

BIG IT UP BULLETIN

Major news and updates for Leicester and Leicestershire

MAY 2009

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

Leicester featured in Lonely Planet Guide

The new edition of the famous Lonely Planet 'Great Britain' guidebook has strongly recommended Leicester as a city to visit. In this 8th edition of the guide, Lonely Planet states that Leicester is: "filled with the sense of excitement that comes from a mix of cultures and ethnicities" and that "Leicester has a lot going on". In the guide's 'Great Britain barometer', Leicester was included in the 'Going Up' category as a "socially and environmentally progressive melting pot".

Highcross Leicester to create 250 jobs

Highcross Leicester retail and leisure complex is set to create 250 jobs with the opening of several new stores. Bosses of the £350 million centre said fashion stores Jack & Jones and Vero Moda would open on the ground floor near Reiss in the summer, while Canadian shoe store Aldo will occupy the vacant unit on the upper floor next to River Island in September. Mobile phone store Orange is to move to a bigger store in the new part of the mall.

Bosworth Battlefield wins museum 'Oscar'

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park has won a prestigious national award, known as the Oscars of the museum world. The Museums and Heritage Awards for Excellence recognise and celebrate best practice within the museum, gallery and heritage visitor industry across the UK. Bosworth Battlefield, run by Leicestershire County Council, won the Classic Award - which is open to any museum, gallery or heritage attraction that has been established for 10 years or more.

Local researchers create most accurate map in the world

The most accurate map ever produced of the world's land heights has been created by researchers at De Montfort University using data from several sources including NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) and several European satellites. The map will help scientists make better predictions about the impact of natural disasters such as avalanches, volcanoes and floods.

Local universities continue to rise in national rankings

Local universities continue to enhance their high profiles with high rankings for Loughborough University (10), the University of Leicester (15) and De Montfort University (77) in the 2009 Guardian University Guide. The University of Leicester was also ranked as the top university in the East Midlands by The Times newspaper's Good University Guide league table with a placing of 15, followed by Loughborough University at 17 and De Montfort University at 66.

More applying to study in city and county

More people are applying for university places in Leicester and Leicestershire than elsewhere in the country, recently-released figures show. Loughborough University and the University of Leicester have both seen an 18 per cent leap in applications for places, whilst De Montfort University has seen a 17 per cent increase. The figures are all above the national average of 8.8 per cent for students applying to start this autumn. De Montfort University is within the top 40 universities in terms of increase in applications whilst the University of Leicester has seen its applications for postgraduate courses rise by 46 per cent.

Comedy Festival chief to feature in 'dream job' book

A new book aimed at people who are stuck in a rut at work includes an interview with Geoff Rowe, Chief Executive of Leicester-based Big Difference Company - previously called Leicester Comedy Festival Ltd. 'Find Your Dream Job' is a book of inspiration for those looking to make major changes to their career and reveals real stories of people who have discovered or created pathways to their dream job. Geoff came up with the idea of the Comedy Festival in 1994 whilst he was a student at De Montfort University.

Student's designs go global

A mature student at De Montfort University has won the UK round of an international competition and will see her designs on the catwalk at Singapore's famous Raffles Hotel. Edrima Hanson, 44, from Lancashire is a second year Fashion and Contour Design student at DMU, and has been announced as the winner of the Heering Accessorize 2009 competition run by CHERRY HEERING® liqueur.

Hat-trick for LCFC

Leicester City Football Club has bagged a hat-trick of awards for hospitality this season at a recently-held ceremony in London. The club scooped Gold in the Director's Choice and Events Marketing categories, as well as a special achievement award.

Leicester's architecture honoured at prestigious awards

Three of Leicester's buildings have been recognised for making a substantial contribution to the local environment at the regional layer of the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) awards. The iconic Curve theatre - which has attracted over 90,000 visitors since it opened in November 2008 - was awarded along with the striking John Lewis/Cinema de Lux buildings at Highcross Leicester and the recently-refurbished David Wilson Library at the University of Leicester. All three buildings will now go through to the next stage of the national competition to find the RIBA Stirling Prize Building of the Year.

Leicester bids to be host city for 2018 FIFA World Cup

Leicester is to enter the selection process to become a host venue for England's proposed bid for the 2018 football World Cup. A delegation from Leicester - led by city council leader Cllr Ross Willmott and chairman of Leicester City Football Club Milan Mandaric - attended the official launch of England's bid and host city selection process for the FIFA World Cup 2018 at Wembley. Cities across the country will be considered as potential host venues for matches as the England bid is developed over the coming months.

Entrepreneurial students fly flag for Loughborough at national competition

A group of enterprising students from Loughborough University made it to the semi finals of the recent Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition. SIFE is a worldwide organisation that allows university students to use their talents and abilities to work on community projects that change lives. Loughborough's Steven Holmes, Rose-Marie Almond, Robert Stokes, James Connolly and Mike Colyer beat off 34 universities to earn a place at the semi finals and present their SIFE projects, which included teaching work-related skills to GCSE students and engagement with local elderly people to provide information and practical advice on energy conservation.

Leicester architect firm earns recognition

Local architectural and engineering firm Pick Everard was celebrating when two of its projects were 'Highly Commended' at the 2009 Institution of Civil Engineers' (ICE) East Midlands Merit Awards.

Local creativity flying sky high

Leicester-based Sheridan & Co has created a commercial for edgy cosmetics brand Urban Decay which will be aired on Thomson holiday flights this summer.

Leicester's Entropy shortlisted for major restaurant award

A city eatery has been named as The Good Food Guide readers' favourite restaurant in the Midlands. The regional title has been scooped by Entropy on Hinckley Road, Leicester. More than 23,000 people nominated their favourite regional establishment either by postcard or online. Entropy will now battle it out with nine other regional winners for the esteemed 'Good Food guide Restaurant of the Year' national accolade.

Kuma Studios' artwork goes worldwide

Two former De Montfort University students have been awarded a guest space in the forthcoming 'Darkstalkers Tribute' art book to be published by the people who brought us Street Fighter comic books. Martin Lewis and Pete Popham set up Kuma Studios at De Montfort University's Innovation Centre in Leicester in February 2008, a year after achieving 1st class honours degrees in graphic design and illustration. They were shortlisted from over 2,000 international artists to create the computer game inspired illustration for the book, featuring alongside international comic industry leaders.

Leicester home to happy families

According to a recent UK poll of 2,000 adults by food firm Dolmio, Leicester is one of the most 'family friendly' cities. The survey found 45 per cent of families regularly sit down together and eat an evening meal. The city came in second place, behind the Welsh town, Aberystwyth.

The East Midlands own version of Question Time comes to Leicester

The region's most lively debate show is to take place in Leicester. The latest Business & Politics show - often dubbed as a cross between Question Time and Have I Got News for You - is set to be filmed at Leicester's City Rooms. The show will feature Spitting Image writer, impersonator and satirist Steve Nallon as panel host for the evening. The impressive panellist list includes Shahid Sheikh, the outspoken MD of award-winning Midlands based Clifton Packaging Group, Chris Corbin, the enigmatic entrepreneur and founder of Ashfield In2 Focus, Andrew Bridgen of AB Produce and Parliamentary candidate for North Leicestershire and Geoff Burch, the star of BBC 2's hit business programme All Over The Shop.

Loughborough student nominated for design industry award

Loughborough University Illustration student Simon Yewdall has been nominated for one of the design and advertising industries' most prestigious prizes - the D&AD Student Awards. The awards showcase the best emerging creative talent from hundreds of colleges and universities around the globe and attract thousands of entries each year.

Hairy Bikers visit Stathern pub

The Red Lion Inn at Stathern saw a slice of real live TV action recently when the Hairy Bikers rode through the quiet country village for a whole day's filming for their new BBC2 TV series to be transmitted nationwide this autumn. The popular chefs, Dave Myers and Si King, both from the north of England, were filmed with the restaurant's Michelin-starred chef Sean Hope cooking local dishes from locally-sourced ingredients. The award-winning pub was also celebrating last month when it was revealed that the June 2009 edition of Olive has tipped the owner and landlord of the Red Lion Inn, Marcus Welford, as best up-and-coming pub landlord of the year.

Ellistown's Pall-Ex eyes major national award

Leicestershire-based pallet distribution firm Pall-Ex is a finalist in this year's National Business Awards regional programme. The Ellistown company is shortlisted for Business of the Year, while chief executive and founder Hilary Devey is up for Entrepreneur of the Year. Ms Devey appeared in Channel 4's Secret Millionaire show last year, where she went undercover in Rochdale's deprived Falinge Estate area, near to where she spent her childhood.

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