

**H**OME to the biggest Diwali celebration outside India, the resting place of Richard III, the first-ever package holiday, an amazing comedy festival - and the greatest sporting shock ever when Leicester FC won the Premier League.

Leicester is truly one of the greatest cities in the UK.

Yet in recent weeks it's been subject to some of the strictest lockdown measures in the country.

There's so much to celebrate Leicester and Leicestershire - it is a proud city and county with a fantastic heritage which has helped to shape so much goodness in modern day British life.

Now a group of the city's champions are joining together to remind everyone about everything that is brilliant about Leicester - and they're asking for your help.

Sports, education, business, charity, arts, community and faith leaders and personalities are supporting Together In Hope - a social media campaign to highlight the city's successes.

Well known supporters include sports star Gary Lineker and TV presenter Maggie Philbin.

From acts of kindness during lockdown, to your favourite food, most popular shop or best landmark - they want you to tell everyone about it on social media using the hashtag #TogetherInHope and #WeAreLeicester.

Include photos, draw pictures, write poetry or make a film clip, you could also tell everyone about your charity work.

This is your chance to tell the world about what makes Leicester brilliant - and how it will move forward together in hope.

Here are a few of the reasons to celebrate Leicester from #TogetherInHope supporters:

#### DIVERSITY AND UNITY IN ONE PLACE

Professor Nishan Canagarajah, president and vice chancellor of the University of Leicester, said: "Leicester is an incredible city. There is so much diversity and unity in one place. It has the world at your doorstep.

"I am proud of Leicester and it is one of the reasons why I want to champion this great initiative, Together in Hope, to ensure we come out of this lockdown stronger and more united. It's more important now than ever to shine a light on what is great about our city. Together we can be a beacon of hope."

#### PASSIONATE COMMUNITY

Susan Whelan, Leicester City Football Club Chief Executive, said: "Leicester is a truly special place, whose diverse and passionate community has been both the backdrop and the inspiration for some of the city's finest achievements.

"As we've seen throughout this pandemic, it's also a community that comes together to support each

# TOGETHER in HOPE

## #togetherInHope

A BIG CELEBRATION OF ALL THAT IS GOOD IN OUR CITY AND COUNTY

## Meet the team and its supporters

THE University of Leicester's Vice-Chancellor is working in partnership with the CEO of Leicester City FC and the Bishop of Leicester on a celebration of community spirit in Leicester and Leicestershire this weekend, supported by a raft of other public figures.

Headed by Professor Nishan Canagarajah, Susan Whelan and Bishop Martyn Snow, Together In Hope will highlight messages of encouragement and the many acts of kindness and concern for one another that have been springing up during lockdown.

Rallied by Turi King, Professor of Public Engagement at the University of Leicester, who is well known for her work on the discovery of the remains of Richard III, and Revd Dr Tom Wilson of the St Philip's Centre, Leicester's internationally recognised interfaith centre.

Using the hashtags #TogetherInHope and #WeAreLeicester, the coalition of leaders and personalities invite anyone with connections to the city and county to tell the world what we celebrate about Leicester and

Leicestershire and how we'll come through this current challenge and move forward together in hope.

#### SUPPORTED BY

**PROFESSOR Nishan Canagarajah**, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester; **Susan Whelan**, CEO, Leicester City Football Club; **Rt Revd Martyn Snow**, Bishop of Leicester; **Rosemary Conley CBE**, Businesswoman, author and broadcaster; **Jonathan Agnew**, The BBC Cricket Correspondent; **Gary Lineker OBE**, BBC Sports Correspondent; **Maggie Philbin**, Tomorrow's World; **Simon Cole QPM**, Chief Constable, Leicestershire Police; **Rick Taylor**, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer; **Professor Robert Allison**, President and Vice-Chancellor, Loughborough University; **Professor Andy Collop**, Interim Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University; **Geoff Rowe BEM**, Festival Director, Big Difference Company; **Scott Knowles**, Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce; **Flor Healy**, Group Chief Executive, Samworth Brothers; **Kevin Routledge**, Chairman, Leicester Riders; **Sean Jarvis**, Chief Executive, Leicester Cricket Club; **Andrea Pinchen**, Chief Executive, Leicester Tigers; **Verity Hancock**, Principal, Leicester College; **Dawn Whitmore**, Principal, The SMB Group;

**Chas Bishop**, Chief Executive, Leicester Space Centre; **Karamjit Singh**, Chair, University Hospitals of Leicester; **Andy Williams**, Chief executive of the NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland CCGs; **Chris Stafford**, Chief Executive, Curve Theatre; **Nikolai Foster**, Artistic Director, Curve Theatre; **Revd Mark Burleigh**, Head of Chaplaincy and Bereavement Services, Leicester's Hospitals; **Suleman Nagdi**, Spokesperson, Federation of Muslim Organisations; **Resham Singh Sandhu**, MBE, Leicestershire Interfaith Forum; **Pradip Gajjar**, President, ISKCON Leicester; **Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani**, Bishop of Loughborough; **Jonathan Kerry**, Chief Executive, Leicester Diocese; **The Very Revd David Monteith**, Dean of Leicester; **Revd Jenny Impey**, Minister, Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit; **Revd Novette Headley**, Superintendent Minister, Leicester West Methodist Circuit; **Dilwar Hussain**, Chair, New Horizons in British Islam; **Associate Professor David Bartram**, Chair, Leicester Progressive Jewish Community; **Jiten Anand**, Director, Inspirate; **Sean Carroll**, Director, Inspirate; **Bipin Anand**, Director, ImageNova; **Glynis Wright**, President Leicestershire Law Society; **Professor Turi King**, Professor of Public Engagement, Leicester University; **Revd Dr Tom Wilson**, Director, St Philip's Centre; **Ravi Tara**, Group Finance Director, Mattioli Woods.

#### A CITY OF CHAMPIONS WHERE FAIRYTALES CAN COME TRUE

Isaac Ashe, deputy digital publishing editor at LeicestershireLive and The Leicester Mercury, said: "Whatever it is you love about life, there's an amazing example of it here in Leicester.

"From the hustle and bustle of shopping destinations such as Highcross and Fosse Park to the calm of oases of nature such as Bradgate Park and Watermead Park, and everything in between.

"We have tradition and history, we have innovating industries and universities, we have culture to enjoy year round - from the biggest Diwali gathering outside of India to the month-long comedy festival.

"And don't get me started on the sporting stars we can claim - we're the city of champions that showed the world that fairytales can come true.

"But below these broad-brush examples of why Leicester is firmly on the map for people outside the city limits, there are a million and one things that we can shout about too.

"That hidden gem of a restaurant tucked down an alleyway, your favourite independent boutique in The Lanes, the park you always head to for walkies, that venue where you heard your new favourite band for the first time, perhaps.

"It's these small but perfectly formed parts of Leicester too that make life here so great. Let's shout up about them!"

■ Follow the conversation and show your support across social media using #TogetherInHope and #WeAreLeicester

other when support is most needed, which gives me great confidence that we can overcome the current challenges and emerge from the lockdown stronger than ever before."

#### COMING TOGETHER DURING THE PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWN

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of

Leicester, said: "We're launching Together In Hope because we've been so encouraged by the way people have come together across Leicester and Leicestershire during the pandemic and lockdown.

"We want the world to know about this and we want to tell people that our diversity is our strength.

"We believe that this diversity and

togetherness will enable us to emerge from this crisis with renewed hope for a society in which we care for one another and care for our planet.

"I'm delighted that so many partners have already come on board with this initiative and we hope you will join us and start sharing stories of Together In Hope."