

# Newark and Sherwood News Journal

January 2022

the original GOOD news local paper

## Vibrant town centre sees footfall increase

RETAILERS and businesses have noticed a substantial increase in footfall and business vitality in Newark town centre due to activities funded by the Welcome Back Fund — according to the district council.

Footfall sensors in Newark have recorded an increase of 116% since July, with 146,700 visitors recorded as visiting Newark in October, mirroring sentiments observed by retailers and businesses in Newark.

In July, Newark and Sherwood District Council, as part of the Welcome Back Fund, allocated all town councils in the district funding to re-energise footfall and retail spend. Allocation of funding took into account size and population density. Using this funding, Newark Town Council has compiled and delivered a programme of entertainment to provide a unique experience for visitors when they come to Newark.

The programme has included nationally-acclaimed street performers and local musicians, focusing on Saturdays to create a buzz in the town centre to complement the Saturday market.

**Tom Blakemore**, owner of GH Porter Provisions, a deli and butchers shop in Newark, said: "Recent weekend street performers and live music have been fantastic. They have created a buzz in town and made Newark stand out as a fun place to visit.

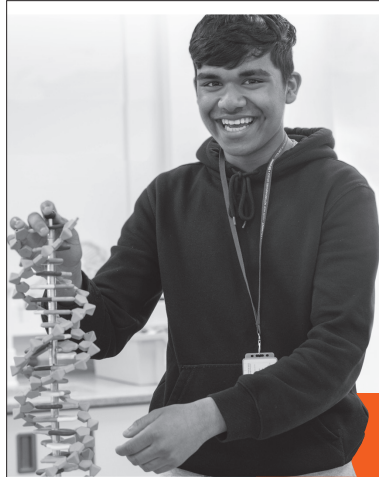


"Newark is such a beautiful town. The geography and architecture are awe-inspiring, and we have a fabulous mix of national chains and independent retailers. Our cafes and pubs are second to none, but visitors often need more. They expect "an experience" and want to be entertained. These initiatives do that!"

**Ian Harrison**, markets manager for the town council, added: "Since compiling and delivering this programme of entertainment in July, the atmosphere in

the town and particularly Newark Market Place has been buzzing. The increased footfall has attracted more market traders, with the Saturday market now often at 95% capacity.

"This activity has emphasised to us that the world has changed and visitors now expect more than just retail, they want an experience too. Once visitors have tasted the rich heritage of our town centre and the lively atmosphere in the marketplace on Saturdays, they are likely to return."



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# Streetlights upgraded to make communities safer

DOZENS of streetlights have been upgraded in parts of Newark under the Safer Streets scheme.

Older sodium lights have been replaced with LED on Bowbridge Road, Howes Court, Mill Gate, Vernon Avenue and Victoria Street thanks to work carried out by Via East Midlands, a company wholly-owned by Nottinghamshire County Council.

As well as helping residents feel safer, the 68 new LED lights will emit white light that gives improved colour rendering and can help with police identification and CCTV.

Nottinghamshire County Council contributed £25,000 towards the lighting improvements as part of the second phase of the Safer Streets partnership. It comes off the back of similar lighting upgrades in the Northgate and Chatham areas in 2020.

As part of the wider phase two plans, the partnership of Nottinghamshire Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Via East Midlands will fund and deliver an additional £109,000 worth of security improvements in the town.

These include free security upgrades such as free sensor lighting, window restrictors, video doorbells and, in some cases, wifi and 4G security cameras to more than 100 homes.

**Coun Neil Clarke**, chairman of the county council's Transport and Environment Committee, said: "This latest investment is vital as it will help residents feel safer by improving visibility on local streets.

"Our street lighting team used the latest technology to upgrade these streetlights, as part of this ongoing partnership project which we are proud to be a part of.

"LED lighting has wider benefits of course. They require much less energy



than older style lighting, which is better for the environment as well as taxpayers' pockets."

Nottinghamshire originally secured £550,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets fund for the first phase of crime prevention measures in Newark which were successfully delivered by the partnership.

Improvements to the Northgate and Chatham areas of Newark include Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, free security upgrades at people's homes as well as enhanced street lighting.

**Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Caroline Henry** added: "We know from the feedback we received after the first phase of the project that enhanced street lighting makes a huge difference to how safe people feel. In fact, more than 60% of residents said improved levels of street lighting had made them feel safer — this is why partners continue to work hard to replicate the reassurance in other parts of the town.

"The bigger picture with all the safety measures funded by Safer Streets is that criminals will find it much more difficult to strike — and when they do, we will be in a much better position to detect their activities. This is good news for everyone."

**Inspector Charlotte Allardice**, of Nottinghamshire Police, said: "These lighting improvements will not only aid the people of Newark but also the LED aspect will be a great benefit for officers when it comes to catching suspects on CCTV.

"It's our job to keep making things as hard as possible for people to commit burglaries and thefts and keep the community safe by introducing new security improvements throughout the town.

"Improvements like these are vital in helping improve the safety across the community and making people feel safer when they're out and about in the dark."

Newark and Sherwood District Council leader **Coun David Lloyd** said: "By upgrading the street lighting in numerous residential areas of Newark, we hope this will provide additional reassurance to our residents and allow them to feel safer both living in their homes and travelling to and fro.

"This work is just one of many security measures we have already implemented and are continuing to implement across the town to make local people feel safer and to deter criminals."

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## Share your news and photos with us

**I**F you have any news and photographs of events in and around this area why not share them with other readers of The News Journal?

Send us an electronic copy of photographs with a few details and we will try to publish them in a future edition. In each edition we devote pages to news of achievements and success by

individuals and groups in the area. Email [news@news-journal.co.uk](mailto:news@news-journal.co.uk) with your news and photographs or suggestions of items to be included and mark your message Newark.



# Food share project grows on the whole community!

AN initiative aimed at giving allotment holders the chance to support other residents with fresh fruit and vegetables is celebrating a successful first year.

A special 'thank you' event was held at Feel Good Gardens, Edwinstowe, for Newark and Sherwood District Council's Crop Drop scheme.

The project has grown throughout the year, attracting not only numerous allotments holders locally but also various organisations willing to take donations of the produce to distribute to families.

It was initially promoted to parish and town council allotments holders, but quickly attracted large-scale growers, community allotments and the NTU Brackenhurst horticultural research team.

**Coun David Lloyd**, leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, said: "This is a great initiative and it's been rewarding to see it flourish and grow in the past year.

"Not only has it helped our keen allotment growers find willing outlets for their excess crop, it also provided families across the district with delicious ingredients while teaching our younger generations about how food is grown, harvested and enjoyed.

"It's pleasing to see allotment owners supporting our communities and this initiative really brought the community together."

**Miles Harriman**, one of the growers who contributes to the project, added: "I moved back to the town three years ago and when I heard about the scheme I was excited to get involved. It's been brilliant so far and it gives those people the opportunity to try vegetables they would never have thought about getting.

"It's gratifying to introduce these new vegetables to people and knowing that the donated food goes to those that need it most is a rewarding feeling.

"The scheme is making a huge impact in the community and I want to start



getting more people involved in the growing of vegetables and trying it out for themselves."

The growers not only volunteered to grow and donate produce, but supported with transporting the crop drop boxes weekly to food clubs, food bank, local schools, colleges, emergency food provision centres and Beaumont House Hospice Care, Newark.

It's estimated that volunteers took donations and distributed food to more than 200 families per week.

Throughout the scheme recipe cards were given to families to support them and showed different ways to use the produce creating tasty healthy meals.

● **ABOVE:** Miles Harriman is pictured, left, with Newark MP Robert Jenrick.

## Newark golfers backing help for homeless

NEWARK Golf Club is to support Newark Emmaus Trust in 2022 as it continues its work to help the homeless.

**Nicola Burley**, chief executive of the trust, said: "I am thrilled. It is a great honour for the Trust and we look forward to working with the golf club on fundraising activities.

"I recently met with the club's captain, **Howard Roberts**, and **Rock Hastings**, seniors captain, to discuss the ways in which our partnership will be mutually

beneficial over the coming year."

Howard added: "It is a long tradition of the club that the captain nominates a local charity to support for 12 months.

"I recently visited the Newark Emmaus Trust and was very impressed at the work carried out with the young homeless people of the Newark area.

"The trust helps young homeless people in the area to find housing, gain skills and mitigate the risk of the homelessness cycle.

"I am keen to raise as much as we can for

this very worthwhile cause."

Fundraising events planned for the coming year include race evenings and raffles.

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# Celebrating all things Scottish!

RESIDENTS at Edingley Lodge care home in Edingley enjoyed a celebration of Scottish culture to mark St Andrew's Day.

The head chef baked traditional Scottish food, including haggis, neaps and tatties, shortbread, cranachan, and apple and bramble pie, accompanied by a 'wee dram'.

Some residents took part in a quiz. They also enjoyed playing bagpipe music, a highland dancing demonstration via Zoom, and a virtual tour of Scottish landmarks.

"It is so lovely to celebrate St Andrew's Day and taste the delicious Scottish foods prepared," they said.

"I have learnt so much about Scotland. I had no idea St Andrew wasn't actually Scottish."

Jilu Stephen, general manager at Edingley Lodge, said: "St Andrew's Day is a great excuse for a highland fling. We have a number of residents with Scottish roots and so we enjoy making November 30 a special day every year."



# Raising money to help others



STAFF at Edingley Lodge Care Home swapped their uniforms for costumes on National Elf Day to raise funds to help people living with dementia.

Launched by the Alzheimer's Society, Elf Day was created to sprinkle festive cheer on fundraising towards finding a cure for dementia.

On the day, residents and staff at the home in Edingley enjoyed elf-themed games, including a best-dressed elf

competition, Christmas quiz, and elf-bingo, together with festive food.

General manager Jilu Stephen said: "Elf Day at Edingley Lodge is always a lot of fun and we are home to some of the most unusual elves I have ever seen! We know first-hand that many people, including a good number of our residents, are living with some form of Alzheimer's. That's why raising money to support dementia charities is dear to our hearts and we're

always so keen to get involved. We're proud that the money we've raised will go towards such a good cause.

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## Lift off! First space institute students take to the skies

**SHELBY Valentine, Lexie Johnson and Alex Vickery** have become the first IASTI Newark students to pilot an aircraft in flight.

The trio were treated to a flight experience with AeroSPARX display pilot Rob Barsby as a reward for their good attendance, work ethic and attitude toward their course. They even got to fly a loop-the-loop.

IASTI Newark is the world's first International Air and Space Training Institute, located in Newark. The institute allows students to learn from aviation industry experts and get hands-on experience as they learn the skills needed to become pilots, engineers or flight dispatchers, leading to Level 3 Diplomas in Aviation Operations or Aircraft Maintenance.

"It was amazing" said Shelby (pictured), who is studying on the engineering pathway at IASTI Newark "We didn't do the take-off or landing but for the rest of the time we were flying ourselves!"

"We all did two or three loop-the-loops. Then Rob did a few tricks, showing what he usually does for his shows using smoke. Then he shut the engine off and we glided the rest of the way."

Alex was the first of the three students



to fly the Grob aircraft. He said: "I enjoyed doing the loop-the-loops the most and when Rob took over doing his tricks and I was going upside down. It was brilliant and a real adrenaline rush."

Lexie, who is on the pilot pathway, added: "I loved the whole thing. I've never done anything like this before. I've been in an aeroplane once before as a passenger, so this was the second time I've ever boarded a plane and I got to do this."

AeroSPARX is a unique air display

team, established in 2015 by Rob and fellow pilot **Guy Westgate**. They combine airborne pyrotechnics, aerobatics, formation flying and night flying for worldwide events.

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# Saved sycamore in running to be named tree of the year

A SYCAMORE tree among four saved from the chop by a public campaign that led to Newark and Sherwood District Council changing its decision to extend a car park on London Road was among the nominees for a national Tree of The Year award.

The Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year competition is a popular annual event covering the whole country.

Now in its seventh year, the contest highlights the UK's favourite trees to help show their value and need for protection.

**Adam Cormack**, head of campaigning for the Woodland Trust, said Tree of The Year is a reminder of the natural connection that we have with trees.

He added: "It's all about that 'wow' moment that people get when they see a tree they appreciate.

"This could be standing under a magnificent old oak or noticing the autumn colours of a street tree on the school run.

"This connection is something that children and adults share. Trees can make us happy, healthy, thoughtful — or upset when they are lost from our lives. The nominations we receive for Tree of the Year on social media are a window into the way we experience trees and the richness they bring to our lives.

"But Tree of The Year has a serious message. Many of our oldest and most special trees in the UK have no form of legal protection.

"It's time that our oldest trees got the same protection as our oldest buildings.

"Our built heritage and our natural heritage are both important and both



worthy of protection. After all, once they're gone ancient trees can never be replaced like for like.

"Trees deserve to take centre stage. Tree of the Year is a simple way to show our love of trees at a time when trees are so vital to fight the climate and nature crisis."

The winner will represent the UK in the European Tree of the Year 2022 contest.

The nomination for the Newark tree read: "A much-loved mature sycamore saved by the community in Newark, who stopped the chop for a car park.

"All the hard campaigning shows the power of peaceful protests — and thankfully this glorious specimen will continue to be part of the community for years to come."

## Free bike trackers on offer to beat crime

RESIDENTS in Newark and Sherwood are being given another opportunity to claim free tracking devices for their bikes.

High-quality GPS trackers, worth £100, are available for cyclists in Newark after 65 GPS trackers were distributed as part of the Newark Safer Streets project.

The project is a partnership between the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Nottinghamshire Police, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to improve security in areas

particularly affected by crimes such as burglary, vehicle theft and robbery. It includes a package of measures to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

Trackers consist of a small, lightweight accessory and is linked to a smartphone app and the owner is able to trace the bike — even using it to alert the police to where the bike is being kept.

The eligibility criteria for trackers is as follows:

Recipients do not necessarily need to live in Newark but should regularly travel into and around Newark by bicycle (under normal, non-COVID circumstances). Alternatively, recipients should live within the Chatham Court area or Northgate area (including Tithe Barn Court, Queens Court and Lovers Lane).

Bikes should have cost at least £250 when purchased.

Bikes should have been purchased within the last three years.

Owners will need access to a smart phone to track the device. Extra weight will be given to those who have been a victim of cycle theft.

**Coun David Lloyd**, leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, said: "It is so encouraging to see the Safer Streets security measures, in particular GPS trackers, working effectively at making our residents feel safer in their community."

To apply, residents should contact the Safer Streets Team at Newark and Sherwood District Council by emailing [community.safety@nsdc.info](mailto:community.safety@nsdc.info) who will inform them if they have been successful.

Newark Cycles and Tallis Autostores have supported the project to ensure all the GPS trackers are fitted correctly.

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BACK row, Heather Jackson, Magnus' Learning Resource Centre manager; Ava Kirtley, Bailey Coggan, Kayleigh Buxey, Luke Wilkinson, Beatrice Cullen, and Magnus Head of School, Jim Semmelroth. Seated front author Helen Rutter. (Photo: Lauren Chick)

# Author signs her books for students at workshop

MAGNUS Church of England Academy, Newark, gifted every year 7 student a book for Christmas on a day that also saw the book's author, **Helen Rutter**, deliver a talk.

Magnus' Learning Resource Centre manager is **Heather Jackson** said she hoped the day was inspirational for students.

"We have gifted a book to our Y7 students for a few years now, and we couldn't wait to be able to have an author back in school in person this year," she said.

"We feel blessed that Helen could join us to talk to Year 7 about her book. The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh, and answer any questions they had for her.

"It's so important that our students get the opportunity to hear from a published author, to understand what inspired them, see where that creativity stems from and where that creativity leads.

"We hope it will inspire them to read Helen's book over the Christmas break and encourage them in their own writing."

Following Helen's workshop students were able to get their books signed and she explained why she enjoyed meeting students.

"I enjoy visiting and speaking to students directly for various reasons; it gets me out of my writing shed and speaking to people! But also, it helps me to meet with the people I am hoping to connect with on the page," she said.

"Hopefully for students they will see that writing, and being an author is a real job and something they can do too.

"As a young person I can't remember ever meeting or talking to an author, and I don't remember feeling like being an author was an option for me. It wasn't part of a plan at all.

"I didn't feel particularly academic back then and so want to talk to students about the idea that writing is creative, that the important aspect is being emotionally in tune with yourself and the world around you, to be able to tell stories."

Helen talked to students about her book, inspired by the story of her son, Lenny.

"The book was inspired by my son, who is only a little bit older than these students and I hope that helps create a connection for them," she added.

"I also explored the ways you construct your writing so there was practical advice for students. Students also did their own writing exercises."

Helen says that she hopes that students were able to see themselves as writers.

"The message is that anyone can do it, and the message from this book is that if you feel different, it's not necessarily going to hold you back, it might be the thing that propels you forward," she explained.

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