Horse are said to be haunted, with strange goings-on reported. Every day on arrival, the owner of the Globe gives a cheery "morning everyone" to the resident spirits and poltergeists. Apparently, two ghostly brothers argue over the bar, and strange laughter has been heard in the cellar. The Old Horse is said to be home to Leicester's only gay ghost, who is very popular during the annual Leicester Pride festival on Victoria Park.

Join us in Leicester this Christmas for our wickedly funny pantomime starring...



Benidorm and Loose Women star
SHERRIE HEWSON
as the Wicked Queen

Snow White

And comedy impressionist & Britain's Got Talent Finalist

JON CLEGG
as Jingles the Jester



BBC Radio Leicester's **MARTIN BALLARD**
as the dame

CBeebies Superstar **JUSTIN FLETCHER**
as the magic mirror*



Tickets Adults from £15 Children from £10
Family ticket available from £40

Box Office: 0116 233 3111
www.demontforthall.co.uk

12 Dec 2015 - 4 Jan 2016

£3 transaction fee payable per booking.
Concessions and/or group discounts available.
*Please note Justin Fletcher will appear as a pre-recorded video projection and will not appear in person.

WORK | LEISURE | LIFE

Leicester Adult Learning New courses for 2015



Learning For Work Courses:

- Working With Children & Adults
- ICT Qualifications
- Adult Social Care
- Team Leading
- Business Administration

Develop a career in the arts:

- Level 2 Interior Design
- Level 2 Certificate In Art & Design
- Level 2 Certificate In Creative Techniques
- Level 2 Certificate in Fashion
- Level 2 Certificate in Textiles
- Level 2 Certificate in Digital Photography
- Level 1 Certificate in Floristry
- Level 3 Diploma in Floristry

Initial Assessments dates:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tudor Centre
Monday 7th December 2015
Evening | African Caribbean Centre
Wednesday 8th December 2015
Afternoon |
| Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
Tuesday 8th December 2015
Afternoon | Leicester Adult Education College
Thursday 10th December 2015
Morning, afternoon and evening |
| The Brite Centre
Tuesday 8th December 2015
Evening | Pork Pie Library & Community Centre
Friday 11th December 2015
Morning |

CALL **0116 454 1900** TO FIND OUT MORE & TO ENROL
OR GO TO WWW.LEICESTER.GOV.UK/ADULTEDUCATION

The best start in life

In October, Leicester City Council took over responsibility from the NHS for planning and paying for public health services for babies and children up to five years old. We already have responsibility for services for children aged 5-19 years. This means that we will be overseeing the whole Healthy Child programme for children from birth to the age of 19 years.

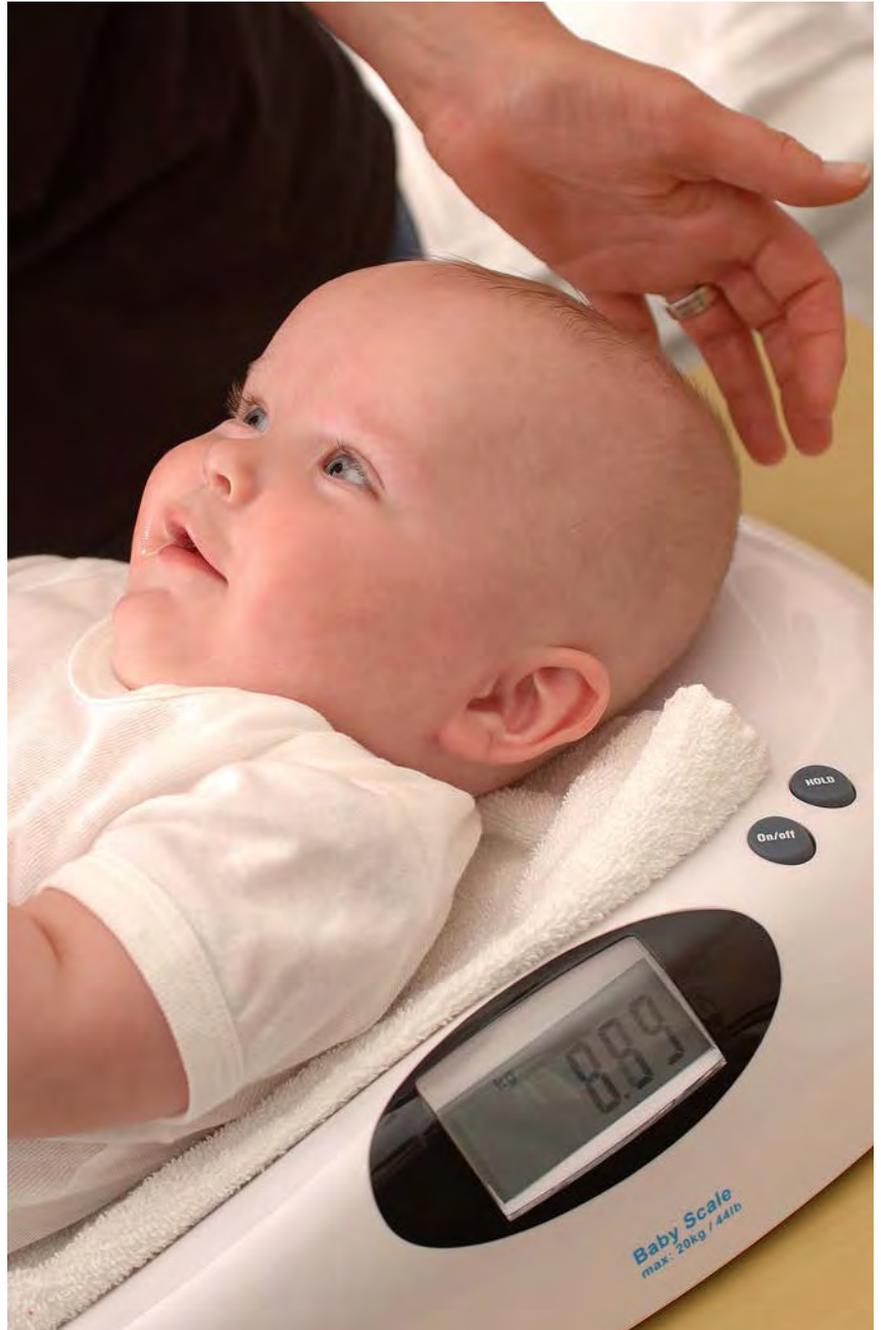
Assistant city mayor Councillor Abdul Osman said: "We will work with partners in the NHS, the voluntary sector and Leicester's communities to ensure public health services for all children, young people and families are easy to use, and are joined up with other services."

One of the main changes we are excited about is that we are now responsible for health visitors as well as school nurses. About 5,000 babies are born each year in Leicester and every mother can expect visits from a health visitor at six key moments during pregnancy and after the baby is born.

First time mums under the age of 20 who need some extra support will be referred by their midwife, or another professional, to the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP). Mums will be allocated a family nurse, who will visit them regularly (often weekly or fortnightly) from early pregnancy until the child is two, when they transfer to a named health visitor. The FNP team works with mums and their families to support them to become parents, and encourage them to fulfil their aspirations for themselves and their children.

Senior nurse Nicy Turney said: "Health visitors, family nurses and school nurses all work with families and communities to improve health, prevent ill health, identify any extra needs children may have and develop health promoting activities. Our health visitors are essential for helping children in Leicester get the best start in life."

All parents can contact their health visitor and the school nursing service whenever they need support or advice.



Contact your health visitor **0300 3000 007**
leicester.gov.uk/ourhealthycity



Tell us your story

At Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) we are responsible for planning and managing most of the city's health services. We want to ensure that the services we design are actually delivering what our patients need. Like any NHS organisation, we collect facts and statistics, but we also know that the most important information is what our patients tell us – so we want to hear more from local people.

We need to fully understand what it is like to be on the receiving end of NHS services.

We want to hear about positive and negative experiences of health care, what went well and what needs to improve. That could be about a service you received yourself, or it could be about someone you care for. Perhaps you can think of a different way things could be done, which might cut down on the number of hospital trips you need to make for tests and scans. Maybe you can flag up gaps in a service that we have not already thought of, or you have found it difficult to access a particular service because it does not meet your specific needs.

Whatever your experience, we would really like to hear from you. By taking the time to tell us your views, you will be helping us identify where our services are working well and where changes may need to be made.

There are separate surveys for patients and for carers, together with versions specifically for young people. You can choose to provide feedback through a face to face meeting, or by completing a survey online or on paper. The surveys are open now and you can find further information at leicestercityccg.nhs.uk or by calling **0116 295 1123**.

Professor **Azhar Farooqi**, GP and Chair
Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group



'Tell us your story' is our largest patient experience campaign to date. It will capture people's experience of NHS services in Leicester and help us shape these services for the future.

We are in a position to change and improve services where necessary, so it is really important that we hear directly from patients and carers of all ages.



Antibiotics – don't take them for granted!



Just 70 years after the introduction of antibiotics, we are facing the possibility of a future without effective treatment for several types of common bacterial infections

Dr Paul Danaher is a local GP and, as prescribing lead for Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group, he is an expert on the proper use of medication. He is concerned about the over-use of antibiotics and warns against the likely consequences:

"If you walk around an old cemetery from a hundred years ago you will see a lot of headstones for people who died from infections which we can now treat. Many young women died from infections related to childbirth and children often did not make it to adulthood. When antibiotics were discovered, all of this changed and so many deaths would now be unthinkable.

"Antibiotics are truly amazing medicines but, because they are so familiar, we take them for granted and use them for minor illnesses when we could let our bodies fight off the infection, given time. So now we are in danger of

losing that protection as bugs become resistant to antibiotics. But it's not too late to do something about it. If we decide to stop using antibiotics for chesty coughs, sore throats, earache, sinus problems and minor skin and water infections we would massively reduce the number of antibiotics in the community. That would mean slowing down resistance, so the bugs can still be killed and children stay alive for generations to come.

In Leicester most of our GPs have pledged to become Antibiotic Guardians and only prescribe antibiotics when they are really necessary. But we need patients to help us too. Please do not put pressure on your GP to prescribe antibiotics; allow them to make the decision as to what treatment is best for your condition and play your part in helping to slow down the resistance of bugs to antibiotics."



18 November is European Antibiotic Awareness Day

Antibiotic resistance: what can I do?

- Don't ask for antibiotics. First seek pharmacist advice for over the counter medicines. and learn more about treating yourself here: treatyourselfbetter.co.uk
- If you are prescribed antibiotics, take them exactly as described, never save them for later and never share them with others.
- Sign up to be an Antibiotic Guardian and choose a simple pledge that feels right for you: antibioticguardian.com
- Spread the word – tell family and friends about antibiotic resistance.

Stay well this winter

With the nights closing in, winter is not far away – and with it comes the cold and flu season. Flu is a particular risk for older people, children and babies, pregnant women, those with a long-term health condition such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease, and those with a weakened immune system.

If you are at risk, the best way you can protect yourself is to get the free flu vaccination from your GP as soon as it is available. If you aren't eligible for the free vaccination you can be vaccinated at your local pharmacy or the major supermarkets.

Top tips for winter health

Just because it is cold and flu season you can keep healthy despite the weather. Here are five things you can do to keep healthy as the weather turns.

1 Get vaccinated

The seasonal flu jab provides 12 months of cover against the major strains of flu. Adults who are eligible can have a free flu vaccination at their GP practice. All children up to school year 6 will be offered a nasal flu vaccination.

2 Sleep well

On average we sleep six-and-a-half hours a night, much less than the seven to nine hours that is recommended. If you aren't rested you are more likely to catch a cold or the flu.

3 Eat well

Keep your immune system in shape by making sure you're eating a healthy diet. It will help your body respond to the infection.

4 Drink more

Keeping hydrated helps your general health; the moisture will also help make mucous membranes, including those in your sinuses, more resistant to bacteria. If you don't fancy cold water, try boiled water with a slice of lemon.

5 Keep your home warm

Low temperatures increase the risk of flu and other problems. The colder your home, the higher the risk to your health, particularly for older people. Your living room should be around 21°C, and the rest of your house should be at least 18°C.



A quick guide to flu

Flu is a common virus spread by coughs and sneezes. It can be very unpleasant, but you'll usually begin to feel better within about a week.

Flu is not the same as the common cold. The symptoms tend to start more suddenly, be more severe and last longer. You could have:

- a high temperature (fever) of 38°C (100.4°F) or above
- tiredness and weakness
- a headache
- general aches and pains
- a dry, chesty cough.

What to do if you get the flu

If you're otherwise fit and healthy, there's usually no need to see a doctor. The best remedy is to rest at home, keep warm and drink plenty of water. You can take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower a high temperature and relieve the aches. Stay off work or school until you're feeling better.



Flu vaccine myth busters

There are some common myths around flu and the flu vaccination, but here are the facts.

Anyone can get the flu

One of the most common reasons people give for not getting vaccinated is "I've never had flu before". There's no such thing as natural immunity to the flu. With new strains circulating each year, it's best to get vaccinated.

The flu jab can't give you the flu

It is impossible to get flu from the having the flu jab because the vaccine doesn't contain live viruses. A very small number of people have side effects like aching muscles, but this is just their immune system responding to the vaccine.

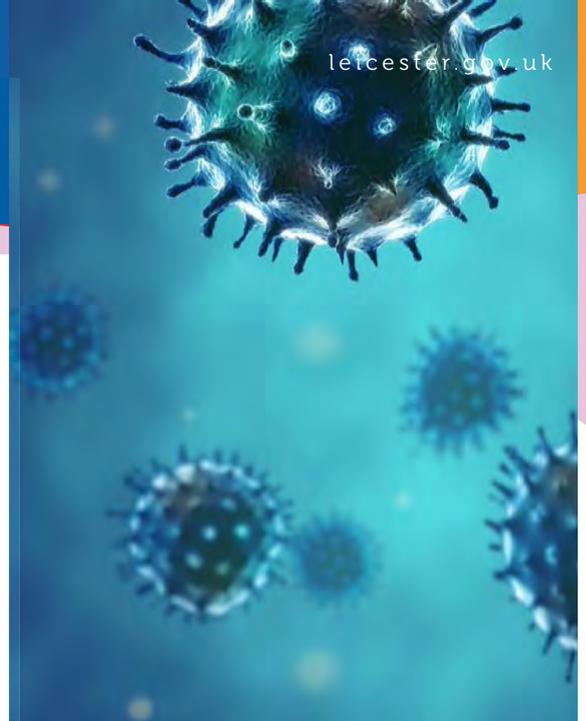
You need the vaccine every year. Every winter the flu virus is different, you need this year's vaccine to be protected.

The flu vaccine is safe

The risk of having a serious reaction to the flu vaccine is less than one in a million: much lower than the risk of getting seriously ill from having the flu itself.

Pregnant women can be vaccinated

Pregnant women can have the flu vaccination at any stage of their pregnancy and it also protects your baby from the flu.



From September 2015, all children in school years one to six should have been offered the nasal flu vaccine at their school through the Flu Heroes programme. If your child missed the vaccination there is still time for them to be vaccinated. You should contact your GP and they will be able to vaccinate your child.

For more information
healthforkids.co.uk
nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

CURVE

27 NOV – 16 JAN

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OLIVER!

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DIRECTOR **PAUL KERRYSON**

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THE WITCHES

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WWW.CURVEONLINE.CO.UK

CURVE THEATRE, LEICESTER



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Curve is run by Leicester Theatre Trust Limited, a registered charity (no. 230708). We gratefully acknowledge and welcome the continued support of and partnership with the above organisations.

what'son

Welcome to What's On – your guide to entertainment venues, museums, libraries, leisure centres and community groups.

For listings of events, shows and activities in Leicester please visit leicester.gov.uk/whatson



ENTERTAINMENT

Snow White

This year's pantomime at De Montfort Hall will be the wickedly funny Snow White, starring Benidorm and Loose Women's Sherrie Hewson as the Wicked Queen, Britain's Got Talent finalist Jon Clegg as Jingles the Jester and BBC Radio Leicester's Martin Ballard as Dame. There is also a special guest appearance by CBeebies' Justin Fletcher as the Magic Mirror, where he will appear in a pre-recorded video.

After the Magic Mirror declares Snow White to be the fairest in all the land, Prince Michael requests her hand in

marriage. Sent into a jealous rage, the Wicked Queen commissions Jingles to take Snow White into the forest and make sure she never returns.

Will Snow White triumph against the Wicked Queen? Join us on a magical pantomime adventure to discover her fate.

Snow White
12 December 2015 – 4 January 2016
Tickets from £15 adults,
£10 children and £40 family.

Boo! Hiss!
Sherrie Hewson stars as the Wicked Queen

DE MONTFORT HALL | 0116 233 3111 | demontforhall.co.uk
Tickets can also be purchased from De Montfort Hall or the Visit Leicester Centre

CURVE

A state-of-the-art theatre in the heart of Leicester's vibrant Cultural Quarter. With no traditional backstage area audiences can enjoy the full theatre making process.
0116 242 3595
curveonline.co.uk

ATTENBOROUGH ARTS CENTRE

The University of Leicester's inclusive arts centre. With a 120-seater performance space, three studios and an exhibition gallery, it offers a diverse programme of performance, courses and workshops covering a wide range of art forms.
0116 252 2455
attenborougharts.com

LITTLE THEATRE

Home of the Leicester Drama Society, which produces 12 main-house shows each year and a pantomime, performed in the 350-seat auditorium. The theatre also hosts shows from other Leicestershire societies and touring productions.
0116 255 1302
thelittletheatre.net

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery hosts a programme of chamber music organised by the Leicester International Music Festival.
0116 225 4920
leicesterinternationalmusicfestival.org.uk

PHOENIX

Based in the city's Cultural Quarter, Phoenix is Leicester's independent cinema, arts centre and café bar. It shows everything from micro-budget foreign films to the latest Hollywood blockbusters on two modern cinema screens.
0116 242 2800
phoenix.org.uk

THE Y

A live performance venue with an eclectic programme of music, comedy, theatre, new performances and spoken word. The 300-seat theatre also hosts candle-lit cabaret style events and standing gigs.
0116 255 7066
ytheatre.co.uk

For a full programme of events please contact the venues directly or visit their websites



Diwali Leicester

1-15 November | **Lights Switch On Sunday 1 November** | **Diwali Day Wednesday 11 November**

Cossington Street Recreation Ground, Belgrave Road and Leicester city centre

Leicester is famous for its wonderful Diwali celebrations, some of the biggest outside India. This festival of light marks the start of the Hindu New Year.

Up to 35,000 people are expected at the switch on of the lights on Belgrave Road, with even more at the fireworks and live entertainment on Diwali day itself. This year, Diwali is going to be even more special as we expand the celebrations to a two-week festival across the city.

There are plenty of extra features for 2015, including a spectacular gateway to the celebrations on Belgrave roundabout and a brand new display of lights. Up to 15 November you can view these from Leicester's Wheel of Light (right). At the Switch On, don't miss the Fire Garden on Cossington Recreation Ground and or the chance to join in with interactive Digital Sparklers (also at Curve for the following two weeks).

Other highlights over the fortnight include dance and performances, the Diwali Bazaar with live Rangoli at the

Clock Tower and Darbar's day of music and activities at New Walk Museum.

For full listings and the latest travel information: visitleicester.info/diwali

Park and ride

The best way to travel to the two main events in Belgrave is by the special Diwali park and ride service. On 1 November (Switch On), this will run from the Birstall park and ride site (LE4 4NN) to Abbey Park Road from 5-7pm. Return journeys from Abbey Park Road: 8.30-10pm.

On Diwali Day, 11 November, services will run from Birstall from 5-8pm. Return journeys 9-10pm. A return journey costs £3.50 per person or £5 for up to five people travelling in a car together. Concessionary pass holders: £1.

Road closures

1 November: Belgrave Road will be partially closed between Belgrave Circle and Garfield Street from 2pm to allow the stage to be set up. Vehicles will be able to use Belgrave Road to access the rest of Belgrave Road from the Melton Road / Loughborough Road end only until the full closure at 5pm. Please be aware this will cause delays for vehicles getting into and exiting the area. Belgrave Road and its junctions with side roads will be fully closed from 5pm until 9.30pm, during which time vehicles will not have any access.

11 November: Belgrave Road and junctions with its side roads will be completely closed from 5.30pm to 9.30pm.



Abbey Park Bonfire & Firework Display

7 November 5-9pm

Be dazzled by Leicester's biggest bonfire and firework display! A fantastic family event with live entertainment and food stalls. In addition to the main fireworks there is also a children's firework display which is quieter and especially themed for a younger audience.

visitleicester.info/bonfire

Leicester Business Festival

26 October – 6 November

Leicester/Leicestershire is one of the most culturally diverse and business friendly environments in the United Kingdom. It is now time we spread the good news not only to the rest of the country but to the rest of the world. This autumn's inaugural Leicester Business Festival (LBF) will do just that.

leicesterbusinessfestival.com

Continental Market

28 October – 1 November

Gallowtree Gate, Humberstone Gate West, Eastgate and Clock Tower

Market traders from around the world serve up delicious treats and hand-crafted goods.

leicestermarket.co.uk

Oxjam

31 October

Orton Square

Oxjam Leicester Takeover Festival celebrates the best of Leicester's independent music scene with one of the best and biggest charity events in the city centre. Ten stages of live music, entertainment and market stalls.

oxjamleicester.org.uk

Farmers Market

5 November

Gallowtree Gate

Quality locally produced food offered on the first Thursday of every month including organic meat, pies, real ale, plants, honey, baked goods, Indian snacks and more.

leicestermarket.co.uk

Remembrance Day Sunday

8 November

Victoria Park War Memorial

The Service of Remembrance to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict on behalf of their country. The service starts at 10.55am; please be there by 10.40am.

Remembrance Day Service

11 November

Leicester Market

Christmas in the City

22 November

Celebrate the start of Christmas with the official lights switch on and lots of activities across the city centre, including the Winter Food Festival at Leicester Market.

visitleicester.info/christmas

Funfair

23 November - 7 January

Humberstone Gate West

visitleicester.info/festivals

Allandale Road Christmas Fair

29 November

Allandale Road

World Aids Day Procession

29 November

Leicester Cathedral

Farmers Market

3 December

10am-4pm

Gallowtree Gate

leicestermarket.co.uk

Queens Road Christmas Market

6 December

11am – 6pm

Queens Road will be traffic free, making way for street stalls of arts and crafts, an entertainment stage, fun fair and rides, along with the great shops, restaurants and bars of Clarendon Park.

Santa Run

6 December

Victoria Park

Christmas Farmers Market

16 – 18 December

10am-4pm

Gallowtree Gate

leicestermarket.co.uk

Hannukkah Lights Switch On

20 December, 4-5pm

Victoria Park

Hanukkah is an annual Jewish Festival which begins at sundown and is celebrated over eight days, with candles lit on each one. Hanukkah commemorates the relighting of the 'menorah', the light which signifies God's presence in the temple.

A lighting ceremony will take place at Victoria Park from 5pm, hosted by the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation.

Leicester Comedy Festival

3 – 21 February

comedy-festival.co.uk



Leicester's Wheel of Light

A wonderful new attraction for both Diwali and Christmas, Leicester's Wheel of Light will be open in Belgrave from 16 October to 15 November. The 110-foot ferris wheel then moves to Jubilee Square for Christmas, 22 November to 2 January.

visitleicester.info/christmas



India's Gateway: Gujarat, Mumbai & Britain

17 October – 21 February 2016

India's Gateway traces the history of Gujarat and Mumbai as age-old centres of trade and migration, focusing on their remarkable links with Britain. Featuring photographs and film shot in India by UK photographer Tim Smith and Indian film-makers Amit Madheshiya and Shirley Abraham, the exhibition weaves history together with words and images to explore the lives and experiences of Gujarati communities today. India's Gateway is organised by Oriental Arts and Tim Smith and is

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery

funded by Arts Council England. Look out for a programme of special related events.

Leicester Perspectives on Gujarat

Leicester Arts and Museum Service has also been working with community volunteers to create an exhibition featuring objects, images and artwork that explore different perspectives on Gujarat from a Leicester viewpoint.



ABBEY PUMPING STATION

Leicester's museum of science and technology, displaying the city's industrial, technological and scientific heritage.
0116 299 5111

BELGRAVE HALL AND GARDENS

An oasis of peace and quiet in a busy city, set in the midst of two acres of serene walled gardens that are open to the public during special events.
0116 229 8181

NEW WALK MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Leicester's original museum has wide ranging collections and displays spanning the natural and cultural world.
0116 225 4900

NEWARKE HOUSES MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Composed of two historic houses, Wygston's Chantry House and Skeffington House, this museum tells the story of contemporary Leicester and the history of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.
0116 225 4980

JEWRY WALL MUSEUM

Discover the archaeology of Leicester's past and find out about the people of Leicester from prehistoric times to the medieval period.
0116 225 4971

THE GUILDHALL

One of the best preserved timber framed halls in the country, dating back 600 years, the Guildhall now hosts a regular events programme including comedy, music, theatre and seasonal children's events.
0116 253 2569



Leicester's museums hold special events and activities for all ages throughout the year.

For more information on current exhibitions and events please visit leicester.gov.uk/museums or contact the museum directly



LIBRARIES

Aylestone Library 0116 233 3178
Baumont Leys Library 0116 299 5460
Belgrave Library 0116 299 5500
Braunstone Library 0116 299 5476
Central Library 0116 299 5401
Evington Library 0116 221 1286
Fosse Library 0116 225 4995
Hamilton Library and Learning Centre 0116 221 2790
Highfields Library 0116 299 5494
Knighton Library 0116 299 5477
New Parks Centre Library 0116 229 8200
Pork Pie Library and Community Centre 0116 299 5480
Rushey Mead Library 0116 266 5112
Eyres Monsell Self-Service Library 0116 278 7294
St Barnabas Library 0116 299 5450
St Matthew's Library 0116 222 1045
Westcotes Library 0116 299 5510

SPORT

Aylestone Leisure Centre 0116 233 3040
Braunstone Leisure Centre 0116 229 3232
Cossington Street Sports Centre 0116 233 3060
Evington Leisure Centre 0116 299 5575
Knighton Tennis Centre 0116 270 8696
Humberstone Heights Golf Course 0116 299 5570
Leicester Leys Leisure Centre 0116 233 3070
New Parks Leisure Centre 0116 233 3080
Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium 0116 283 3275
Spence Street Sports Centre 0116 299 5584
St Margaret's Pastures Sports Centre 0116 233 3095

WALKS ON PARKS

Braunstone Park Mondays, 11am -12.30pm
 Email: anita.robinson@leicester.gov.uk



The City Of Leicester Singers

Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road
Mondays 7.15-9.15pm
 We always welcome new singers - come along to any rehearsal.
 Concerts at St James the Greater Church, London Road:
 Sat 14 November, 7.30pm – Elijah (part 1) – Mendelssohn; Mass in G – Schubert.
 Sat 19 December 7pm – "Its Christmas!" featuring accordionist David Price.
0116 299 4444
boxoffice@cityofleistersingers.co.uk
cityofleistersingers.co.uk

Red Leicester Choir

Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate LE1 1WB
Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm, term-time only
 New singers always welcome.
0116 270 3143
redleicesterchoir.com

Community Choir

Sir Jonathan North Community College
Tuesdays, 7.20-8.50pm
 Term-time only. New recruits welcome.
0116 292 8088
enceehome@virginmedia.com

Epilepsy Action

BHS, Gallowtree Gate
3rd Monday of each month, 10-12pm
 For people with epilepsy, families and carers. Children welcome.
0116 241 4940

Leicester Badminton Club

New College, Glenfield Road LE3 6DN
Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm
 Leicester's friendliest badminton social club. Mixed abilities from late teens upwards.
 £3.50
Michael 07967 592208

Leicestershire Anglo-Hispanic Society

Adult Education Centre, Wellington Street
 Learning Spanish? ¿Habla español?
 Meetings in both Spanish and English from September to May on many interesting topics. Third Thursday of most months.
Sue 01509 262770
<https://sites.google.com/site/leicsanglohispanicsoc/>

Leicester Circle Dancing Group

Friends Meeting House, Queen's Road
 First and third Thursday of each month from September until June, 7.30pm.
 Newcomers very welcome. £3.50 (£3 unwaged).
Brenda Worrall 0116 270 3070

Leicester U3A

Christ Church, 105a Clarendon Park Road
 A self-help organisation for people retired from full-time employment, offering social activities and learning for life.
 10 November, 2.45pm: The Trouble with Lichen, Ivan Pedley.
0116 273 7237
leicester-u3a.org.uk

Leicester Yoga Circle

Judgemeadow Community College, Marydene Drive
 Meets once a month on a Saturday morning for an interesting and varied programme of yoga practice.
 7 November – Celia Herrick
 5 December – Zoe Martin
 9 January – tutor TBC
 All sessions run 10.30am–12.30pm
ruth@mgheath.co.uk

Leicester Association of National Trust Members

Regular afternoon and evening meetings with speakers, lecture lunches, outings and social events.
Alan Tyler 0116 222 9133
leicesternt.btck.co.uk

Leicester Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Sue Townsend Theatre (formerly Upper Brown Street Theatre) Leicester LE1 5TE
Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7.45pm.
 Lectures on a variety of topics related to decorative and fine arts given by leading speakers in their fields. Guests welcome: £7.
0116 270 4710
leicesterdfas.org.uk

Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society

Friends Meeting House, 16 Queens Road
Meet Fridays, 7.30pm
 We always welcome new members.
landlps.org.uk
Jean 0116 254 3853

Leicester Musical and Drama Society (LMADS)

Rehearsals every Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm
 If you love anything to do with the stage and performing arts then why not join our society? Minimum age 16.
07442 503987

Leicester School Race Walking

Saffron Athletic Stadium
Wednesdays, 6-7pm
 Training with UKA level 4 coach Chris Smith, 33 years county team manager. All ages and abilities, for competition and fitness. Track fees apply.
07964 762136
smithracewalk@hotmail.co.uk

Leicester Sketch Club

Leicester High School for Girls
 First Wednesday of most months
 Regular monthly meetings with talks and demonstrations and sketching days.
0116 255 2161
leicestersketchclub.co.uk



New Parks New Friends

New Parks Centre Library, Aikman Avenue
Tuesdays, 10am-12 noon
 Reviving community spirit – drop in for coffee, cake and a chat. Donations towards refreshments invited.
Judith 07816 908619
judith.wray@methodist.org.uk

Over 60s activity group

St Matthew's Sports Hall, Malabar Road
Thursdays, 9-12pm
 Badminton, carpet bowls, aerobics and table tennis, £2.
Celia Jeffery 07724 148686

Panthers Badminton Club

Crown Hill Community College, Gwendolen Road, LE5 5FT
Tuesdays, 7-9pm
 If you have an intermediate standard of badminton give us a call. New players required. Men and women welcome.
Sims 07870 195338 or Paul 07855 491640

We Love Pilates

Tuesdays, 10-11am; Wednesdays, 1.30-2.30pm – Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church Hall, Narborough Road.
Wednesdays, 6.30-7.30pm – Brite Centre, Braunstone Avenue.
Thursdays, 11.05am-12.05pm – Gymnastics Zone, Unit 55A, First Floor,

Faircharm Trading Estate, Evelyn Drive.
Six week courses £30 please book
in advance.
Dianne McDermott-Crampton
07854 553448
info@welovepilates.com

Quilling and Paper Crafts

Evington Park House, Cordery Road
LE5 6DE
Thursdays, 2-4pm
Quilling is an art form that involves rolling,
looping and curling strips of coloured paper
to make decorative designs. Beginners very
welcome. Materials provided free for first
month (subject to terms).
Audrey Matthews 0116 319 1718

Thinking Straight

Stocking Farm Healthy Living Centre,
Packwood Road,
Leicester LE4 2ED
Wednesdays, 12.30-2.30pm
A group for parents or carers of Leicester
and Leicestershire based children living
with or suspected of having Autistic
Spectrum Disorder or ADHD.
0116 299 5646

**Vaughan Architectural
and Historical Society**

St Christopher's Church, Samworth
Academy, 50 Tenant Road
30 October – The King in the Car Park,
Richard Smith
27 November – The Barons' War – the road
to Magna Carta, Guy Raynor
15 January – From Beef to Venison:
human-animal relationships at Wigmore

Castle, Stephanie Vann.
All meetings 7.15pm. £3 for non members.
gerry.stacey@ntlworld.com
01455 636686

Yoga with Mary Doughty

New Walk Museum
Every Monday and Friday,
10-11.30am and 12.15pm
Mary 07757 644345 or
0116 229 1121

Yoga in Clarendon Park

Hartopp Road: Tuesdays 6.15-7.30pm:
St John the Baptist: Thursdays 6-7.30pm.
Kay 07718 758637
stillpointtherapy@wordpress.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Leicester City Council holds a number of
council, executive and committee meetings
which are generally open to the public to
attend. Our democratic support officers
can advise you on your rights to attend
meetings, how to submit petitions and ask
questions at meetings or any other query
you may have about how committees work.

Democratic Support, City Hall,
115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
committees@leicester.gov.uk
0116 454 6352

Each ward also holds regular community
meetings. You're very welcome to turn up
and talk to councillors and officers about
anything that's affecting your ward.

leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings
community.meetings@leicester.gov.uk
0116 454 6349



SOCIAL MEDIA

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more...



 @leicester_news

 /leicestercitycouncil

#Leicester

contact your councillor

You can contact your councillor by email or telephone or by visiting one of their regular surgeries. To find out when and where your councillor holds surgeries, go to leicester.gov.uk/councillors or phone **0116 454 6360**.

ABBEY	AYLESTONE	BEAUMONT LEYS	BELGRAVE	BRAUNSTONE PARK & ROWLEY FIELDS
 <p>Harshad Bhavsar</p> <p>0116 454 6360 harshad.bhavsar@leicester.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Adam Clarke</p> <p>07875 546508 adam.clarke@leicester.gov.uk @OweniteAdam</p>	 <p>Hemant Rae Bhatia</p> <p>07736 194823 hemant.raebhatia@leicester.gov.uk @HemantBhatia</p>	 <p>Mansukhlal Chohan</p> <p>07736 194804 mo.chohan@leicester.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Steve Corral</p> <p>07966 629285 stephen.corral@leicester.gov.uk @stephencorral</p>
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members.services@leicester.gov.uk

Member and Civic Support, Leicester City Council,
115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

All Twitter accounts are operated by the individual
councillor and represent their own views.

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contactus

Online – leicester.gov.uk

- Contact us online for payments, applications, bookings, and information
- Mobile enabled for phone and tablet
- Available all day, every day

Telephone

General enquiries	0116 454 1000	Tenants advice and repairs	0116 454 1007
Environment	0116 454 1001	Housing options	0116 454 1008
Waste management	0116 454 1002	Education and schools	0116 454 1009
Parks and green spaces	0116 454 1003	Business support centre	0116 454 1010
Social care and safeguarding	0116 454 1004	Automated switchboard	0116 454 1011
Council tax and business rates	0116 454 1005	Automated payments	0116 454 1012
Housing benefits	0116 454 1006		

Out of hours emergency numbers

Council housing emergency repairs
0116 254 9439

Road repairs, street lighting, and flooding
0116 254 4344

Children's social care emergencies
0116 454 1004

Adult social care emergencies
0116 255 1606

Customer service centres

91 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6FB

New Parks Centre, 321 Aikman Avenue, LE3 9PW

Merlyn Vaz Centre, Spinney Hill Road, LE5 3GH
(open Tuesday and Wednesday)



SAFE TYRES SAVE LIVES





STEAK & GRILL



Burger, Steak and Ribs People.

Mondays 4pm - 7pm

**2-for-1
Combo Nights**

Chicken & Ribs or Steak & Ribs or Ribs & Wings.

Tuesdays 4pm - 7pm

**2-for-1
Schnitzel Nights**

Wednesdays 4pm - 7pm

**2-for-1
Burger Nights**

**Fridays, Saturdays
& Sundays** 3pm - 6pm

Kids Eat FREE!

**Sundays & Thursdays
All-you-can-eat
Ribs and Wings**



FUNCTION VENUE for up to 120 people with FREE PARKING

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SOARING EAGLE SPUR Holiday Inn Express, (next door to LCFC King Power Stadium),
4 Raw Dykes Road, Leicester LE2 7FL. Tel: 0116 255 5729