

FOR THE DISTRICT OF BLABY

contact

Fosse Park West

Also inside:
Community Volunteer Week
Flooding guide

REGISTER FOR THE LATEST
NEWS ALERTS:

www.blaby.gov.uk/sign-up



Blaby District Council
the heart of Leicestershire

WELCOME

Welcome to the spring edition of Contact, the magazine for residents of Blaby District.



Blaby District Council
Offices will be closed to
the public:

Friday 10 April

Monday 13 April

**Friday 08 May
(VE Day Bank Holiday)**

Monday 25 May

Find what you're
looking for at:

www.blaby.gov.uk

Emergency contact number
when offices closed:

0844 736 9545

(calls cost 5p per minute plus your
telephone network's access charge)

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Find out more at:

www.blaby.gov.uk/doyourbit
0116 272 7530



Get in touch with the right people this spring:

Bus passes • Grass cutting • Road and pavement repairs
Whetstone Tip • Street lighting • Blue badges

**Please contact the County Council
on:**

0116 305 0001

or visit **www.leicestershire.gov.uk**



OTHER FORMATS

Contact is available on request in other languages and formats including large print, CD or Braille by contacting:

Communications Team, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road,
Narborough, Leicester LE19 2EP

Tel: 0116 272 7577 Fax: 0116 275 0368 Minicom: 0116 284 9786

Email: public.relations@blaby.gov.uk

COMMENT

Supporting our Communities

Mariana Burns from Leicester Marriott Hotel tells Contact why the hotel has been keen to get involved with the Council's Community Volunteer Week.



The Marriott Hotel is one of the most recognisable landmarks in the district. If you've walked or driven around the Junction 21 area you'll probably have seen our building standing proud on the edge of Grove Park.

It takes hundreds of staff based across the district and beyond to help us be a success, and as part of this success we have supported local charities and communities since the hotel opened in 2006. In the past two years we have taken an active part in Blaby District's Community Volunteer Week.

Why do we do it? It's always been important for us to give something back and make a positive impact on groups and organisations who make such an important contribution to the local area. It's also a fantastic teambuilding opportunity, too, and a chance for people from different areas of the hotel to get to know each other.

We first got involved with Community Volunteer Week 2018 with a visit to Danemill Primary School, spending several hours clearing the overgrown outdoor area. The school wanted the pupils to have an area to relax and to

grow their own vegetables and we were so pleased to see our work had helped this. By the time we'd finished it was nice and clear, with pupils ready to learn about all different vegetables.

Last year's event saw more of our team head out as part of Community Volunteer Week as we helped out at Huncote Primary School. This time we got out the paintbrushes to help spruce up the playschool area with some vibrant and happy colours.

Whilst painting the area in Huncote, we were approached by many residents of the village commenting on the work we were doing.

It was not just great fun, the whole experience gave us a sense of appreciation and achievement. We all felt proud after our participation and making a contribution to the district. We're looking forward to doing so in June as we join Community Volunteer Week once again.

Mariana

CONTENTS

News 4 - 5

- Including: Beat the Street returns; Register to vote; District tourism to grow; Lottery funding to restore ice house; Blaby delivers new Iceland store

Community 6 - 7

- Community Volunteer Week

Services 8 - 9

- Managing flood risk

Heritage 10 - 11

- Nurturing our heritage

Environment 13

- Sprucing garden waste payments
- Pick up your litter fighting kit!

Development 13

- Fosse Park on track

Health and Leisure 14

- Crossing the finishing line

What's on 15

Event Hire 16

- Blaby District Council's event equipment hire service





BEAT THE STREET RETURNS

Walk, cycle and scan your way to victory

The biggest game in the District is back for 2020 as Beat the Street, the fun, free challenge to explore the area by walking and cycling returns. Nearly 11,000 people played last year, racking up over 93,000 miles!

Schools, businesses, community groups and individuals can take part to win prizes.

Visit

www.beatthestreet.me/blaby

for leaderboards, maps and
information on the game!



Beat the Street Blaby



@ BTSBlaby



@ BTSBlaby



How does it work?

Pick up a card and map from a distribution point (**find one at www.beatthestreet.me/blaby**)

Tap at least two beat boxes in an hour to record one journey

Choose from the 105 beat boxes in the district and keep tapping until 08 April!



Prizes on offer

First
prize:

**£250 OF
VOUCHERS!**

"Lucky Tap" winners
who can win Love to
Shop vouchers!

DID YOU KNOW?

The air quality of a selection of schools was monitored during last year's Beat the Street, with results showing a small improvement in air quality, as parents played the game by walking to and from school!

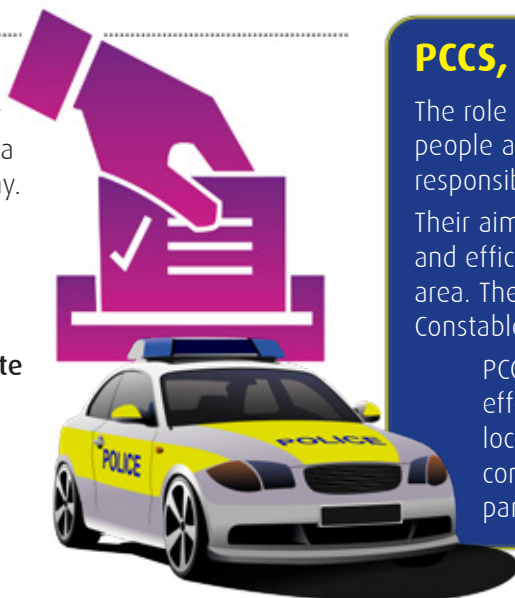
Funding for Beat the Street has come from Blaby District Council, DEFRA, Choose How You Move, Canal and River Trust and Sport England

REGISTER TO VOTE

PCC election to take place in May

Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Leicestershire policing area take place on Thursday 07 May.

Anyone not currently registered to vote, or changed name, address or nationality will need to visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote before Tuesday 21 April to ensure their details are correct. The postal vote application deadline is Wednesday 22 April.



PCCS, WHAT'S THEIR ROLE?

The role of PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for all aspects of policing.

Their aim is to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area. They are elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the local force to account.

PCCs ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible, seek to improve local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust and work in partnership with range of agencies.



Register to view your Council Tax online now at:
www.blaby.gov.uk/myaccount

news • 5

District tourism to grow

Plans approved to boost local economy by £50m

Bringing £159m to the local economy every year, Blaby District has quietly become one of Leicestershire's tourism hotspots.

An ambitious and comprehensive Tourism Growth Plan from Blaby District Council is designed to continue the growth of tourism in the district. Stretching from Sharnford to Glenfield, there are 19 attractions currently part of the Blaby District Tourism Partnership.

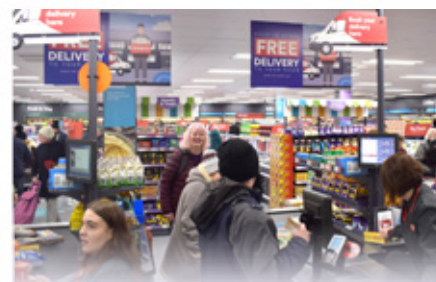
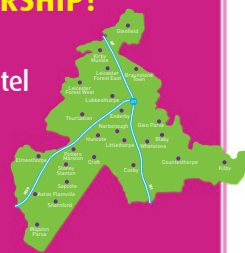
The plan will look to increase the number of visitors to the district by 1.3m, boost tourism-related jobs by 40% and grow the district's tourism market by £50m over the next five years.

WHO'S IN THE BLABY TOURISM PARTNERSHIP?

Partners include:

- Leicester Marriott Hotel
- Fosse Park
- Glenfield Tunnel
- Attfields Farm
- Rutland Cycling
- Stoney Cove National Diving Centre

Find all attractions at www.visitblaby.org.uk



ICELAND DELIVERS NEW STORE TO BLABY

New store part of the town centre's revitalisation

The newest addition to Blaby Town Centre, Iceland opened at the end of January. The supermarket moved into the former home of Waitrose as one of 45 new Iceland and The Food Warehouse stores that the company is launching across the country.

A High Street Co-ordinator has also been appointed to continue Blaby District Council's commitment in supporting local business and enriching the economy of the district.

Blaby Antiques Centre, located in the old British Legion building on Sycamore Street, has also opened after moving from their previous location in Leicester City.

LOTTERY FUNDING TO RESTORE ICE HOUSE

Much-loved heritage monument to get renovations

More than £155,000 has been awarded to Blaby District Council by The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of an exciting project to restore and explore the history of the Ice House on Bouskell Park in Blaby.

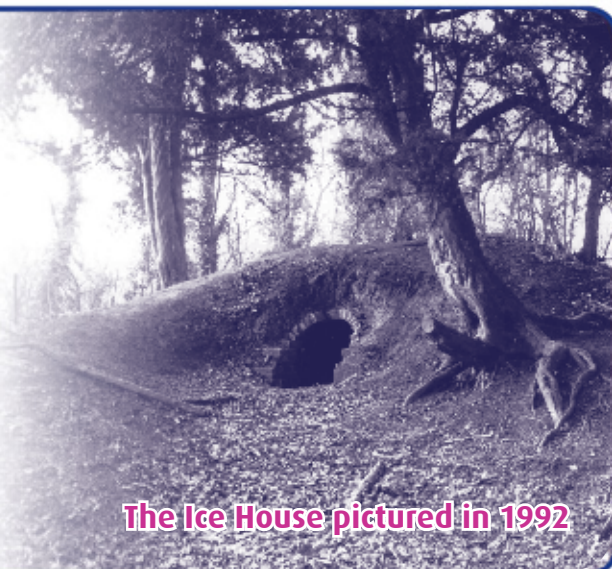
£156,000 in funding towards a £173,000 project has been awarded to restore the Ice House to its former glory, which will help to preserve its structure and heritage for the future.

As part of the works, a two-day community archaeological dig will also be organised, enabling hands-on learning for both local volunteers and schools.

Keep a lookout for updates on the exciting project at www.blaby.gov.uk and on Facebook and Twitter @BlabyDC

WHAT IS AN ICE HOUSE?

Dating back to around 1843, the Grade II Listed Ice House was the storage facility for the Victorian manor house, Blaby Hall. A popular method to store ice from the nearby lake the Ice House was an important addition to the estate, but the full historical and archaeological features remain relatively hidden.



The Ice House pictured in 1992

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WEEK

Set over two summery weeks in June, Blaby District Council and local businesses head out into the district to support Community Groups with various projects. Contact looks at one of the best fortnights in the Blaby District Council calendar

What is Community Volunteer Week?

Now in its fourth year, Community Volunteer Week started as an idea for volunteers from the Council to go into the community and support various projects. Its success has seen it grow into an annual two-week event that supports many local voluntary groups across the district on various projects.

Local businesses, including Everyone Active, the Marriott Hotel and Everards have taken part in Community Volunteer Week, with businesses invited to join in again as 2020's week nears.

What kind of work takes place?

You name it, the volunteers will do it! Volunteering has included:

- Painting
- Administration work
- Helping at lunch clubs
- Tidying/sprucing outdoor space
- Delivering newsletters/leaflets
- Mock Interviews
- Creating a sensory wall



Volunteers even helped build a "Bug Hotel" at Thistly Meadow Primary School (right).

What they said:

Community Harvest Whetstone:

“It was another great day of getting something achieved that we wouldn't have got round to otherwise. Thanks for organising it.”

St. Crispin's Lunch Club:

“The volunteers have all been really interested in our project, which was refreshing. They have been so much help, everyone has enjoyed their company and it's given some volunteers chance to have time off!”



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WEEK – IN NUMBERS:



332 – Number of staff who have taken part

1,154 – Volunteering hours completed

56 – Local community groups supported

6 – Local businesses involved



ER WEEK



Case Study

Everyone Active helped out last year, supporting Braunstone Community Life. Lin Burrows talks about the difference they made

"We were planting a Memorial Garden to an area of land in front of our new War Memorial and we needed some help in digging the ground over and planting the garden, then laying a protective layer of gravel over this.

"The volunteers from Everyone Active couldn't have been more cheerful or helpful. We had a problem when the right amount of gravel hadn't been delivered and half a ton of extra gravel had to be fetched on a truck. This couldn't be driven directly to where it was needed, so the women from Everyone

Active climbed onto the back of the truck and shovelled it into wheelbarrows!

"The men moved 1.5 tons of gravel that day and enjoyed themselves, laughing and joking all the time they were there. Our people really enjoyed themselves as well.

"I wouldn't hesitate to ask for them again, they were great!"



Get involved!

If you're a Community Group looking for help on a project, or a business looking to get involved with Community Volunteer Week and helping in your local area, email strategic.partnerships@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 275 0555.



Managing flood

Several areas of the district are flood risk areas. Contact takes a look at the roles and responsibilities of what happens when there's a flood

Flooding is a major element of Blaby District Council's resilience work. The effects of flooding in the District are reduced with work taking place to identify potential flood situations and working with the Environment Agency and Leicestershire Flood Working Group to co-ordinate flood prevention works.

District Council's Responsibilities:

- ✓ Hold a Flood Plan for the local area
- ✓ Open and staff rest centres where needed
- ✓ Arranging temporary accommodation for anyone left homeless without insurance
- ✓ Liaise with Flood Warden and checking flood risk areas when flood alerts issued
- ✓ Organise waste removal from any properties with flood damage
- ✓ Assists vulnerable residents with **sandbags**

Flood notifications

Check the flood risk for your home/local area:

www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Sign up for flood notifications:




www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

Sign up for email alerts/updates for flooding incidents in the area:

www.blaby.gov.uk/sign-up

Sandbags

Blaby District Council has a limited supply of sandbags and can only use them to protect:

-  Life and important buildings such as substations
-  The elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents
-  Access for emergency vehicles

Sandbags and other flood protection products can also be bought from DIY stores or building merchants.

www.bluepages.org.uk has information on flood products to help reduce the risk of flooding to your home or business.



risk

The clearing
of storm drains is
the responsibility
of Leicestershire
County Council.

These can be reported at:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/drains

Know the risk

The Environment Agency issues three different types of warning for at-risk areas:



FLOOD WARNING
Flooding is expected.
Immediate action required



FLOOD ALERT
Flooding is possible.
Be prepared



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING
Severe flooding.
Danger to life

Flood Wardens

A local flood warden is a volunteer in the local community who is the eyes and ears of local community. They help to prevent flooding and respond to any incidents should they occur, playing an important role and receive direct flood warnings. Flood wardens work alongside Blaby District Council and Leicestershire County Council, as well as the Environment Agency.

What do they do?

Flood wardens roles can include:

- ✓ Reporting blocked watercourses, drains and gullies
- ✓ Preparing for flooding events
- ✓ Helping vulnerable people who may need extra help
- ✓ Receiving and passing flood and weather warnings to the local community
- ✓ Helping to create local Community Response Plan

Do you want to help?

Your involvement in flooding situations can range from being a trained Flood Warden to helping set up a rest centre or even making tea and coffee for any displaced residents. Your assistance makes a huge difference to the community. If you're interested in getting involved please contact emergency. management@leics.gov.uk or call 0116 232 3232.

Remember

Not every area of the district is at risk of flooding. Detailed maps and information are held for the areas most at risk, these include those close to the River Soar and River Sence.



NURTURING OUR

The District of Blaby is made up of thriving communities and is a great place to live, work and visit. With some villages mentioned in the Domesday book, the rich history of the area dates back hundreds of years.

From Glenfield to Sapcote, voluntary heritage groups have worked hard to preserve our history, telling us about our local area and where we came from. Take a look at some of the old images they have, as well as information about the heritage groups.

Blaby Heritage and Museum Society

This picture of Northfield Road dates back to 1910. The road was planned and built in the late 1800s, with a copy of the original surveyor's map, showing existing landowners.

Images from "Reminiscences and Pictures of Old Blaby" by Shirley Smith

Contact the group:
Pat Troake
0116 277 1055



Then



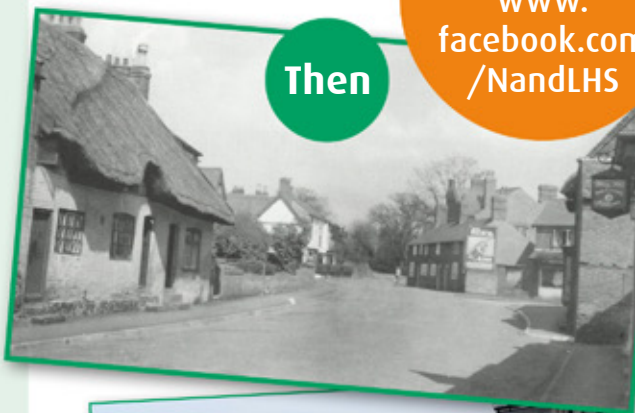
Narborough and Littlethorpe Heritage Society

This picture of Leicester Road is from around 1905, with the Bell Inn to the right. The Cottages on the left no longer exist, neither does the advert for "Albion Bleach!"

Image from "Narborough and Littlethorpe: A Revised Parish History" by R.P. Jarrett

Contact the group:
www.facebook.com/NandLHS

Then



Now



Glen Parva

Showing the old "Union Inn" this is at the junction of Leicester Road/Little Glen Road back in the early 1920s. the Union Inn was demolished for the County Arms in 1936 and is now a retirement complex.

Then



Now



HERITAGE

Contact takes a look at the groups who enable us to remember the history of the district.

Sapcote Heritage Group

Showing the Working Men's Club in Sapcote from 1914, this image is of a relatively new building, having been built in 1910. The adjoining buildings are no longer standing, but the club still resembles the original construction 110 years on.

Contact the group:
Keith Hextall
01455 274662

Then



Now



Then

Braunstone Heritage and Archive Group

One of the most recognisable houses in Braunstone Town, Manor Farm still sits on the Braunstone Lane in the old village section. Grade II listed, it still looks the same today, even if the surroundings have changed. "Old Braunstone" across the road was in the district until 1927, before moving to the City Council.

Contact the group:
John Dodd
0116 299 7847

Now



Other groups

Cosby Heritage Society

Contact the group:

Michael Howkins (treasurer) 0116 286 4409

Glenfield Tunnel

Contact the group:

David Lyne: 0116 291 9706

Are you part of a group?

Join our Tourism Partnership and find out more by visiting www.visitblaby.org.uk

Sprucing garden waste payments

Payments for Garden Waste are changing. Find out more with a guide to making sure you're subscribed



What is changing?

- The Garden Waste payment period for everyone will run from 1 April - 31 March.
- You will need to subscribe annually to have your garden waste collected.
- Payment will be taken in advance by debit card or credit card. (no invoices).

- **Once paid a sticker will be sent which needs to be displayed on your bin**
- **Only bins with valid stickers will be emptied**

I've already got a Direct Debit!

Don't worry, all Direct Debit customers should have received a letter informing you of the change, and you won't need to do anything. Your payment was taken on 01 March and stickers sent out automatically.

What will it cost?

You will need to pay for your garden waste collection annually in advance for the new subscription period. You get a £2 discount if you subscribe online. Online prices start from £25.00 (including discount).

Garden waste is collected every two weeks March to November, and monthly December to February.



What's accepted in a garden bin:

- Grass cuttings
- Flowers and plants
- Weeds
- Small prunings
- Hedge clippings
- Leaves and bark

All accepted items collected from a garden waste bin is taken to local farmers, where it is composted and used on their own land.

Remember: There are no changes to the collection schedule. Find your collection dates at www.blaby.gov.uk/collections

Subscribe at www.blaby.gov.uk/garden-waste

PICK UP YOUR LITTER FIGHTING KIT!

Kits available to grab as spring gets underway

Volunteer groups, parish councils and individuals taking the time to litter pick in the district help to support Blaby District Council's litter picking work and keep neighbourhoods clean and tidy.


A number of litter picking groups have been set up across the district, including the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles (featured in Winter 2019.)

GET YOURS:

Email environmental.health@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 275 0555 to access litter picking support

You can get hold of a litter picking kit to help make a difference across the local area.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

-  Litter pickers
-  Bags
-  Gloves
-  High-visibility vests
-  Collection of the rubbish picked



Fosse Park on track

Take a look at the latest on Fosse Park's expansion

Opening in late 2020, the exciting new development at Fosse Park is continuing apace.

Anyone who has driven past the site will have seen the rapid progress of the development, which will cost owners The Crown Estate £168 million and increase the size of Fosse Park by 40% when completed.

Shops including Next and TK Maxx are committed to the expansion, with more than 45% of units already let. The 'older' part of Fosse Park will be given a facelift, with

shop front refurbishments and car park resurfacing.

Fosse Park's expansion has also seen local people gain valuable work-place knowledge to begin a career or use it as a stepping stone towards a permanent job, following an initiative led by Blaby District Council and partnered with the Crown Estate and Bowmer and Kirkland.



WATCH

Watch the flythrough video from the Crown Estate at:
www.blaby.gov.uk/fosse-park-west

FOSSE PARK WEST > GALLERY > GALLERY > GALLERY



A view from the new Fosse Food Central (the old Food Court entrance)



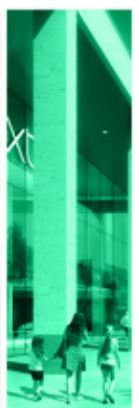
The new car park for Fosse Park West



Fosse Park West, with the anchor store, Next, on the left



Inside the new Food Central, which will contain many new food outlets

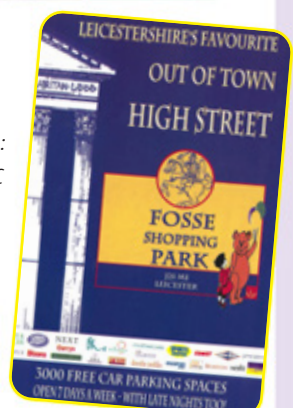


FOSSE PARK WEST

THE NUMBERS

- 8400** Tonnes of concrete re-used after demolishing Everards old Brewery
- 99** Percent of material from the demolished Food Court will be recycled
- 11** Million shoppers who visit Fosse Park each year
- 1,500** New retail and food business jobs to be created

Heritage:
A nostalgic look at an old Fosse Park advert from the early 1990s



Crossing the finish line

Enderby and Pavilion Refurbishments completed

With over £4.9m invested and several months of work, the state-of-the-art refurbishments to both Enderby Leisure Centre and the Pavilion Leisure Centre have been completed. The Pavilion Leisure Centre's £400,000 refurbishment was

completed before Christmas, and includes a refreshed, expanded gym area.






Enderby Leisure Centre's second phase of improvements includes a superb new entrance, café and reception. This follows their highly-

publicised first-phase, with a brand new spa area, gym extension and new sports hall floor.

Completion of the refurbishments was marked with two special open days in Huncote and Enderby at the end of January.

What's been included?

Pavilion Leisure Centre

-  Expansion and refurbishment of the gym
-  A brand new group cycling studio
-  Refurbishment of the group fitness studio
-  Refurbishment of the changing facilities
-  A brand new sports hall viewing lounge








Pavilion
gym
expansion
and refurb



What's been included?

Enderby Leisure Centre – Phase Two

-  Refurbishment of swimming pool
-  Brand new reception area
-  Refreshed front of building
-  Wet changing rooms refurbished
-  New café available and moved downstairs for easier access



New, more
accessible
café at
Enderby

Find class and membership information about both Leisure Centres and join at www.everyoneactive.com

Spring 2020

what's on • 15

Blaby Parish Council

Visit www.blabyparishcouncil.org for more info or call 0116 274 4728

Blaby Scarecrow Trail

22-28 June

Voting takes place during Blaby Summer Fun Day

Blaby Summer Fun Day

Sat 27 June

Noon-5pm - Oakfield Park



Glenfield Parish Council

VE Day Picnic

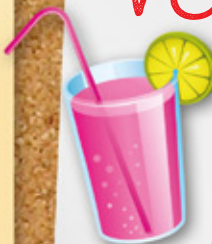
Saturday 09 May

Noon-4pm FREE!

In front of Park House, Stamford Street, LE3 8DL

Bring your own picnic and we'll supply the tables and chairs! Featuring a live jazz band/balloon modelling and bubble making for kids

Find more events at www.visitblaby.org.uk



ELMESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

For more info visit www.evfa.org.uk or call 01455 843 382 Bring your own drinks to all events!

INTO THE SHADOWS

Sat 21 March, 7:30pm

Tickets £14

Recreating the original sound of The Shadows. Close your eyes and you are there!

KELLY'S HEROES

Sat 18 April, 7:30pm

Tickets £12

A mix of fast and furious Celtic songs and tunes, gentle ballads and quality contemporary numbers

PLANT AND CRAFT SALE

Sat 16 May 9am-1pm

£1.50 inc cup of coffee!

A great opportunity to purchase your bedding plants, pot plants and hanging baskets plus a great selection of locally made crafts

Everly Brothers and Friends Tribute Show

Saturday 20 June, 7:30pm Tickets £15

Join real life brothers Colin and Steve Temple as they perform their Everly Brothers Tribute Show, known as the UK's leading Everly Brothers tribute act.

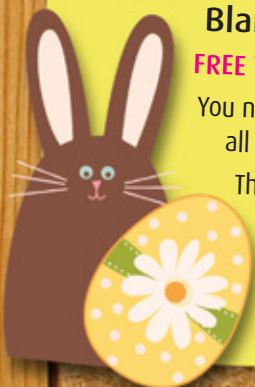
Blaby Bunny Hop

Blaby Town Centre • Saturday 11 April • 11am-3pm
FREE TO ENTER and FREE PARKING in Johns Court and Enderby Road.

You need to Spring into action and get your noses twitching to track down all the bouncy bunnies that are on the loose, out and about in Blaby.

There are 20 bunnies to find. If you spot one, go into the shop and ask them for a name sticker to help complete your tracker chart.

Once you have discovered all the bunnies, bounce on back to Edmonds and Slatter Opticians to collect your "sweet" reward (while stocks last) and pop your entry form into the postbox for a chance to win a great prize!



Leicester Huncote Hornets BMX

British Championships 2020

BMX Track at the Pavilion Leisure Centre, Huncote, LE9 3BN

28-31 August

More at www.leicesterhuncotehornets.com



Event

HIRE SERVICE

Check out our brilliant event equipment available to hire

5% discount when you book online!

Visit our website for more details:
blaby.gov.uk/event-hire

Or email: leisure@blaby.gov.uk

- Bubble Football
- Inflatable Gladiator Duel
- Bouncy Castle
- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Marquee
- Staging
- Sound System
- Arrows Archery
- Tri-Golf