

BIG IT UP BULLETIN

Major news and updates for Leicester and Leicestershire

MARCH 2011

Here is the latest update for Big It Up campaigners on major projects and good news stories for Leicester and Leicestershire, brought to you by Leicester Shire Promotions.

If you have any more Big It Up stories to tell of how you, your colleagues or organisation have championed the cause of Leicester and Leicestershire, please feed appropriate details through to Simon Gribbon at Leicester Shire Promotions on 0116 225 4001 or email simon.gribbon@l-p-l.com

Permanent home for Picasso art

Pottery by one of the greatest artists of the 20th century is to go on permanent display. An exhibition of Pablo Picasso ceramics, from the collection of Lord and Lady Attenborough, goes on show from April at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery in Leicester. Many of more than 40 works, which include the iconic Four Faces plate, are from the Attenboroughs' Richmond home and have not been seen before in public. A temporary exhibition of some of the works at New Walk, in 2007, was visited by more than 80,000 people.

Big boss named top 10 UK advertiser

The boss of a leading advertising agency has been named the 10th most influential person in UK marketing outside Greater London. Dylan Bogg, chief executive of Big Communications in Leicester, has moved up from last year's 53rd place in the index of marketing professionals outside the M25, known as the UK Power 100. Mike Phillipson, the firm's managing director, is in 77th position after not appearing in 2010. The list is based on an online poll.

National accolade for patient safety website

A city firm has won a national award for a website that helps to diagnose poorly children. OCB Media worked with University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust on the site, which won the Patient Safety in Diagnosis category at the Patient Safety Awards.

Business shortlisted for national tourism award

Hotel Maiyango and Restaurant in Leicester city centre has reached the finals of the prestigious National Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2011. Hotel Maiyango and Restaurant was shortlisted in the Taste of England category. Now in their 22nd year, the awards celebrate the finest tourism businesses in England.

Voted top university by students

Loughborough has again topped a student poll to find the UK's best university. For the fifth year running, the institution came first in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey of 13,000 undergraduates. Universities were rated on 21 different factors, from the quality of teaching to the social life on campus.

National hubs for manufacturing research

Loughborough University has been chosen to lead two of the nine new Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centres for Innovative Manufacturing, announced by the Universities and Science Minister, David Willetts MP. In addition to the EPSRC Centres - in Intelligent Automation and Additive Manufacturing - Loughborough is also involved as an academic partner in two of the other EPSRC Centres - in Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation, and Industrial Sustainability. It is envisaged that each of the EPSRC Centres will be the national 'hub' for research in its specific area.

Quality milestone for county schools

The number of schools in Leicestershire rated as good or outstanding - the highest two Ofsted categories - has reached 200. This is the first time this milestone has ever been reached. Nationally, there are fewer good or outstanding schools due to tougher Government inspections - but Leicestershire is bucking the trend with more success.

Elite hotelier wins US scholarship

A local hotel manager has won a place on a £10,000 scholarship in the United States. James Bowie, operations manager at The Belmont Hotel in Leicester, won a place on a fast-paced 10-day intensive course for hospitality managers at Cornell University in New York State. James is amongst 16 people selected from a field of more than 100 candidates to receive the scholarship funded jointly by the Savoy educational trust, the Worshipful Company of Innholders and the Master Innholders. Participants gain membership of an international network of elite hoteliers.

Burleigh Court is 'Best UK Conference Centre'

imago has taken home a trio of awards at the Meetings & Incentive Travel (M&IT) Awards 2011 for its four star venue, Burleigh Court. The awards, which are highly regarded in the industry as the winners are chosen by customer feedback and votes, named Burleigh Court the 'Best UK Conference Centre', with awards also won in the 'Best Conference and Banqueting Staff' and 'Best Academic Conference Venue' categories. This is the second year running that Loughborough-based imago has taken home the top title for 'Best UK Conference Centre' at the M&IT Awards, winning gold in this category and silver for Best Conference and Banqueting Staff in 2010.

For a third successive year, Leicester Conferences (the University's conference services) was also nominated for an M&IT award and managed to scoop silver in the category of 'Best Value for Money Conference Venue'.

Art installation on a budget best in region

An exhibition on the impact of deforestation, created by the University of Leicester student Katie Boyce, has won an award for excellence. Boyce's project *Roots*, at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry, won in the Best Exhibition on a Shoestring category in the Best of the West Awards. The competition is run by MLA Renaissance West Midlands, which celebrates the region's museums.

Hotel chosen to host first UK event

Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel was chosen to host the UK's first frozen food business conference, with VIP guest speaker, Alastair Campbell. Up to 300 people attended the British Frozen Food Federation (BFFF) event at the hotel, representing companies such as McCain and supermarket, Iceland.

Highest accolade for life-saving duo

Two employees from Reeds Health Club & Spa at the Best Western Hotel in Kegworth are to be recognised with STA's (Swimming Teachers' Association) highest honour, after helping to save a man's life when he stopped breathing whilst swimming at the centre's pool. Neil Hawsworth and Viorel Matei were nominated for the national award - the Association's highest accolade. Since the Roll of Honour was first created in 2007, only four presentations have been made to date prior to the Kegworth presentation.

Leading on heart attack genetic link discovery

The largest-ever study of its type into coronary heart disease, involving scientists from the University of Leicester, has uncovered 13 new genes that increase risk of heart attacks. Professor Nilesh Samani, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology at the University of Leicester, based at Glenfield Hospital, co-led the international research programme, called CARDIoGRAM.

Teacher training graded 'outstanding'

Loughborough University has received the highest possible grade from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) in a recent inspection of the University's secondary initial teacher training (ITT) provision. This is the third consecutive time since 2005 that the University's teacher training has been graded as 'outstanding' in the formal inspection process.

Top international recognition for university engineer

Professor Helen Atkinson from the University of Leicester has received yet another top recognition in her outstanding international career as a metallurgist and materials engineer. Professor Atkinson was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Liège in Belgium. She has already reached the top in the UK by receiving the highest honour an engineer can get, a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and being named as one of the UK's outstanding women by the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology.

National Gallery award for dance

Leicestershire-based community Dance in Education Company BLOOMdance has received another award to add to the accolades for its Artistic Director, Sue Rosenbloom. Now Sue has led St. Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School from Great Glen to win a prize in the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' competition, which saw the children beat off competition from over 230 other schools with a dance piece inspired by the picture 'Tobias and the Angel' by Verrocchio.

Boosting UK economy by £389 million each year

An independent economic impact report, carried out by Scottish firm Biggar Economics, has revealed that De Montfort University boosts the UK economy by a massive £389 million each year and creates more than 12,000 jobs. The university also benefits the Leicestershire economy to the tune of £255m and has created more than 8,000 jobs in the county.

World's first WVTa certified fuel cell vehicle

A fuel cell scooter developed in partnership with Intelligent Energy, the global clean power systems company that was originally a spin-out from Loughborough University, has obtained Whole Vehicle Type Approval (WVTa) - the first time any fuel cell vehicle has achieved this level of certification. WVTa qualifies the Suzuki Burgman Fuel Cell Scooter design as safe to use on public roads without having to be inspected and tested individually, and brings zero emission motorcycles a step closer to becoming commercially available.

And finally...

The Big It Up Bulletin is produced in conjunction with Leicester Mercury's 'The Business' supplement. For the latest business news in Leicester and Leicestershire, visit www.thisisbusiness-eastmidlands.co.uk/News/Leicestershire.aspx

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