

EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT

COMMUNITY *flyer*CREATING A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE FOR ALL

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the first EMA Community Flyer of 2026. As we look forward to another busy year, I'm also reflecting on the end of 2025. The festive period is all about giving and at EMA we continued our 'Giftmas' tradition in 2025, with colleagues donating hundreds of presents and our community team purchasing over 1,400 more.

These were wrapped by staff volunteers and donated via schools, food banks and local events to members of our community who might not otherwise have received a present during the festive season.

'Giftmas' is just one of many ways we support our local area. In this issue you can also catch up on recent initiatives by our environment, education and community teams.

I am particularly proud of our Assisted Travel service which has won the best Accessible Travel Initiative – Transport category at the Travel for Every Body Awards ceremony recently. The service has grown in popularity, with numbers increasing by around 25% each year.

I'm also proud to share our East Midlands Airport Sustainability Summary Report for 2025. This report highlights the incredible progress we've made across our past strategy's focus areas – Zero Carbon Airports, Opportunity for All, and Local Voices – which were completed over the past five years.

We work hard to keep the lines of communication between ourselves and our local communities open. Don't forget that if you would like to attend a meeting of the East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee (EMACC), or have a question or an item that you'd like to see addressed on the agenda, you can contact EMACC's Independent Chair, or your local representative – find out more on our website [here](#).



As always, we welcome your views. You can contact us at community@eastmidlandsairport.com and sign up to receive the Community Flyer by scanning the QR code.

On behalf of all my colleagues at East Midlands Airport, I'd like to wish all our neighbours a brilliant 2026.

STEVE GRIFFITHS
Managing Director



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT LAUNCH

The aviation industry creates many economic benefits and social opportunities, despite challenges like climate change, air quality, noise disturbance and the rapidly changing security environment.

Our Sustainability promise is that when our business prospers, the regions and communities we serve prosper too. Our strategy builds on our strong track record for improving the way we operate as a business

for the benefit of the communities, regions and environment around our airports.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the local community, we are dedicated to building and sustaining a positive dialogue with our neighbours: informing, involving, consulting and reporting back to them. We are proud to announce the publication of our [East Midlands Airport Sustainability Summary Report for 2025](#), which details how we have performed against our Sustainability Strategy.





SPREADING THE JOY OF THE FESTIVE SEASON TO OVER 1,400 LOCAL PEOPLE

We have once again been busy spreading the joy of the festive season to all our neighbours, with treats and gifts for young and old in our local communities. This year hundreds of gifts were donated by colleagues, wrapped and delivered to a local food bank.

Petra Parker, Food Hub Officer at South Derbyshire CVS, said: "What a fantastic donation we have received today. Thank you so much for everything you are doing for us. Your ongoing support is making a huge difference to so many people."

Every year the airport reaches out to our surrounding communities, with staff volunteering their time to support events that help create happy memories during this special season, including over 1,400 people receiving gifts from the airport.

We kicked off the festive season by supporting local community group One Kegworth to create a magical Christmas experience for over 75-year-olds living in Kegworth. Guests were treated to afternoon tea and entertainment at the Crowne Plaza in Kegworth. At the end of the event every guest received a gift provided by the airport. Those who couldn't attend the event received Christmas hampers which were packed and delivered by volunteers, including a special gift.

Next, we treated local youngsters to a matinee performance of Cinderella – this year's Pantomime at Loughborough Town

Hall. The airport gifted 190 tickets to children and their families from Cobden Primary School and Rendell Primary School in Loughborough, along with families of children with life-limiting illnesses being supported by Melbourne-based charity Me & Dee.

The Airport even arranged for Santa and his elves to hand out gifts to all the children before the performance as well as treating them to ice-cream and drinks during the interval.

Later, airport staff pulled out all the stops to help make a very special flight to Lapland for children with terminal and life-limiting illnesses as magical and unforgettable as possible, thanks to national charity When You Wish Upon a Star.

Finally, we rounded off the festivities by arranging for Santa and his elves to visit three local schools, with gifts for all the children. During December we visited Kegworth Primary School, Cobden Primary School in Loughborough and Brackenfield SEN School in Long Eaton.

It's a privilege to work alongside community partners like One Kegworth to bring some magical cheer to people living in our local communities during the festive season.

Colleen Hempson,
East Midlands Airport's
Community Engagement
Manager



OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL



THE GRADUATE & APPRENTICE ENGINEER SHOW

The Education Team proudly represented the airport at the Graduate & Apprentice Engineer Show at Derby Arena in early November.

It was a buzzing event that drew a huge crowd of aspiring engineers and future innovators. We connected with thousands

of students, all eager to learn about exciting career opportunities in the aviation sector.

Our engineering apprenticeship programmes proved to be one of the most popular topics of conversation, sparking lively interest and demonstrating the strong demand for hands-on pathways into the industry.



INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS: AT CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

In November, the MAG Technology team delivered an interactive and inspiring workshop for 135 enthusiastic Year 7 students.

The session introduced project management principles and employability skills, showing students how qualities like organisation, teamwork and leadership are already part of their everyday lives. Students worked in teams on continuous improvement challenges using a fun and creative Mr Potato Head activity, sparking collaboration and problem-solving skills. The workshop was a huge success, and students were highly engaged, learned valuable skills, and left feeling motivated about the world of work.



LEVEL 2 AVIATION INDUSTRY COURSE – THE PERFECT NEXT STEP

We are proud to announce that the Level 2 Working in the Aviation Industry course has officially launched on-site at East Midlands Airport Academy.

This free pre-employment course for adults is ideal for anyone eager to expand their knowledge of the aviation sector.



To find out more, simply scan the QR code below or email airportacademy@eastmidlandsairport.com



OPENING DOORS FOR CARE LEAVERS

In November we welcomed nine care leavers, age 16-24, to Aerozone. The students, supported by Nottingham Cares, had an inspiring day focused on career opportunities at East Midlands Airport.

The group explored a wide variety of job roles, gaining valuable insights into the skills and pathways that can lead to exciting futures in aviation. Our Airport Academy showcased the routes into employment which sparked lots of plenty of interest and enthusiasm among attendees.

Claire Novak from Nottingham County Council, said "Thank you for a great Employability Briefing – the feedback forms were extremely positive, with young people saying they enjoyed hearing all about the airport and different job roles."





We will safeguard the natural environment and promote resource efficiency

SHAREWEAR BENEFIT FROM CLOTHING DONATIONS

Encouraging our colleagues to recycle is a key part of supporting our new Sustainability Strategy, so this autumn we held 'Swap Shops' to encourage our colleagues to bring in pre-loved articles and exchange them with each other.

This great initiative helps to break the cycle of 'fast fashion' and give pre-loved items a new home. All the leftover clothing was donated to Sharewear, to go on to help those in need. Sharewear Clothing Scheme, based in Nottingham, offer free-of-charge clothing choices to people in economic difficulty, using a combination of a referral system for individuals and an outreach service for organisations.



NEW HEDGEROW ON AIRPORT TRAIL TO BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE

The airport's managing director Steve Griffiths recently joined 30 airport volunteers, braving the cold weather to plant 1,400 whips to create a new 400m-long hedge along the north west section of the Airport Trail.

The new hedge, benefiting local wildlife and walkers, is part of a wider Airport Trail upgrade project delivered during the airport's 60th year. The trail is a walking route of just over six miles, offering views over local countryside as well as the airfield.



You can contact our Community Engagement team at community@eastmidlandsairport.com or have a chat face-to-face at one of our [community outreach events](#). You can find our quarterly newsletters and sign up to receive them [here](#)

Find out more about the EMA Community Fund and our [Community Sponsorship Fund](#).

Find out more about our Sound Insulation Grant Scheme and Vortex protection scheme – [Supporting our Community](#)

Find out more about our education programmes, Aerozone education centre and the EMA Employment Academy here – [EMA Employment, Skills and Education](#). For more information about free courses and on-site vacancies email MAG.Academies@magairports.com

Find out more about how we manage the impact of aircraft noise here – [Living Near the Airport and Managing Noise](#).

You can also report a noise disturbance [here](#)

For Airport Customer Services and Feedback: 0808 169 7030

For more information on how we store and use your data:

www.eastmidlandsairport.com/privacy-notice

