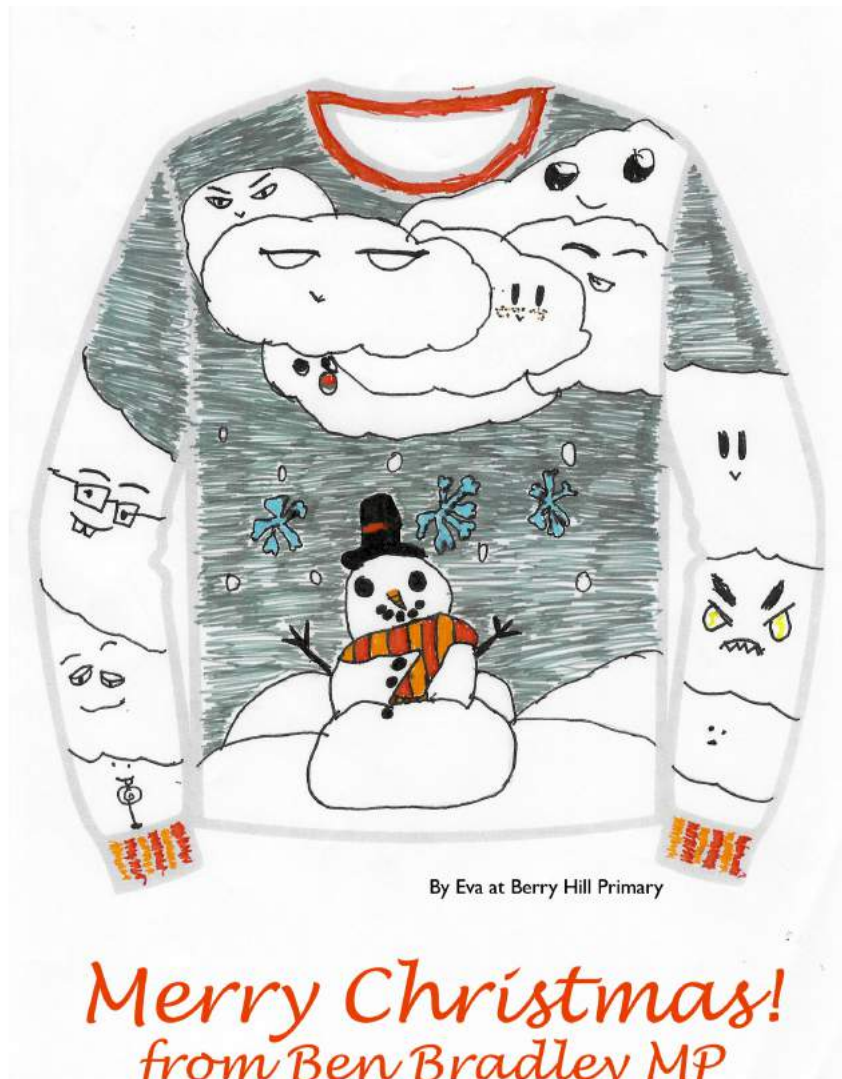




This week's news from Ben Bradley MP

Eva wins Christmas Card competition!



By Eva at Berry Hill Primary

Merry Christmas!
from Ben Bradley MP

I've been on a tour of Primary Schools around Mansfield handing out the prizes for my Christmas Card competition.

I've been all round the area, including meeting the winner Eva from Berry Hill and Runner Up Isla from Sherwood Juniors in Warsop.

A massive well done to Eva, who did a really brilliant job with a unique card that I thought was really interesting, and won the competition! And also a big well done to runner up Isla!

Eva's card will go to hundreds of people around the area as my Christmas Card, as well as being sent from Mansfield to the Prime Minister.

As the runner up, Isla's design will also feature on the back of the card too!

Huge thank-you to everyone who took part around the District, where hundreds of kids got involved, to all the teachers for facilitating it, and well done to winner Eva and runner up Isla.

What a wonderful way to spend the morning! Merry Christmas guys!



With Eva - on the left - and class winners from Berry Hill Primary



And with Isla from Sherwood Juniors. Well done Isla. Her colourful entry below:



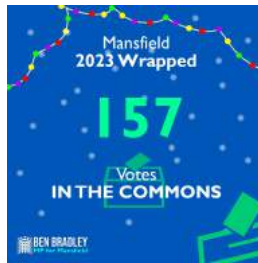
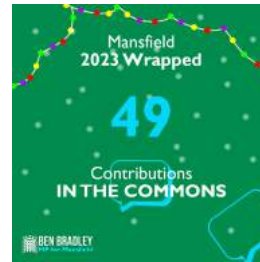
Here's a quick video I made at Berry Hill Primary just before announcing the winner!

Keep in touch!



Join my constituents only Facebook group here!

Your Mansfield 2023 wrapped!



Expand here



4 years since the 2019 election!

It was four years ago this week when Mansfield delivered a Conservative majority of 16,306 and 64% of the vote in the 2019 General Election.

It was an historic day, and a huge increase having won in Mansfield for the first time ever in 2017 with a majority of just 1057 (46%).

The 2019 election in Mansfield was the single biggest increase in Conservative votes anywhere in the United Kingdom. Quite a thing!

Since then we've made lots of progress, and of course we have a load more to do! I'll keep working hard for our area, working to win,

and making sure we avoid the unthinkable alternative of a Labour Government!



Visiting 200 Degrees Coffee to support Mansfield Youth Services...

I've been to meet Tom at 200 Degrees Coffee, after I heard that they had a special blend of coffee that gave a donation to Switch Up Community Hub with every sale.

Switch Up is a brilliant community-led youth and education service based on Barringer Road in Mansfield, supporting local young people through all sorts of challenges. Marcellus and his team there do a brilliant job. So when I heard this, I reached out to Tom to see if we could get a bit more money sent their way.

The County Council uses 200 Degrees coffee in our cafeterias, cafes and offices around the county (because it tastes amazing) and so Tom has kindly agreed to switch some of our supply to their Switch Up blend, and to ensure that the Council's purchasing power adds to those Switch Up donations! Great stuff and big thanks!

Whilst we were there, Tom told us all about the business that he founded along with Rob, and showed us how they brew up such amazing and varied coffee. It's a science, I tell you! We had to taste a lot, of course, to taste all the flavours and subtle differences, so now I'm also buzzing a bit (I drank A LOT of coffee!)

So... long story short! Big thank you to Marcellus Baz at Switch Up for putting me on to this charity donation lark, and for working so hard for young people in Mansfield, to 200 Degrees for donating to help those young people, and especially to Tom and to Mike for showing Cllr Phil Rostance and I a good time this afternoon learning about your AMAZING local business. I love coffee, I love it a lot, and this was bloody good coffee!

Cheers!



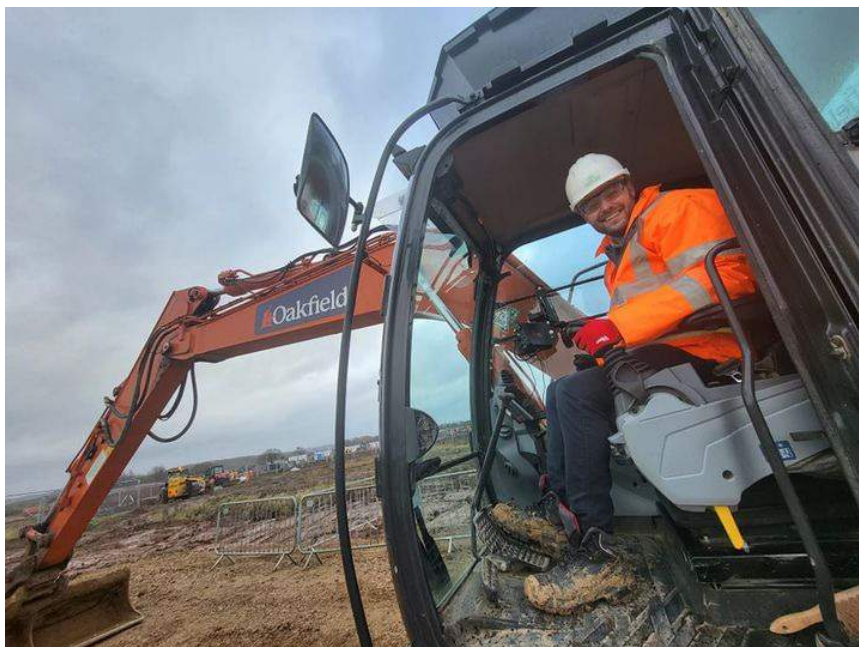
Massive opportunities for engineering and aerospace industries in our area

I've been to see ITP Aero UK who employ hundreds of people across Mansfield and Ashfield. They do some really clever manufacturing of components for aeroplane engines, and are a major supplier to Rolls Royce.

It's mind blowing really, just how big our aerospace and advanced manufacturing sector is in this part of the world, and I recently secured a £160m Investment Zone project from Government that is aimed at supporting growth and inward investment for this kind of engineering work.

We spoke about skills and training, and about opportunity to invest in upskilling people and improving productivity. We spoke about the complexity of the grants and business support environment in our area, which is something I hope to be able to tackle through the new Combined Authority which will encompass a lot of that work.

A fascinating visit to a global business, but one that is very much locally driven and a huge local employer. Big thank you for inviting me along to learn more.



Getting building, so that we can save the taxpayer £1.7m a year!

This week I've been breaking ground on a new building, which is allowing Nottinghamshire County Council to reduce our footprint from 17 office buildings down to 9 and vacate the most expensive properties. That means we can focus taxpayer's money on delivering public services rather than spending it heating and lighting lots of expensive, half empty offices.

These are the kinds of good, positive decisions that mean our Council is financially stable, whilst others are not. We're planning for the future and ensuring that local services are viable and sustainable, because not doing so leads to the kind of drastic cuts and tax rises we're seeing in the city. Local residents can know that we're doing everything we can to protect services.

Our new Hucknall head office will make the Council more accessible, based in the heart of the County, as well as saving us millions of pounds a year in running costs. When you add those savings to the income from redeveloping the old County Hall, these plans won't cost anything, in fact they'll make taxpayers a profit!

Big thank you to Arc Partnership and Morgan Sindall for helping us deliver our vision.



Loads happening to develop skills!

I've been talking to training providers this week about the skills sector, the good work that's happening and the challenges, as well as presenting some updates to providers about changes coming down the track in the next 6-12 months.

As I've said, we're going to get local control over Adult Skills Funding, for decisions to be taken here rather than in Whitehall, and we're developing better partnerships between providers like colleges, universities and private training providers to help deliver better outcomes across the board.

I think Mansfield is a good example of that, with West Notts College leading the way on collaboration with both independent providers and also obviously the NTU campus now based on site at Derby Road. That stuff is game changing!

Important that as skills and training plans are developed in the future, they're more 'place' or community-based. An approach where we look at local skills gaps, assess the training need for the

area, and consider which providers are based placed to fill it. That will be much better than the current approach, which tends to be someone nationally saying 'here's some money to deliver a course, who wants it?'.

[Hear more about this](#)



Access to healthcare is improving across Mansfield!

Mansfield is one of the first places get support for a new Community Diagnostic Centre, as part of Government's plan to expand access to tests and scans, and to cut NHS waiting lists. Next year we'll start to build the new Centre itself here next door to the Community Hospital.

In the meantime though the work is already happening and the Trust have already expanded access to appointments for tests and scans, both here at Mansfield Community Hospital, and using mobile facilities.

Brilliant bit of investment that's already making a difference, and once the new Centre us built we'll be in great shape!

[Watch more about this here](#)



Legislation to help us stop the boats

This week I voted to take tougher measures on illegal migration and to progress this Bill to send illegal migrants to be progressed in a third country.

I don't know yet whether this is as legally 'tight' as it can be, and I don't know yet whether these are the strongest possible measures

that are deliverable - these things will be debated and discussed in the weeks ahead before we come back for final decisions in January.

What I do know though, is this. We are delivering the strongest legislation against illegal migration ever. We are the only major party that is even interested in dealing with this, and the Government is having to tread a very fine line here around all of the legalities and the different issues, to ensure that this is both deliverable through Parliament and also works in practice.

Rwanda is just one part of a bigger picture. We're doing relatively well in tackling this compared with mainland Europe, but I know constituents don't want to hear that. They want to hear that the boats will stop. I will press Government for the strongest possible measures in the weeks ahead.



Speaking to Andrew Marr about the Rwanda legislation

I spoke to Andrew Marr this week ahead of the illegal migration Bill that passed in the Commons.

Short version of the 10 minute interview is that ultimately we have to deliver measures that stop the boats. Full stop. We also have to recognise that this bit - sending people to Rwanda to be processed - is just one part of a much wider package of measures.

[Listen here](#)



More bus connections to our College and university!

"It's all aboard for West Notts College and NTU students!"

We've helped to make getting to some college and university campuses in Mansfield and Ashfield simpler for students thanks to a new student travel scheme.

We've worked with Vision West Notts, Nottingham Trent University, Stagecoach and trentbartonland to launch the scheme that students from Mansfield, Ashfield and beyond are now using.

In fact, since its launch in September, more than 2,000 students are

now travelling on the local bus network, and more than 250,000 trips have been made by students!

Before the launch of the scheme, college students at West Notts College travelled on the college's twice daily contracted bus network, but thanks to the new scheme, they are now able to travel with more flexibility.

So, what are the main features of the scheme?

West Notts College's four main campuses and NTU's Mansfield hub are now all connected by bus.

Stagecoach and trentbarton have added a number of additional peak time journeys on high demand services in the area.

Trentbarton has extended its Ripley to Sutton-in-Ashfield 90 service to operate through to Mansfield.

A new travel pass means that students can benefit from unlimited travel across all of Notts and parts of Derbyshire."

[Find out more here](#)



A festive drink with our hard working local Conservative team, in the Stella Taps...

Christmas is nearly here. The time for Christmas Parties! So it was great to catch up with some of our hard working local team in the Stella Taps - and to be honest to talk about work a bit more, as you do. Great little pub though. Thanks to owner Roland for putting it on our radar!

[Call to action](#)

I support improvements to M1 Junction 28

“
Every car that doesn't reach us is one less customer to spend in the local economy.
”

Representative, McArthurGlen

MC | Midlands Connect

Improving J28 on the M1 will be massive for our local economic growth

Junction 28 of the M1 needs significant investment to tackle the gridlock and to unlock major growth and investment in our region. It's a really important pinch point for Mansfield residents and businesses.

I fully support Midlands Connect and local partner's calls to deliver these improvements, and I met with National Highways to discuss this a few weeks ago.

Our new regional Mayor will have significant influence in the prioritisation of major works and investments, and unlocking problems on the M1 and A1 are really important objectives for our region!



Victory for common sense in new bill that would block under 18s from being given gender hormone treatment...

Not been much fanfare over this, but if Government support this Bill then its a real victory for Common Sense.

Liz Truss is bringing forward what's called a Private Member's Bill - legislation created by a backbench MP rather than Government - which seeks to block under 18s being given irreversible gender hormone treatment.

I've always felt that it's utterly mad that we won't even sell Red Bull to a 15 year old but we'll let them embark on treatments that can lead to irreversible damage or infertility. Add to that the huge increases in young people going down this path, and now also regretting and seeking to reverse these treatments, this is the right thing to do.

What you choose to do with your life as an informed adult is up to you, and none of our business provided you're not hurting anyone else, but we have a duty to protect kids from getting caught up in social trends and rash decisions that will affect their whole lives and cause irreparable harm.

[Read more here](#)

Your feedback matters!



Every so often I like to ask Mansfield constituents to share a general sense of their thoughts and priorities, both in terms of local and national issues, and also on the politics of it all.

It only take two minutes to tell me what you think, and it helps me to make sure I'm on the right track.

Please take my survey here, and help me to do the best job that I can.

[Fill in the survey here](#)

And finally... This week's column



"Latest plan to halt illegal channel crossings sounds promising"

Thank-you for reading my latest update, I hope you have a great weekend!

Warmest regards,

**Ben Bradley MP,
for Mansfield & Warsop**



Keep up to date with my work



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