

Diwali

LEICESTER 2023

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welcome

We are delighted to welcome you all to Leicester's Diwali celebrations 2023. This year is very special because we are marking the 40th anniversary of the city's first Diwali lights switch-on.

How extraordinary and wonderful it has been to see this grow from a small neighbourhood celebration into the major programme of events we enjoy today.

Diwali is of particular significance to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists in the city but it has a universal message we can all unite behind, bringing people together in a spirit of friendship and celebrating the victory of light over darkness, of good over evil. As a diverse and inclusive city, we are very proud to host one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, attracting people of all ages and faiths from the UK and around the world.

Of course, Leicester's Diwali celebrations are a huge team effort and we would like to thank all our partners who work to ensure safe and successful events. Particular thanks go to Leicester Hindu Festival Council, Inspirate, our programming partners, Leicestershire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, local ward councillors and all the council teams involved.

Have a happy and peaceful Diwali and a happy new year



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For further information on
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what is diwali

Diwali is an ancient festival celebrated by **Hindus, Sikhs and Jains** all over the world. It represents the universal messages of good over evil, of truth over falsehood and of light shining in the dark of the year. It is traditionally a time for exchanging gifts, friendship, peace, and goodwill to all.

For **Hindus**, Diwali represents the start of the New Year. It also marks the start of winter. Diwali honours **Lord Rama** and his wife **Sita** returning to their kingdom of Ayodhya, following Rama and **Hanuman's** victory over the demon **King Ravana** and rescue of Sita from his evil clutches.

Each day leading up to Diwali has a different meaning and these also vary between regions or communities.

The first day marks the start of Diwali. It is dedicated to the worship of the **Goddess Lakshmi** who provides prosperity.

On the second, there is a focus on abolishing evil and the **Goddess Kali** is worshipped.



Shivam

EVENTS

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On the third, Diwali day, clay lamps (called **divas**) and candles are lit in temples and houses, and fireworks are let off, giving Diwali its name of **Festival of Lights**. People also clean and decorate their homes with **Rangoli** (traditional colourful folk patterns), buy new clothes, and give each other gifts and sweets.

On the fourth, it is the start of the New Year (**Nutan Varsh**) and businesses traditionally open new accounts.

The fifth day is important to Hindus as it celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters.

People seek blessings at Diwali from Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, and **Lord Ganesha**, the remover of obstacles.

For **Sikhs**, Diwali celebrates the release of the sixth guru, **Guru Hargobind Ji**, and 52 Hindu Rajas (kings) from imprisonment. Guru Hargobind Ji was held for 40 days at the Gwalior Fortress along with the Rajas, who had been deprived of their kingdoms and were badly treated. When the time came for the Guru's release, he refused to leave unless the Rajas were also set free.

The condition imposed on him was that only those Rajas that could hold onto the Guru's robe would be set free. Guru Hargobind Ji had a special robe made with 52 kalia (tapers) so that each of the Rajas could walk free with him. He was then given the name '**Bandhi Chhorr**', the deliverer of prisoners.

In India, Sikhs celebrate by lighting candles and divas (clay lamps) in houses and on the Sarovar – the sacred water which surrounds the Golden Temple, Amritsar. Sikhs in Leicester celebrate in Gurdwaras (temples).

For **Jains**, followers of one of India's most ancient religions, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of **Moksha**, the final liberation of the soul from the cycle of death and rebirth, by **Lord Mahavir**. On this day, Jains celebrate this permanent happiness of the soul and remember Lord Mahavir's last sermon, which was given on Diwali day, before his soul left his body and was liberated.



Happy Diwali

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leicester's diwali celebrations



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Leicester's celebration of Diwali is one of the biggest outside of India. Whether it's to enjoy dance, fireworks, food or fashion, come and celebrate Diwali with us!

The festival kicks off with the 40th anniversary of our famous lights switch-on on **Sunday 29 October** and culminates with a glorious fireworks display and entertainment on Diwali Day **Sunday 12 November**. With thanks to our Diwali Leicester sponsors **University of Leicester**.

We also have a fantastic selection of events taking place around the city during the fortnight and we welcome you to join us in Leicester.

Diwali Lights Switch-On

The festivities begin with the illumination of the Diwali lights along Belgrave Road, on Leicester's 'Golden Mile', on Sunday 29 October. Up to 40,000 people watch the lights switch on, which follows a vibrant programme of music and dance on the Belgrave Road stage presented by the Leicester Hindu Festival Council.

The stage programme for Diwali lights switch-on runs from 5.30pm - 8.30pm on Belgrave Road with the lights turned on at 7.30pm, followed by the fireworks, which can be viewed from Belgrave Road.

The Diwali Village on Cossington Street Recreation Ground features children's fun-fair rides and stalls including food and concessions running from 3pm - 9pm.

Diwali Day

The Golden Mile will be bathed in light throughout the festive period until Diwali Day on Sunday 12 November, when the celebrations continue! The main stage programme for Diwali Day runs from 5.30pm - 8.30pm on Belgrave Road with a full programme of entertainment presented by the Leicester Hindu Festival Council.

Exciting new additions from Inspirate with support from Arts Council England will include Ancient Giants roaming the streets, rickshaws, lantern processions and live entertainment across multiple stages. See the full details on pages 10 - 12.

The Diwali Village, will return to Cossington Street Recreation Ground featuring, food, stalls, funfair rides, an additional stage with laser show, fire garden display and amazing LED light installation from the Canal and River Trust.

Fireworks have always been a traditional part of Diwali celebrations and on Diwali Day the fireworks can be viewed at approximately 7.30pm. Watch aerial fireworks, combined with pyrotechnics, exploding hundreds of feet in spectacular colour, accompanied by a specially created soundtrack for 2023; highlighting the tradition of light during this wonderful festival.

Leicester's Wheel of Light will be located on Belgrave Road from Friday 13 October - Sunday 12 November.



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Image by Harryarts / Freepik

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diwali leicester what's on



diwali day

Sunday 12 November

3pm — 9pm

Main Stage 5.30pm — 8.30pm Belgrave Road

Diwali Village 3pm — 9pm Cossington Recreation Ground

Celebrate Diwali Day in Leicester with a full programme of activities to commemorate the 40th anniversary. Exciting new additions to the event have been produced and commissioned by **Inspirate**, with support from **Arts Council England**, bringing the wow factor to your celebrations.

As night falls entertainment begins at the brand-new **Stage of Light** on Cossington Recreation Ground which will be illuminated with a spectacular display of lasers shooting across the park. DJ **Amrita Kalsi** will be onstage with an energetic DJ set combining modern and contemporary Bhangra beats, until the much-anticipated performance from Mercury Music Prize Winner, **Talvin Singh**.

The **Diwali Truck**, located on the corner of Wand Street, will provide a visual feast for the eyes as shadow puppets create an intriguing fusion of light and dark, accompanied by contemporary sounds, blending east and west.

Across the Golden Mile our programme of family friendly **street theatre** and **processions** begin with a joyful parade of 100 lanterns. Enjoy a visual spectacle of giant puppetry, dance and storytelling alongside beautifully decorated rickshaws that will help you to dance your way through the celebrations.

The main stage will return to Belgrave Road, presented by **Leicester Hindu Festival Council** with traditional music and dance for all the family to enjoy.

The **Diwali Village** at Cossington Street Recreation Ground will be packed to the brim with fashion, arts, crafts and children's funfair plus tantalising traditional Indian snacks, delicious curries and drinks from across the Indian subcontinent.

To give warmth to the Diwali Village a mesmerising **Neon Waterfall** features alongside the glowing **Fire Garden** to create an oasis of calm, bringing peace and light over dark. This year the Diwali Village is kindly sponsored by **Lidl GB**.

Be sure to enjoy a ride on Leicester's **Wheel of Light**, lighting up the streets at night providing a birds-eye view of the spectacular lights along Belgrave Road.

The grand finale to our 40th anniversary celebrations will be Leicester's spectacular fireworks...like never before! Immerse yourself in an incredible soundtrack that has been especially created to accompany the fireworks. Created and produced by **Arun Ghosh**, an internationally renowned composer and musician, this year's display will be a multisensory experience that reflects his unique style, illuminating the sky with an energetic fusion of upbeat rhythms and evocative melodies.



diwali day 2023 highlights



parade of light procession

5pm Main Stage
Belgrave Road and Stage of Light

A beautiful parade of 100 lanterns, made by children and families within the local community and across Leicester, in collaboration with visual artist Shamila Chady. The parade will be accompanied by internationally renowned Spark!, a stunning drumming and dance performance created by WorldBeaters. Join us as we open our Diwali celebrations with a joyful and interactive procession of light, sound and community spirit.

images © Airborne Lens



rickshaw sound systems

5pm — 8pm
Belgrave Road

Beautifully decorated mobile rickshaws sound systems travel around Belgrave Road, each one uniquely designed and wired for sound! Watch out for these mobile art works and dance your way through the Diwali celebrations! Designed and curated by visual artists, Ismail Khokon, Sim Mistry and Vishal Joshi.



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ancient giants

5.30pm Belgrave Road
7pm Stage of Light

Gods & Demons from South Asian tales are brought to life in a family friendly street theatre show - creating a visual spectacle of giant puppetry, martial arts, dance and storytelling. This performance represents the struggle between good and evil, an epic display of honour and loyalty. Look out for Hanuman and Ravana as they move through the crowds, making their way to a dramatic confrontation that will leave audiences in awe. Created and devised by Chirag Lukha, Tom Cleaver and Parmjit Sagoo.



diwali truck

6pm — 8pm
Belgrave Road

DJ Yumna Black will spin his decks, bringing us contemporary sounds which blend east and west. Throughout the evening, he will be joined by musicians to create dynamic live music and DJ collaborations. The Diwali Truck will be a visual feast for the eyes, with textiles and shadow puppets creating an intriguing fusion of light and shadow - designed and curated by Emma Fay.



firework display and soundtrack

7.30pm
Belgrave Road, Diwali Truck and Stage of Light

Experience the Diwali fireworks like never before!! Inspirate have partnered with internationally renowned musician and composer Arun Ghosh to create an incredible soundtrack to accompany the fireworks. Arun's vibrant blend of contemporary and nostalgic sounds creates a multisensory experience that reflects his unique style, illuminating the sky with an energetic fusion of upbeat rhythms and evocative melodies.



talvin singh

7.40pm
Stage of Light

Accompanying the grand finale of the festival is Mercury Music Prize winner, Talvin Singh. A maestro percussionist, producer and composer. Talvin is renowned for creating the bridge between classical Indian arts and electronic music, sculpting a cutting edge sonic landscape. Talvin will be continuing the vibrant festival atmosphere after the fireworks and performing a DJ set at the Stage of Light.



this golden mile

Exhibition on now until 31 March 2024
Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
leicestermuseums.org/ThisGoldenMile

Photography exhibition documenting the streets away from The Golden Mile with its sari shops, Indian restaurants, and jewellers. Leicester based artist Kavi Pujara has documented the people and homes of the residents surrounding this famous road as a love letter to the area and its community. Intimate portraits combined with sensitively observed interiors tells the story of this community's migration to Leicester, their last mile of a long journey to Britain.



Images © Kavi Pujara

Diwali Village closes at 9pm

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-  Toilets
-  Bike Park
-  Stalls
-  Street Food
-  First Aid
-  Entrance / Exit
-  Information & Missing Child
-  Roaming Rickshaws
-  Lantern Procession





kathak story telling workshop: the story of ramayan

Saturday 28 October

3pm — 5pm

CICD studio

Tickets: £6

cicd.org.uk

To book email ndevikathak@gmail.com

or call 07894 650 811

Kathak is one of the North Indian classical dance styles of India. Apart from its technical virtuoso of fast foot work and dazzling whirling movements it also tells a story through hand gestures, facial expressions and body mime, which is why it is known as 'Katha Kahe So Kathak'.



rangoli art exhibition

Sunday 29 October

4pm — 8.30pm

Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre

Mela Arts, Har Har productions in partnership with Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre bring the annual Diwali Rangoli Art exhibition - a mixture of breathtakingly modern and traditional rangoli styles. Be inspired by this once forgotten folk art and see how artists produce visually stunning rangoli artwork as part of the Diwali celebrations in Belgrave. Supported by Leicester City Council & Tilda.



diwali crafts

Saturday 4 November

10.30am — 1.30pm

Belgrave Library

leicester.gov.uk/libraries

Take part in traditional & non-traditional Diwali themed craft activities, plus story-telling for whole family to enjoy.



the 'enchanted diwali tree' play

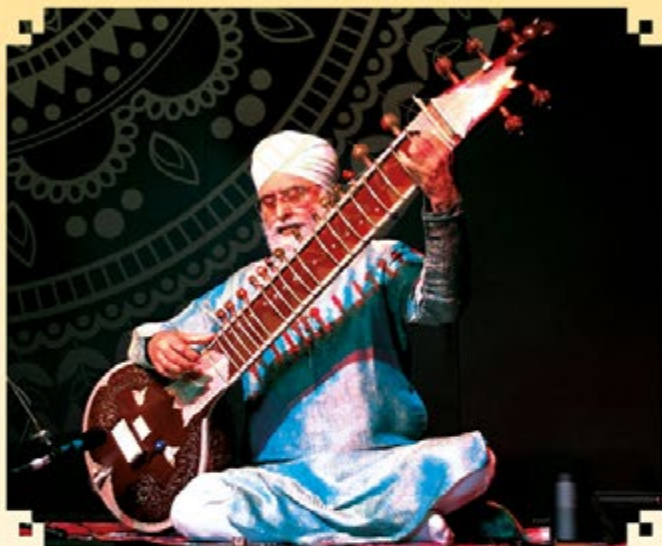
Saturday 4 November

4pm — 6pm

Peepul Centre

peepulenterprise.com

Supported by the Ethnic Inclusion Foundation and performed by children. The Enchanted Diwali Tree tells the story of the enchanting Sanjivani (Bay Tree) that Hanuman flies across the seas to revive the unconscious Lakshman, all enacted in a Rama Sita love story setting. Bookings required.



Sitar Music Society presents:

music and light

Saturday 4 November

6.30pm — 8pm

Leicester Guildhall

leicestermuseums.org

Celebrate Diwali the classical way with a special evening exploring divine light through music. Enjoy the moods and melodies of Indian classical music in the stunning setting of the historic Leicester Guildhall with the Sitar Music Society – passionate about promoting the excellence, awareness and development of Indian classical music.



Ānartam

Saturday 4 November

7pm — 9.30pm

Curve Theatre

Tickets: £14 / £12 (under 16s)

curveonline.co.uk

Ānartam presents Dance and Divinity: A celebration of Indian classical dance with an evening of live Indian classical dance at the heart of Leicester. From Bharatanatyam to Kathak, Kuchipudi to Yakshagana, exceptional artists from around the UK shall showcase what 'divinity' means to them through their work. Curated by Nupur Arts Dance Academy since 2015, supported by Curve Theatre and funded by Arts Council England, this edition is part of Nupur Arts' first year as a National Portfolio Organisation. Come, experience the divine power of dance and celebrate Diwali with Ānartam!




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diwali community day

Sunday 5 November
11am — 3pm
Curve Theatre
curveonline.co.uk

Join Curve Theatre for a day of free community activities in celebration of Diwali. With a variety of creative arts opportunities on offer throughout the day, including drop-in storytelling workshops, a mehndi station, a singing workshop from Leicester Musical Memory Box's Geet Sangeet group and dance workshops from Nupur Arts and Centre for Indian Classical Dance.



diwali festival

Sunday 5 November
11am — 5pm
Peepul Centre
peepulenterprise.com

Celebrate Diwali with a day full of activities, Bollywood and Folk, music, songs, dance, stalls and a tempting food court.



luna loves libraries day the musical

Saturday 11 November
11am & 2pm
St Barnabas Library
Tickets: £4/£3*
Tickets: £12 / £10* (group of 4)
thesparkarts.co.uk

From The Spark Arts for Children and Leicester Library Services, Join Luna and her Dad for an adventure among the library shelves in this exciting new musical for families, based on the book by Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho and illustrator Fiona Lumbers, with music and lyrics by David Gibb. Luna Loves Library Day is a co-production from Little Seeds Music and Z-arts.

*Discounts available for library members when booking through St Barnabas Library



diwali at the museum

Sunday 5 November
11am — 4pm
Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
leicestermuseums.org/diwalidelights

Celebrate Diwali - Museum-style. Enjoy a day of family celebrations with dance, music, heritage, arts and craft presented by Leicester Museum and Gallery in partnership with Nupur Arts. Celebrate the festival of lights with something for all the family, including the Diwali 'Dino' Disco!

family drop in

Saturday 11 November
12pm — 4pm
Leicester Print Workshop
leicesterprintworkshop.com

Create your own decorative print, taking inspiration from intricate Rangoli patterns, in remembrance.



this golden mile: artist talk

Saturday 11 November

2pm — 3.30pm

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

leicestermuseums.org/goldenmileartisttalk

Join photographer Kavi Pujara as he shares some of the stories behind the pictures in the exhibition. He will delve into the project's origins, the challenges encountered making the five-year-long project to document the area, and the evolution of his working practice. The event is free but online booking required.



urban & bollywood

Saturday 11 November

2pm — 8pm

2Funky Street Kitchen

Tickets: £11

[instagram.com/urbanandbollywood](https://www.instagram.com/urbanandbollywood)

Prepare to be captivated with a fusion of the best of two worlds - the cosmopolitan energy of urban music and the enchanting allure of Bollywood. DJs blending new and old skool urban hits with timeless Bollywood classics. Gather friends and family and get ready to celebrate Diwali like never before.

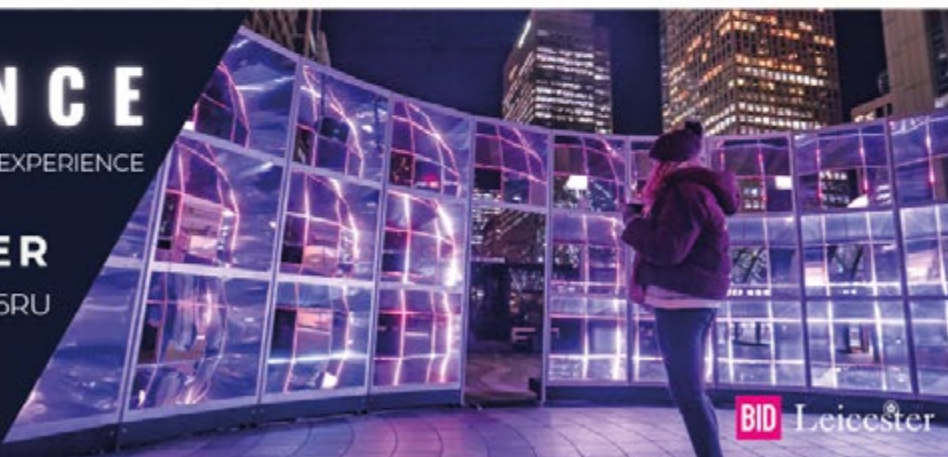
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diwali leicester 40th anniversary





Leicester today has what is regarded as one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India. People come from far and wide to see the thousands of decorative Diwali lights along the city's "Golden Mile", enjoy spectacular firework displays and see homes, temples and gurdwaras all illuminated.

Diwali celebrations in Leicester, however, had very humble origins and it took a lot of determination over many decades to achieve the remarkable festivities we enjoy today.

the 1950s and 60s: keeping traditions alive

The 1950s and '60s saw many Sikhs and Hindus emigrating to Leicester from India and East Africa. New arrivals did what they could to keep their faith and traditions alive. Diwali was an important festival and newcomers continued to celebrate it as best they could.

Celebrations were inevitably more private and took place mostly in the home. The festival could not be celebrated in the same way in a country where families were separated, neighbours were unfamiliar and few ingredients were available to make traditional delicacies.

If Diwali fell on a working day, festivities and family meals had to fit around shift patterns. At the very least families would try to do a small rangoli, prepare a sweet and make one expensive international phone call to relatives back home.

Image: Leicester Mercury Archive at the University of Leicester



the 1970s: celebrations starting to grow

As the Asian community in Leicester grew, so did its Diwali celebrations. From 1972 the city became home to many Asians expelled from Uganda who were to settle and create an even greater appetite for Diwali festivities.

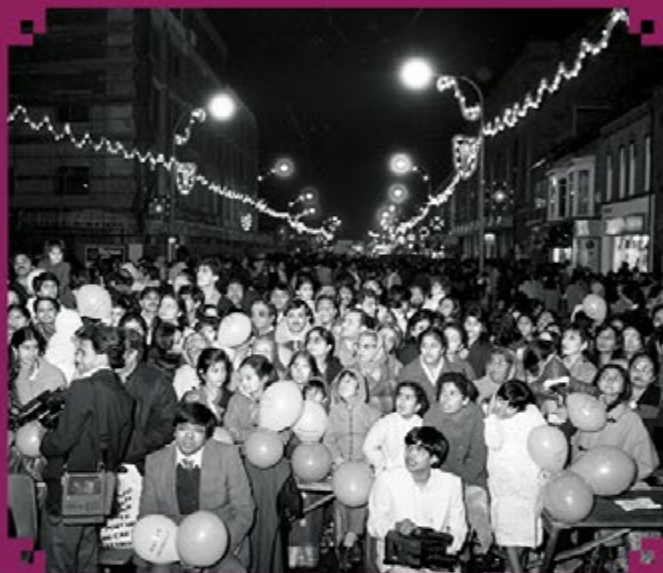
The first mandir (Hindu temple) was established in Leicester in 1969 in Highfields and others were to follow. As well as places to worship, mandirs provided a focal point for local Hindus to gather and celebrate at Diwali time.

With a larger community to cater for, more Asian shops opened along the Belgrave Road, supplying specialist products from India. Leicester's Asian community could now buy the ingredients to prepare popular Diwali foods and celebrations would start to take on a more traditional feel.

Community centres with local Asian users started up rangoli competitions and community halls were hired for Diwali gatherings and family dinners. At this time however people tended to mix just within their extended families and caste groups. Schools also started to embrace Diwali during this period with children staging Diwali plays and dance performances.

In 1977 Leicester City Council set up the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre in a former Methodist church on the Belgrave Road. During the following decade, this was to have a significant effect on Diwali celebrations in the city.

Image: The Shree Shakti Mandir in a converted church



the 1980s: the first diwali lights switch-on event

This was the decade that marked the foundation of the celebrations we know today.

It was in the '80s that community workers, residents, councillors and council officers first discussed the idea of decorative Diwali lights, with the first set going up in 1983. They ran along Belgrave Road from Dorset Street to Loughborough Road and were switched on by the community's oldest resident. The new lights were to have a significant impact on local shops. Traders started opening longer and later to cater for those coming to enjoy Leicester's "Golden Mile".

Another significant development at this time was the use of the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre for community activities, especially around Diwali time. There was a new desire to bring the community together, get people out of their homes, away from their caste groups and to celebrate Diwali as one. The Neighbourhood Centre provided activities that were cross-caste and inclusive.

As the festival grew, so did local feelings about how it should be run and organised. If community Diwali celebrations in the city were to thrive, and remain culturally relevant, a closer partnership was needed between those with a stake in their future. The solution proposed was the creation of a Hindu Festival Council chaired by a city councillor, which is still central to the festival today.

Image: Diwali Street Party in 1986



the 1990s: gaining a national reputation

By the 1990s the Diwali celebrations along Belgrave Road had developed a national reputation. It was important, however, that the event remained true to its origins as a cultural festival. To ensure that this was the case the Leicester Hindu Festival Council (LHFC) was formed in 1992 to oversee not just Diwali, but other major festivals.

What had originally been regarded as a local community celebration was now a major festival. Entertainment and firework spectacles amused thousands and local media covered the Diwali nights with live broadcasts and documentaries. Leicester City Council and other agencies, like the emergency services, were by now more heavily involved in the event management as thousands of new visitors were creating increased challenges for the organisers. Road closures had to be organised, increased security was required and street cleaners cleared up after the event.

By now people were booking days off from work for Diwali and schools were giving children time off too. Schools and shops all joined in the festivities. Diwali was a good time for the Belgrave Road traders with thousands flocking to the area to buy gifts and clothes. Shopkeepers decorated shop fronts with Diwali lights and ordered special stock like Diwali cards, rangoli colours, special ingredients for cooking and the latest jewellery and sarees. People were also buying more Diwali foods too rather than making them at home.

Image: Hindu Festival Council



diwali today: one of the largest celebrations outside of india

Leicester today has what is regarded as the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India. It is a huge multi-agency operation that takes months to plan and is steered by the Diwali Advisory Panel who all work hard to improve the festival offer; making it bigger, better, safer and more vibrant each year.

As well as 6,500 lights all along Belgrave and Melton Roads there is a huge events programme collectively recognised as "Diwali Leicester". Around 50 separate events are now spread across the city over a two-week period. It includes music, dance and live performances in a variety of venues, all ending in a spectacular firework display.

The celebrations now reflect a new age, a stronger community and a greater ambition for a festival with an international reputation. Messages to relatives abroad are now sent via WhatsApp and Facebook instead of expensive international calls. A few sweets eaten in the home after work have been replaced by a vast array of special foods and delicacies in shops and restaurants.

Entertainment on Diwali nights has gone from talking and eating with the family to firework spectacles and a huge street party along Belgrave Road. Even the humble earthenware divas have now been transformed into the motifs illuminated by the 6,500 energy efficient LED lights along Belgrave and Melton Roads.

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Happy
Diwali

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09 - 14 November 2023

Christmas 2023

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16 November - 24 December

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sculptural gateway

Sculptural Gateway is a new piece of public art by Anuradha Patel, conceived to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Ugandan Asian migration to the city, and celebrate Leicester's proud history of offering sanctuary to people fleeing persecution and conflict.

The UA50 Artwork Appeal is a chance for supporters to get involved. Sponsors can contribute to landscaping at Belgrave Circle, including having your family name engraved alongside the artwork.

For more information visit the appeal website

For further information and to donate visit:
leicestermuseums.org/arts/public-art/uganda-50-artwork-appeal



John Lewis

John Lewis are proud to partner with BID Leicester, De Montfort University and Highcross to celebrate Diwali and a citywide awareness of Hinduism.

Come into the store from 30 October to 13 November to enjoy our festival of lights including a dedicated Diwali display, special selection of cultural performances and Hindu dancers.

For further information visit
highcrossleicester.com



Happy Diwali

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travel into leicester

park & ride

The Diwali Park & Ride service will be operating for both the Switch-On and Diwali Day. This will run from the Birstall Park & Ride site, located at LE4 4NN to Belgrave Road as parking is limited. The drop off and pick up point will be on Belgrave Road at the pull-in by Lower Willow Street.

For Diwali Lights Switch-On, Sunday 29 October and Diwali Day, Sunday 12 November services will run from Birstall Park & Ride site to Belgrave Circle from 4pm until 10pm with a break between 7pm and 8pm. The last bus will leave promptly at 10pm.

The cost will be £4 per person for a return journey or £7.50 for a group of up to five people travelling in a car together. The cost for concessionary pass holders is £1 for a return journey. Park & Ride Season Tickets will not be valid.

For the most up to date information on public transport, walking and cycling routes and car shares, please visit choosehowyoumove.co.uk Safe and secure bike park on site.

car parking

Car parking spaces in and around the area will be limited during the event; therefore visitors are positively encouraged to use public transport to travel to and from the city centre. There will be limited spaces available for blue badge holders on a first come first served basis in the B&M carpark access from Belgrave Circle.

A 24-hour NCP car park is situated in Abbey Street, which is approximately a three minute walk from bus stops and approximately a 15 minute walk from the event. 24-hour parking is also available at the Haymarket Centre, and also at Lee Circle, which are approximately a 15 minute walk from the event.

There are other car parks a little further out from the ones mentioned, These are Phoenix Square, Upper Brown Street Car Park, Dover Street and Newarke Street.



bus services

The bus services below are those that will travel, or have stops near to, Belgrave Road. Bus services will continue to operate normally on Abbey Park Road and Belgrave Gate to facilitate attendance at the events.

4 (First)	Rushey Mead Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HR
5 (Arriva)	East Goscote Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HQ
6 (Arriva)	Syston Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HP
25 (First)	Beaumont Leys Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HV
26 (First)	Beaumont Leys Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HW
54 (First)	Beaumont Leys Departs Haymarket Bus Station Stand HY
126/7 (Arriva)	Shepshed/Loughborough Departs St Margaret's Bus Station Stand SC

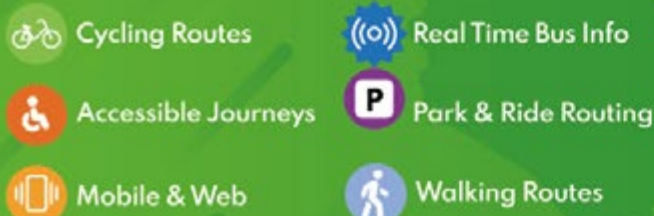
bus diversions

When Belgrave Road is closed to traffic bus services will divert as follows:

Services **4** to Rushey Mead, **6** to Thurmaston and **5, 5A** to Melton will use Marfitt Street and Catherine Street. Services to **25/6** and **54** to Beaumont Leys/Mowmacre Hill and **126/7** to Loughborough will use Abbey Lane.

The nearest point that buses will be able to access Belgrave Road are Belgrave Roundabout and Melton Road at Marfitt Street.

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road closure information

sunday 29 october and sunday 12 november

A full closure of Belgrave Road and the junctions with its side roads will be in place from 5pm until approximately 9.30pm, during which time vehicles will not have any access.

Please note that on both dates the Emergency Services and Leicester City Council will need to maintain two clear routes through the Belgrave area for emergency vehicles.

The routes are: Loughborough Road, Holden Street, Ross Walk, MacDonald Road, Hildyard Road, Marjorie Street, Abbey Park Street, Harrison Road, Surrey Street, Doncaster Road, Cossington Street, Rothley Street, Rendell Road and Portsmouth Road.

Any vehicles parked on these roads, which will be marked on both sides with 'No Waiting' cones, between 6am and 10pm on Sunday 9 October and Monday 24 October will be ticketed and towed away. Doncaster Road will have the existing one-way order suspended for both Diwali events.

In addition, any vehicle causing an obstruction on any road in the Belgrave Area will also be ticketed and towed away. Any vehicle parked in contravention of a parking restriction, temporary parking restriction, causing obstruction or dangerously parked will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice and will be towed away to a secure compound.

You will also incur costs for the vehicle being towed to the recovery company. It is important that you adhere to signs, lines and cones in place for this event to avoid any penalties.

health and safety

In the interests of public safety, members of the public are asked not to bring fireworks to the celebrations. The use of fireworks in a public area will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police.

Leicestershire Police will have mobile awareness units at this year's events, highlighting the importance of safety during the festive period. The units will be at the Diwali Village on Cossington Street Recreation Ground for the public to pop along to. We would like to thank Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police for their continued support of the Diwali celebrations.

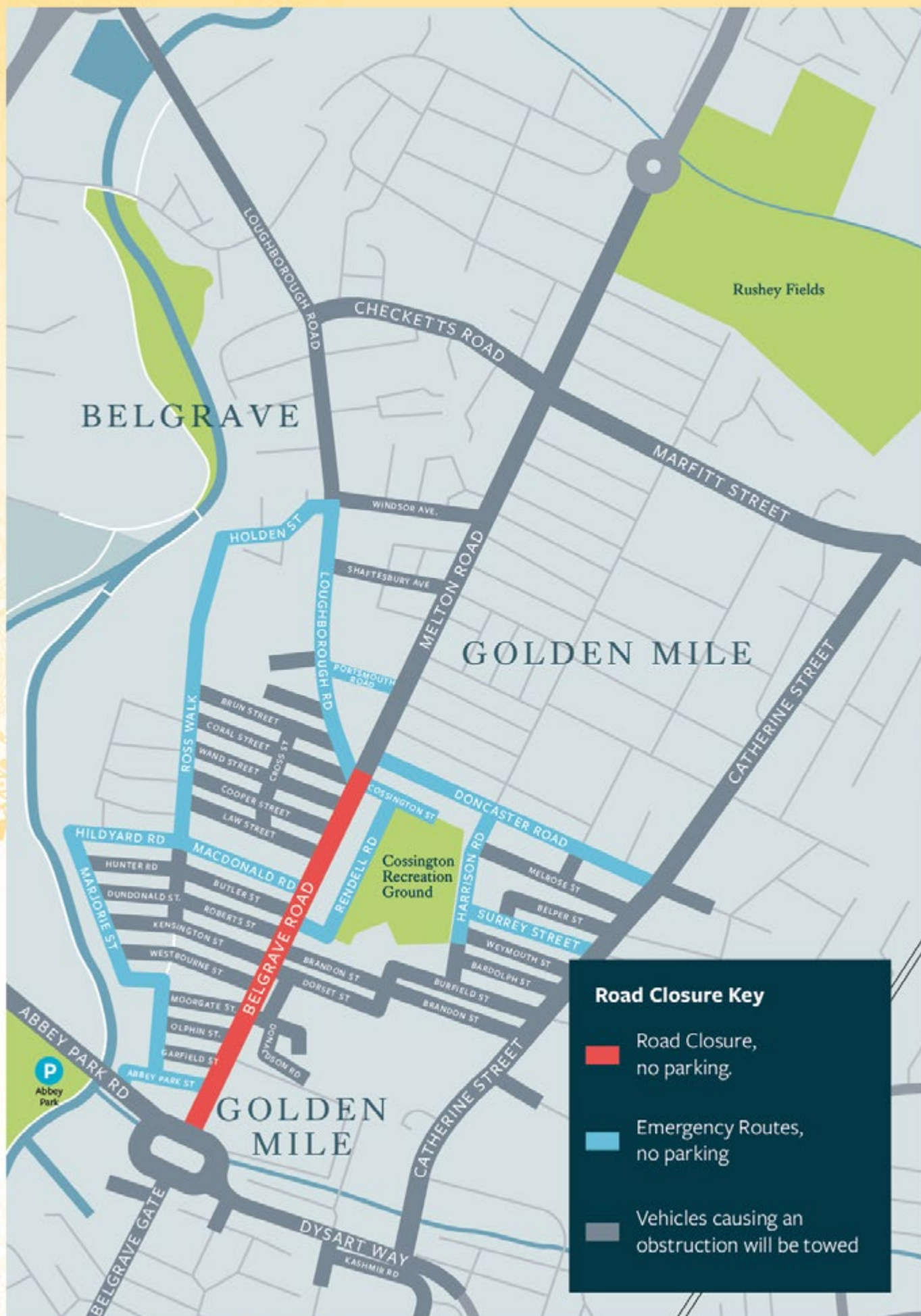
For further information visit: celebratesafely.com

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a taste of leicester

Once you've experienced **Diwali in Leicester**, why not stay for a little longer, uncover our stories and get a taste of the city's culinary delights?

We're full of fantastic places to visit, whether you're looking for a historical adventure or something a little more modern. Start your journey in Leicester's historic centre where you can journey into the life, death and rediscovery of **King Richard III** at the **KRill Centre**, and see his tomb at the nearby Cathedral (due to reopen after refurbishment on 26 November).

Leicester's Museums are full of historical and modern artefacts, with regular exhibitions showcasing the history of the city and its people. Find out why we're known as Space City at the **National Space Centre**, and then take a ride on the **Great Central Railway**, the only place in the UK where steam trains pass each other on a mainline route.

The county is equally packed with attractions, with **Twycross Zoo** the home to all four Great Apes, **Stoneywell** and the 1620s House offering beautiful country cottage surroundings, or **Foxton Locks** showcasing engineering excellence with a flight of ten canal locks up a 75 foot hill!

It's not just about the attractions, because if Diwali teaches us anything it's that great times are accompanied by great food! In Leicester you can explore the world on a plate, from the **curry houses** and sweet shops of the **Golden Mile** through to authentic **Italian** and **South American** dishes in the city centre. The city is the home of **veganism**, where Donald Watson coined the term in the 1940s, and has a huge range of **vegan** and vegetarian cafés and restaurants that are perfect for a plant-based diet.



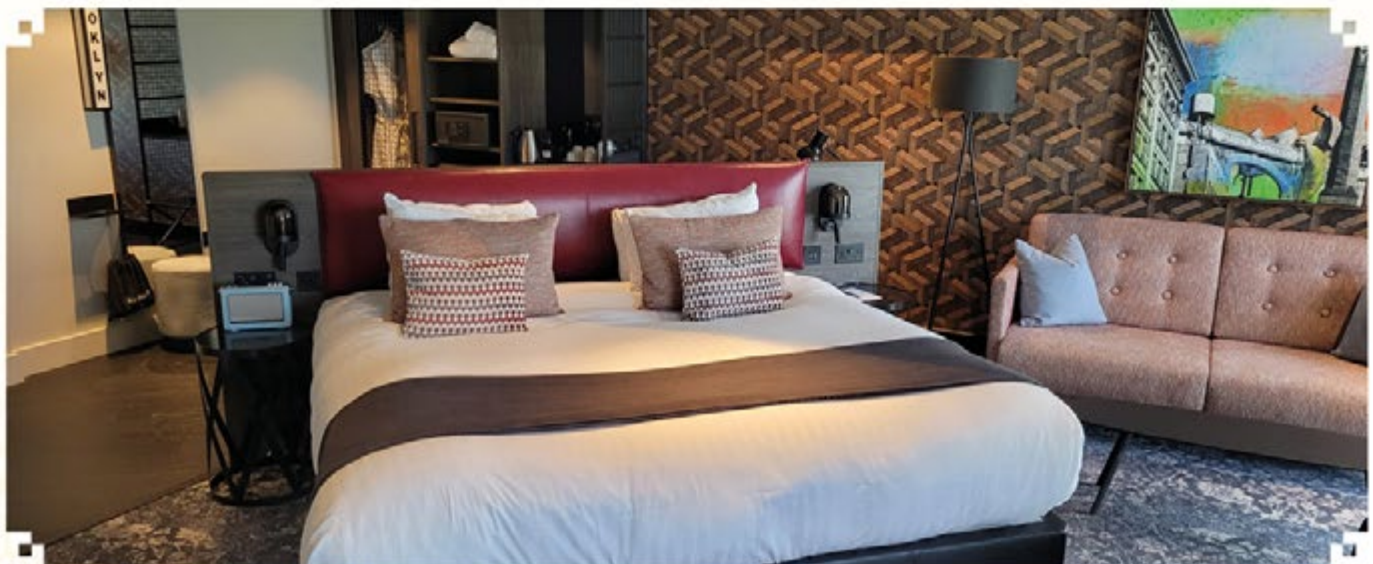


You can really Taste The Place in Leicestershire as we're rightly famous for our home-grown delicacies, with Stilton cheese and pork pie among the local food giving you a Taste of England. The region is positively packed with fantastic places to eat, drink, buy and experience the very best locally produced food.

If you want to make your stay in Leicester extra special, then why not book a hotel. Whether you want to stay in luxury at **Hotel Brooklyn** or the **Gresham**, or choose a city centre room at **Novotel** or the **Ramada Encore**, you can check availability and book direct on our website.

Whether you're looking for awesome attractions, fantastic food or a great place to stay, you'll find it all at visitleicester.info

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