

Time capsule marks start of work on new leisure centre

BURYING a time capsule containing pupils' ideas of how leisure hours will be spent in 2116 was the crowning moment of the contract start up ceremony for Hinckley's new multi-million pound sports complex.

Children from nearby St Mary's Primary had been toiling over the task for a number of weeks and the school's four house captains were among a group of civic dignitaries and project leaders at Argents Mead this week.

Pilings have already started to go in ready for foundation works which will shore up the 6,500sqft, £15 million centre, scheduled to open in spring 2016, and the ceremony was official recognition of construction works on the site.

St Mary's headteacher, Nicola Harwood, said: "Everyone in school took part and I think the children had a lot of fun thinking about what peo-

ple would be doing in their leisure time, say in a 100 years when this capsule might be dug up.

"We encouraged pupils to detail what they liked to do in their spare time now and we took photos of the children playing sport or making loom bands.

"It was interesting because discussions surrounded whether technology will have taken over our lives and our leisure time and whether people will still go out for a walk in the park, or play football, or go for a ride on their bike."

She added the whole school was excited about the new centre and the opportunities for recreation both inside and outside as landscaped areas community use were a key part of the scheme.

Also present were representatives from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Places for People Leisure - the firm which will run the facility,



Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, Councillor Jeff Bannister, with wife Trish, and children from nearby St Mary's Primary officially mark the start of construction on the Argents Mead site for the new leisure centre by burying a time capsule. The youngsters who helped out are (in no order) George Lee, Eden Mogford-Walsh, Casey Thompson and Joe Newitt, all aged 10

building group Pellikaan Construction and Roberts Limbrick architects.

The eco-friendly centre will include a 25m swimming pool and learner floors. Perfect for competitions and events, the pool will include spectator seating for up to 100 people. The new facility

will also boast an eight court sports hall, an enhanced gym and café.

Executive member for culture and leisure at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Councillor David Cope added: "I'm delighted we've now turned the first sod on a project which will benefit the whole community. In

a little over a year's time we will have a fantastic brand new sports and leisure facility right in the centre of town which will have a welcome effect not only on the superb leisure facilities but also enhance footfall and the viability of businesses in Castle Street by attracting even more people into the town."