

## Helping cancer fight in memory of Dave

THE family and friends of a Mansfield man who lost his brave year-long fight against cancer in June are determined to continue his fundraising and awareness campaign.

The Rock Zone Foundation supports people with cancer and focuses on the fight and not the fright of the disease, aiming to be the 'rock' for people who need it most.

It was set up by **Dave and Lisa Charles** after Dave was diagnosed with a brain tumour — a progressive right temporal glioblastoma — in June 2020.

Sadly Dave, 51, lost his battle with the cancer a year later, but Lisa said: "We're going to continue Dave's legacy through the Rock Zone Foundation, supporting the fighters, admiring the survivors, honouring the taken and never, ever giving up hope."

"Through Dave's charity work and his heartbreaking story, we hope to help other people who are affected by cancer."

"We raise awareness and I say this as loud as I can. If you feel something is wrong or not right with your body, get checked. Don't be afraid or leave it too late. You know your own body more than anyone."

"As a family, we are heartbroken and trying to come to terms with losing Dave, but his strength through his cancer battle is the inspiration that keeps us going."

A new fundraising campaign for the Rock Zone Foundation has been launched and has already raised more than £2,000 towards its £5,000 target.

Lisa added: "We are so grateful for anything you can donate to help give other cancer patients the super power to fight against cancer."

If you are able to donate, go to [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rachael-richardson-2021](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rachael-richardson-2021)

"Every little really does help, and together we can make a real difference," said Lisa.

Dave was a loving dad, devoted husband and a treasured friend who has done so much for people over his 51 years, including raising



**DAVE Charles and his wife, Lisa, who is determined to carry on his fundraising for others affected by cancer.**

thousands of pounds for cancer charities himself.

He underwent surgery and aggressive treatment after his diagnosis and in November was excited to ring a bell in hospital to celebrate the end of his radiotherapy, but unfortunately not the end of the tumour.

After many rounds of chemotherapy, sadly it stopped working. Dave's health and mobility deteriorated and he was confined to his bed, faced with the fact that nothing more could be done to treat him.

It was heartbreaking for family and friends to watch Dave, a larger-than-life, fit and healthy dad and husband, be overcome by cancer, but they were given some hope when he had a chance to undergo potentially lifesaving treatment as part of a research study in Texas at a cost of £200,000.

The crucial research project could have saved Dave's life and after the positive news his family set up a JustGiving fundraising page in the hope of starting to raise funds for his treatment. Sadly, Dave lost his battle with cancer before the campaign could begin.

Before his diagnosis, Dave was a well-known tattoo artist in Derby, with a passion for rock music. Over the years he had collected a huge range of rock memorabilia and he decided to start selling this to raise funds directly for local cancer patients.

He set up the Rock Zone Foundation and sold items all over the world for his cause.

Now the foundation aims to continue his work with the new fundraising campaign.

● Go to [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rachael-richardson-2021](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rachael-richardson-2021) if you can help.



**DIANE Caunt, front right, talks to Prince William.**

## Royal honour on NHS birthday

A SPECIALIST domestic at Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust, celebrated the NHS's 73rd birthday in style — with a surprise chat with **Prince William** and the **Prime Minister, Boris Johnson**.

**Diane Caunt** attended a special service at St Paul's Cathedral, London, as NHS staff were thanked for working tirelessly throughout the pandemic.

She was selected to attend the special event after a nomination by the trust, which runs King's Mill Hospital, Sutton, and on the day received a surprise phone call inviting her to meeting the two guests of honour at the cathedral.

"The service was really moving and I was honoured to be a part of it," Diane said.

"It was amazing to be asked to meet Prince William and the Prime Minister; they were both really friendly and asked me about Sherwood, how things had been at the height of the pandemic and how they are now."

"I told them that I hope we have turned a corner and I mentioned how supportive my family have been."

Diane's day job is to deep clean wards on a rotational basis. During the pandemic, her skills were recognised as being key to supporting the trust to help keep colleagues and patients safe.

She was asked to work in the Emergency Department to undertake specialist cleaning and didn't hesitate to help.

Throughout the pandemic, Diane's only time off came when she tested positive for Covid-19.

**Lorna Branton**, director of communications at Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust, said: "Our domestic colleagues are highly valued and respected and we are delighted that Diane could represent us at the ceremony."

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Liam Swan  
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**DISTRIBUTION QUERIES**  
Bev Diamond  
01623 707017  
bev@news-journal.co.uk



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# Caring teenager finds positive out of tragedy

A TEENAGER from Mansfield has raised thousands of pounds for Brain Tumour Research in memory of her stepfather, who died from the disease.

Sixth-former **Scarlett Sykes** marked her 18th birthday by asking for donations to the charity and continued on with the fundraising to collect £3,000.

Her stepfather, **Paul Malcolm**, died from an aggressive brain tumour in July 2017, just a few weeks after he was diagnosed.

Scarlett said: "Paul was a registered mental health nurse and a reservist in the British Army.

"He led a fantastically full life, even studying for a degree in fine art while juggling his career as a frontline NHS worker.

"He'd done two operational tours of Afghanistan and was extremely fit and healthy. He exercised daily and was a vegetarian. His diagnosis with a grade-three brain tumour came as a huge shock."

As well as Scarlett, Paul left behind her older brother, **Charlie**, and his partner, **Samantha**, a fellow NHS mental health nurse.

Scarlett added: "I was only 15 at the time and couldn't really comprehend what had happened. He'd become ill so quickly and declined rapidly.

"It took a huge toll on my mum. She and Paul were planning to get married.

"Charlie was 20 and was due to go travelling around Europe when Paul was admitted to hospital. He nearly cancelled but Paul encouraged him to still go. He was always so supportive of both of us and wanted us to thrive and take every opportunity we got."

Scarlett was attending The Samworth Church Academy, Mansfield, at the time, but it was always her dream to attend its partner school, Gordonstoun, in Scotland. Each year one Samworth student is offered a scholarship to the prestigious independent boarding school in Scotland.

"From a young age I'd had my heart set on applying for the scholarship," explained Scarlett.

"I thought Gordonstoun looked so cool, a bit like Hogwarts! When the opportunity came, however, we'd just lost Paul and I didn't want to leave my mum.

"But Paul had always been 100% behind me applying and thought I'd do really well there. I put my application in and out of a year group of 300 or so students, I was selected. I felt so proud to have done it for Paul."

In September 2019, Scarlett joined year 12 at Gordonstoun to study A-levels in English literature, history and geography. She has just completed her exams and said: "True to Paul's predications, I've really thrived at school in Scotland. I became History Captain and a member of

**SCARLETT Sykes has been raising money in memory of her stepfather, Paul Malcolm.**



the school council.

When Scarlett turned 18 in January, she marked her big birthday by setting up a Facebook fundraiser to raise money for Brain Tumour Research in memory of her stepfather. She received donations amounting to £1,500.

"Birthdays have been hard since Paul died," she said. "I remember feeling like I didn't want to grow older without him being there. But when I raised all that money through my birthday fundraiser, I realised I could turn it into something positive.

"As a family we are passionate about ensuring no other family has to experience the pain we have been through."

Scarlett's fundraising didn't stop at her Facebook fundraiser. A member of Hopeman House at Gordonstoun, Scarlett galvanised her schoolfriends to join her fundraising efforts and the house chose Brain Tumour Research to support for the summer term.

"I came up with the idea of a fundraising event, inspired by the famous morning runs, which were a compulsory part of the Gordonstoun curriculum until the 1990s," she said.

"Traditionally, more than 100 students and staff, running in household groups, would undertake a daily 3.5km run from Gordonstoun House to the nearby Coastguard Watchtower, a building that replaced a wooden hut former pupil Prince Philip helped to build in 1935.

"I organised a similar, sponsored event — a very early wake-up, followed by a jaunt to the Watchtower, where we spotted dolphins and came back for breakfast.

"Eighty people took part, across all year groups, raising £1,500."

● **To donate to Brain Tumour Research, visit [www.braintumourresearch.org/donation/donate-now](http://www.braintumourresearch.org/donation/donate-now)**



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# National award for helping learners with disabilities

## Free summer holiday fun

A PORTLAND College stalwart has been recognised with a top national accolade.

Curriculum manager **David Winter** was announced as the winner of the Outstanding Individual Contribution Award at the National Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards ceremony.

The awards celebrate the most inclusive practice for young people in schools, colleges, educational settings and employment across the UK.

David started work at Portland — a leading independent specialist college and registered care home for young adults with disabilities — as a part-time carer 23 years ago.

He then became care coordinator, before moving into learning support and teaching roles, and finally management.

Notably he designed and introduced the first sports curriculum at Portland.

The college said he was an excellent educator and role model for his learners and colleagues.

David added: "I am very honoured to have received this award.

"I have dedicated the last 23 years of my life to Portland and the learners that have passed through our doors in that time, but I wouldn't be where I am now without the support of my colleagues and family — and for that I am extremely grateful."



**DAVID Winter won the Outstanding Individual Contribution Award at the National Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards.**

College principal and chief executive **Mark Dale** said: "David was one of the first people I got to know when I came to Portland nearly 15 years ago.

"Then he was completing his teacher training qualification and

I observed his teaching practice and watched him develop from a beginning teacher to an outstanding one.

"I worked directly with him on innovative projects such as our Sport England Fully Inclusive

Sport training programme and the groundwork that led to the current Natspec Games.

"He has continued to innovate and put his heart and soul into developing young people with disabilities.

"It is wonderful to see David get this recognition and the outpouring of appreciation for a brilliant teacher."

During his time at the college, David has helped his learners to achieve many successes.

After designing and introducing the first sports curriculum at Portland in 2006, David has helped learners to have the opportunity to compete in local, regional and national events.

His many successes have seen learners represent England in Boccia squads and the Table Cricket team win the Lord Taverner's national title several times.

David has also introduced a comprehensive evening enrichment programme for learners, which he has opened up to others in the community.

He is now rolling out a new initiative at Portland, the Be Healthy, Active and Courageous project. The 12-week staff training programme helps them support learners with self-awareness, self-regulation, goal setting, achievement habits, self-compassion and resilience.

All of this is alongside David's busy role of managing a complex curriculum and large team of specialist staff.

FREE holiday clubs are available for eligible families in the Mansfield area throughout August.

Mansfield District Council is working with schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to launch the government's expanded £220m Holiday Activities and Food programme, which is supported by England footballer **Marcus Rashford**. It is targeted at children and young people who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Activity clubs will include: Mansfield Cultural Services (Mansfield Museum and Mansfield Palace Theatre) — drama, dance, music and creative-writing sessions for children, aged 5 to 16, at South Mansfield Community Centre.

Mansfield Town Football in the Community — free football sessions at St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy. The Stags also have limited free places on football camps at One Call Stadium.

Oak Tree Leisure Centre and River Maun Recreation Centre — multi-sports sessions at for those aged 5-12.

Mansfield Play Forum — Sessions at Crescent Primary School and sports activities for ages 8-16 at Ladybrook Community Centre.

Vibrant Warsop — holiday provision from the Shed and the Lifespring Church, working with Warsop Youth Centre, Hetts Lane Holiday Club and Holiday Craft.

● To check eligibility and to apply visit [www.mansfield.gov.uk/HAF2021](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/HAF2021)

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## College shines spotlight on positive community work

A COLLEGE has handed out awards to people in the community who have been making a positive difference.

The extended leadership team at Academy Transformation Trust Further Education College, based at Sutton, presented individuals and organisations in the community with a certificate and Shine Award.

Among the winners were: Business Community Contribution — **Scott Barlow**, of Barlow's Butchers, Annesley.

Community Hero — chef **David Marshall**.  
Community Impact — Portland College chief executive **Mark Dale**.  
Care for the Community — Sharewear Clothing Scheme.  
Inspirational Ashfield Community Work — **Coun Matt Relf**.  
Care for the Sutton Community — Rotary Club of Sutton, **Chris Dawes**.  
Inspirational Ollerton Community Work — **Mayor of Ollerton, Donna Cumberlidge**.

Sustaining the Community — **Jac and Patrizia**, Community Food Bank, Kirkby Woodhouse.  
● There were a total of 16 categories, with others including: Commitment to your Community, Family Care for the Ashfield Community, Inspirational Ashfield Community Work, Recognition from your Community, Care for the Ollerton Community, Ashfield Community Support, Community Support, and Team Community Impact.



ABOVE: Senior business support officer Tasha Price presents the Rotary Club of Sutton's Chris Dawes with the Care for the Sutton Community Award.  
BELOW LEFT: Scott Barlow, of Barlow's Butchers, receives the Business Community Contribution Award from ATTFE principal Liz Barrett.  
BELOW RIGHT: Chef David Marshall receives the Community Hero Award from business support officer Charlotte Birch.



LEFT: Jac and Patrizia from the Community Food Bank, Kirkby Woodhouse.  
ABOVE: Coun Matt Relf was presented with the Inspirational Ashfield Community Work Award by senior data officer Claire Bennett  
ABOVE RIGHT: Portland College chief executive Mark Dale received the Community Impact Award from head of learner experience Katie Barrett.



## Florist grows help for others, both at home and overseas

NEWSTEAD-BASED online florist Bunches has released emergency

relief funds to help feed more than 290,000 people in coronavirus-ravaged India through its Make A Difference campaign.

The family-run florist donated funds through its charity partners, Links International and Love the One, to provide medical care, food and sanitation.

Bunches has an ongoing commitment to donate a minimum of 10 per cent of profits to charitable projects, both in the UK and abroad, through its selection of letterbox flowers, house plants and hand tied bouquets.

Dani Turner, customer experience director, said: "We aim to help people

in need as much as we can, to create something positive and help make a difference to those who need it most."

In another initiative to help create something positive, Bunches donated 450 packets of sunflower seeds to Newstead Village, teaming up with Gedling Borough Council to hand deliver the seeds as part of the

Newstead Garden Competition.

Dani added: "We are committed to not only making a difference across the world, but also in the local community. Even the smallest acts means so much to us and we hope the seeds can help brighten up gardens and help put a smile on people's faces after a challenging year for all."

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## New appointments at machinery firm

KIRKBY-BASED heavy machinery moving specialists Merritts Machinery Logistics have made two new appointments — **Andy Booth** as operations manager and **Paula Law** as QHSE co-ordinator.

Andy previously worked as a supply chain and logistics manager for a construction company.

Having served in the Army for more than 20 years, Paul will work alongside the finance, and health and safety team to ensure that Merritts provides a work environment that is safe for all employees, contractors, customers, and members of the public.

Andy said: "Merritts will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022 and this long trading history has enabled the company to develop an outstanding reputation within the industry."

Paula added: "I can't wait to roll my sleeves up and continue to help Merritts assist clients to carry out new heavy machinery removals, installations, factory relocations and production line changes in a safe and compliant manner."

## Making history at building society

MANSFIELD Building Society has appointed **Alison Chmiel** as its first female Board chair.

She is taking over from **Jeremy Cross**, who has stood down after six successful years in the role but remains on the Board as a non-executive director and Risk Committee chair.

"I'm delighted to be taking up the role of Board Chair at

Mansfield Building Society and wish to thank Jeremy for his excellent stewardship over the last six years, during which time the society enjoyed unparalleled change, investment and growth," said Alison (pictured).

"I want to play my part in ensuring that the society continues to thrive and prosper, whilst remaining true to its mutual heritage by looking after its members and the community that we are proud to serve."

Alison, a long-standing director at the society, was first appointed to the Board in February 2013. She started her career at IBM before later moving to Ikano Bank UK, where she was finance director and deputy managing director. Alison also spent many years at the Woodland Trust as a director/trustee.

Currently, alongside her Board responsibilities at the society, Alison is a trustee of the Two Counties Trust — an academy trust with schools across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Society chief executive **Paul Wheeler** said: "I've seen Alison's natural ability to engage with colleagues on the Board and across the society."

"Alison's blend of technical knowledge and softer people skills will ensure that the society continues to flourish in the future."



# Building a double award success

TWO site managers from housebuilder Harron Homes have won National House Building Council (NHBC) Pride In The Job awards.

**David Mills** works at the Thoresby Vale development in Edwinstowe and **Adrian Downs** at Brierley Heath, Sutton.

Adrian, 48, of Mansfield, is celebrating his second NHBC award, having won in 2017.

"I'm super proud of the work everyone on site puts into these houses," he said.

"It's our aim to create quality homes and I'm glad we're achieving that."

David, of Worksop, joined Thoresby Vale earlier in 2021 with almost 50 years of industry experience. This is his 34th NHBC award.

"I've always been proud of keeping my high standards consistent throughout my career, and it's wonderful to have that recognised by the NHBC," he said.



**DAVID Mills and Adrian Downs won NHBC Pride In The Job awards 2021.**

"My fantastic assistant site manager and talented team at Thoresby helped make it possible to build first-class houses."

**Lee Kilby**, construction director, said: "Having only registered with the NHBC within the last two years, it's incredible to have the efforts of two of our fantastic site managers recognised so soon."

"In fact, it's the second time this year that our Brierley Heath team has been awarded, having won Harron Team of the Year 2020/21, so it's even better to have the NHBC also recognise what a brilliant team we have."

"I'm proud of all our developments and the hard work that goes into building every house to the highest quality, and would like to thank the whole Harron team as we know our successes would not be possible without the great team spirit we have here."

# Sew good news at Sally Twinkle

A NEW owner has officially taken over one of Mansfield's best-loved shops.

It had been feared that Sally Twinkle, which was founded in August 1967, would close when owner **David Marriott** retired.

David first acquired the business 15 years ago following the death of founder **Margaret Elliot**, but he put the business up for sale as he neared retirement.

Now **Duncan Adams**, who owns a similar family business in Beeston, Nottingham, has saved the shop from closure, meaning that all five staff will be kept on and the name Sally Twinkle will live on.

Duncan said: "I saw that the business was for sale, and when I came in I just thought 'wow'."

"It is more than a shop. It is part of the heritage of Mansfield. I want it to retain all that but become more, and become a focus for the community."

Duncan says the shop will continue to sell haberdashery, fabrics and yarns, but will also provide sewing machine servicing, repairs, and sales.



**DAVID Marriott hands over the Sally Twinkle sign to Duncan Adams. The actual sign is still the original that Margaret Elliot had installed when she founded the business.**

He says the shop will be spruced up, and added to. For example, there are plans for sewing classes and quilting sessions.

Duncan said: "I am really

looking forward to taking the helm and driving forward by keeping the customers we have and attracting a new generation."

David plans to retire, although his time will be full as he is involved in a number of organisations.

He said: "I have had a very enjoyable time at Sally Twinkle, but it's time to pass the baton on. It's amazing to think that Margaret started the business, I took it on and led it for 15 years, and now it is being taken into the future."

"It's a part of the Handley Arcade, part of Mansfield, and part of people's lives. I wish Duncan and the staff all the very best for the future."

**Nikki Rolls**, chief executive at Mansfield Business Improvement District, said: "We wish David all the very best in his retirement, and we will support Duncan as he takes the shop forward. There isn't a shop like Sally Twinkle for many miles around and it brings people to our wonderful town centre. It's great to see its future secured."

## Having bottle to set up his own business

A MANSFIELD man who lost his job at a dairy during the coronavirus lockdown has set up his own business — as a milkman.

**Ashley Parke**, 27, was furloughed and then made redundant after being a dairy sales manager for six years at a Leicester-based firm.

The former Queen Elizabeth's School pupil said he had always wanted to run his own business and decided to use his knowledge of the milk business to set up his own delivery round in Mansfield.

He is now a milkman and company director of his own business, East Midlands Dairy Ltd, covering a 10-15 mile radius from Mansfield town centre.

He delivers three days a week and also offers yoghurt, juices and free range eggs as well as milk in glass bottles he collects when empty.

●For more information call 07514 980101 or email eastmidlandsdairy@yahoo.com

## First Mansfield base for retailer

KITCHEN retailer Kutchenhau has opened its first branch in Mansfield.

The Chesterfield Road North store is owned by **Brett Poole**, who has 25 years' experience in the kitchen industry, including full project management in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire at well-known home improvement retailers.

Brett said he would be working with suppliers in the local area. Initially employing two members of staff in customer services and kitchen design, the showroom has set a target of doubling its workforce within the next year.

Brett added: "It has taken three months to completely transform the space to Kutchenhau's high-quality standards — and amidst the pandemic."

"We are extremely proud of the progress we have made and are excited to finally welcome customers through our doors."

## Exam success

THREE trainees at independent funeral directors A.W. Lynn The Family Funeral Service have passed their BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons) fixing exams.

**Ethan Hickey**, **Isabel Walton** and **Charis Bull** are part of a four-year trainee programme at A.W. Lynn, which offers the opportunity to gain five qualifications to kick-start a career in the funeral industry.

Commercial director **Pete Clarson**, who oversees the trainees, said: "It's great to see young adults who have an interest and passion for the funeral industry."

# New salon owner thanks Mansfield for support

WHEN hairdresser **Sophia Barlow** opened her new salon in Mansfield in July last year, she could not have chosen a worse time.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions were put in place and the 34-year-old had taken on new premises in White Hart Street.

Fast forward a year and, after a lot of hard work and patience, Angelite Hair now has eight hairdressers and around 300 regular clients.

It's a success story so far for Sophia, who only two years ago lost her father.

She said: "I thought it was time to do something or I never would, and I believe my dad has helped to guide me. But, I cannot get over just how supportive Mansfield people have been."

"I've been a hairdresser for 20 years, but the salon is a new venture and people could not



have been more supportive. From clients and business people to those who simply know me from the gym, it's been amazing."

Sophia is a believer in the power of crystals, and Angelite is named after a mineral.

She set up the salon to offer a safe place for people. It's about hair and often alternative styles, but it's a place designed for

people to be themselves, whoever they are, while at the same time offering a highly-professional service.

Sophia's business is at the bottom of White Hart Street, near Equus and opposite Casey's cafe bar.

●Pictured is salon owner **Sophia Barlow**, above centre, with **Laura Moss** and **Chloe Davenport**.

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# Raising money for charity on way to pageant final

## New council homes look to the future

A MANSFIELD woman is raising hundreds of pounds for charity as she aims to gain a place in an international pageant in the USA.

**Chloe-Rose Adkin**, 20, has already reached the final of Miss Galaxy – UK for the second successive year after finishing first runner-up in 2020.

Now Chloe, who is Miss Nottingham Galaxy, is raising money for the British Heart Foundation as well as the pageant's chosen charity, The Christie Charitable Fund, supporting the work of a cancer centre.

She decided to support the heart foundation because her grandfather suffered a cardiac arrest several years ago.

When he was discharged from hospital he was helped at a cardio gym to build a healthier lifestyle.

"That inspired me to fundraise for the British Heart Foundation and heart awareness is my platform," Chloe-Rose said.

She has run two pro-active campaigns this year to support her fundraising. The first encouraged people to get involved and put their heart first by exercising for



**CHLOE-ROSE Adkin is through to the final of Miss Galaxy – UK.**

30 minutes every day in February, using workouts donated by fitness professionals.

In March she went without chocolate for the month and believes that her campaigns have helped herself as well as others to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Chloe said: "I am honoured to be returning to the UK Galaxy stage for the second year running as Miss Nottingham Galaxy after placing first runner-up in the 2020 finals.

"Although Covid has made this year's preparations difficult I have still managed to support my local community and raise £1,383, so far this year, for my chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation, and UK Galaxy Pageant's chosen charity, The Christie.

"I am so excited and can't wait to get back on stage. The past year has been negative for everyone, so it is nice to have something to look forward to.

"It was a complete shock to be first runner-up last year... it was like winning and an amazing boost.

"I am ready and raring to go again." Chloe "caught the pageant bug"

after finishing third at the 2015 Miss Mansfield Outstanding Teen competition. In 2018 she reached the top 20 at Miss England.

The winner of Miss Galaxy - UK, who will be revealed at the finals in November, will travel to the USA, alongside contestants from all over the world, to compete in the Miss Galaxy International final in summer 2022.

Chloe is being sponsored by several local businesses, including PA, lighting and staging company MC Productions, Mansfield beauty salon Lucy Lashes and Richard Murrill Pageant Sponsorship.

You can follow Chloe's journey to the Miss Galaxy UK Grand Final on Instagram and Facebook – Instagram, @chloea.pageants and Facebook, @ChloeAdkinMissNottinghamGalaxy

To make a donation to her fundraising go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chloe-r-adkinbhf](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chloe-r-adkinbhf)

●Chloe-Rose will be joined by a familiar face at the finals of Miss Galaxy – UK because her mother, Helen Adkin, is competing at Mrs Galaxy UK as Mrs Nottingham Galaxy.

TEN new affordable and energy-efficient family homes in Mansfield have welcomed their first council tenants.

The six two-bedroom and four three-bedroom homes have been allocated via Mansfield District Council's housing site Homefinder.

The £1.7m scheme, off Rosemary Avenue, saw the council use innovative pre-built modular homes for the first time as part of a long-term programme to build 300 affordable social housing homes.

Work is also due to start on a pilot project of four ultra-low energy council homes for affordable rent on the site of the former tenants' meeting room on Saundby Avenue.

Working with local developer Robert Woodhead Ltd, the project will create training and employment opportunities, support local supply chain companies, and reduce carbon emissions through tree planting and recycling construction waste.



# Business boss opens up about gambling addiction to help others

THE director of Huthwaite business CCM Group, **Trent Peek**, was the face of the latest TalkBanStop campaign to raise awareness of the free resources available to anyone struggling with gambling during the European Championships.

Trent opened up about his history with gambling problems and his journey to recovery

in January, which he shared in a LinkedIn post. He was then approached by GamCare to star in their latest campaign to raise awareness of the free tools and support that are available to help people stop gambling.

GamCare, which operates the National Gambling Helpline, revealed that during and post major sporting events there is an increase

in calls to the helpline and is encouraging people to use the free resources and tools available through TalkBanStop.

Trent said: "Supporting GamCare in their mission to promote safer gambling is something that I'm incredibly proud to be a part of.

"Being involved in this campaign allowed me to share my own personal story, alongside other

inspiring individuals. It was an emotional day of filming."

To watch the full video go to <https://vimeo.com/568847205>

**Anna Hemmings**, chief executive of GamCare, said: "We want people to feel that taking the first step, by seeking non-judgmental help from trained advisers, is a positive move."

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# Eyes down for unique way to support three charities

WELL-KNOWN charity fundraiser **Yvette Price-Mear** has come up with a unique way to celebrate her upcoming 60th birthday and love for bingo.

With 2021 also marking 60 years of Mecca Bingo, Yvette, of Mansfield Woodhouse, has pledged to visit 60 Mecca clubs before her milestone birthday.

Her Charity Mega Mecca Bingo-a-Thon across the UK will help three causes — the charity that she founded, Pet Bereavement Support, the Carers Trust and 4th Mansfield Woodhouse Scouts.

Yvette, pictured, started in Scotland, travelling 677 miles to visit six Mecca clubs in Forge, Wishaw,



Paisley, and three in Glasgow in celebration of National Bingo Day.

Her mammoth tour will continue on nine other weekends and end in Mecca's oldest club, Rosehill, on 19th December — Yvette's 60th birthday.

Yvette and her husband, Tony, provide respite care for adults with learning disabilities and two of them — 40 year-old **Joanne Allardyce** and 54 year-old **Louise Bolz** — helped with collecting donations in Scotland, raising £873.73.

"I knew I wanted to do something really special for my 60th birthday and when I found out that Mecca was also turning 60 this year, it just felt right to create a 60 club bingo-a-thon," said Yvette. "I'm grateful that

I'll be able to raise money for my own charities as well as the Carers Trust, having lots of fun along the way."

Mecca is providing Yvette with free bingo and refreshments at each club along her journey, any winnings from which will go straight into the fundraising pot.

She also has a GoFundMe page, <https://gofund.me/8caec3f9>, where she hopes any additional support will help her to reach her £1,000 goal.

A Mecca spokesperson said: "We're thrilled to be working with Yvette on her amazing Mecca Bingo-a-Thon.

"She's been a bingo fan for more than 30 years, so we can't think of a better way to celebrate both of our 60th birthdays."

# Stars to join football fun at charity match

TELEVISION celebrities will be among the players and crowd at an annual charity football match.

The third Frenbot Mansfield Charity Football Match will see a Frenbot team take on Once Upon A Smile, a team including TV celebrities, at Forest Town Arena, on Sunday, 22nd August

Among the causes being supported are Once Upon A Smile, a charity that provides opportunities for children to understand and express their emotions during bereavement in a fun and safe environment, and the King's Mill Toy Appeal.

Once Upon A Smile hope to bring stars from X Factor, Hollyoaks and Emmerdale to the match and there will also be a mini fun fair, food stalls and much more. Mansfield 103.2 will be broadcasting live.

Local businesses have been helping with the fundraising by donating prizes for a raffle.

Admission is £3 — £10 for a family ticket for two adults and two children — and under-3s go free. Gates open at the Arena at 1pm and kick-off is 3pm. There will be free parking.

Raffle tickets priced £1 can be bought on the day.

For more information, search go to [www.facebook.com/Mansfield-Charity-Football-Match-Frenbot-2021-2274045989492158](http://www.facebook.com/Mansfield-Charity-Football-Match-Frenbot-2021-2274045989492158) or email [frenbotfootball@gmail.com](mailto:frenbotfootball@gmail.com) or call 07788 192105.



# Party to remember husband and support hospice

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Hospice has launched a special appeal to celebrate its 40th birthday.

It is inviting supporters to get together in memory of loved ones and raise funds at the same time.

**Linda Randall**, of Warsop, is having a 'coming of age' party to remember her husband, **Bill**, and support the appeal.

The couple had a standing joke that when she reached state pension age she would throw a party to celebrate.

Sadly Bill died in 2019 but Linda has invited family and friends to keep his spirit of fun alive and also say thank you for the care Nottinghamshire Hospice provided in his last days.

Linda said Bill was a sociable, fun-



LINDA and Bill Randall.

loving person who loved parties, so throwing one in his honour seemed the right thing to do.

"I want everyone to be happy, enjoy themselves and let their hair down in his memory," she added. "I

also want to raise lots of money for Nottinghamshire Hospice, which does such a wonderful job of providing support and care to those whose life is limited, and their families."

Bill was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer in March 2019. He received Hospice at Home care at the couple's Warsop home before he died eight months later, aged 75.

Linda said: "Bill had been in a residential hospice three times with infections, but he always wanted to come home. I wanted him home too.

"Although I used to be a nurse, I would have struggled to care for him without support. I can't describe the relief of knowing there was somebody there, which meant I could get some sleep at night.

"The care and compassion Bill and I received from the hospice nursing staff in those last days were invaluable, but cost us not one penny. They made a distressing time just that bit more bearable.

For the hospice birthday appeal, people are encouraged to donate £40 to cover a year of care, put on a fundraiser, throw a party with family and friends or take on a fundraising challenge.

**Tori Harrison**, Individual Giving Fundraiser at Nottinghamshire Hospice, said: "Help us realise our 40:40 vision of delivering another 40 years of care by supporting our appeal."

●To support the appeal go to [www.nottshospice.org/birthday](http://www.nottshospice.org/birthday)

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## Public Notices

**MANSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE / CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE**

<b>PREMISES</b>	47&49 Leeming Street Mansfield NG18 1NB
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Notice is given that **Aadil Hassan** has applied to Mansfield District Council Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence for Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

**The Licensable Activities Are:**  
Late night refreshments  
Monday-Sunday  
23:00pm - 05:00am

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Manager, Mansfield District Council, Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 7BH.  
Representations must be received no later than **23/08/21**

**The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.**

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is up to level 5 on the standard scale.

**MANSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE / CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE**

<b>PREMISES</b>	TOPS PIZZA AND CHICKEN, 3A RAVENDALE ROAD MANSFIELD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG18 2DD
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Notice is given that **Mr Jumma Khan** has applied to Mansfield District Council Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence for Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

**The Licensable Activities Are:**  
Late night refreshment:  
Monday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Tuesday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Wednesday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Thursday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Friday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Saturday 23:00pm to 03:00am  
Sunday 23:00pm to 03:00am

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Manager, Mansfield District Council, Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 7BH.  
Representations must be received no later than **23/08/21**

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## Sound of music helped teens to beat lockdown

A SHIREBROOK student who turned to music to get her through the difficult days of lockdown has set her sights on becoming a professional songwriter after winning a place at a performing arts college.

**Kelsey Hind**, who has just left Shirebrook Academy, has been given a place at Confetti, the Institute of Creative Technologies, Nottingham.

The 16-year-old says she cannot think of anything else she would rather do after finding solace playing her guitar to help her deal with the mental health challenges associated with remote learning.

Kelsey, who will be studying for a BTEC Level 3 in music songwriting and performance, is one of three students from the school heading to Confetti.

She will be accompanied by her friend and former classmate, Gracie Dexter, who has her own reasons to thank the power of music after her talent for singing changed her life two years ago.

Naturally shy, Gracie overcame her insecurities to enter the school's annual Shirebrook's Got Talent show after she was encouraged by her support teacher, who knew about her talents even though many of her friends did not.

She won the show with a rendition of Lewis Capaldi's song Hold Me While You Wait.

Kelsey and Gracie will have to undertake a 90-minute journey to Nottingham every day to complete their studies, but Kelsey says that is a price worth paying for following her dream to one day write and perform her own songs.

"I have always enjoyed studying music at school and as soon as I saw the course at Confetti I knew I had to apply for it," she explained.

"I'm really happy that I've been accepted. Music is more than a hobby, it's always been a form of therapy for me. It's got me through some difficult and dark days, especially during lockdown, because whenever I've ever



SHIREBROOK Academy students Kelsey Hind, left, and Gracie Dexter are looking to turn their passion for music into a career after winning places at Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, Nottingham.

felt low I could work through it by playing my guitar.

"Performing, even to myself, allows me to get any negative emotions out, while I've had a huge confidence boost from learning to play the guitar because it's very complicated and it feels brilliant to be able to have achieved it."

Gracie also wants to pursue a career in music, albeit either as a performer or as a teacher or music therapist, so she can use its power to change people's lives to help others.

She said: "I had never intended to study music but I've chosen it because it's helped me to find something that I'm passionate about.

"I used to be really shy but when I performed two years ago I felt amazing and everyone was surprised because they didn't know I could sing.

"Kelsey and I have been performing in school and it's been really enjoyable bringing people together to listen to music. Like Kelsey, music became really important to me during lockdown because it's like a friend

when you're lonely. I'd love a career working in music somehow."

Shirebrook Academy has seen a huge increase in the numbers of student wanting to learn music this year, while another talented school-leaver, **River Hopkins**, hit headlines after a song he wrote about Mansfield went viral on social media.

**Adam Case**, head of arts at the academy, added: "It's been incredibly rewarding seeing students including Kelsey and Gracie grow as musicians and people during their music studies and I am extremely happy for them that they are now taking their music forward at Confetti.

"Music has a wonderful habit of encouraging young people to grow in character and confidence, allowing people who walk on a stage feeling nervous and self-conscious to leave feeling ten feet tall. This has an enormous positive impact on their development.

"Both Kelsey and Gracie have shown a real passion for music and it's had a positive impact on their lives, so it's great to see them both take their next step by winning a place at Confetti."



## Inspired by primary visit

THE new diocesan director of education for Southwell and Nottingham, **Nigel Frith**, pictured second right, went to St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy, Mansfield, on his mission to visit all church schools and academies in his jurisdiction.

He was greeted by **Christine Bacon**, chair of governors; headteacher **James Marshall**; and the **Rev Caroline Phillips**, governor and vicar of St Peter's Church Mansfield.

He toured the school, meeting staff and pupils.

Afterwards Nigel, who was formerly principal of Drumragh Integrated College in Omagh, Northern Ireland, said: "I was inspired by all I saw during my visit to St Peter's CofE Primary Academy.

"This remarkable school is an oasis in the heart of its community, reaching out to parents and caring for its pupils.

"The school's vision includes core beliefs that 'our pupils deserve the best', every child will receive an education that opens doors for them, and every child is loved."

## Free digital skills training for adults

ADULTS who want to develop their digital skills to get into employment and progress in their career are being offered fully-funded training.

A college with a base in Mansfield is offering the free digital skills training through expanded Skills Bootcamps – part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee and Plan for Jobs.

The expansion covers a range of digital and technical training, including green skills, such as solar energy installation, sustainable agriculture, nuclear energy, and green transport, along with coding and software development.

Skills Bootcamps are flexible courses of up to 16 weeks that provide the opportunity to build sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.

The free vocational training scheme, funded by the government's National Skills Fund, aims to help adults aged 19 and over to improve their job prospects.

The training is open to adults who are employed, self-employed or career changers. It is also open to those who have become unemployed in the last 12 months.

Barnsley College, which has a base at Mansfield Education Hub, will be providing Skills Bootcamps in digital skills, backed by employers, from September 2021.

The specific Skills Bootcamps include infrastructure technician, software development technician and cyber security technologist.

**David Akeroyd**, deputy principal development and productivity, said: "Colleges must continue to rise to the challenge and offer solutions that drive the future economy, meet the nation's skills gaps, and present an opportunity for real progression to learners.

"We believe that every adult has the right to life-long education and training, ensuring they have the skills to succeed in the new and future economy. Adult learning drives the economy by ensuring that workers are more skilled, more productive, and happier."

## Celebration of learning certificates given



STAFF and learners at Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) held a Celebration of Learning Week to celebrate achievements and work throughout the academic year.

Learners were presented with certificates and rewards for their behaviour and attitude to learning, progress made and engagement.



Classes held their own celebrations and were given 'treat boxes' packed full of goodies.

**Katie Barrett**, head of learner experience at the Sutton Community Academy-based ATTFE, said: "It's been such a fabulous and rewarding week, seeing learners thrilled to receive their certificates and awards.

"The learners have been amazing

and had such a positive outlook. They have displayed courage and resilience throughout the challenges that we've all faced."

The celebrations continued as learners from the Programme of Study provision have successfully secured jobs that will see them move in to care work and Early Years childcare settings.

## New windows for schools

KIRKBY College and The Brunts Academy, Mansfield, are among 14 schools in Nottinghamshire to benefit from new windows thanks to funding from the government's Condition Improvement Fund. **Coun Sam Smith**, vice-chair of Nottinghamshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee, said: "It's great news for schools in Nottinghamshire, and it means better facilities for our children and young people."

## Ashfield schools to get rebuilding money

ASHFIELD Comprehensive School and Kirkby College are two of 50 schools nationally that will be rebuilt or repaired as part of the second round of the Conservative Government's School Rebuilding Programme.

The funding will help to deliver modern learning environments for pupils, including options such as new classrooms, science labs, sports halls, and dining halls. The majority of the projects are set to be completed in three to five years.

**Ashfield MP Lee Anderson** said: "Every child deserves to learn in a world-class school, so they can get a good education and the best possible start in life.

"This extra funding to help rebuild Ashfield Comprehensive School and Kirkby College will deliver that for children in Ashfield

— giving them the best possible learning environment so they can focus on what really matters, their education and catching up on lost learning after the pandemic."

**Co Coun Tracey Taylor**, chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, added: "I'm thrilled that more Nottinghamshire schools have been included in the second round of funding announced. It means that many thousands of our Nottinghamshire young people will benefit from new, modern, energy-efficient school buildings.

"Nottinghamshire children deserve the very best and having the right environments makes a real difference to their learning. This programme will help provide better facilities to support the best possible education."



## Students' makeover helps bring shopfront back to life

ART students helped to transform the front of an empty shop in Mansfield town centre by creating a temporary mural.

The work at the former Dickie Dirts shop was part of the Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project.

The mural was painted by Year 7 art students (top) from Brunts Academy in the town on the theme of Mansfield Past, Present and Future. It is hoped that the artwork will give students and the community a better understanding of the history and heritage of Leeming Street.

Number 11 Leeming Street, which was also originally the site of one of the first Boots stores in the country, falls within the area covered by the Townscape Heritage Project.

Local artist **Clare Taylor**, of Bus and Bird Arts, pictured above right, who is leading the project and has helped students with the design of the mural, said: "I'm delighted to be part of the team bringing the stunning buildings on Leeming Street back to life and highlighting their importance to a new generation."

**Coun Stuart Richardson**, portfolio holder for regeneration and growth,



added: "This property has been vacant for some time but by obtaining approval for the work from the owner, we hope this mural will brighten up the street as well as provide a valuable hands-on educational experience for the students."

The Townscape Heritage Project is a £1.3m initiative that focuses on parts of Leeming Street and the Market Place conservation area, and has benefited from £849,100 of money from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, raised by National Lottery players.

Mansfield District Council is leading the scheme and it is being delivered in partnership with Mansfield BID,

Vision West Nottinghamshire College and Nottinghamshire County Council.

Over five years, it will be helping local businesses and property owners carry out property repairs and refurbishments to enhance the architectural quality of the Victorian and Georgian buildings.

Property owners are able to apply for match-funded grants of up to 75% to help with the cost of making improvements that are in sympathy with their building's heritage.

The repair and conservation work is running in tandem with a five-year programme of community engagement and educational events for the town.

## Proud to celebrate equality and diversity

STUDENTS at The Garibaldi School marked Pride Month — four weeks dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ+ communities all around the world — and plan to further strengthen equality and diversity within their community.

This year — under a new Equality, Diversity and Religion curriculum — students and staff at Forest Town school, which is part of Nova Education Trust, put up brightly-coloured Pride posters.

Students were provided with assistance and signposted to guidance and support.

Year 7 had two hours of nominated lessons to learn about the history of Pride and why it is still so important to this day.

Lead teacher **Adam Hales** was instrumental in paving the way for change and awareness at the school, and formed the Equality and Diversity group.

"We have been teaching the students about the illegality of homophobic language and crimes, explaining the implications of these acts on individuals in our communities," he said.

Mentor groups across the school filled in A3 pieces of paper with messages of hope, love and pride. The individual messages were combined to create a huge flag that is on display in the school hall.

Year 7 student **Kaitlyn Hammond** said: "In Pride month the school did a great job of educating us on the topic. I know many in my year now know the reason why we celebrate Pride Month and why it is so good."

Fellow Year 7 student **Jaden Bingley** added: "The flag is really good because everyone tried their

best to make it. It represents LGBTQ really well because it is saying good things about everyone."

The school will be taking part in the Rainbow Flag Award in September, which is a national quality assurance framework for primary, secondary and SEND schools and colleges.

The award focuses on positive LGBTQ+ inclusion and visibility. The Rainbow flag encourages positive inclusion and develops strategies to effectively challenge and combat phobic bullying towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and other related identities.

The Rainbow Flag Award has been supporting and working with local LGBTQ+ young people in Nottinghamshire since 2010. Being part of this award improves the lives of all young people, including LGBTQ+ families and staff members.

With ongoing monitoring and feedback, schools and colleges have access to a variety of training, resources and interventions, helping them meet set standards in skilled teachers, supportive governors and parents, effective policies, inclusive curriculum, pastoral support and student voice.

The school raised money for the charity LGBTQ+Notts — [www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk](http://www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk) — when students held a non-uniform day on the last day of the summer term.

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# New unit helps to prevent overnight hospital stays

MORE patients who require emergency medical care will be able to be seen and treated within a day rather than be admitted overnight to hospital thanks to Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust's new Same Day Emergency Care unit (SDEC).

Patients can be referred to the £2m unit at King's Mill Hospital, Sutton, by the Emergency Department, their GP, a hospital ward, outpatient clinic, primary care or other healthcare facility.

The chief operating officer for Sherwood Forest Hospitals, **Simon Barton**, said: "The new unit will help us to ensure that our patients get the right care, in the right place at the right time.

"We all want to get our patients home to recover as soon as possible,

as home is often the best place for their recovery. "Our SDEC unit will help us to avoid unnecessary admissions where a stay in a bed wouldn't benefit the patient, which is really important in helping us to provide outstanding care for all our patients."

The innovative new centre can carry out investigations for patients, including observations, diagnostic tests and treatments such as blood tests, X-rays, ultrasound scans, echocardiograms, antibiotics given through a vein, injections and wound care, all preventing patients from hospital admissions.

Test results and treatment plans are discussed with the patient in face-to-face consultations on the same day.

The lead clinician for Acute Medicine, **Nicola Fischer-Orr**, added: "More than 30% of patients who may have otherwise have been

admitted to an in-patient bed in the trust were treated in our new SDEC between January and May of this year and we have seen an average of 25 patients a day, with numbers rising month on month.

"It is brilliant that we have seen so many patients and have prevented these admissions, as it is so much better for our patients, both for those who are being treated and for patients who urgently need our hospital beds."

The unit was officially opened by **Kathryn Allsop**, who was the first patient to be treated at the new unit earlier this year.

"It was a pleasure to be able to officially open the unit and see it now that it has fully opened after I was treated there earlier this year," she said.

"I was impressed when I first visited, but now it's fully operational



CHIEF operating officer **Simon Barton** helps patient **Kathryn Allsop** officially open the new unit.

it looks even better and is a really modern and impressive environment.

"I received excellent care whilst I was in the unit and they couldn't have done more for me.

"It was ideal as I didn't have to be admitted to hospital and I was able to be treated in the unit.

"It will improve things for patients as it can be a daunting time coming

into hospital, especially if it's an emergency. So to be able to go back home with a diagnosis and a treatment plan in place without being admitted is going to make a real difference."

The unit is open from 7am until midnight, seven days a week, and has 25 spaces for patients to be seen and treated within the same day.

## Gym launches new brand

FORTIS Premier Fitness Club, a private personal-training gym based on the Hexgreave Estate, Farnsfield, has launched its new brand.

It has evolved from My Gym Space, which was formed in 2012 by owners **Dan Plant** and **Emma Richardson**.

Dan said: "Whilst the name may have changed, our ethos remains the same — delivering top-class fitness programmes and lifestyle changes for people from all walks of life.

"Our offer and our membership has shifted positively and significantly — our new identity and logo emphasises this evolution.

"Fortis means 'strong' in Latin and the lion has always been a symbol of strength and of community, something which we value in each and every one of our members."

The rebrand came on the back of significant investments that were undertaken against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In early 2021 a new extension was completed at the back of the club, together with around £35,000-worth of new equipment. The staff team has also grown.

Emma added: "We've made a solid commitment to investing in top-of-the-range equipment to benefit everyone who uses the club.

"The new extended gym space allows more room for our sessions, giving us further options when designing individual programmes for all members. We can also welcome a larger number of members into the club at any one time and still be able to deliver the personalised training that is the hallmark of what we do at Fortis."

# Get yourself checked out, say friends fighting cancer

TWO friends who are both fighting breast cancer have urged people to get any health issues looked at before it is too late.

**Julie Powell** (55), of Warsop, and **Bianca Markham** (31), of Chesterfield, are both being treated at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

Bianca, a caterer and a mum of two, recently underwent an operation to remove her right breast. Bridal consultant Julie, a mum and step-mum, was due to undergo a lumpectomy at the end of July.

Both ladies, who met while attending their treatment at hospital, are urging people to get things checked out if they suspect a health issue, no matter how small it may seem now.

Bianca found a small lump under her breast last year, and ignored it until it got more painful. She went to see her doctor, and then consultants, thinking it was just a cyst, but after tests she was told she had breast cancer.

Following weeks of gruelling chemotherapy, she has now had her right breast removed, and will have her left breast removed at a later date.

In January, Julie went for a routine mammogram, followed by further tests. It was discovered that she had stage three cancer, an



**JULIE Powell**, left, and **Bianca Markham** are supporting each other through cancer battles.

aggressive form, even though there were no visible signs of any lumps.

She has undergone 18 weeks of chemotherapy and will also have to

undertake weeks of radiotherapy, followed by years of medication.

Bianca said: "I was one of those people who thought nothing of it and just got on with things.

"It's a bit surreal but this has been the toughest time of my life, and it has also affected my family and my boys.

"Please, if you find something, get it checked out. Do not leave it too late."

Julie added: "If there is anything even vaguely suspicious, get it checked out.

"You do have to have a positive mental attitude and we are both there to support other people who are going through similar situations."

Since meeting, the friends have been in constant contact, and recently had a special makeover and photoshoot (left), with make-up by **Emma Brown**, of Mansfield Woodhouse, and photographer **Elizabeth Orridge**, whose studio is in Mansfield.

Elizabeth said: "The spirit and positivity shown by these two beautiful friends is simply inspirational.

"They are fighting their own battles, but are supporting each other and other people who are going through their own tough times."

# National workforce innovation award success for trust

THE trust that runs King's Mill Hospital, Sutton, and Mansfield Community Hospital has won a major national award.

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Proud2bOps were awarded the Workforce Innovation Award at the Health Service Journal Partnership Awards, which highlight contributions

to healthcare innovation and partnerships between suppliers and the NHS.

Proud2bOps is a national supportive network of operational managers and leaders, working within provider health and care organisations — community, acute, primary, independent, voluntary and ambulance sectors.

The partnership award is presented to organisations providing a service to the NHS that demonstrates innovative use of an administrative or organisational product, which improves quality, safety and cost effectiveness of care.

**Emma Challans**, founder/chair of Proud2bOps and executive director of culture and improvement at Sherwood Forest Hospitals, said: "I am proud and extremely privileged to receive this award. It is for every single operational colleague in Sherwood and across the country.

"For Proud2bOps to win the HSJ Partnership Award for Workforce Innovation is a significant milestone in recognising the hard work, dedication and enormous commitment that our operational teams give to our patients, families and their communities each and every day.

"Knowing personally the pressure that caring for patients in a timely, safe and effective way demands, and the enormous amount of change and uncertainty that Covid has presented in the last 16 months, Proud2bOps responded by amplifying its offer, reach and support to operational colleagues.

"Our safe, supportive and trusted network has grown from 15 members to over 600 provider operational managers and leaders nationally. Numbers are not a marker of success for Proud2bOps.

"Instead we pride ourselves on creating the conditions and

space to have safe and supportive conversations where colleagues can share, learn, be curious and develop their skills as a leader and manager of patient care.

"Proud2bOps is a movement and our aspirations for the future are to continue to raise the profile of every operational colleague to develop them as a compassionate, adaptive and creative leader.

"I would like to thank our members, partners and, importantly, our believers. This award is for you all, and please continue to be proud to be an operational leader and professional."

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# Praise for overcoming an “unpredictable year”

STUDENTS and apprentices at Vision West Nottinghamshire College have been applauded for their resilience, determination, creativity and hard work after coming through another academic year disrupted by the pandemic.

In his end-of-year video message, principal and chief executive **Andrew Cropley** paid tribute to learners for their commitment to their studies and determination to achieve their qualifications, despite national lockdowns and ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19.

He thanked them for “getting through yet another tough, unpredictable, uncertain year” and commended their commitment to continuing with their learning, whether studying remotely or in college once they were allowed to return, with all the challenges that involved.

“I’ve been hugely impressed by your resilience, determination, creativity and hard work to get through your course and achieve your qualification,” Andrew said.

He praised the resolve of apprentices — some of whom had faced huge challenges through this year, being on furlough or unable to undertake their off-the-job training because of the demands



**PRINCIPAL and chief executive Andrew Cropley has reflected on an academic year disrupted by the pandemic.**

of the workplace — adding he hoped they had felt well supported by the college.

Andrew also reflected on the joy that students brought to the college’s campuses in March, when learners began a phased return as the latest lockdown began to lift.

“The joy, your happiness to be here, the life and the energy that you brought back to college was fantastic,” the principal added.

“A huge thank you to all of you for working with

us, sticking to the rules and complying with what we asked of you to make sure that we were able to keep the college safe.”

On the students’ behalf, he extended his gratitude to the college’s teaching and support staff for “enabling you to keep learning to the very best of your ability through all of this.”

And as students await their teacher-assessed grades this summer following the cancellation of exams across the country for the second successive year, Andrew assured them their teachers had worked extraordinarily hard and the college had followed really robust processes to ensure they received the marks their efforts merited.

He concluded: “For those of you that are leaving us, good luck — whether that’s into higher education, or into the world of employment or on to an apprenticeship.”

And looking to the future, the principal spoke about his excitement about the start of the new academic year in September, when it is hoped the college would be able to operate normally, with new and returning students “free to interact in classrooms, in our social spaces and other parts of the college to make it the truly vibrant experience for all of you that it should be.”



**BROOKE Marshall, Molly Salkeld, Tamara Case and Sadie Barlow on the tour.**

## Bringing heritage of town centre to life

VICTORIAN and Georgian buildings and notable landmarks in Mansfield town centre were the focus of a new guided heritage tour aimed at helping the public to find out more about the town’s history and business origins.

Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism students at Vision West Nottinghamshire College brought to life the Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project (MTHP), which concentrates on old buildings and businesses along Leeming Street and the Market Place.

The group researched the history of popular places such as Mansfield Palace Theatre, Mansfield Museum, the Old Library, The Bowl public house and the elaborate number 11 Leeming Street, which was built in 1901 as one of Jesse Boot’s first chemist stores.

A pilot tour was a great success and included film and TV media students from the college, who recorded the event. Invited guests enjoyed hearing the history of historic Leeming Street and its stunning architecture.

The tour group — students **Brooke Marshall, Molly Salkeld, Tamara Case and Sadie Barlow** — put together a professional business plan for the initiative. They also presented their idea to the college’s governing body before liaising with **Caroline Daghsh**, townscape heritage officer, and **Pete Brown**, community participation co-ordinator for the project.

College travel and tourism tutor **Dan Wilcockson**, said: “The first tour really couldn’t have gone better. Students presented the facts in a very engaging way, injecting their own personalities and humour into it.

“We’d be delighted to continue working with MTHP on developing the history tours in the new academic year.”

## On target with their study goals

DERBY County FC full back **Lee Buchanan** congratulated sport diploma students for a year of success at their end-of-year awards celebration at the college’s Create Theatre.

Lee presented learners on the BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Sport (Mansfield Town Performance Football) programme with achievement awards.

Students on the performance programme split their time between the college’s Derby Road campus and the football club’s Radford and Hymas Academy in Pleasley. Next season they will play in the top league possible for performance programmes — the Midlands Premier Division in the National Football Youth League.

FE sport programme area leader **Chris Fraser** said: “This is the first year that the college and Mansfield Town FC have united to run this programme. The development of football has been far beyond expectations due to the expert and supportive guidance of Mansfield Town staff.”

Team coaches **Jack Hawkins** and **Keiran Coupe** awarded the coach’s player award to **Lewis Neville**, who has been nominated for England Schoolboys’ trials. Other winners included: Player’s Player award — **Morgan Boyle**. Academic Excellence — **George Hardwick**. College Values — **Andrew Sargent**.



**MORGAN Boyle, left, received his award from Lee Buchanan.**

## Fundraisers put their best feet forward

CHILDCARE students from the college stepped out on a charity walk and held a competition to guess the name of a bear as part of their fundraising for a national charity.

Level 2 Early Years students chose to help the NSPCC as part of their learning company’s mission.

Learning companies have been introduced across all curriculum areas to provide students with a variety of employability skills, such as teamwork, marketing, sales and fundraising.

More than 40 students took part in the two-mile sponsored walk from the college’s Derby Road campus in Mansfield to Thieves Wood and enjoyed a picnic.

The bear-naming competition saw learners ask staff and fellow students during their morning and lunchtime breaks to have a guess — 50p for one go, £1 for three.

Enrichment and learning company coach **Eleanor O’Hara** said: “I am thrilled with the efforts that



**ABOVE: Some of the 40 learners who took part in a sponsored walk. RIGHT: Students also held a competition to guess the name of a bear.**

these groups have put into their project. They’ve worked with such enthusiasm.

“Through these great efforts we’ve raised over £496 for the NSPCC and everyone should be proud.”



## Cooking up a six-course graduation feast

A SIX-COURSE culinary spectacular was served up by catering and hospitality students to celebrate their graduation from college.

Courtesy of four chefs on the Level 3 Professional Cookery course and three front-of-house students on the Level 3 Hospitality Supervision and Management programme, family and friends enjoyed a classic British menu.

Chefs **Mo Attiya, Annabelle Pye, Aidan Kemp** and **Luke Taylor** welcomed their parents and the college’s principal and chief executive, **Andrew Cropley**, to the fine dining event — a small, tailored party in keeping with Covid-19 regulations for gathering indoors.

Mo is fond of cooking British cuisine, particularly pies, while Annabelle is confident as a pastry chef. Luke specialises in Scotch egg, which he has adapted and was on the menu on the night, and Aidan — who has just secured a job as a chef at Mansfield Town FC — is open to trying out most types and cultures of cuisine.

Mo, (39), who settled in the UK 12 years ago after leaving Egypt, said: “English is not my first language, but our tutors have developed me and they went that extra mile during lockdown. Being able to cook at home and be taught through video links was great.

“I came to the UK seeking a better life and I’m loving learning as a mature student. My dream now is to own my own small restaurant.”

Meanwhile, Level 3 Hospitality Supervision students **Rebecca Stoica, Ellie-Mae Robinson** and **Klaudia Adasiak** welcomed diners with their front-of-house skills as well as gin cocktails in the summer-themed floral decorated Refined restaurant.

Klaudia said: “We all came up with ideas that represented summer to give the restaurant a cheerful, seasonal vibe. We served a gin of the day, which included orange flavours with grenadine, and there were mocktails too.”

Ellie-Mae added: “We love meeting people on

our course. It forces you to find your confidence and communicate well, and pushes you out of your comfort zone. I’ve really developed this side of my character.”

The trio are now busy applying for roles within restaurants and bars locally, but all are open to progressing in the industry overseas if the opportunity arises.

Principal **Andrew Cropley** said: “I really enjoyed the joyous and sumptuous graduation dinner, which was planned, prepared and served by our catering and hospitality students.

“Hearing the tutors’ accounts of these students was extraordinarily moving and the students’ spoke with heartfelt gratitude of their experiences, challenges and self-development through a very difficult year. Everyone recognised the exceptional contributions that the whole catering team has provided, not just with their technical skills but with helping them to overcome significant barriers including language and disability.”



**LEFT: Chefs Mo Attiya, Aidan Kemp, Luke Taylor and Annabelle Pye.**

**RIGHT: Front-of-house students at the Refined restaurant.**



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## Sunflower challenge to aid charity

A MANSFIELD-BASED charity is urging people to join its fundraising Sunflower Challenge.

Jigsaw, a mental health and dementia charity that helps people with a hoarding addiction, is aiming to raise money towards the insurance and fuel for its new van.

People can buy sunflower plants for a minimum donation of £1 for the Great Jigsaw Sunflower Challenge 2021, which has four categories, each with two classes for the under-18s and over-18s.

Based at Mansfield Fire Station, Jigsaw has received a surge of referrals during the coronavirus pandemic but continued to offer support to those in need.

It acquired the van to deliver food, clothing, household goods, furniture and more to those in need and to offer a transportation service to take people to hospital appointments or to offer day trips out, activity groups or a befriending service.

A spokesman said: "The van needs funding to cover the insurance and fuel to operate. Our Sunflower Challenge will generate much-needed funding for us to continue to support the needs of our community."

The four categories for the sunflower challenge are:

**Tallest Sunflower** — Take a photo of your sunflower with a measure beside it.

**Largest Head** — Take a photo of your sunflower head with a measure across it to show the diameter of the full bloom, from petal to petal.

**Sunflowers In My Garden** — Take a photo of your sunflowers growing and be as imaginative and entertaining as you wish with props.

**A Crafted Sunflower** — If you don't have a garden, but you love crafting, why take a photo of a sunflower you have crafted; it could be knitted, baked, sewn, paper crafted etc.

Jigsaw is asking people to try to save their sunflower seeds and donate them back to the charity for next year's competition.

To enter, call into the Jigsaw office at Mansfield Fire Station, Rosemary Street, between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday, and buy a sunflower plant for a minimum of a £1 donation.

Photos should be identified as being taken in 2021 and posted on the charity's new Facebook page 'Jigsaw Support Scheme Fund Raising & Events', with your name and age. All photographs should be posted by 24th September and winners will be named on 5th October.

People entering are also asked to name their sunflower. The best name will be chosen for the charity's sunflower mascot, which will appear on the annual Sunflower Challenge competition.

## Schools appeal for reading help

THE charity Literacy Volunteers is appealing for people to help its work in schools. Volunteers need to commit to working half a day a week in one-on-one situations to help children develop a love of reading. If you can help email contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk or go to www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk

# Ready to help with funds and volunteers

MANSFIELD Building Society is on the lookout for volunteering opportunities and funding requests from charities and community groups in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Alongside the Society's eagerness for staff to volunteer their time to help others, it provides financial support to local organisations and charities through its Community Support Scheme.

With donations typically ranging from £100 to £1,000, the scheme looks to help boost projects or charities that benefit the community.

Each employee is given the chance to take two working days per year to volunteer for projects or charities.

Recently staff helped out at Spa Ponds Nature Reserve, Forest Town,

to clear areas for wildflower seeding, and in the past volunteering has included school art projects, mock interviews, painting and litter-picking.

Whilst the Community Support Scheme does not support animal charities or individuals, previous donations have included a contribution for a new wheelchair-accessible boat, providing gardening or sports equipment, and the purchase of defibrillators.

● FOR volunteering opportunities, charities and community groups can email volunteering@mansfieldbs.co.uk

The society's Community Support Scheme meets twice yearly to consider applications. To find out more or to download an application form visit mansfieldbs.co.uk/community-support-scheme



MANSFIELD Building Society's Jen Ward and Tom Molloy work hard to fill a new sandpit with three tonnes of sand during a day volunteering.

## University support for Mansfield and Ashfield

NOTTINGHAM Trent University (NTU) has reaffirmed its commitment of £1m to enhance its research and innovation capability to support the Ashfield Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre, which is to be funded through the Government's Towns Fund programme.

This is in addition to £5m already committed by NTU over the next five years to develop its presence in Mansfield and Ashfield, mainly on the Vision West Nottinghamshire College (VWNC) campus.

The announcement by Vice-Chancellor Professor Edward Peck was made at a virtual roundtable, hosted by NTU, with Minister of State for Universities Michelle Donelan MP and Coun Ben Bradley, MP for Mansfield and leader of Nottinghamshire County Council. The meeting, attended by local council, business and education leaders, discussed how the university's partnerships in the two districts will help deliver the Government's new skills agenda and support 'levelling up' in Mansfield and Ashfield through expansion of both demand for and supply of higher technical and vocational education.

Professor Peck said: "NTU's developments in Mansfield and Ashfield over the last two years bring together the values, expertise and experience of NTU in two towns where previously we had limited presence."

"This is why I am delighted to announce our £1m additional investment to support Ashfield Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre, a project which is crucial to the future prosperity of the area."

Coun Bradley MP said: "NTU's expanded presence in Mansfield and Ashfield is a welcome boost to the area as we look to revive the economy following the Covid-19 pandemic."

"NTU and Vision West Nottinghamshire College are rolling out a wide range of higher level technical courses that will equip people of all ages with the skills they need for the jobs of the future."



FROM left, Chief Nurse Julie Hogg, trust chair Claire Ward, chief executive Richard Mitchell and Shirley Higginbotham, director of corporate affairs.

## Tribute to pandemic heroes

ARTWORK has been unveiled at three hospitals that showcases the communal emotion and collective spirit during the height of the pandemic for many health workers, volunteers and the community.

It features more than 60 powerful black and white images.

The artwork was created by Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust's clinical illustration team and has been installed at King's Mill Hospital, Sutton; Mansfield Community Hospital; and Newark Hospital.

Karen Stevenson, who works at the trust and was a Covid patient at King's Mill throughout March 2020,

features on the special artwork. She said: "I am in awe of my colleagues every day, but even more so knowing that they saved my life from this awful disease."

"They were so brave, risking their own health by treating me."

"Being on the artwork surprised me at first, but I'm on there as a thank you to everyone who looked after me."

"Every time I walk past, I'll remember those who saved my life, and for that I am so grateful and thankful every single day."

Karen Colbeck-Rowe and Jill Kirk, ITU nurses, feature on the artwork in their viral 'hug'

photograph that was taken in January 2021 and was seen around the world. They sought comfort and support from each other and their colleagues following an intensive, tiring and demanding 12-hour shift looking after some of the sickest of patients with Covid-19 in Nottinghamshire.

Karen added: "Being part of this memory wall is important to me, Jill and our team. The photograph shows how we were all feeling, and some of us still are feeling, during the pandemic."

"I'm so proud of what everyone has achieved together, and I'm particularly proud of our ITU team."

## Chance to see work of mining artist?

THERE may be a chance to view the work of mining artist Brian Morley, whose drawings capture the dangerous and unique working life of pitmen in Nottinghamshire, in August.

Nottinghamshire Mining Museum, currently based in the East Unit of Mansfield Railway Station, opposite the Midland Hotel, had been hoping to open, by

appointment, for his collection to be seen. It will now review the situation on 9th August.

The museum has been closed because of Covid-19, but has maintained its presence through its informative website — www.nottsminingmuseum.org.uk

Look out for opening details on the website, the museum's Facebook page or email info@nottsmining.org



## Swimming pool opens

MANSFIELD'S double Olympic champion swimmer, Rebecca Adlington, launched Ollerton's new £3m state-of-the-art swimming pool at the Dukeries Leisure Centre.

The four-time Olympic medallist, who brought home two gold medals in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, took the first swim in the five-lane pool, accompanied by children representing Ollerton and Boughton's Junior Town Council.

A weekend of free taster sessions followed at the Newark and Sherwood District Council pool, which adjoins the existing leisure centre building.

Rebecca said: "It's been great to come down and see the new pool in action. Having access to these facilities is going to make a real difference to local families, giving them a place to stay active, teach their children how to swim and socialise after such a difficult year."

Coun Roger Jackson, chairman of Newark and Sherwood's Leisure and Environment Committee, said: "This is another milestone project for the council that will do a great deal for the health and wellbeing of residents."

# Ex-council chairman beats fundraising goal

FORMER Nottinghamshire County Council chairman **Stuart Wallace** smashed his charity fundraising goal to support My Sight Nottinghamshire during his year in office — raising more than £3,000.

My Sight Nottinghamshire supports the visually-impaired community by helping them to live more independently.

Despite a difficult fundraising year because of the coronavirus pandemic, Stuart, of Farndon, was still able to beat his target of £3,000 and raised £3,464 for the charity.

Stuart said: "I was even more determined to help the charity after I heard of the impacts Covid-19 has had on blind and partially-sighted people, leaving them less independent due to being unable to follow social distancing guidelines in some places like shops.

"These issues have left many people with visual impairments unable to



leave the house and unable to do the things they normally would be able to do independently.

"I'm extremely grateful to anyone who has donated to my fundraiser for

My Sight Notts. It will go directly to help people in our own community and it is such a worthwhile cause."

From virtual meetings with the charity and video pleas on social media, to reaching out to councillors and members of the community, Stuart made every effort to do what he could to raise funds for this important cause.

A New Year recycling pledge campaign also contributed towards the fundraising total. For every recycling pledge from a Nottinghamshire resident, the county council's waste contractors at Veolia donated £1 — topping up the donation to £1,000!

Another huge contributor to the fundraising total was a staff wellbeing challenge for council staff in April.

**Lydia Fenton**, fundraising manager for My Sight Nottinghamshire, said: "We would like to thank Stuart Wallace for nominating My Sight Notts as his chosen charity."



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Council's new chairman, **Coun Mike Quigley**, is raising money for the charity When You Wish Upon A Star over the next year, and has pledged that all monies raised will go to Nottinghamshire children.

With a target of raising £5,000, Coun Quigley (pictured) will take on a variety of fundraising events and activities, including a virtual comedy event, a garden party, sponsored walks, and, hopefully, more ambitious events as national lockdown restrictions ease.

When You Wish Upon a Star aims to grant the wishes of

# Mission to help very ill children for 12 months

children, aged four to 16, living with life-threatening illnesses.

Coun Quigley said: "The reason I chose this particular charity is that I have a long association with both the hospice movement and young people.

"As a school governor for many years and latterly as chair of Diverse Academies Trust, which has special schools, I am well aware of the problems that parents and children with life-limiting conditions and disabilities face.

• To support the fundraising go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ncc-chairmancouncillorquigley](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ncc-chairmancouncillorquigley)



SALLY WELLS

# Caring for care workers

RESPECTFUL Care Mansfield has appointed a welfare liaison and mental health first aider after recognising the effects of Covid-19 and day to day pressures placed on its care workforce.

**Sally Wells** will support the branch and its 80 employees by offering an increased focus on their wellbeing.

She will recognise signs of workplace stress and mental health issues, offering or guiding a person towards the correct support if needed.

The need for her role was first identified during the pandemic, with the Respectful Care Mansfield management team wanting to provide additional support for care staff.

"Care staff are the unsung heroes of the care sector," she said. "They inspire me daily by going out and providing care and support to those that are the most vulnerable in our community.

"It's an emotional but rewarding role, and it takes a special kind of person to do that.

"Throughout the pandemic, they have all delivered support to others, putting their own needs last. This role is to allow care workers to speak about how they are feeling and for us to support them with their needs."

**Keeley Riley**, registered care manager at Respectful Care Mansfield, said: "Covid-19 has highlighted the need for better mental health and wellbeing support, especially for our care staff who are selfless and heroic, front-line workers."

# Artwork brought positivity to shopping centre

A GIANT neon sign declaring All You Need Is Love, custom-made community lanterns to brighten people's day, alternative neon road signs encouraging hope and positivity, and illustrated portraits of community heroes made up a takeover of the Four Seasons Shopping Centre in Mansfield by arts charity First Art.

A temporary exhibition, which closed on 5th August, featured works from First Art's Go The Distance Festival, a year-long festival in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, together with other projects from the past year.

Visitors to Four Seasons could view a pop-up gallery in the former Ernest Jones jewellery shop and see works developed over the past six months and inspired by local communities that make up Shine A Light and Light Up.

Also in the centre, outside what was Topshop, was a seven-metre-long neon sign with the words All You Need Is Love, inspired by the famous Beatles' song.

In the windows of the main pop-up gallery were Signs Of Hope — commissioned by First Art and created by **Raphael Daden** — a series of neon lights in the shape of road signs, offering words of encouragement through difficult times, such as Dig Deep and Keep Going.

These formed part of Lights Out, a series of light and digital artworks and installations designed to surprise, delight and bring a smile across communities in Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and North East Derbyshire.

Light Up was created to bring communities together in the best way possible during the pandemic. This involved working with Dizzy Ink and Grace Barnes to create a special place-based lantern to go out across communities in Bellamy Road, Mansfield; Leamington, Sutton; South Normanton; and Clay Cross.

The original plans had to change because of the pandemic, but First Art instead teamed up with schools, care homes and residents to send out lanterns accompanied with messages of hope to help brighten people's day. The exhibition featured some of the lanterns, messages and a film celebrating the project.

Shine a Light was a campaign launched by First Art in November to find people who had gone above and beyond to help during the pandemic and 11 heroes were the subject of a series of portraits and film to honour them and recognise their efforts.

Also exhibiting in the windows at Four Seasons was Back to Normal, a campaign in partnership with OneConversation and funded by Without Walls, that questioned what the 'new normal'



SOME of the First Art team in the Four Seasons Shopping Centre, Mansfield. PHOTOS: Lamar Francois

looks like for the learning disabled and autistic community.

The exhibition featured short animated films, created by **Mike Choo** and directed by artist **Daryl Beeton**, which resulted from consultations with local disabled people.

First Art director **Karl Greenwood** said: "This exhibition was a great opportunity for us to finally share the work we've been doing in response to Covid-19 over the last year and beyond.

"We set out to create a festival that went the distance in response to the ever-changing Covid situation and make work that celebrated community togetherness and connected people. "Culture has a huge role to play in reinventing and reviving town centres so this was a great platform for us."

**Rebekah O'Neill**, manager of Four Seasons Shopping Centre, added: "It was great to have lovely positive and bright installations in the centre to uplift our customers. Four Seasons is proud to be a hub for our local community. We were particularly delighted to help celebrate local heroes who have worked so hard during the pandemic."



# Gym upgrade is taking shape at Lammas Centre

WORK is gathering pace on an upgrade to Lammas Leisure Centre, Sutton.

A large extension is being added to an existing fitness suite at Lammas and work is on track to be finished by the end of August.

Once complete, the gym will boast a huge cardio area with the latest Technogym equipment, including climbers, treadmills, cross trainers and bikes. Also part of the set-up will be all-new resistance machines, a free weight area and a functional area with bespoke rig.

Everyone Active, which runs the

centres in partnership with Ashfield District Council, welcomed the leader of the council, **Coun Jason Zadrozny**, and cabinet member for leisure, health and wellbeing, **Coun Rachel Madden**, to take a look at the progress.

Work is also taking place at Hucknall and Kirkby to improve leisure facilities.

"The improvements under way will transform leisure provision in this area. "In all corners of the district we are taking huge steps."

**Lorenzo Clark**, Everyone Active's contract manager, said: "It's great to see work progressing so well."

# New players and conductor wanted at community band

REHEARSALS now under way at the Dukeries Community Band, where players have begun preparing for the first major event of the year — the Sherwood Forest Rotary Proms in November.

There are now 26 registered players and the band hopes to recruit more members.

The first rehearsal is on Tuesday, 7th September. If you would like to join, email [dukeriescommband@btinternet.com](mailto:dukeriescommband@btinternet.com)

Woodwind, brass and percussion players are required and, in

particular, the band wants to find a tuba player and a drum kit player as well as a conductor.

A spokesman said: "As we do not have all instrumental parts covered at rehearsals we require someone to train the players and take them through the pieces in preparation for each concert, when we are joined by associate members to make up numbers. Three major concerts are arranged during the year plus seasonal events."

For information email [dukeriescommband@btinternet.com](mailto:dukeriescommband@btinternet.com)



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## Inner Wheel president continues



RAVENSHEAD Inner Wheel Club members have held two outside meetings in person as coronavirus restrictions ease.

**Joy Richardson** hosted the first meeting, a get-together, before a second meeting at the home of **Susan Parry-Williams** for the official president changeover meeting.

President **Mary Hind**, pictured right, has agreed to stay on for another year.

The club is trying to organise a few trips during the summer. In September there will be a meeting to discuss future plans for the year to help others through personal service and fundraising.

To find out more about the voluntary national and international organisation, search for inner wheel district 22 on the internet, where all the local clubs will be listed.



## New president for Warsop club

WARSOP Inner Wheel Club has welcomed its new president, **Janet Wright**.

The presidential chain was handed over to Janet by last year's president, **Ann Holland**, in secretary **Christine Parkin's** garden.

Janet's nominated charity for 2021/2022 is the John Eastwood Hospice, Sutton.

The club said: "The hospice is a place where people can have the quality of their remaining life enhanced by removing painful and other distressing symptoms of their illness.

"It is a very worthy cause for Warsop ladies to dedicate their fundraising efforts to.

●LEFT: The new president, **Janet Wright**, and past president **Ann Holland**.



# Litter-picking for Duke of Edinburgh Award

MANSFIELD teenager **Heath Lennox** has joined the Mansfield Rotary Club litter-picking campaign as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award work.

Heath, 14, a student at Queen Elizabeth's Academy, Mansfield, is aiming to complete the award with CARGO Explorer Scout Unit.

He is being supported in the litter-picking by **Annamarie Cordon**, pictured left, who has regularly been clearing rubbish in the Clipstone area.

Heath has been helping clear litter around the Avenues in Clipstone since the beginning of June.

He is hoping to do one day a week until September, when he will have completed his required three months of community work towards the Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



The Mansfield Rotary Club Just Bin It! project has attracted almost 400 people so far who are now regularly volunteering their time and effort to clean up areas close to where they live.

The club is providing litter-pick tools for volunteers to use as they clean-up the area — their neighbourhood, roadsides, pavements, parks and schools.

And Warsop and Shirebrook Rotary Club is to launch its own litter-picking campaign too.

**Kate Allsop**, president of Mansfield Rotary Club, added: "We are still appealing for residents in the Mansfield area to come forward and litter pick in the vicinity of their own homes or whilst they might be out exercising or walking their dog.

"Let's all make a positive difference to our town in these difficult times."



**HAYLEY Oliver** and her two boys, **Lucas (7)** and **Jackson (5)** have continued their regular work litter-picking at Racecourse Park, Mansfield.

## Every little helps for events plan

SHOPPERS are being asked to help fund the staging of mini events that lead up to one of Mansfield's most popular town centre shows.

Mansfield Business Improvement District (BID) has organised the two-day Garden and Craft Show for several years.

Now it wants to grow the event by encouraging more people to take up gardening by hosting a series of mini events.

**Sue Rogers**, events and marketing manager at BID, applied to be considered for the Tesco Community Grants Scheme, where shoppers are given tokens when they make a purchase and they can then choose which project to support by placing the tokens in a relevant container.

Tesco Stores participating include Tesco Express, Huthwaite; Tesco Express, Lakeside, Sutton; Tesco Express, Alfreton Road, Sutton; Tesco Express, Lowmoor Road, Kirkby; and Tesco Extra, Jubilee Way, Mansfield.

Voting will continue to 30th September.

The project with the highest number of votes across the stores will receive up to £1,500, the second-placed project £1,000 and the third-placed project £500.

Money raised from the Tesco initiative will help to fund compost, tubs, seeds and plants for a series of mini events; a free information booklet at the main event; posters and leaflets to promote mini events; and a mailshot to primary schools to encourage children to garden.

Sue said: "Our Garden and Craft Show is very popular, but we want to encourage more and more people, particularly young people, to get involved.

"We're grateful to Tesco for helping us to raise money for this community initiative and we hope shoppers can get behind us."

**Claire De Silva**, head of community at Tesco, added: "Tesco Community Grants help support local good causes, especially those projects supporting young people, those providing food, and causes close to our colleagues' hearts."

# Garden party ends year of fundraising



A GARDEN party in Kirkby raised money for a rehabilitation centre that helps military personnel.

Retiring Kirkby Inner Wheel Club president **Susan Smailes** hosted the fundraiser.

Numbers were restricted because of Covid-19 restrictions, but special guests included retiring district chairman **Margaret Day** and members of Susan's family.

Partygoers were entertained by Susan's nephew, **Andrew Smailes**, who sang many old favourites.

Andrew is a member of staff at The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, which provides occupational therapy intervention for military personnel.

Susan presented him with a cheque for £1,100,

which was raised during her year in office. Susan also raised £365 for the district chairman's charity, MIND.

During the garden party Susan handed over her chain of office to incoming president **Barbara Williams**.

Barbara will be raising money in the year ahead for Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity for bereaved British Forces children, and also local homeless people.

● ABOVE: Committee members at the garden party. ABOVE RIGHT: **Susan Smailes** and **Andrew Smailes**. RIGHT: **Barbara Williams** and **Susan Smailes**.



# Chance to meet many interesting authors at Newark Book Festival

**H**AVING enjoyed the pleasure of taking part in the 2020 Newark Book Festival, it was wonderful to be invited back to this year's event.

To spend time amongst like-minded book enthusiasts like myself, and the opportunity to showcase my work, is a dream come true.

This year's event was a welcome change from the many online events that have carried us through months of lockdown. As brilliant as they are, Zoom calls, webinars and virtual festivals cannot replace the joy of meeting the public, face-to-face. Although perhaps a more appropriate phrase would be to meet in-person, because social distance and the wearing of masks was, quite rightly, mandatory.

This year I was hoping to promote my third contemporary fiction novel, *Union Blues*. However, the publisher did not manage to get it out in time for the festival — I suspect covid has restricted much of the working practice.

Being part of the Newark festival gave me the opportunity to meet many interesting authors and discuss their work, some of which I would like to share with you.

\*\*\*

It came as no surprise to discover the popularity of the fantasy and dystopian genre of books.

*Tomorrows Ancestors*, a series of books written by **A.E. Warren**, are of the dystopian genre. Published



Local author **K L LOVELEY**, who writes monthly for the *News Journal*, met **Charles X Cross** (left) at Newark Book Festival 2021 and also **Simon Jamie**, who is pictured above.

by Penguin, they were preceded by her own self-published works, which include *The Museum Of Second Chances* and *The Base Of Reflections*, which received excellent reviews and won her a publishing contract.

*Subject Twenty-One* is an astonishing novel in which a young woman's refusal to accept the status quo opens her eyes to the lies her society is built on.

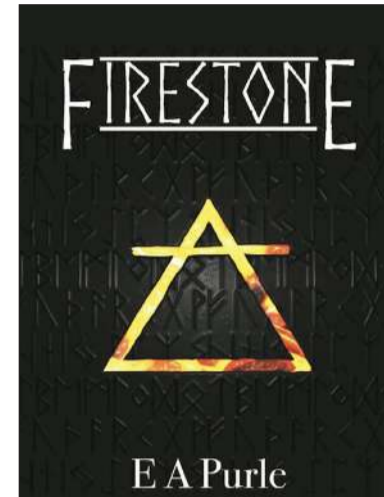
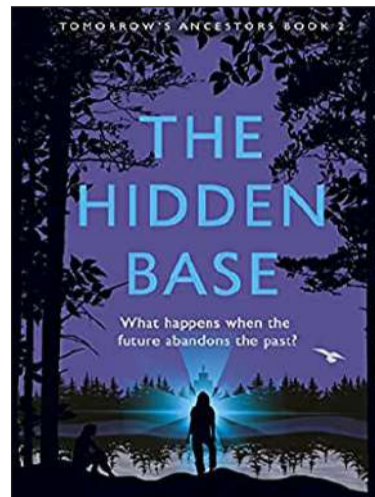
Set in the future, when like in most novels of this kind humans have almost destroyed the Earth, scientists develop two new human species. These become dominant and frustrated by the destruction caused by the Sapiens, and as a result create

a resurrection programme of species lost to extinction.

The sequel to this, *The Hidden Base*, explores what happens when the future abandons the past.

These novels are getting five-star reviews, so if this is the type of genre you enjoy then I highly recommend these books.

*Firestone*, written by **E.A. Purle**, is set in the futuristic world of *Tellus*, where old and new ways of doing things collide in the city of *Portis-Montis*. Alchemist *Hugh Geber*, who works at the University of Science and Progression, is fighting for his career and his family name as his world is turned upside down. It is available from Barnes and Noble



Something to look out for in the near future is *The Butcher In The Night*, by **Charles X Cross**, a follow-up novel to *The Man Butcher Prize*, which I featured last year.

\*\*\*

The Newark festival was brimming with literary talent, including a number of children's authors. I was especially impressed with the books written by **Lesley Berrington**, whose series *Hattie And Friends* show how children of all abilities love to have a day out. With clear type and colourful illustrations by **Karen Middleton**, they promote a positive image of disability for young children.

**Simon Jamie**, a local author of illustrated children's books, joined

us at the festival with his collection of bright and bold children's stories, including *Zac And Zill*, *Parka Penguin* and *Princess The Toad*. They are magical stories for children to enjoy reading or being read to, while looking at beautiful eye-catching images to bring the stories alive.

*Next year why not come and meet many local authors at the Newark literary festival and purchase a personalised signed copy of a book.*

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## Memory group helping those with dementia

BLIDWORTH and Ravenshead Memory Group — for people in Blidworth, Rainworth and Ravenshead — has been updating its Facebook Page (Blidworth and Ravenshead Memory Group) and issuing a fortnightly newsletter during the coronavirus pandemic.

It said a dementia-friendly community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported.

If you are interested in learning more about dementia, why not attend a Dementia Friend's Information (virtually or face to face) session.

To find out more contact the group by email at B&Rmemory@gmail.com or call 07971 039832. It said the group hopes to meet in person soon.

Organisers Jackie, Jayne and Margaret said: "We look forward to meeting up with you all again soon, but until then check out our Facebook page. If you have any questions or want to request a copy of the newsletter, either email us at BandRmemorygrp@gmail.com or call 07971 039832."

## Book holiday fun at museum

FREE family-friendly pre-booked sessions at Mansfield Museum will be running throughout the school holidays, each Wednesday to Saturday, until Thursday, 2nd September.

The only exception will be Thursday, 26th, August when the museum will be closed due to the Wonderfest event in Titchfield Park in Mansfield. (see story on this page)

The Wednesday events will be more relaxed sessions, with half-capacity numbers for visitors who require quieter or more accessible surroundings.

The holiday sessions, which run from 10am to 1pm, will feature crazy golf, interactive exhibits, works of art, new trails, and activities to keep youngsters occupied.

They are all free but must be pre-booked via the Palace Theatre website at [www.mansfieldpalace.co.uk](http://www.mansfieldpalace.co.uk)

Coun Stuart Richardson, portfolio holder for regeneration and growth, said: "It is fantastic news that our brilliant museum will be opening its doors again to welcome back visitors."

"The team have been working hard behind the scenes, making changes to the museum, and developing new exhibitions and activities for families to enjoy."

"These sessions have limited places so booking is essential and we're asking people to bear in mind that the Wednesday bookings will be for quieter sessions. Covid-secure safety measures will also remain in place."

These include social distancing and a requirement for face masks to be worn unless exempt or under 12.

Groups will be limited to a maximum of six people and everyone will be required to check in with NHS Test and Trace and have their temperatures checked before entry.

For details about visiting, email [mansfieldmuseum@mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:mansfieldmuseum@mansfield.gov.uk) or call 01623 463088.



YOUNG people at Samworth Church Academy are asking the public to support their fundraising.

## Students inspired by Covid patient's story

SCHOOL students have been inspired to raise money for a hospital after the coronavirus pandemic hit close to home.

Their fundraising for a television and stand for the Sutton hospital's Critical Care Unit (CCU) was prompted by the story of **George Paterson**, the husband of receptionist **Tonia Paterson** at their Samworth Church Academy.

George became the final patient suffering from Covid-19 to leave the unit after spending 115 days in intensive care — as reported by the News Journal earlier this year — and continues to receive treatment at King's Mill.

**Sharon Bassett**, education welfare officer at the Mansfield academy, organised various events for the fundraising, including a surprise visit to the hospital by Mansfield Town FC manager **Nigel Clough** to brighten football fan George's day.

Students undertook a 115-lap relay, covering 34,500 metres, to raise further funds towards their goal.

"I was inspired by Tonia, who on the darkest of days showed such strength and courage to come to work; being a role model for her two



STUDENTS begin the 115 relay laps to mark George Paterson's 115 days in the Critical Care Unit at King's Mill Hospital.

daughters and holding the family together," said Sharon.

"I felt that we, as a school, needed to pay something back for Tonia's commitment to the academy, and the best way to do that would be to raise funds for King's Mill Hospital's NHS Heroes, on behalf of us all."

"By linking the 115 days George spent in CCU to completing 115 laps round the academy track, we hope to raise enough money to reach our goal."

"The reaction and support from the students has blown me away and we need help to keep this momentum

going by asking the community to support us.

"We know that many people want to say thank you to NHS staff and to support the patients who are in their care. We hope that if people can, that they support our campaign to give a small token in return and support our students in their fundraising run."

The academy has set up a JustGiving page for anyone wishing to support the effort at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thesamworthchurchacademyforkmh](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thesamworthchurchacademyforkmh)

Sharon said she also wanted to organise something for George and thanked the football club and head of media and communications, **Mark Stevenson**, for arranging Nigel Clough's visit.

"The club were fantastic, Nigel gave his time generously and George's reaction was priceless," she added

Tonia said: "George is doing really well; he sees physiotherapists twice a day and is working hard to be able to get home."

"He was absolutely over the moon that Nigel took the time to visit him, he was so thrilled he never stopped talking about it all night to the nurses."

## Have your say on affordable community transport plans

A NEW survey has been launched to help a local transport operator understand what kind of service is needed in Mansfield.

CT4N Charitable Trust said it was aware of the need for an affordable and accessible community transport service in Mansfield, but it is seeking feedback from individuals and organisations in the town so that it can secure sufficient funding and plan its future operations.

"We know that transport in the Mansfield area can be a barrier to people accessing services and meeting up socially," said managing director **Ian Combella**.

"So we want to tailor our services to those at risk of being excluded. Transport is a vital factor in enabling people to get to work or college, to healthcare locations, and for shopping and making social contact."

Mansfield has significant levels of deprivation, using the Government's own measure. More than half of the areas in Mansfield are among the top

30% most deprived in England. Ten of its areas fall within the top 10% of the whole of England.

Non-profit community transport services have been proven to assist in the regeneration of deprived areas, increasing levels of accessibility and community cohesion, and aiding the work of local voluntary and community organisations.

"Residents and community groups in these areas are likely to have a more acute need for accessible and low-cost transport options," added Ian.

"CT4N Charitable Trust aims to meet that demand. We would like to invite anyone from Mansfield to answer a few simple questions and we want to hear from individuals or community organisations who might be having transport difficulties."

That might mean that people can't get to the places they need to at convenient times, buses or taxis might be too expensive, and people with mobility and sensory impairments who may struggle with getting into a vehicle in the first place.

Another reality for Mansfield residents is lack of access to a car, which affects 25% of households, whereas in Nottinghamshire overall only 21% of households do not have a car.

"Community transport can assist in all these cases", said Ian. "We are already working with a group of stakeholders in Mansfield, including Mansfield CVS. We are currently considering funding options to hopefully enable a new service to be launched in Mansfield in the coming months."

• Any individual or organisation can participate in the survey, which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CT4NMansfield>.

Alternatively anyone can contact CT4N Charitable Trust by email at [mansfield@ct4n.co.uk](mailto:mansfield@ct4n.co.uk) or call 01623 573800 if they prefer to speak to a member of staff directly.

Further details about the project can also be found at [www.ct4n.co.uk/charity/mansfield](http://www.ct4n.co.uk/charity/mansfield).

The survey will be open until Friday, 13th August.

## Free tickets required for Wonderfest

MANSFIELD'S popular summer festival, which this year is called Wonderfest, will take place at Titchfield Park on Thursday, 26th August, from 11am to 5pm.

Tickets, which are free, are required this year. There will be the usual family-friendly entertainment, including live music, face painting, arts and crafts, interactive displays, walkabout acts and food vendors.

In addition, the free Wonderfest ticket includes the opportunity to watch a special outdoor performance of Alice In Wonderland by Chapterhouse Theatre Company. The production at 3pm is suitable for all the family.

Capacity for the theatre area will be reduced and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on the day.

There will be weird and wonderful Wonderland-themed activities and entertainment at the festival so visitors are being encouraged to dress appropriately for the occasion and perhaps don their favourite wacky hat.

Food wise, there will be the Queen Of Desserts' bus and street food by What Yer Gerrin Mi Duck. Visitors can also pre-order afternoon tea to take away from Titchfield Teahouse by calling 01623 656093.

In addition, the event will be linked to the environment and the great outdoors and will seek to improve health and wellbeing, so look out for seed planting demonstrations, sporty activities and healthy living advice.

The free event is staged by Mansfield District Council in collaboration with Mansfield Cultural Services and community groups from across the district.

Some of the confirmed activities include:

Your Health Your Way - smoothie bikes.

We Are Undefeatable - showcasing physical activities with accessible exercise classes throughout the day.

Serco - Zumba taster sessions.

Mansfield Museum - Mansfield of the past display and free activity to make a bug hotel.

Stagecoach - Children's playbus.

West Nottinghamshire College - inspiration station activity.

Dogs are welcome as long as they are kept on a lead at all times and any dog mess is cleaned up immediately.

Tickets will be required to enter the park on the day so that capacity can be managed to provide a safe and secure event. Keep up to date as activities are confirmed at [www.mansfield.gov.uk/events](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/events) and book your ticket at [www.mansfieldpalace.co.uk](http://www.mansfieldpalace.co.uk).

## Gold award for Forces support

ASHFIELD District Council is one of just 11 organisations in the East Midlands to have received the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for outstanding support towards the Armed Forces community.

The awards are given to organisations that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families.

**Carol Cooper-Smith**, chief executive of the district council, said: "We pride ourselves on our support for our Armed Forces and we promote positive engagement with the extended Armed Forces family, both inside and outside of the council."

**Coun David Walters**, Armed Forces Champion at the council, added: "We are humbled."

# Tracing the history of a legend and his band of Merry Men

**H**ERE is another photograph from the ourmansfieldandarea website. The site allows the community to share information, memories, photos, and knowledge about Mansfield's past and present.

If you are interested in finding out more, type [www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk](http://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk) into your web browser.

**Jodie Price**, from *Mansfield Museum*, writes: "I want to talk about the legend that is Robin Hood. According to the stories, he was an outlaw, highly-skilled archer and swordsman. In some versions of the legend he was depicted as being of noble birth, and in modern retellings he is sometimes depicted as having fought in the Crusades before returning to find his lands overtaken by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

In the oldest surviving tales, Robin is instead a middle class of servant called a Yeoman, which was the name applied to groups of freeborn commoners who were hired as household guards, or raised as an army during times of war — sometimes as longbow archers like the one celebrated in the tales of Robin Hood.

He became a popular folk figure in the late Middle Ages and the earliest known ballads featuring him are from the 1400s.

Traditionally, Robin and his band of outlaws, the Merry Men, are said to have robbed from the rich to give

to the poor. Through retellings, additions and variations, a set of characters associated with Robin Hood have been created as part of the legend, including his wife, Maid Marian, and his band of outlaws, the Merry Men. One of the main well-known characters of the Merry Men is Little John, Robin Hood's lieutenant. Later stories depict him as a huge man who joins the band after fighting Robin with staffs over a river.

Then there is Much, the Miller's son, who is a seasoned fighter in the early ballads. Later stories show him as one of the youngest of the Merry Men.

Will Scarlett is another very early companion in the ballads, a skilled swordsman and Robin's nephew.

Friar Tuck is the resident clergyman of the band. Tuck developed separately from the Robin Hood tradition; similar characters appear in 15th and 16th-Century plays, and an early 15th-Century outlaw used the alias Friar Tuck. A fighting friar appears in one ballad, though he is not named. Robin and the friar engage in a battle of wits. In the end, the friar joins the Merry Men. Later stories show Friar Tuck as more ale-loving and jovial than hostile.

Perhaps a lesser known 'Merry Man' is Alan-a-Dale, a roving minstrel. He appears in a later ballad in which Robin helps him rescue his sweetheart who is being forced into marriage with another man. Despite his relatively late appearance, he

became a popular character in later versions of the Robin Hood legend.

The only woman amongst the band is Maid Marian, Robin's romantic interest. Marian developed separately from the Robin Hood tradition, like Friar Tuck; the medieval French play *Jeu de Robin et Marion* (The Play of Robin and Marion) tells the story of the shepherdess, Marian, and the knight, Robin, and is entirely unrelated to our legend of Robin Hood. The medieval stereotype of Marian became associated with English and Scottish May Day festivities, and was eventually associated with Robin Hood. In early stories, she joins the Merry Men by fighting Robin while they are both in disguise. However, in some Victorian literature she takes a more passive role as a noblewoman and Robin's romantic interest in need of rescuing, but this all ended in the 20th Century as Marian resumed her role as a cross-dressing tomboy and a capable fighter.

The villains of the tales are the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy of Gisbourne. The Sheriff is generally depicted as an unjust tyrant who mistreats the local people of Nottinghamshire, subjecting them to unaffordable taxes. It is not conclusively known exactly whom this character is based on, but it would have been one of the people who have occupied the post of the High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and the Royal Forests.

If, as in many versions of the Robin Hood legend, the action of the story is placed during the absence of King



Richard I and the Third Crusade, the character could be identified with the little-known William de Wendenal; however, the sheriff more usually remains anonymous.

Sir Guy first appears in 'Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne', where he is a hired killer who attempts to kill Robin Hood but instead is killed by him. In later depictions, he has become a noble romantic rival of Robin Hood for Maid Marian's love.

The sheriff and Sir Guy are often shown as assisting scheming Prince John in leading a rebellion against the good but absent King Richard I, to whom Robin remains loyal.

The historical accuracy of Robin Hood has been debated for centuries. There are numerous references to historical figures with similar names that have been proposed as possible evidence of his existence, some dating to the late 13th Century. The early ballads link Robin Hood to identifiable places — notably the Lincoln Cathedral Manuscript, which is the first officially recorded Robin Hood song from approximately 1420. It makes explicit reference to the outlaw — 'Robyn hode in scherewode stod' — thus linking Robin undeniably to Sherwood Forest.

Specific sites in Nottinghamshire directly linked to the Robin Hood legend include Robin Hood's Well, located near Newstead Abbey; the Church of St Mary in Edwinstowe, where Maid Marian and Robin

Hood were supposedly married; and most famously of all, the Major Oak (above). The famous tree in the heart of Sherwood Forest is popularly believed to have been used by the Merry Men as a hideout. Dendrologists — tree expert scientists — have contradicted this claim by estimating the tree's true age at around 800 years, so it would have been a sapling in Robin's time, at best.

The famous oak's name actually came from Major Hayman Rooke's description of it in 1790.

All in all, the legend remains important to Mansfield and the surrounding areas, regardless of its historical accuracy.

● **Do you have some old memories and photographs you would like to share? Please add them to the website [www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk](http://www.ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk). Even if you don't know a lot about the image or memory, other people may be able to provide more details. Every contribution adds to our knowledge of the area that otherwise may have been lost.**

## Museum reopens

MANSFIELD Museum has reopened. Go to [www.mansfield.gov.uk/museum/](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/museum/) and [www.facebook.com/mansfieldmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/mansfieldmuseum) for further information.

# Memories of SJAB nursing cadets at Forest Town

**PAULINE Marples**, from Forest Town Heritage Group, has submitted this photograph, taken of St John Ambulance Brigade nursing cadets from Forest Town on a holiday camp in Wales.

She writes: "The nursing cadets were started around 1950 by Sister Hodgkinson as part of St John Ambulance Brigade.

"The girls, aged around 11 to 15, wore a grey cotton dress, black cape and beret, white cotton socks and white gloves.

"They met in The Drill Hall, Forest Town — now Kingsway Hall — where they learnt first aid. They took part in competitions and parades and each year went to a camp at Rhyl or Skegness.

"This photo, taken at Rhyl Derbyshire Miners' Camp, circa 1957/58, was recently sent to the Heritage Group by **Pam Jones**, who named most of the people. We also had another copy in our files where someone else had named people, I have added these into Pam's information, using italics."

Front row, from left, ? Jepson, Christine Hatcher, ?, Yvonne

Powell, Joan Martin, *Margaret Smith?*, ?, Margery Hatcher, Anne Richardson, ?.

Second row, from left, ?, *Janice Emperson*, Brenda Burton, Anne Goodwin, Pamela Pearson, Sister S.I. Hodgkinson, Margery Butler, Patricia Woolley, Jane Rowland, Rosalyn Emberson, Joyce Hilton, Shirley Musson, *Pam Musson*.

Third row, from left, Mr Dean, Maud Percival, Judith Haslam, Ann Smetham, Pat Smith, Christina Emberson, ?, Shirley Brown, *Sandra Noon*, Margaret Harworth (Harwood), Ann Pacey, Lynn Bramley, Ann Cheetham, Pamela East, June Haslam, *Jack Culling*.

Back row, from left, Linda Herbert, ?, Christine Hibbert, ?, ?, Eileen Woolley, *Jacqueline Ball*, Rosemary Flint, Margaret Low, Sandra Pacey, Pat Moxon, Maureen Jones, Valerie Wardle, *Ann Littlewood*.

● **If you have an old photograph and memories you would like to share with News Journal readers, email a copy of the photograph and the details to [news@news-journal.co.uk](mailto:news@news-journal.co.uk)**



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## Summer holiday fun to keep the whole family cool!

HOW are you going to keep your children and grandchildren busy through the summer holidays?

Mansfield Leisure Centres may have the answer with its holiday activities, a great way for youngsters to have fun and stay active.

At Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre there are family swims as well as 1-2-1 sessions and crash course intensive swimming lessons.

Oak Tree Leisure Centre has a popular Superstars Holiday Club, with multi-sports, gymnastics, arts and crafts, outdoor games and more — and children can attend daily or weekly.

River Maun Recreation Centre is also running a holiday club, and has badminton and table tennis sessions too.

And at Water Meadows Swimming and Fitness Complex the Pirate Pool and family fun sessions have returned.

Visitors can swim, ride the flume, jump the waves and ride a 50m twister slide — and for little ones there is a under-fives mini splash pool with slide.

The Pirate Pool is suitable for



all ages — infants, toddlers, teenagers, parents and grandparents.

Water Meadows is open daily throughout the school holidays from Monday, 2nd August.

Tickets can be booked online in advance at [www.mansfieldleisure.com/PiratePool](http://www.mansfieldleisure.com/PiratePool)



### Exercise can help mental wellbeing

MANSFIELD Leisure Centres want everyone to find out how good exercise can make you feel.

The link between exercise and mental wellbeing has been highlighted many times, and with glimpses of 'normality' returning there has never been a better time to get active.

The Mental Health Foundation says mental wellbeing is a sense of feeling good about ourselves — the ability to deal with the ups and downs of life, such as coping with challenges and making the most of opportunities.

And exercise can benefit the mind. It can lift people's mood, reduce stress, reduce feelings of anxiety, increase self-esteem, reduce the likelihood of dementia, and lower the risk of depression.

Mansfield Leisure Centres suggests that if cost is a drawback, why not use the offer below to try out membership first.

### The importance of learning to swim

AROUND 44% of accidental drownings happen between May and September.

Mansfield Leisure Centres currently teach hundreds of children to swim each week in the More Swimming Academy at Mansfield's Water Meadows Swimming and Fitness Complex and Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre.

A spokesman said: "We pride ourselves on delivering high-quality swimming lessons in a relaxed, fun environment, with fully-qualified instructors to help you every splash of the way — whether you're looking

to learn a lifeskill or become more confident in the water.

"Many parents want their children to learn to swim, but perhaps not everyone realises the importance of their youngsters learning to swim.

"Being able to swim is a skill that could one day save a life.

"Our swimming teachers are highly trained and will teach physical skills, such as treading water and how to float if you get into difficulty in the water. We make sure these skills are practised time and time again, so children become confident about what to do in



an emergency. We make sure that they understand other important issues relating to swimming — such as never swimming alone.

"And it's not just children's swimming lessons we do — we can help teach adults too."

Find out more about how to start a swimming journey at the centres using the details below.

### How to find out more...

**Oak Tree Leisure Centre**  
 Jubilee Way South, Mansfield, NG18 3RT  
 Tel: 0345 0000 231  
[fOakTreeLeisure](https://www.facebook.com/OakTreeLeisure)

**Rebecca Adlington Swimming Centre**  
 Westdale Road, Mansfield, NG19 7BZ  
 Tel: 0345 0000 230  
[fRebeccaAdlingtonPool](https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaAdlingtonPool)

**River Maun Recreation Centre**  
 Barringer Road, Mansfield, NG18 2DF  
 Tel: 0345 0000 233  
[fRiverMaunRecreationCentre](https://www.facebook.com/RiverMaunRecreationCentre)

**Water Meadows Swimming & Fitness Complex**  
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[fWaterMeadows](https://www.facebook.com/WaterMeadows)

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### Mansfield District Leisure Trust Activity Timetable July 2021

Gym Sessions	
All Centres - Daily - Throughout the day	
Lane Swimming	
Water Meadows & Rebecca Adlington	Daily - Throughout the day
H.I.I.T Interval Training	
Oak Tree - Mondays	5:30pm - 6pm
Indoor Cycling	
Oak Tree - Mondays	5:30 - 6pm, 6:15pm - 6:45pm, 7pm - 8pm
Aqua Fit	
Rebecca Adlington - Mondays	3pm - 4pm, 7:45pm - 8:45pm
Body Balance	
Oak Tree - Mondays, Wednesdays	7:15pm - 8:15pm
Badminton	
River Maun - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays	- Session times available daily
Table Tennis	
River Maun - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays	- Session times available daily
Bootcamp	
Oak Tree - Tuesdays, Thursdays	6:15pm - 7:15pm
Legs, Bums & Tums	
Oak Tree - Tuesdays, Thursdays	6:16pm - 6:45pm
Body Pump	
Oak Tree - Tuesdays, Thursdays	7pm - 8pm
Aqua Fit	
Rebecca Adlington - Wednesdays	3pm - 4pm
H.I.I.T Interval Training	
Oak Tree - Wednesdays	8am - 9am
Body Pump	
Oak Tree - Wednesdays	9:30am - 10am
Indoor Cycling	
Oak Tree - Wednesdays	6:15pm - 6:45pm
Indoor Cycling	
Oak Tree - Thursdays, Fridays	5:45pm - 6:45pm
Yoga	
Oak Tree - Thursdays	11:30am - 12:30pm
Keep Fit	
Oak Tree - Fridays	9:30am - 10:15am
H.I.I.T Interval Training	
Oak Tree - Saturdays	8:15am - 8:45am
H.I.I.T Interval Training	
Oak Tree - Sundays	9am - 9:30am

For full details, please see the 'Class Timetables' on each Centre's web page:

[www.mansfieldleisure.com](http://www.mansfieldleisure.com)



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## Triathletes are back in action

MANSFIELD Triathlon Club's **Tony Alcock** and **Daniel Wilson** were in action at the Outlaw Holkham half ironman distance race in Norfolk.

They took on a 1.2-mile swim in murky conditions, and a 56.7-mile bike ride in heat before completing the challenge of a 13.3-mile run in drizzle.

Tony recorded a time of 5hrs 36mins and Daniel 6hrs 48mins.

The club sent a small team to check out arrangements at one of the first post lockdown races at Derby.

In the girls' TS2 event, **Libby Cooper** finished in 23mins 55secs with **Grace Sinclair** not far behind in 26mins 43secs. In the boys' TS3 event, **William Swindlehurst** was timed at 31mins 13secs.

Four junior athletes represented the club at Mallory Park motor racing circuit in Leicestershire.

**Robert Alcock** and **Libby Cooper** competed in the TS2 races (200m swim, 6km bike, 1.2km run), recording times of 26mins 55secs and 28mins 42secs respectively. In the TS3 event, comprising a 400m swim, 7.5km bike and 2.4km run, **Charlotte Alcock** finished in 35mins 32secs.

Representing the club in the youth race



**DANIEL Wilson** in transition between the swim and run at Holkham.

(500m swim, 10km bike, 3.6km run), **Thomas Fletcher** completed the course in 1hr 15mins 49secs.



## Walking football returns

MANSFIELD Senior Reds Walking Football Club emerged victorious in their first competitive tournament since coronavirus lockdown.

They drew with Doncaster 1-1, beat Kiveton 1-0 and beat hosts Worksop 5-0. They were presented with medals by Worksop Town officials.

## Equipment help for club

SHERWOOD Oaks Gymnastics Academy is to spend a £1,000 donation from Persimmon Homes Nottingham on buying equipment for its new training centre in Sutton.

The money is part of the housebuilder's relaunched Building Futures campaign.

**Zoe McDonald**, a trustee of the academy, said: "This is wonderful news for the club and members. After eight years of renting space, where we have had to set up and pack away after classes, we finally have our own dedicated venue."

Building Futures aims to support community groups working with under-18s across three categories – education and arts, health and sport.

A total of 128 grants of £1,000 will be awarded across Persimmon's 31 regional businesses. Three initiatives will go on to win £100,000 each through a national online public vote.

●Go to [www.persimmonhomes.com/charity](http://www.persimmonhomes.com/charity)

# Rising rugby star working hard to continue lightning rise to the top

AFTER a turbulent breakthrough season, Mansfield rugby union star **Georgina Tasker** is targeting bigger and better things on her rapid rise to the top.

The 18-year-old centre has had a season of two halves, starting with the disappointment of several missed months of action due to not being old enough to join up with the Loughborough Lightning first team in pre-season and her contracting Covid-19.

But, on her return, the former Samworth Church Academy student broke through into the side with Premier 15s league starts against Saracens and Sale Sharks, while she also made the squad for her side's semi-final clash with Sarries.

It's some way from her humble beginnings in the sport when, prompted by parents wanting to keep her busy, she went along to her school's rugby club in year seven — the rest, as they say, is history.

"It was hard to find form because I'd been out for so long," she said.



**GEORGINA Tasker** is hoping to continue her success story on the rugby field.

"It was like I always playing catch-up at the start of the season, but it was really nice to eventually play and make my breakthrough. "I went

into training having not done pre-season so everybody had a month on me — and then I was out for a month coming back from Covid so everyone

got another month on me then. There've been quite a few bumps in the road this season, definitely at the start of it, but it got nice towards the end of the season.

"Especially with Covid, before the first lockdown I was supposed to get some Prem time and then I was meant to get some when I got Covid, so it was nice to get to that end goal. I now feel more a part of the team because I've actually played for them!"

Tasker's career on the pitch is fuelled by a partnership between Entain — owner of Ladbrokes and Coral — and SportsAid, which provides vital funding for training, travel, equipment and access to mentoring.

The investment is supported by **Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson** and has seen the young talent accelerate following her Mansfield Rugby Union FC days.

Now, she's after glory with Loughborough and, who knows, maybe an England jersey too.

"It would be really good to win the Prem. Watching Quins win was great," Tasker added.

"I'd also love to play for England, but being in the squad for the [Premier 15s] semis and seeing the atmosphere there was inspiring for next season.

"I want to get more Prem time and then see where it goes from there.

"Lightning is such a good place to develop because there are a fair few internationals who have loads of experience. It's great to play with them and train alongside them."

●**Entain, owner of Ladbrokes and Coral, is proud to be championing the next generation of British sporting heroes by providing talented young athletes with financial support and personal development opportunities in partnership with SportsAid. Visit [entaingroup.com](http://entaingroup.com) to find out more.**



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Fuel consumption and CO2 emissions are tested using WLTP. Only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. For more information about WLTP please refer to [kia.com/uk](http://kia.com/uk). Models shown: Sportage 'GT-Line S' 1.6 CRDi 134bhp 48V 6-speed manual 15G at £32,305 including premium Fusion White paint at £625, Xceed '3' 1.6 CRDi 134bhp 48V MHEV 6-speed manual 15T 15G at £26,595 including premium Fusion White paint at £580, new Stonic 'GT-Line' 1.0 T-GDi 118bhp 48V 6-speed manual 15G at £21,575 including premium Midnight Black paint at £575 and Niro '4' 1.6 GDi 1.56kWh lithium-ion 139bhp 6-speed auto DCT Self-Charging Hybrid at £30,450 including premium Midnight Black paint at £595. Specification varies across the range and is subject to change without notice. 0% APR only available on purchase of a new Kia Sportage, Kia Xceed, new Stonic, Niro Self-Charging Hybrid, and Niro Plug-In Hybrid in the United Kingdom on 24-month Personal Contract Purchase with a 20% minimum deposit between 01.04.2021 and 30.06.2021. 0% offer is not available on all-new Sorento. Offer available to private customers only, excluding Personal Contract Hire. 0% APR offer not available in conjunction with Scrappage saving. Excess miles over contracted mileage charged at 9 pence per mile. Kia reserves the right to amend or withdraw offers at any time without prior notice. Finance T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Kia Finance, RH2 9AQ. \*Free first two services and two-year Kia Assist Plus available on new Kia Sportage, Xceed, Stonic, Niro Self-Charging Hybrid and Niro Plug-In Hybrid models for new car orders placed before 31.05.2021 and registered between 01.04.2021 and 31.05.2021. Offer not available in conjunction with Scrappage saving. Customers have one month from their vehicle's registration date to subscribe. Offer available to private customers only, excluding Personal Contract Hire. For more information on Kia Assist Plus, please visit [www.rac.co.uk/kia-roadside-assistance](http://www.rac.co.uk/kia-roadside-assistance). 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit [kia.com/uk](http://kia.com/uk).

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