

City Centre Director May 2019 Update Report

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City Mayor Executive Team

Leicester mayor Sir Peter Soulsby has completed a reshuffle of his executive team following his re-election. Sir Peter has started his third term leading Leicester City Council.

Councillor Piara Singh Clair continues as a deputy mayor with responsibility for culture, leisure and sport. Coun Adam Clarke, deputy mayor with a brief that includes environment and transportation while Sarah Russell has being given a newly created portfolio of social care and anti-poverty. Sir Peter said: “It makes good sense to bring adult social care and children’s social care together. “It is a challenging portfolio and I’m delighted Sarah has agreed to do it.” Sir Peter has picked six assistant mayors. Councillor Elly Cutkelvin and Rita Patel have been promoted to Sir Peter’s team.

Cllr Cutkelvin takes on the merged responsibilities for housing and education. Cllr Patel takes charge of equalities and special projects. Cllr Danny Myers assistant mayor for policy delivery and communications. Cllr Kirk Master resumes his neighbourhoods post and Cllr Mustafa Malik has responsibility for jobs, skills and communities. Cllr Vi Dempster has been given the health portfolio. The council’s Labour group has also elected members to various key posts. Cllr Vijay Singh Riyait has been chosen as group chairman and chairman of the planning committee. Cllr Ted Cassidy will chair the overview scrutiny committee which is intended to analyse proposed decisions by the executive. Cllr Di Cank has been re-elected as the group’s chief whip.



Sir Peter with his deputy and assistant mayors (Image: Leicester City Council)

Bring the Paint Festival 2019

Thousands of people took to the streets of Leicester on Saturday 25 May to celebrate street art. People of all ages descended on the Cultural Quarter to watch street artists create specially commissioned artwork for Bring the Paint festival. Last held in 2017 and now in its second year, the international festival saw 50 artists from countries as far as USA and Australia transform Leicester city centre with world-class mural paintings. At the main festival hub in Orton Square, visitors were invited to draw their own designs on windows of the Curve, and children learnt how to skateboard at a pop-up skate park.

Live music, street food and a fully stocked bar helped create a buzzing atmosphere in the square. Across the rest of the city, live art could be viewed in action in locations including St Martins and Humberstone Gate. LCB Depot opened for a family friendly day of music and activities, while The Soundhouse hosted a dub reggae all dayer. Visitors could also purchase a piece of the festival to take home from Bring the Paint organiser Graffwerk's art fair at Two Queens gallery. On Sunday 26 May, Bring the Paint continued at Frog Island, where nearly a mile of hoardings surrounding the new Waterside development were painted by artists. Paint workshops, a climbing wall, and a photography exhibition of Leicester graffiti also took place at The Mill. Bring the Paint was sponsored by BID Leicester, Leicester City Council, Arts Council England and other local organisations.



Aches Ireland



Does France



Image: Matt Short Photography









Hombre Germany



Retrospective



Image: Matt Short Photography

 <p><i>Ruelo Slovakia</i></p>	 <p><i>WON ABC Germany</i></p>	 <p><i>Image: Matt Short Photography</i></p>
 <p><i>Ziner Birmingham</i></p>	 <p><i>SMUG</i></p>	 <p><i>Alex Rubes</i></p>

Revive Festival – June 14-30

The first REVIVE Festival, takes place across various locations around the city centre between June 14th– 30th. Visitors can experience vintage fairs, live music and themed events, vinyl records, street food, family activities and incredible discounts and special offers at a variety of outlets (see website for details). The opening weekend included ‘Scooterama’ on Sunday 16th June, Leicester’s first ‘on street’ scooter exhibition on New Market Square with Tailgate UK Vintage and Independent Market and street food by Canteen UK. It also included the opening of the Mods 19:64 photographic exhibition at the LCB Depot, by Joe Nixon and Shaun Knapp, on Friday 14th June. The exhibition records the Mods from the 1960s as they are today.

The festival ties in with the hugely successful Mods: Shaping a Generation exhibition at New Walk Museum and the Modified exhibition at Soft Touch Arts (both on until 30th June). “The Shaping a Generation exhibition has proved to be an enormous success, nearly 30,000 people have visited so far,” said exhibition co-curator, Shaun Knapp. “People have come from around the UK and abroad to see it, most notably from Australia, New Zealand, USA, France and Germany. We know that Leicester’s ex-pats have heard about it on-line or from family and friends and have planned their holidays around visiting it. The REVIVE Festival celebrates all things to do with the 1960s and is a wonderful way to bid farewell to both exhibitions.” For further information, visit www.revivefestival.co.uk.



The exhibition, film and associated REVIVE events have gained national press interest – its been listed as a ‘2019 must see’ by Artfund magazine. Funding raised by The National Lottery, BID Leicester, Leicester City Council, Arch and Soft Touch.

Regeneration News

Leicester Tigers and Leicester Royal Infirmary plan for multi-million-pound Welford Road redevelopment

Leicester Tigers and the Leicester Royal Infirmary are planning a multi-million redevelopment scheme next the Welford Road rugby ground. The club and hospital bosses want to build and share a seven-floor multi-storey car park overlooking the Crumbie Stand. The LRI will take the lion's share of the 849 spaces in the structure that is set to cost some £11 million. Some 750 spaces will be used by hospital staff for permit parking with the remaining 99 held for Tigers' staff and conference guests.

The partnership with the Leicester Tigers has presented the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust with a rare and fantastic opportunity to meet requirements with a brand new safe and secure location. "750 spaces will give us the capacity to cover the 1,500 staff permits needed based on 2 permits for every space utilised. Tigers Club will require sole use of the car park on around 16 match days each year. These occasions occur 'out of hours' when the hospital has sufficient car parking capacity to cater for the staff displaced at these times. Council planning officers are currently considering the scheme.

Tigers are also planning a major redevelopment on the Granby Halls site on the other side of the ground. The area is currently a city council-owned NCP operated car park but the club's ambition is to build a £22 million hotel with 183 rooms which would include a business centre, and retail and lobby areas which open up on to a flexible fan zone and public open space alongside a fitness suite, restaurant and fifth-floor 'sky bar'.

For a fly-through of the plans please visit: <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/sport/rugby/rugby-news/leicester-tigers-lri-plan-multi-2895507>.



The proposed multi-storey car park near the Tigers' Welford Road Ground



The area south of the Welford Road ground

Fly-through video shows scale of Leicester's new £80m Space Park

A new CGI video shows what Leicester's £80m Space Park development will look like when it is complete. The University of Leicester is spearheading the project to transform the former John Ellis School site, off Abbey Lane, into a complex where technology and research businesses involved in the space sector will be based. Construction work on the scheme is under way, and the university hopes Space Park will be complete by the middle of next year. The video which sets out the scale of the scheme and where it sits in relation to the nearby National Space Centre is part of a marketing scheme to try to attract firms.

The university's Space Park chief executive officer, Grant Bourhill, said: "The UK space sector is booming. "With a value of £14.2bn and productivity three times the national average, the sector has huge potential for growth. "Building on our 50 year track record of having a Leicester-built instrument in orbit, we are creating a world-leading space facility, confirming Leicester's international reputation as a leading 'Space City'. "The Space Park will drive economic growth and attract and retain skilled workers, helping us deliver against national, regional and local strategies."

When completed, the estimated benefits of the Space Park to the regional economy are £715 million a year and 2,500 jobs in the wider supply chain. To see the flythrough please visit: <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/fly-through-video-shows-scale-2950508>.

£1m scheme to create cycle lane across Victoria Park and into Leicester city centre

Around £1 million is to be spent putting a cycle lane across Leicester's Victoria Park and along a busy road into the city centre. Leicester City Council says it wants to create a safer and more direct cycle route between Clarendon Park and the centre of the city. The scheme has been announced as a parallel proposal to the current £4 million construction of cycle lanes along London Road and the edge of the park. It is the latest phase of City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby's long-running multi-million pound Connecting Leicester programme.

Deputy city mayor and executive lead for environment and transportation councillor Adam Clarke said: "The Connecting Leicester programme is a vital part of our ambitious plans to reduce vehicle emissions, further improve local air quality and help address the climate emergency we are facing. "These proposals will make Lancaster Road safer and more attractive for cyclists and pedestrians and complement the major work underway on London Road and investment made elsewhere in and around the city centre.

"We know Victoria Park is a popular route for cyclists, but conflicts still exist between pedestrians and cyclists on the main park footpath and onto New Walk. "The Lancaster Road scheme will extend the existing city centre network of cycle lanes out to Clarendon Park and the University of Leicester. "This will provide a really attractive and direct route for cyclists and should help address some of the problems we still see on New Walk."

The scheme will be largely paid for with Government cash as part of the council's successful bid for £7.8million from the Transforming Cities Fund. If given the go-ahead, the scheme could get under way in July and is expected to take around 10 months to complete. The council is trying to discourage people cycling from the south of the city to the middle via the pedestrianised New Walk and has recently installed blocks on the historic route as a deterrent.

Openings and Closings

We wish all new businesses good trading and a warm welcome to Leicester City Centre!

Open & Opening

New Laura Ashley store, St George's Retail Park

Laura Ashley has launched a homeware outlet in one of the newly-built units at St Georges retail park. The 3,165 sq. ft store, which employs 10 members of staff - showcases the retailer's furniture and homeware in room sets around the shop. Customers will find everything they need to dress their home, such as lighting, curtains, bedding, cushions, and smaller home accessories. There is also a decorating department which features original Laura Ashley wallpapers, fabrics and paint.



Treetop Adventure Golf

Get ready to tackle the Tropical Trail and brave the mystical wonder of the Ancient Explorer at Treetop Adventure Golf. The rainforest-themed indoor golf course in Highcross has been eagerly anticipated since it was announced in 2017. The course is in part of the former House of Fraser unit, which is already home to Zara and JD Sports. It will be the third course to be opened by Treetop Adventure Golf, which already has venues in Cardiff and Manchester. It will feature two indoor 18-hole mini golf courses.

Players can choose to tackle the Tropical Trail, experiencing the mighty Twisted Fig tree as you go. They will get to chat with cheeky toucans and listen out for the singing barbershop frogs on your way to the Cascading River. Alternatively, you can brave the mystical magic of the Ancient Explorer. The Sacred Mask and The Sleepy Head will be waiting to welcome you to the Cloud Village – just don't give them a rude awakening. You'll be able to scale a mountain for epic views and pay your respects to Mabel the Monkey Queen. Ancient spirits stir in the crumbling temple, but it's the Sniping Viper's tongue you need to watch out for.

Finally, all players will get to play the bonus 19th hole for the chance to win a free round. Once the games are over and the scores are tallied, teams can relax in The Market. You can enjoy cup of coffee fresh from the Amazon, sample a local beer, or try a tropical cocktail or mocktail for a true



taste of the Brazil. There will also be handmade pizzas from Pizza Cabana, with vegetarian and vegan options available. Treetop Adventure Golf will be open throughout the week, and there will be no need for a prior booking. Visitors can just turn up and tee off to play mini golf and hang out in The Market bar and cafe. Opening hours will be Monday to Wednesday 11am - 10pm, Thursday to Friday 11am - 11pm, Saturday 10am - 11pm and Sunday 10am - 10pm.

Image: Carl Sukonik, The Vain Photography

Buddha Bay - cocktail bar and restaurant with a difference opening in former XY Club

A cocktail bar and restaurant with a difference, Buddha Bay is set to open in King Street later this month focussing on mindful eating and drinking. Guests will be able to enjoy a multicultural dining menu and travel-inspired cocktails at the venue, which aims to breathe new life into the grand-looking building which was formerly occupied by XY Club. The name is derived from Buddhism, and according to the owners, Buddha Bay will reflect the three qualities of awareness, kindness and wisdom which Buddhists aim to develop, through practices such as meditation, leading to a state of lasting unconditional happiness known as enlightenment.



King Richard III, £110k makeover

King Richard III pub which has been closed since January this year, opened on 18 June by independent pub company The Beautiful Pubs Collective. The was founded in 2008 by Sam Hagger, who was named Small Business Executive of the Year as well as overall Leicestershire Business Executive of the Year at the Leicester Mercury's Business Executive Awards 2018. The pub company operates the award-winning Knight and Garter and The Rutland and Derby in Leicester, as well as The Forge at Glenfield.

The newly revived King Richard III pub and chophouse will have the warmth of a village pub, and will offer great lagers, wines, cask ale and coffee. There will be handmade bar snacks available, including scotch eggs and mini pies. Sam said, "The restaurant will be a beautiful little chophouse. "It will have an ever-changing menu with a strong focus on locally sourced meat on the bone, cooked on a robata coal grill, and other dishes with a European influence."

Leading the chophouse will be head chef Chris Owens, who has a wealth of experience in robata cooking. In terms of the design of the venue, customers can expect to see palm tree wallpaper, barn door theatre lighting, and floor to ceiling mirrors. The pub has an "all-new" garden area with wall to wall planting. In the coming weeks, an enclosed area - which can be used all year round - will be added. A total of £110,000 has been spent on the redevelopment of the King Richard III pub, with the investment being shared between The Beautiful Pubs Collective and the pub's freehold owner, Everards of Leicestershire.



King Richard III is set to re-open soon (Image: Becky Jones)

Boutique bowling alley, East Street Lanes

East Street Lanes is being launched by the team behind crazy golf bar Caddyshackers, which launched in November 2018. The venues are both located in the East Street unit formerly occupied by Dunelm. Caddyshackers features 18 holes, with quirky themes including an old pub, a beach, a bathroom and a construction site. There are even a couple of cars incorporated into the course. Described as "Leicester's first boutique bowling alley" East Street Lanes will include eight lanes alongside a restaurant and bar serving pizzas, burgers, sharing platters, cocktails and craft beers.

The cocktail menu will be created in conjunction with the guys at Campfire Trailer and the food menu will be put together by the team behind the Steamin' Billy brand. As an over-18 venue, East Street Lanes is set to become a destination for a great night out. The new bowling alley is due to open in August 2019.

There are currently jobs available at East Street Lanes, with both full and part time positions available. Roles include receptionists, front of house, waiting staff, chefs and kitchen porters. If you're interested in working there, you can apply by emailing a copy of your CV to Hello@eaststeetlanes.co.uk. Alongside crazy golf and bowling, the new venue will also be home to East Street Events. This will be an event space catering for up to 200 people with a range of food and drinks options available, making it ideal for parties and corporate functions in the city centre.

Merchant of Venice, 173-175 Granby Street

Merchant of Venice has opened in Granby Street, and boasts a quirky design inspired by the Shakespeare play of the same name. Located in the unit formerly occupied by Tex Mex restaurant Plan Burrito, the Italian coffee bar has been created during a seven month-long renovation project. The result is a beautifully decorated venue, with handmade furniture including swing seats in the windows, gold handmade wallpaper and impressive pictures on the wall, painted by a local artist. These depict Shakespeare, characters from the Merchant of Venice, and a typical trattoria in Venice.

Merchant of Venice serves Julius Meinl coffee along with a range of tea including the Shakespeare's Romantic Tea, which comes with an added surprise. The food offering combines Italian and English traditions, with all day breakfast options including a Leicester breakfast, Venice breakfast and Merchant breakfast. The lunch selection includes arancini, chicken Milanese in ciabatta and lasagne. Vegan dishes include a vegan breakfast and quinoa salad with tofu, sweetcorn, spring onions and herbs.

The business has been launched by Jaimon Thomas, founder of Granby Street restaurants Kayal and Herb and is run by manager Dionigi Riganello, who was previously manager of San Carlo restaurant in Leicester.



Image: Leicester Mercury / Chris Gordon

Tamatanga, Highcross

Tamatanga has branches in Nottingham and Birmingham and will be launching in the Highcross shopping centre on Monday 1 July. The eatery will move into one of the new units created in the space formerly occupied by House of Fraser. From students to families, Tamatanga hopes to appeal to everyone. From the home-cooked, street style dishes, to cocktails, craft beers and lassis, the restaurant aims to offer "exceptional value". The concept is 'fuss-free and relaxed all day eating', and the promised vibe is laid-back and fun. A daytime deal will be available until 6pm Monday to Thursday, and there will be daily two-for-one cocktails. The kitchen team, whose members are all of Indian origin, aim to create food that is "real" and "homely".

The colourful and eye-catching design of the Birmingham restaurant has formed the inspiration for



Tamatanga in Birmingham (Image: Birmingham Mail)

the Leicester venue, which is intended to evoke a light-hearted and playful feel of the streets of India.

Operations director Rahul Khurana said: "We're incredibly excited to be opening our third Tamatanga.

"We're not your average Indian restaurant and like to do things differently. With Leicester already offering such a high level of Indian food, it's important to us that we offer something a little out of the ordinary, and we can't wait to show our customers in Leicester what we're about."

Closed & Closing

Toni & Guy, Market Street

Toni and Guy on Market Street closed on Monday 27 May.

Muffin Break, Highcross Shopping Centre

Launched in 2009, the Highcross café was one of the brand's larger branches.

Cank Street Gallery

Cank Street Gallery announced on Monday 10 June that it is now closed for business.

HMV, High Street

The HMV store in High Street is closing down at the end of July. HMV has had financial problems in



Image: Matt Short Photography

recent years, having called in administrators twice in the past six years. The company was saved at the end of 2018 after being sold off to Canadian entrepreneur and owner of Sunrise Records Doug Oytman. A spokesman for HMV said: "Regretfully we can confirm that HMV Leicester will be closing, although we cannot confirm the exact date, as this is yet to be agreed. "The closure is no reflection on the commitment of our superb staff, but due to a failure to reach agreement with the landlord on the terms of our lease at this property."

Smoke and Spice, Granby Street

City centre restaurant Smoke and Spice has closed after being open for just six months. The Indian restaurant, in Granby Street, opened at the end of December 2018, and was created by the team behind Rickshaw Rick's, the restaurant previously located on the same site.

Refurbishments

Greggs, Haymarket Shopping Centre

The Haymarket branch of Greggs has reopened following a refurbishment.

Other News

Art Show, Urban Antidote

A tattoo artist who worked on Amy Winehouse and a film-maker who counts members of the Sex Pistols among his friends have picked a city gallery for their first joint art exhibition. Henry Hate and Mark Sloper – aka Mark Illuminati – are joining forces to bring a taste of sleazy Soho to the exhibition opening this week at Urban Antidote in Leicester's St Martin's Square. Both men share the same punk ethic and met through a group of like-minded artists called ASS – Art Society Soho.

Gallery owner Sara Lovatt said she was really excited about the show. She said: "I've been working with Mark for a while and we sat down with Henry and came up with the idea of the collaboration. "Both of them are real characters and I love having really cool stuff in here. "The reason I called it Antidote was because I want it to be the polar opposite of everything you would expect in an art gallery – there is live music sometimes, and children running around, and you can bring dogs in here. "I try to make it very relaxed and do whatever we can do to break down the stereotypes." The Henry Hate and Mark Illuminati exhibition is on display at Urban Antidote now.



Urban Antidote in Leicester's St Martin's Square (Image: Leicester Mercury / Chris Gordon)

VAL Leads Volunteers' Week Celebrations Week in Leicestershire

The Voluntary Action Leicestershire team is planning a packed week of activities to say thank you for the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across both local communities and the UK. Running from Saturday 1st – Friday 7th June 2019, VAL's Volunteers' Week celebrations will kick off in style at the Leicester Riverside Festival. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet some of the VAL team, who will be promoting and showcasing volunteering at the event. As the week progresses, sessions will be running in Leicester city centre, Hinckley, Loughborough and Ashby, providing information on volunteering within the respective communities and celebrating the amazing work volunteers do. There will be workshops, 'speed networking' and the opportunity to meet

representatives from local charities and organisations. VAL will be celebrating their own volunteers with a shared lunch, where VAL staff will have the opportunity to personally show their appreciation for the great work volunteers do within the organisation.

Kevin Allen-Khimani, Executive Manager – Public Sector Contracts and Projects at VAL says: “The theme of this year’s Volunteers’ Week is ‘Time to Celebrate’ and we feel like this is very apt. Volunteers are quite often the unsung heroes within the charity sector and the truth is, the sector wouldn’t be able to function without them. “We are proud to be able to play a part in providing support and advice to our amazing volunteers and are very much looking forward to celebrating them all throughout Volunteers’ Week. It’s also the perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer to find out more about opportunities in their local area.” VAL has been helping volunteer and community groups to thrive for over fifty years and across a range of services encompassing education, employment, support and funding for some of the hardest to reach and most marginalised people in society. In 2018, VAL contributed £4.1 million to the local economy through helping 177 people into work and £1.62 million in funding for local voluntary groups through its services.

VAL Brews up Funding for Local Charity’s ‘Eric & Ernie’ Initiative

When local homeless charity The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope were looking to explore new funding opportunities they asked VAL, the Leicestershire charity that not only gets people into volunteering but helps community groups and organisations thrive through helpful advice, introductions and mentoring. The Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) team has provided vital support to the charity by enabling them to secure £30,000 of investment for an additional mobile coffee wagon. Ernie - the original mobile coffee wagon - was believed to be the first of its kind in the charity sector outside of London. He is a converted milk float that was generously donated to the charity by local dairy, Kirby & West, who later donated an old ice cream trailer which is now called Eric.

Based on Melton Street in Leicester, The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope has been helping homeless people to turn their lives around since 2009 by providing up to 100 early breakfast servings for rough sleepers per week and almost 10,000 meals per year to the homeless and vulnerable alongside a range of specialist support services including mentoring and mental health wellbeing. Like most charities, The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope is restrained by finances. Although successful at bidding for new projects, funding core costs is impossible. Always keen to explore new funding opportunities, the charity attended VAL’s annual Funding Fair, where local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations can learn more about how to seek support to find funding.

The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope were introduced to the Key Fund, a social investor that provides flexible grant and loan packages to support VCS organisations, social enterprises and charities. Keith Lawson-West, Trustee at The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope says: “We wanted to set up a social enterprise to cover our core costs. VAL was pivotal to this vision by introducing us to Key Fund. With their help, we got our social enterprise – ‘The Bridge to Hope’, a wholly-owned Community Interest Company (CIC) – up and running quickly. “They’ve supported us in setting up a mobile coffee wagon to help raise funds and we’ve also converted an ice-cream trailer to a second coffee wagon.”

Kevin Allen-Khimani, Executive Manager – Public Sector Contracts and Projects at VAL says: “It’s a privilege to work with charities such as The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope and provide them with the advice and contacts to support their fundraising initiatives. “What drew us to the mobile coffee wagons in particular was the fact that all proceeds from the sales go straight back in to the charity.

Everyone buying from them not only gets a perfectly brewed cup of coffee, but is safe in the knowledge that they are playing their part in helping Leicester's homeless community."

All proceeds from sales go towards supporting the various specialist services offered by the charity for the city's homeless community. VAL have been helping volunteer and community groups to thrive for fifty years and across a range of services encompassing education, employment, support and funding for some of the hardest to reach and most marginalised in society. In 2018 VAL contributed £4.1 million to the local economy through helping 177 people into work and £1.62 million in funding for local voluntary groups through its services.



To find out how your business, charity or group could value from talking to VAL contact them on 0116 257 5050 or visit <https://valonline.org.uk/> For more information on The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope, visit www.bridgeleicester.org.

University of Leicester launches gin made with ingredients from its Botanic Garden

Just in time for World Gin Day, the University of Leicester has released its own gin, made with ingredients from its Botanic Garden in Oadby. The gin is named '1921', which was the year the university enrolled its first students. The release is the result of a collaboration between chemistry students at the University of Leicester and the award-winning distillers of Burleighs Gin, 45 West Distillers. Its signature flavours come from a range of ingredients found in the botanic garden, including pepper, spices, chamomile, thyme, elderberry and orange. Created under the watchful eye of head distiller Ed Gibson, the bespoke drink uses science and creativity to create what is described as "the perfectly balanced gin".



Manufactured at 45 West's Leicestershire distillery, the gin is now available to buy at 45 West, the Gin School and 45 St Martin's in Leicester. The limited edition gin, which costs £35 for a 70cl bottle, is also available to buy online here. Members of the public can explore the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, where the ingredients found in the gin are grown, for free seven days a week. The garden is located in Glebe Road, Oadby, and is open from 10am to 4pm (5pm in British Summertime). The launch of the gin is part of a series of celebrations planned by the university in advance of its centenary in 2021.

Iconic portrait of King Richard III goes on display at New Walk Museum

The 16th century portrait of Richard III, by an unknown artist, has been loaned to the city of Leicester. It is part of the National Portrait Gallery's Coming Home project, which sees it loan 50 portraits of iconic individuals to the places they are most closely associated with. The portrait – which measures around 25" x 18" – shows a head and shoulder view of the king, who appears to be placing a ring on the little finger of his right hand.

Painted in oils on an oak panel, the painting is one of the primary portraits of King Richard III. The portrait of King Richard III will be on display at New Walk Museum until September 22. It will be supported by an exhibition



created by members of the Roots Group, a group of volunteers formed with the support of the Journeys Festival international team. Made in partnership with the King Richard III Visitor Centre and Leicester Cathedral, the exhibition will also consider the king's legacy to the city of Leicester.

City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "Since the remains of the last Plantagenet king of England were discovered and reinterred in Leicester Cathedral, there's been huge interest in the story of King Richard III. "The Coming Home project will now give people in Leicester the chance to see one of the finest portraits of the king for themselves – and it's a portrait that they will probably instantly recognise. "This is a great opportunity to see the real thing - here, in the city where he's buried – and we're very grateful to the National Portrait Gallery for making this loan possible."

Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Dr Nicholas Cullinan, added: "We are delighted to lend Richard III to Leicester's New Walk Museum as part of our exciting new Coming Home initiative. "We hope that sending portraits 'home' in this way will foster a sense of pride and create a personal connection for local communities to a bigger national history; thus helping us to fulfil our aim of being truly a national gallery for everyone, in our role as the nation's family album." In total, the National Portrait Gallery's Coming Home initiative will see 50 portraits from the national collection travel to towns and cities across the UK.

A portrait of William Wilberforce – who led Britain's campaign to abolish slavery – will go on display in Hull, the place of his birth, David Hockney's Self-Portrait with Charlie will be shown at the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery in the artist's hometown of Bradford, while a photographic portrait of Sheffield-born athlete Jessica Ennis-Hill will go on loan to Museums Sheffield. Coming Home is supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, by generous contributions from The Thompson Family Charitable Trust, and by funds raised at the gallery's Portrait Gala in 2017.

Awards and Accolades

Knight and Garter named best in the East Midlands

City centre pub Knight and Garter has been named best pub and bar in the East Midlands. The Hotel Street venue picked up the accolade at the grand final of The National Pub and Bar Awards 2019. Knight and Garter had already been named as the Leicestershire winner. The popular city centre venue (formerly Molly O'Grady's) opened in May 2017, after six months and a £1.4 million refurbishment.

Talking about the award win, Sam Hagger, The Beautiful Pub Collective said: "It's an absolute delight to win this award, voted by members of the industry we are all so proud to be a part of. "Ultimately though, it's the amazing people that continue to come through our doors and support our independent business that make us what we are." The National Pub and Bar Awards grand final was hosted by restaurant critic Jay Rayner, and saw 15 regional winners announced, as well as the overall National Pub and Bar of the Year.

Leicester Mercury Top 200 Companies List 2019

The annual list of Leicestershire's Top 200 companies was published on Tuesday 18 June. Listed are the county's biggest businesses by turnover, painstakingly drawn up by the business team at De Montfort University. The results paint a strong picture of how the local economy is faring. The combined income of the 10 biggest business stands at a not inconsiderable £21.5 billion. Together they employ in the region of 88,000 people. The last few months might not have been plain sailing for the UK industry, but the top 10 companies have grown revenues by around £1.5 billion in the year. For a full list of companies please visit: <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/revealed-2019-leicester-mercury-top-2990027>.

Interstate Hotels and Resorts - General Manager of the year

Steven Coulam, General Manager at Holiday Inn Leicester has been awarded General Manager of the year – full service by Interstate Hotels and resorts. Steve is a true leader in his hotel and beyond. His team are seen as “go to” individuals when support is required, and he has heavily impacted meetings and events operations throughout Interstates portfolio and continues to drive results through his commitment to his brand. Congratulations Steve on your extraordinary achievement.



Festivals and Events

Riverside Festival, 1-2 June 2019

Thousands of people headed to the banks of the Soar to soak up the atmosphere of Leicester's Riverside Festival. The free celebration of live music, arts, food and, of course, boating spread out across Bede Park, the DMU campus, Castle Gardens and along the banks of the river. The street market area along the Mile Straight was heaving and the river itself has been busy with boat rides. The city council-run festival, now in its 22nd year.



Eid celebrations 2019, Victoria Park

Thousands of people attended Leicester's Eid Festival on Victoria Park on Tuesday 4 June. Eid-al-Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan and the date is determined by the first sight of the crescent moon, marking the next month in the Islamic calendar.

As well as being a special day out for families in Leicester, the Eid Festival is also crucial to vulnerable members of the community and those who may otherwise be spending Eid alone. Mohammed Fahim, 25, is the founder of the charity One Love Leicester and was spending time with Syrian refugees at the event. He said: "This is better than just going to the mosque, there's a mix of people here and these refugees don't have anyone to celebrate with so this is nice for them." Khamis Maouf came to the UK to seek refuge three years ago. "I have the chance to meet people from other cities who come here and this is special for us, we don't just have to stay at home," he said. "I feel at home here." Khamis added.

Professor Green among final Gigs in the Gardens acts announced by De Montfort Hall

De Montfort Hall has revealed the final acts for its Gigs in the Gardens series of events this summer. London rapper Professor Green will complete the bill for Saturday, August 17, joining Busted and Scouting For Girls. Meanwhile, Scottish singer-songwriter Nina Nesbitt joins the line-up on Sunday, August 25, when Years & Years and Jax Jones will also be performing. They join a host of artists booked to perform in the gardens of the historic De Montfort Hall during the final two weeks of August. Kaiser Chiefs, The Vaccines and The Twang will appear on Sunday, August 18, Bugzy Malone, YxngBane and Wretch 32 will perform on Friday, August 16 and Friday, August 23, will see DJ sets from Groove Armada, Pete Tong and Danny Howard.

On Saturday, August 24, BBC Music Introducing will be hosting up and coming artists from the East Midlands, while on Monday, August 26, Bardi Symphony Orchestra will bring the summer series to a close with a family friendly concert of film and stage classics, concluding with a spectacular firework display. De Montfort Hall general manager Antony Flint said: "These last couple of acts round off an exceptional and varied set of line-ups, which we hope will prove popular with a wide range of music audiences. "After considerable investment in our outdoor infrastructure, we're delighted to again share larger scale outdoor concerts with a wider musical public, who we are sure will find the gardens of De Montfort Hall just as welcoming as the hall itself."



Major improvement works were undertaken last summer meaning the grounds can now host large scale concerts much more easily than before. Tickets are on sale now from Ticketmaster, See, Gigantic and De Montfort Hall. For further information please visit:

http://www.demontforhall.co.uk/?cat_id=1&level=1.

De Montfort Hall Gardens

Leicester's National Space Centre is holding a sleepover to celebrate 50th anniversary of Moon landing

Leicester's National Space Centre is giving you the chance to spend the night in its galleries, have exclusive access to the centre after hours and take part in lunar mission workshops. This is all part of a special Apollo Sleepover, to mark the 50th anniversary of humankind first landing on the Moon . It will take place on Saturday, July 20 - which is exactly 50 years to the day since Neil Armstrong stepped on to the Moon. The visitor attraction promises an exciting event, full of activities, workshops, talks, breakfast and, of course, a very unusual place to sleep. This will be a special evening beneath the stars, with no chance of rain. The evening starts with an Apollo 11 themed Space Lates, with an additional optional sleepover package available.

Here's the activities you can enjoy:

- Pop-up science around the centre
- Try some astronaut ice cream
- Silent 60s disco
- Fashion show - with prizes
- Explosive live science show
- Apollo Astronaut Encounter - with professional spacesuit maker Stephen Wisdom
- Expert talks including Apollo artefacts with collector Mark Yates and From the Moon to Mars with NASA ambassador Jason-Flor Sisante
- As live landing - original footage of Apollo 11 landing on the Moon
- Storytime - The Very Hungry Caterpillar

At 11pm, the exhibition will be turned off and the galleries will be opened for you to pick your sleeping space for the night. If you want to stay awake until Neil steps out onto the lunar surface, then sleepover activities include:

- Games Café
- One Giant Leap - as live footage of the first footstep on the Moon
- Breakfast

Tori Tasker, public engagement manager at the National Space Centre, said: "It's the perfect experience for families and friends to celebrate all things Apollo, 50 years on from the Moon landings. "This is going to be the biggest and best Space Lates of the year, packed with activities for anyone with an interest in NASA's Apollo programme." Tickets for the Space Lates event only (6pm-9.30pm) are £15, and for the Space Lates event and sleepover are £40 for adults, £30 for children (must be 6+). For further information, please visit: <https://spacecentre.co.uk/event/apollo-11-space-lates-and-sleepover/>.

Cosplay and comic book show Leicester Comic Con attracts thousands to 5th annual event

Fans of comic books and all things sci-fi and supernatural gathered in the city centre for the fifth annual Leicester Comic Con on June 8 and 9. More than 2,500 people attended the convention at The Athena. Organiser Richard Tewkesbury said: "We had about 1,600 on the Saturday. They were queuing all the way past the car park in Rutland Street. I expect we do at least another 1,200 on the second day. "People come from all over Leicestershire and elsewhere in the country."



Leicester Comic Con at Athena

Highlights of this year's event included props such as the Batmobile from the Christopher Nolan Batman films, the Emperor's throne from Return of the Jedi, a giant Star Wars Hoth wampa and about 40 traders selling all sorts of merchandise, art and other things. Events over the weekend included cosplay competitions, drawing workshops, computer game sessions and talks.

Leicester Business Festival propels into fifth year

Applications to run an event in the 2019 Leicester Business Festival are now open on the official LBF website www.leicesterbusinessfestival.com and businesses have until 4 September to get their events in. Anyone can apply to run an event in the Festival - which can be about anything so long as it stands to benefit other businesses by creating a forum where others can listen, learn, share, engage, engage, network, question or debate. As well, the Festival provides the region's strength and placement in innovation, commerce and culture. The Leicester Business Festival, headline partnered by Leicester Castle Business School, is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, having been established in 2015 by the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

Alister de Ternant, managing director of Associate Events has been involved in the Business Festival from inception. He said, "When we first talked about the business festival concept nearly six years ago now, never in our wildest dreams did we imagine it would be so successful so quickly. There was obviously an appetite from the business community for engagement and growth "Leicester is by far the biggest business festival and it is the second largest B2B [Business to Business] event in the UK. With an average of 7,000 attendees each year, it has continued on a journey of success - both in itself and for the region. It has brought together like-minded people who all share a passion for the region and who know the benefits of working here.

Scott Charlish, head of East Midlands Financial Planning at wealth management firm, Brewin Dolphin is Chair of the LBF steering group. He said, "It's exciting time for the Business Festival having reached the big five-year mark. This is regarded as quite a milestone in business survival rate terms. "We've got lots of great plans in the pipeline for the Festival, but right now, we would like businesses – large or small to get involved – and there are many ways to do so, whether this is partnering, sponsoring, running one, two or several events, or being a venue host. "I would encourage people to look at the website for more information. Anyone thinking of running an event should start forming ideas as soon as possible. Even though there are over two months to get applications in, this time will fly by!"

Two workshops about how to host an event in the Business Festival are being run to help businesses understand the process and how to get the best out of their event within the Festival. The first of these is on Tuesday 2 July, from 10am to 12 noon at the Harborough Innovation Centre in Market Harborough. The second is the day after, on Wednesday 3 July, from 3pm to 5pm at De Montfort University's Leicester Castle Business School. These are both available to book onto through the

Business Festival website www.leicesterbusinessfestival.com where there is also lots more information, or by contacting Sarah Johnson at hello@leicesterbusinessfestival.com.

For more information on Festivals and Events please visit: <http://www.visitleicester.info>

Get in Touch

If you know someone who would like to receive this report, please send contact details to gitte.magielse@leicester.gov.uk.

If you have news about your own business or industry for inclusion in these reports, would like further information or if I can help you in anyway, then please do get in touch. My contact details are as follows:

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