

CULTURAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024- JANUARY 2025



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS

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2024

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PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Older Adults-

Active HB currently deliver 18 different seated exercise classes across Hinckley & Bosworth. This is targeted at older adults 65+ who have had 3 falls or less, feel unsteady on their feet or worry about falling. This programme is highly successful and not only helps individuals with their strength and balance but also provides them with a social platform, helps maintain their independence and improves their overall quality of life.

“Hi Andrew,

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate the Steady Steps and Chatty Chairs run by Nila at Barwell George Ward Centre.

I underwent Spinal Decompression surgery in May 2023 and was initially left with very limited mobility. When I left rehab, I could barely walk with a frame and was in danger of falling and being unable to get up if I did fall. Steady Steps taught me how to mitigate the danger of falling. I was sorry to see the course come to an end after 24 weeks and was delighted to attend Chatty Chairs afterwards, not only for the exercises but also a chance to meet new people and get out of the house. I am continuing to improve and can now walk unaided for short distances, walk with sticks for a reasonable distance and climb without assistance. Thank you again for all the help you have given me.”

4 new steady steps courses due to start in May and we are now adding names to the waiting list, for those who wish to access this service. For more information: [Hinckley & Bosworth Sport and Health Alliance — Older Adults](#)



CONTACT:

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‘Come and Try It’ Day-

During the October Half Term, we ran a “Come and Try it Day” at Sport in Desford for young people with a disability.

Participants could try: Football, Tennis, Dance, Crazy Golf, Table Tennis, Rugby and use the gym. Over 60 young people attended with their parents and carers, and all left with a certificate and a big smile.

Many thanks to Hinckley Rugby Club, Desford Tennis Club and Sport in Desford who supported the day and made it so successful. Comments from the parents/carers who attended include I had no idea so much went on and thank you for a brilliant morning.



Congratulations to Sport in Desford-

Sport in Desford (SID) have worked so hard over the past ten years to fit solar panels, install tesla batteries and car charging points on their site. They are now on their final push to make the site carbon neutral.

Through hard work finding and sourcing grants Sport in Desford are now fitting heat source pumps which will be the last piece of the jigsaw to becoming carbon neutral. Once all is fitted and the weather is a bit better they will be holding a celebration event on site.

Anyone who would like a tour if SID please let me know.

CONTACT:

*Graeme Chilvers, Health & Recreation
Manager*

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Hinckley Leisure Centre-

The Leisure Centre has seen steady numbers through the doors for quarter 3 (October-December) with over 213,000 visits. Highlights include:

- Investment into the café area (October), which has had a makeover and lots of positive comments from customers.
- Those families eligible for Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) can access holiday camps offered by EMPWR Sports (www.empwrsports.co.uk) in December and now confirmed for 2025 holiday schemes
- Investment in some new inflatables for the hall and the pool, extending the party offer
- 12 days of giveaways campaign ran in December for customers
- The sports hall is seeing a huge growth with participation in December alone seeing an increase of 66%

Coming soon... In February Hinckley Leisure Centre will see 700 solar panels installed on its roof. The project will cost £250,000 and is being partially funded by a £120,000 grant awarded to Hinckley Leisure Centre from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund. The Borough Council will fund the difference. The Borough Council, which has led the project with Leisure Centre operators Places Leisure, was granted planning consent last September. The new solar panels are expected to reduce over 52,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide in the first year.

Follow Hinckley Leisure Centre on Facebook: [Hinckley Leisure Centre | Hinckley | Facebook](#)

Visit the website: [Hinckley Leisure Centre | Hinckley | Places Leisure](#)



Parkrun across Hinckley & Bosworth-

It has been nearly 3 years from when weekly parkrun events were kickstarted at Hastings High School and Market Bosworth Country Park. Parkrun is now thriving week in week out at these venues.

Kickstart funded by the councils Active HB team, via a Public Health grant in 2022, it is great to hear how the FREE weekly events are a regular fixture in many peoples diary, and they are as much about the social as well as the physical exercise.

Parkrun is a FREE and weekly event that takes place at different venues worldwide. It offers a welcoming and inclusive experience where there is no time limit, and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether they walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. All events are run by teams of dedicated volunteers from the local community.

So if you are at the start of your exercise journey and this sparks your interest then all you need to do is sign up for a free barcode from parkrun uk ([home | parkrun UK](#)) and search out your nearest event. There are 'first timers' briefings at 8:45am for those doing their first event, followed by a group briefing at 8:55am. The event then starts at 9am. Children are welcome, but those under eleven must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Remember, parkrun welcomes all and whether you are a seasoned runner, on your coach25k journey or just fancy a jog or walk. It may be you would like to volunteer, if so then please get in touch!

Here is a fact file* about our local events in Hinckley & Bosworth:-

AREA	HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL (BURBAGE)	MARKET BOSWORTH COUNTRY PARK
ESTABLISHED	26.03.2022	17.12.2022
WEEKLY EVENTS HELD	127	109
FINISHERS	4200	6094
FINISHES	16252	17032
VOLUNTEERS	393	559
AVERAGE WEEKLY RUNNERS	128	156
AVERAGE WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS	26	20
WEBPAGES	home Hastings High School parkrun Hastings High School parkrun	home Market Bosworth Country Park parkrun Market Bosworth Country Park parkrun

**Facts at a time of going to press*

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET IN TOUCH

Active Mums Buggy Walks-

We have been working closely with Active Together to promote our buggy walks. We have been able to train Emma, a new mum as a Walk Leader who has been leading our Active Mums Buggy Walks from Hinckley Leisure Centre once a month with a coffee and chat after the walk.

Emma has been increasing the numbers over the last few months and is now regularly walking with approx. 12 mums each month.



Surgery Walks-

During the last 4 months, we have been actively engaging with one of our surgeries in Hinckley. We provide monthly walks for all patients at the surgery.

These walks are around 45 minutes long, with a talk and chat theme. We have been supported by the Social Prescribers and the surgery manager. We are engaging with about 12 residents every month.

CONTACT:

Helen Smith, Physical Activity Development Officer

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Recent 'Time to Talk Day' in Britannia Centre-

"We we're using the Support Sofa today in partnership with the [Hinckley BID](#) to promote Time To Talk Day. We had information in relation to all mental health services locally accessible for passersby.

However, poor mental health can be the result of other factors from physical health conditions, loneliness, cancer, being inactive and financial issues.

Today I spoke to around 13 members of the public, took 3 blood pressure readings, spoke about physical activity offers, cancer support and Neurodiversity. All these factors being supported and addressed can lead to better mental health.

For more information on what support is available locally the JOY APP can help you find what support is there.

Visit here for more information: [Joy - The right support is just a few clicks away](#)



Men's Offroad Cycling Wellbeing Rides-

Nathan and Darren are Volunteer Health Ambassadors for the Borough Council supporting health promotion and have been developing an offroad cycling group on their own.

Men's mental health is an area of continuous concern across the UK with Men less likely willing to talk about how they're feeling. They have great success with the gentlemen who have been turning up with improvements in their mental and physical health.

Cultural Services are almost ready to release it wider to the public. This will be every other Saturday and the starting points for these rides will be in Earl Shilton.

Listen out for the upcoming release of this group soon.

RURAL & TOURISM

Parish Forum-

Our final Parish Forum of the year took place at Thornton Community Centre on 28th November. Topics presented included planning development and policy, littering campaign, PREVENT Duty and CCTV. The evening started with some informal networking where parishes who attended had the chance to meet with officers from the planning department. Big thank you to all those who presented on the evening. To view all the minutes and presentations from the 2 forums held in 2024 please visit: [Rural - All Documents](#)



Annual Rural Conference-

2025's annual rural conference, which will mark its 10th year is shaping up to be the biggest one yet! The conference will be held at Mythe Barn, Sheepy Parva on Thursday 13th March. The day will have various speakers, activities, and networking opportunities in the marketplace to help provide information and support to our parishes. If you want to find out more about the conference and are interested in speaking or having a stall, please contact Cat Stilling cat.stilling@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

DATES FOR THE DIARY

THURSDAY 13TH MARCH- Rural Conference, 9:30am-3:30pm, Mythe Barn, Sheepy Magana, CV9 3PF. Please contact Cat Stilling if you are interested in attending.

THURSDAY 19TH JUNE- 6:30-9pm, Parish Forum

TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER- 6:30-9pm, Parish Forum

TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER- Considering a daytime meeting. Parish Forum

No venues have been confirmed for the Parish Forums. If you are interested in presenting a topic relevant to our parishes, please contact Cat Stilling.

Green Tourism-

Leicestershire Promotions started looking into Green Tourism for the borough. Beginning with a base line survey to gather what businesses understand around Green Tourism. They have seen the reports and the headlines were:

- **Everybody is doing something**
- **Everybody feels as though it is important**
- **Everybody wants to do more**
- **The main barriers are lack of knowledge and funding**

We used this to put together a digital coaching session which started before Christmas 2024, we shall be starting again from the 20th January. We have been sending out digital lessons based on national and other intelligence. This goes out to 85 businesses each time. We are picking up individual issues as they arise and are addressing them.

We have also conducted a case study on Sketchley Grange Hotel as they have the Green Tourism award. Our next case study will be with Hall Farm, Dadlington.

Local businesses stepping into Green Tourism:

- Mallory Meadows- got a grant to get some heat pumps to help run our hot tubs. We have also used the grant to install solar power and electric charge points. The heat pumps have reduced the energy costs by about 60%.
- Leonardos Hinckley Island- had electric charge points put in, they were installed late November 2024.



Leicestershire Promotions Tourism Awards 2024-

LPL'S Tourism awards took place on the 4th December at the Athena Leicester where HBBC's 50th Anniversary Celebration event was a nominated finalist in the Best Event category. We were incredibly pleased to be an nomination with thanks to the Cultural Services team, our events assistants and any HBBC officers that supported the 50th Anniversary Celebration event. Winners amongst the Hinckley and Bosworth borough were: Hall Farm Dadlington (*Self Catering Accommodation*) and Leonardo Hotel & Conference Venue Hinckley Island (*Business Event Venue*). Congratulations to them and all involved. For the details of the categories and winners visit: [Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards 2024! - Visit Leicester](#)

Hinckley & Bosworth's Taste the Place-

Within the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth we are thrilled to have so many fabulously delicious places to eat and drink. Whether it's popping in to grab a coffee on your rural ramble or celebrating a milestone with a fancy three course dinner, there's a whole selection of excellent establishments for you to discover.

Using our Tourism Partnerships with Visit Leicester and The Great Food Club, they have given us the resources to share with you the Hinckley & Bosworth Taste Adventures Map...

This map gives you the chance to explore established eateries that have been hiding right under your nose. To begin your Taste Adventure simply visit the [Richard III Country](#) website for a full list of restaurants, cafes and farm shops.

Businesses from all corners of the industry were proud to feature on the map. The likes of The Dreamy Cow (Twycross), The Gate Hangs Well (Carlton), Fourwards (Earl Shilton) and many more joined in the promotion to encourage locals and visitors to their establishments. Keep an eye out for these maps around your favourite eateries!

For further information or to access the H&B Taste Adventures Map please email emily.burgess@hinckley-bosworth.co.uk



TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS

Hinckley Town Centre Light Switch-on 2024-

Hinckley's Christmas lights switch-on has taken place on Friday 22nd November launching the festive count down with thousands of residents coming into the town centre. The lights were switched on by the Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, Councillor Robin Webber-Jones, his consorts and special guest local actress Bethany Asher who recently starred in BBC Sherwood.

The party continued to get everyone into the Christmas spirit with live music from local musicians and bands on stage with Fosse 107.

Visitors also enjoyed free street entertainment and a range of market stalls along Castle Street selling crafts, festive treats, and tipples and children had the opportunity to visit Santa. The United Reformed Church was also open providing free children's Christmas craft activities.

The night also saw the launch of 'lights in the mead' where thousands of twinkling fairy lights were turned on in zones in Argents Mead throughout the evening. 'Lights in the mead' will be on every night until 6th January from 4 to 10pm, alongside all the new town centre lights and Christmas tree.



Christmas Car Light Trail-

The annual Christmas Lights car trail supported by the Hinckley United Reformed Church saw many vehicles making their way through the trail this year down Castle Street, Market Place and The Borough between 6 and 8pm to see the Christmas lights. Again, this year we kept the event fully outside with tea/coffee and mince pies delivered to the buses of care homes that had been invited. Along the trail we had the Mayor welcome vehicles, some snow as the world's tallest elf waved people by and the Hinckley community choir were singing carols. We even had Father Christmas come to hand out presents to those care homes that had been invited. The event is a wonderful way for the less able of the Borough to have the opportunity to view the Christmas lights from the comfort of their own vehicle. After the event we received many positive comments such as:

"A quick email to say thank you for the Christmas Lights Car Trail on Wednesday. You always do a fantastic job and it's always great to see everyone! Thank you for all your hard work and for putting Hinckley on the map! (I had friends from Brighton visiting last weekend and they were impressed at how much Hinckley has going on)"



Carols Around the Tree-

The annual Carols around the Tree event took place on Friday 13th December organised by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in partnership with Churches Together.

Pupils from Westfield School joined in to sing several well-known Christmas Carols along with a crowd of around 200 people.

Festive Feast 2024-

The popular Festive Feast and Crafts market returned to Hinckley Town Centre on Sunday 15th December and welcomed around 50 traders in Market Place down towards the Borough including foods and crafts plus entertainment from Fosse 107, Richie Phillips and a very tall Santa Claus.

This event has proven to be very popular over the years and brings in lots of additional footfall into the town, which in turn supports town centre businesses. The weather was particularly mild for mid-December and this year may have been our busiest to date.

Follow the official Feast Hinckley Facebook to keep up to date with the event:

[Feast Hinckley | Facebook](#)



FREE TO ATTEND

ARMED FORCES VETERANS' COFFEE MORNING

**EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY
10AM - 12NOON**

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS
ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLES
AND GOOD COMPANY

**THE GREEN ROOMS,
MASONIC HALL, HINCKLEY.**

ADVICE AND SUPPORT
AVAILABLE ON THE DAY.

DATES FOR 2025
12 MAR | 9 APR | 14 MAY | 11 JUN | 9 JUL
13 AUG | 10 SEPT | 8 OCT | 12 NOV | 10 DEC

ALL COMMUNITIES MATTER

PRESENTS

Hinckley

INDIE Market

Hinckley Town Centre

sunday

30th March

10AM TILL
3PM

FAMILY FUN

COMMUNITY
EVENT

Looking Forward to 2025-

The cultural services team works closely with Hinckley BID on the towns events programme, we look forward to supporting them with their future events all of which can be found at [What's on in Hinckley? – Hinckley BID](#) I am pleased to say that Hinckley BID will be moving to the council office based at Hinckley Leisure Centre, the cultural services team are looking forward to welcoming them in the New Year.



Snap Dragon 2025-

Planning is underway for most events in the 2025 calendar now and again would appreciate any help any teams across HBBC can give to support Snap Dragon this year, whether it be providing a fun engaging activity or having a stall.

Monday 4th August – Theme TBC

Tuesday 5th August – Theme TBC

Wednesday 6th August – 'National play day'
– celebrating a child's right to play

The events team try to incorporate over the 3 days lots of activities that are free or very low cost to families, with the cost-of-living crisis at a peak it is even more important to put this type of event on.

The events team must be creative to put on these free family activities, so if you have a great idea for an activity, contact Cat Stilling to find out more.



New benches for Hinckley-

Under the UKSPF Hinckley has had all of its benches replaced to match the new benches installed on Church Walk – this has given the town 23 new benches in total all throughout the town centre. The benches have really brightened up the area and will allow shoppers to rest in convenient places throughout the town centre.

As part of the process many of the old benches were re-used, one has been installed on the junction of Derby Road/Leicester Road after a bench was removed several years ago and the Leicester Road Residents Group asked for a replacement to be installed. This bench will be revamped during the spring, giving it a new lease of life. Two benches were gifted to Hinckley Golf Club and 11 were gifted to Hastings High School in Hinckley, to allow children places to sit during their breaks.



FREE EVENT



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council
Presents




MUSIC IN THE MEAD

— 2025 —

Join us for toe tapping tunes
in Argents Mead throughout
the summer

hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/events



Music in the Mead 2025-

Music in the Mead returns for 2025. Two-hour music sessions on various Saturday throughout the summer. Some familiar faces will be under the bandstand once again, such as Dean Thomas, Steven Faulkner, Jazzology: the Big Band, Take It from the Top Juile Sings and Sam Southall.

New artists to give the bandstand a try are Izzy Way, Macadocious, Peter Davis & Ukulele Boxvox.

Check who will be performing when here: [Dates for 2025 | Music in the Mead | Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council](#)

	MARCH:
Saturday 15 th	Hinckley BID Live Windows
Saturday 12 th to Thursday 17 th Saturday 26 th	APRIL: Hinckley Bid's Easter Bunny Hunt St. George's Day Celebrations
Thursday 8 th to Saturday 10 th	MAY: VE Day Celebrations and Commemorations Music in the Mead Music in the Mead
Saturday 10 th Saturday 17 th	JUNE: Proms in the Park Mallory Mile Music in the Mead Hinckley BID Vehicle Meet Music in the Mead Armed Forces Day Hinckley BID Soap Box Derby
Saturday 7 th Monday 9 th Saturday 14 th Thursday 19 th Saturday 21 st Saturday 28 th Sunday 29 th	JULY: Music in the Mead Hinckley BID Summer of Fun Hinckley BID Vehicle Meet Music in the Mead
Saturday 5 th Wednesday 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th Thursday 17 th Saturday 26 th	AUGUST: FEAST Hinckley Snapdragon Music in the Mead Hinckley BID Summer of Fun Hinckley BID Vehicle Meet Music in the Mead
Saturday 2 nd to Sunday 3 rd Monday 4 th to Wednesday 6 th Saturday 16 th Wednesday 20 th Thursday 21 st Saturday 30 th	SEPTEMBER: Music in the Mead Burbage Common Open Day Heritage Event Music in the Mead Hinckley BID Motorshow
Saturday 6 th Sunday 7 th Saturday 13 th Saturday 20 th Sunday 21 st	OCTOBER: Hinckley BID Oktoberfest Hinckley BID's Treasure Hunt Spooktacular Saturday
Sunday 11 th Saturday 18 th to Friday 31 st Saturday 26 th	NOVEMBER: Remembrance Sunday Christmas Lights & Tin Hat Fair
Sunday 9 th Friday 21 st & Saturday 22 nd	DECEMBER: Christmas Car Light Trail Carols Around the Tree Festive FEAST Hinckley BID Santa Surprise
Wednesday 3 rd Friday 12 th Sunday 14 th Saturday 21 st to Monday 22 nd	

