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SEE PAGES 20-21



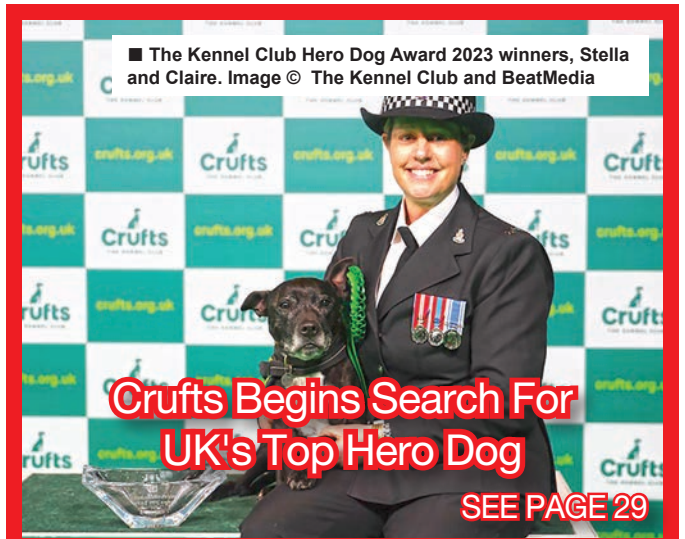
Update On
Leeds Bradford Airport
Night-Time Flying Applications

SEE PAGE 4



Collect Tree Seeds To Create
Woodlands Around Leeds

SEE PAGE 13



The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award 2023 winners, Stella and Claire. Image © The Kennel Club and BeatMedia

Crufts Begins Search For
UK's Top Hero Dog

SEE PAGE 29

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See page 15



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Mon - Fri 09:00 - 17:30 & Sat 09:00 - 13:00

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What's inside your paper



A Roarsome Adventure

SEE INSIDE: Page 23

MUSIC



■ Kid Kapichi

Live At Leeds

SEE INSIDE: Page 16

MOTORS



Construction Scheduled For Second Phase Of £23m Connecting West Leeds Transport Improvements

SEE INSIDE: Page 24

NEWS

MORE THAN £11 MILLION TO IMPROVE AND PROTECT BUS SERVICES IN YORKSHIRE

SEE INSIDE: Page 5

OWNERS OF WHITELOCK'S ALE HOUSE TO OPEN NEW FOOD & DRINK HALL IN LEEDS CITY CENTRE

SEE INSIDE: Page 9

HIT THE DANCE FLOOR FOR MARTIN HOUSE AND SIGN UP TO STRICTLY GET DANCING

SEE INSIDE: Page 10

COULD YOU GIVE AN OLD AGE POOCH A FURRY-TAIL ENDING?

SEE INSIDE: Page 28

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED INTO UNREGULATED COSMETIC PROCEDURES

SEE INSIDE: Page 32

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Update On Leeds Bradford Airport Night-Time Flying Applications

Leeds City Council has confirmed that it will follow a process set out in national government legislation and guidance while dealing with recent applications from Leeds Bradford Airport relating to night-time flying.

The council received five Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) applications from the airport last month.

The applications, which have been published in full on the council's public access planning system, relate to whether certain aircraft movements are permitted at night at the airport.

CLEUD applications involve a different decision-making process to an application for planning permission and, as such, the council is keen to clarify the next steps it will take.

When dealing with a CLEUD application, local planning authorities – such as the council – have to adhere to regulations laid down by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

These regulations mean that CLEUD applications – which seek to confirm that an existing use of land or operational development is lawful – are not automatically subject to consultation or publication.

They also mean that CLEUD applications are determined purely on the basis of relevant factual evidence assessed against a legal test.

This in turn means that 'planning merits' – such as disturbance and possible impact on a surrounding area – which might typically be raised during a consultation cannot be taken into account when a decision on a CLEUD is being made.

At the same time, national guidance gives planning authorities discretion in certain circumstances to seek relevant factual evidence from third parties – including members of the public – when dealing with a CLEUD application.

Due to the significant public interest in the operations of the airport, the council has therefore decided to undertake a call for evidence.

This means that the council is seeking relevant factual evidence – such as flight data, flight times, flight frequency and size of aircraft – that relates to the specific operations at Leeds Bradford outlined in two of the applications.

Submissions must relate to the period covered by the airport's evidence, which is August 29, 2007, through to August 28, 2018.

The call for evidence relates to the two applications (23/05440/CLE and 23/05442/CLE) for which the airport has submitted flight movement data.

The council is not at this stage undertaking a call for evidence on the remaining three applications as it is seeking further clarity on them from the airport.

It is important to note that a call for evidence is not the same as a 'public consultation', as general comments, objections and opinions on issues such as planning merits are not being invited as they cannot be taken into account during the determination process.

Councillor Helen Hayden, Leeds City Council's executive member for sustainable development and infrastructure, said:

"The council recognises that planning matters relating to Leeds Bradford Airport are often the subject of much public interest.

"The call for evidence announced means that third parties, including members of the public, may play a part in providing relevant evidence on these two applications.

"Please note, however, that determination cannot take into account evidence or comments which fall outside the process's tightly-defined parameters.

"This approach is not a matter of choice for planning authorities, it is one laid down in law."

People who believe they have relevant factual evidence relating to the two applications are asked to e-mail the information – including any verifying details – to the council at planning@leeds.gov.uk no later than October 18.

As is standard practice, evidence received will be shared with the applicant prior to the assessment and determination of each application by the council.



Single-family homes developer and operator Casa by Moda has secured an initial £60m funding facility from NatWest, which could rise to £150m, allowing it to accelerate the delivery of high-quality new homes for rent across the UK.

Within the Yorkshire region, the funding will support Casa to deliver over 630 new rental homes across South and West Yorkshire, with the brand having already acquired its first neighbourhood in Leeds from specialist sustainable housebuilder Artisan Real Estate.

The landmark commitment from NatWest will form part of Casa's funding package and will help spearhead the brand's expansion, directly supporting the delivery of over 1,100 new rental homes in the UK's single family homes (SFH) sector.

Casa, Moda Living's SFH arm, is seeking to transform the traditional UK rental market by creating neighbourhoods which place best in class customer service, leading technology, wellbeing services and sustainability at the forefront of its long-term rental model.

The brand's first live neighbourhood in Yorkshire is the 2.4-hectare Casa, Abbey Court which will feature 223 high-quality family homes for rent in Kirkstall, Leeds, available to rent from 2024 and followed by further sites in West and South Yorkshire.

Casa neighbourhoods offer all residents deposit-free, pet friendly living and the option for long-term leases of up to three years. The brand also embeds ESG principles into the design, development and operation of its homes, by creating purpose-built neighbourhoods alongside working with housebuilders to deliver energy efficient homes.

In addition, Casa has partnered with property technology company Utopi to install smart environmental sensors into its homes. This enables residents to monitor everything from room temperature to air quality and light pollution, with all data provided in real-time via the MyCasa app. The app also provides 24/7 access to customer service and maintenance reporting and enables residents to connect with

their community to conveniently book at-home services, such as dog walking, window cleaning and gardening.

SFH is growing in popularity within the UK, and sees developers own and operate neighbourhoods in suburban areas, as opposed to the traditional city centre locations which are associated with build to rent (BTR) development. It has been highlighted as a key solution to the UK's housing crisis, by professionalising the private rented sector, which has long been controlled by individual private landlords.

Casa is one of the leading brands within the UK SFH market and is focused on driving forward the professionalisation of the UK's rental sector, which is predicted to grow over the next decade, as a result of reduced levels of home ownership.

Johnny Caddick, Chief Executive at Moda Living, said: "This new funding package from NatWest is a major milestone in Casa's growth trajectory. As a Harrogate headquartered business, it's important for us to be able to commit to creating over 630 much-needed, high quality new rental homes across the county, as we continue towards our aim of securing more than 5,000 new homes across the UK by 2025."

Charlie Foster, Head of Real Estate at NatWest said: "We are delighted to be supporting Casa with their strategy, which provides much needed, high quality, single-family rental homes in the UK. It is exciting to see our debt facility assist with the provision of new build homes into the Glasgow and Leeds markets, where residents will benefit from Casa's institutional quality management. NatWest have a long history of backing the UK residential sector across all tenures, and our support for the emerging single-family rental sector is a continuation of that commitment. We look forward to working with Casa as they deliver on the proposition".

For more information on acquisition or collaboration opportunities please contact Rob Gill: rob.gill@modaliving.com

To find out more visit: www.casa.moda

Community Share Offer For New Affordable Homes In Armley

People in Leeds and beyond are to be given the chance to invest in a new community share offer. The Armley Community Homes campaign, will seek to raise £500,000 so that Leeds Community Homes can build 34 new homes on Mistress Lane in Armley. These high quality homes will be part of an affordable, sustainable new development for the people of Armley and will deliver desperately needed new homes on currently derelict land that no-one else would build on.

The need for decent, affordable new homes in Armley is massive. These homes will be a mix of flats and family houses for rent and sale, plus a shared communal space. They will be insulated to a high standard also including solar panels (PV), air source heat pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems for all the homes, meaning that they will have a much lower carbon impact than most new and existing buildings. Residents will see this benefit in lower energy bills.

As well as high-quality homes, these homes will also bring a sense of community. On top of a shared communal space, Leeds Community Homes will be working with the residents so that they are involved in the running and management of the homes.

Leeds Community Homes's role as the community land trust for Leeds means that the homes will stay affordable for perpetuity.

Lou Cunningham, Armley resident and community activist and member of Leeds Community Homes says: "The land on Mistress Lane has been unused since council flats on there were demolished in the early 2000s. But it's land right in the heart of Armley and so many

people and families need homes. These homes won't just create high-quality warm homes for local people but we hope will also act as a real boost for the whole area.

With this share offer we are asking people to invest from £100 to £50,000. It's a good deal - a 5% return on their investment whilst at the same time making a contribution to Armley's future."

Jimm Reed, Director of Leeds Community Homes and the person driving forward this project said: "I have been behind a number of major community-led housing schemes and this scheme is one of the most exciting, delivering homes which only Leeds Community Homes can make happen. The designs are for high-quality homes, so desperately needed by local people here.

At Leeds Community Homes we have already raised the funding through Community Shares for affordable homes as part of the Climate Innovation District. In recent months, residents in Chapeltown have moved into their new homes in Chaco.

Community-led housing doesn't just create fantastic homes, it also helps build community, so that's also what we are aiming to do here.

If we can raise the £500,000 in community shares, I know this scheme will happen and local families and individuals who really need them will get efficient, new homes and together we will build a new community."

For more details about the share offer visit:

www.leedscommunityhomes.org.uk/share-offer-2023

More Than £11 Million To Improve And Protect Bus Services In Yorkshire



Residents across Yorkshire will benefit from lower fares, improved reliability and better bus services as the Government delivers a further £11.2 million to support local buses into 2025.

Roads Minister Richard Holden has confirmed that seven local authorities in Yorkshire will receive the second £11.2 million allocation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) for 2024-25.

The funding follows the first £103.2 million BSIP+ and BSIP investments for Yorkshire for 2022 through to early 2025, taking the total government support to help improve bus services in the region to more than £114 million over three years.

From introducing new services, or enhancing existing ones in the weekends or evenings, or to making tickets cheaper through reduced fares for elderly or young people, local authorities can use the new BSIP+ allocations in several ways to improve bus services for all residents in Yorkshire.

Local authorities can also use the investment to protect bus services with low passenger numbers, so that residents in Yorkshire who rely on them for essential services can continue to access their local bus.

Roads Minister Richard Holden said:

“Buses are the most popular form of public transport, and so many residents in Yorkshire rely on their local service to get to work, attend medical appointments, and see loved ones.

“We are delivering for local communities across six local authorities by providing a further £11.2 million to improve and protect essential local services, as we continue to boost transport connections in Yorkshire to help grow the economy.”

The new BSIP+ funding for Yorkshire is part of a wider £160 million investment to improve bus services across England from 2022 through to 2025.

It comes on top of a further £140 million announced in May from the extension of the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), taking the total to continue supporting and protecting bus services across England to £300 million into 2025.

To help people with cost of living pressures and save on everyday travel costs, the government has also invested £200 million to extend the bus fare cap, with single bus tickets capped at £2 outside London until

the end of October 2023 and then at £2.50 until 30 November 2024.

The £2 fare cap has cut travel costs particularly in rural areas, where buses are crucial for so many people to get around, with the average fare dropping by 10.8% in rural and non-metropolitan parts of England.

Silviya Barrett, from Campaign for Better Transport, said:

“We’re pleased the £2 bus fare cap we campaigned for has been a success, reducing fares and boosting passenger numbers.

“The additional funds for local authorities announced are also welcome and we hope that this is just the start of ongoing investment in bus networks across the country.”

These initiatives take total government support to protect and improve bus services while keeping fares low in England to £3.5 billion since 2020.

While it is the responsibility of bus operators and local transport authorities to ensure an adequate provision of bus routes, the Government continues to work closely with the sector to support local areas in dealing with changing travel patterns while managing pressures on the taxpayer.

Janette Bell, Managing Director of First Bus said:

“We welcome the certainty provided by the confirmation of the next tranche of local authority funding allocations.

“We look forward to working together with our local authority partners to deliver the best services possible for our customers. At First Bus we are driven by a passion to get more people using the bus and we welcome any funding that makes taking the bus an easier travel choice.”

In addition to the £3.5 billion to support buses since 2020, the government has provided £5.7 billion to 8 mayoral combined authorities in England to support integrated, cross-modal transport networks over the next 5 years through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), including supporting bus infrastructure.

The Department has also recently confirmed £129 million to roll out hundreds more zero emission buses, with the first £25 million prioritised specifically for rural communities. This brings total government investment in new zero-emission buses to almost £500 million.

Active Leeds Unveil Three New State Of The Art Gyms

New state of the art gyms have been unveiled at three popular Active Leeds leisure centres, as part of the council’s ambition to get more people moving.

Significant investment has been made into the equipment and wider gym refurbishments at Wetherby, Morley and Armley leisure centres, with the new look gyms now open.

The refurbished gyms feature new equipment, including dedicated free weights areas, functional fitness areas, new cardio and resistance equipment as well as the latest technology to help people at all stages of their wellness journey.

To arrange a tour of the new gyms or to find out more about memberships please visit: www.leeds.gov.uk, a membership with Active Leeds is available from £25.95 a month.

As well as upgrading the gyms, refurbishment works have included upgrading the pool at Wetherby to include new energy efficient lighting and decorations throughout. As well as a new virtual spin studio and bio circuit equipment at Morley leisure centre.

Further upgrades have also been delivered at Holt Park and Rothwell leisure centres, with new functional fitness spaces being added at both centres.



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■ Dame Sharon White. Image © John Lewis Partnership

Public Lecture Leeds University - 'Women In Business Should Not Feel They Have To Take A Backseat' - Dame Sharon White

Dame Sharon White, who chairs the John Lewis Partnership, will share her personal journey as a female leader for the latest public lecture in a University of Leeds series celebrating strong women.

Dame Sharon will reflect on her background and varied career through the lens of female equality for the 2023 Alice Bacon Lecture on 2 November.

"I am so pleased to be joining the Alice Bacon lecture series this year. It is a great opportunity to share experiences and maybe some lessons along the way - all with the aim of helping women to not feel they have to take a backseat," she said.

Her talk will encompass thoughts about her upbringing as a daughter to parents of the Windrush generation as well as her education and the three distinct phases of her career - from the Civil Service and the communications regulator Ofcom to the John Lewis Partnership.

Sharon will also share her views on how to work towards greater gender equality in the workplace and society - by having a different conversation that brings everyone along in step, including men.

The annual Alice Bacon Lecture celebrates the achievements of pioneering women and is hosted by the University's Centre for Democratic Politics. The lecture series is named after the Leeds Labour MP who led a crusade to improve the education of working-class girls and boys.

The inaugural lecture was given in 2018 by Harriet Harman - the House of Commons' longest continuously serving female MP - followed in 2019 by Baroness Hale of Richmond, who was the first female President of the Supreme Court and the country's most senior judge until her retirement from the role in December that year.

Alice Bacon was elected to represent Leeds North East in 1945 and served her city constituents continuously until her retirement a quarter of a century later, when she took up a seat in the House of Lords as a Baroness.

Leeds did not return another woman to the Commons until the election in 2010 of Rachel Reeves, Member of Parliament for Leeds West and now Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Ms Reeves partnered with the University's School of Politics and International Studies to establish the lectures in the name of her trailblazing forebear, with the aim of celebrating the achievements of successful women, locally and nationally.

She said: "I'm delighted that Dame Sharon White agreed to be this year's speaker for the Alice Bacon Lecture, where we celebrate the life of Leeds' first female MP.

"Sharon's emphasis on the importance of social mobility mirrors the driving force behind Alice Bacon, who was determined to improve the lives of working-class children through education.

"I'm looking forward to hearing more about Sharon's inspirational personal and professional journey."

Dr Richard Hayton, Co-Director of the Centre for Democratic Politics added: "We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome Dame Sharon White to the University of Leeds.

"Her distinguished and varied career means that she is ideally placed to speak on the topic of women and leadership and reflect on the battle for gender equality. The lecture will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to hear first-hand from a such a high-profile and successful figure."

The lecture will take place at 18:30 - 19:30 in the Great Hall at the University of Leeds on Thursday November 2023. Doors will open at 18:00. After the lecture there will be a drinks reception. This is a public event and is free to attend, but you will need a ticket for admission.

Please register here for a ticket;

<https://store.leeds.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/essl/conferences/the-female-leader-the-alice-bacon-lecture-2023>

UK Corporate Games Will Show Leeds Is The Business For Sport



Leeds is set to take its place in the national sporting spotlight once again after a successful joint bid by Leeds City Council and the University of Leeds to host the UK Corporate Games 2024.

The event is the country's largest multi-sport festival for businesses, with thousands of competitors from hundreds of companies coming together in a different city each year to network and build team spirit as they go for glory at everything from karting and golf to tennis and dragon boat racing.

Running from July 25 to 28, the event will be held at a range of venues across the city, including the John Charles Centre for Sport, Sports Park Weetwood and the Brownlee Centre.

The Games, it is hoped, will further strengthen the reputation of Leeds as a sporting heavyweight, with the city in recent times hosting high-profile occasions such as the AJ Bell World Triathlon Championship Series and the Westfield Health British Transplant Games as well as a number of fixtures at last year's Rugby League World Cup.

The announcement also comes as the LEEDS 2023 year of culture continues to burnish the city's credentials as a place that can confidently deliver innovative, large-scale events which capture the public imagination and create magical lifelong memories.

Next summer's Games are expected to generate more than £2m for the local economy and will showcase Leeds to visiting business people as an attractive option if their company is considering relocation or expansion.

Working alongside both the organisers and the university, the council will also use the insight it has gained from staging previous big events to produce a sustainability strategy designed to make these the most eco-friendly Games yet.

Doug White, director of the UK Corporate Games, said:

"We are delighted to announce that the city of Leeds will host the 2024 UK Corporate Games. We're extremely excited to work closely with Leeds City Council and the University of Leeds to make this the best UK Corporate Games ever.

"Leeds is a fantastic city, and we know all our Games competitors and competing organisations will share our excitement. Leeds is one of the UK's foremost cities for growing enterprises and we want to provide all businesses with the opportunity to get involved in this memorable event.

"The Games bring people and companies together from across the UK and Europe and provide businesses and their employees with an opportunity to team build, promote health and wellbeing through sport and network as well as promote their brand."

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's deputy leader and executive member for economy, culture and education, said:

"We're delighted that Leeds has been chosen as the host city for the UK Corporate Games 2024. It's a real feather in our cap, so thank you to the organisers for bringing it here and well done to all those from the council and the university who worked on the bid.

"I'm sure the event will be a great example of how sport can unite people and inspire them to reach their goals through determination, positivity and teamwork.

"It will also be a perfect opportunity to showcase Leeds's strengths as both a passionate sporting city and a brilliant place to do business.

"Everyone involved can look forward to a typically warm Leeds welcome - roll on next summer and the start of the action!"

Rob Wadsworth, director of campus innovation at the University of Leeds, said:

"We're delighted to be chosen as the hub for this fantastic city-wide festival that will bring people together from across the UK and Europe. Under the expert eye of our conferences and events team and supported by a range of services from across the university, I am confident we'll help create one of the most memorable UK Corporate Games yet.

"Thanks to our unrivalled sports facilities, we are well versed at hosting prestigious sporting events including the Rugby League World Cup and the British Transplant Games. We look forward to working with partners across the city to add another respected event to this list with the UK Corporate Games!"

The Games are open to companies large and small, with an entry fee of £89 per person.

Next year's schedule is due to feature more than 20 sports, together with a welcome festival and a grand parade of athletes.

The Games are designed to be inclusive, with no minimum qualifying standards. Teams can be made up of a company's employees and clients as well as family and friends.

For further details about the event and its entry process, e-mail: leeds@corporategamesuk.com, ring 01733 838444 or visit: www.corporategamesuk.com

Sparky The Robodog Enhances Safety At UK's Largest Renewable Power Station



Drax Power Station, Britain's single-largest renewable power generator, has a new four-legged friend to help sniff out hazards to keep people safe. Sparky, a state-of-the-art robotic dog, has joined the plant and will carry out inspections and capture critical data on machinery.

The robodog has joined Drax's Condition Based Maintenance team to spot potential failures on the plant before they happen. The bright yellow dog is fitted with a camera which enables it to

conduct critical visual and thermal inspections on equipment such as hot boilers while its human controllers are kept safe away from the equipment.

As Sparky gets familiar with the plant, he will be programmed to follow tailored routes around the site. This will enable him to operate autonomously, enhancing efficiency even further.

Ensuring the safety, health, and wellbeing of people on site is the company's top priority. Drax's investment in Sparky is part of a wider drive to improve safety standards across the company's global operations.

Richard Barber, Maintenance Systems Lead Engineer, said: "A robotic dog might not be what you have in mind when you think about safety, but Sparky is a real game changer for us. The technology enables our team to collect better information about our equipment, while also keeping our colleagues out of harm's way.

"Its optical panoramic camera allows us to zoom in-depth on equipment and it is fitted with a thermal infrared camera, which means we can see any hot spot or unusual thermal anomalies on the machinery. We want to prevent faults from happening, not simply repair them when they occur. With Sparky on patrol at the power station, we will be able to do just that."

Sparky will have plenty of room to roam around, with Drax Power Station being one of the country's largest industrial sites. The plant near Selby has four operational power generating units, each as high as a 15-storey office block, a main chimney nearly as tall as the London Shard, and more than 1,800 miles of steel tubing, enough to stretch from John O'Groats to Land's End and back again.

The four-legged friend is the brainchild of Boston Dynamics, an American engineering and robotics design company which started as a spin-off from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Sparky is part of the Spot pedigree of robodogs from the firm.



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Selling your home can often be a stressful time, but by choosing Oliver George as your Estate Agent, you can sit back and relax, knowing everything will be taken care of efficiently, smoothly, and professionally.

Oliver George Estate Agents is taking a novel approach to selling properties in north Leeds, but one which is tried and tested around the world.

Traditionally, you get a couple of valuations, and instruct a company to market your house. But who in the company has valued your home? Who will be doing the viewings? If you call the office who will answer? You will generally deal with a few different people.

When you choose Oliver George, you only deal with Oliver. That means you always know who is working on the different elements of the sales process, and as a result, you get a much more personalised and bespoke service. By working independently, Oliver does everything from the

initial valuation, to marketing, showing, and getting that all important offer for you and the whole process is seamless and stress free. This approach means that your property is not just a listing for an agent to read from on a showing, Oliver will know your home well – and how to sell it. As someone who calls Roundhay, North Leeds home himself, he is also extremely familiar with the local area, which is a definite plus when showing prospective purchasers around.

Oliver has spent his working life self-employed in the housing industry and specialised for many years in the flooring business. This means he has a wealth of experience in different types of properties and approaches. More recently, he decided to further develop his skills and has trained extensively with the largest estate agency in the world for self-employed estate agents. Keller Williams are a huge name in the USA and are partnered with a vast amount of estate agents around the world. Now Oliver George is bringing the partnership to the north of England for the first time and is excited to offer sellers a fresh alternative.

He says “I want to take the stress off people that comes with selling a home, so the self-employed approach is how I think all property should be dealt with. It offers a unique approach in the UK, as I will be the one to value, sell and answer all the questions you might have right away, out of office hours, to then being the one that can truly share the happiness that comes with the completion of selling your home. By instructing a personal consultant such as myself, you get incredible value for money. Providing an individualised service 7 days a week 24/7, and your home advertised across a wide range of platforms such as Rightmove and Zoopla, I will work tirelessly to promote your property and get you the price you deserve.”

So, if you are thinking of selling your home and you want an agent who will fully understand you, your property, and the north Leeds area, why not give Oliver a call and see how easy it really can be!

Email: Oliver.exley@kwuk.com

Tel: 07809 12 10 65

Or scan the QR code for more information



SCAN ME



■ Specialist artists, Robert Woodland MBE and Debra Miller of The Upright Gilders, have taken on the painstaking task of recreating the spectacular appearance the organ pipes had when the iconic building's Victoria Hall hosted the queen and other dignitaries for its opening night in 1858

Pipes Fit For A Queen As Organ's Golden Years Return

More than 160 years ago, they made their glittering debut during a royal performance attended by Queen Victoria.

Now the magnificent decorative pipes of Leeds Town Hall's stunning organ has been restored to their former glory as part of a once in a lifetime renewal project.

Specialist artists Robert Woodland MBE and Debra Miller of The Upright Gilders took on the painstaking task of recreating the spectacular appearance the organ pipes had when the iconic building's Victoria Hall hosted the queen and other dignitaries for its opening night in 1858.

Carefully stripping away layers of more recent paintwork, they uncovered original ornamental designs hidden for more than a century. Using delicate, traditional stencil techniques employed by Victorian

artisans, they have also meticulously applied beautiful gold leaf by hand to recreate the pipes' vintage look.

Robert, a master marble painter and wood grainer, has been studying the hall's original decorative artwork. He said: "The restored pipes look absolutely stunning, and it's been a real privilege to recreate the original artistic vision the designers had all those years ago."

Debra added: "We've uncovered a field of gold ornament hidden for some 100 years under several period decorations and restored to the original scheme Queen Victoria herself viewed at the opening of Leeds Town Hall in late summer of 1858."

The restoration of the organ's external pipes marks the latest stage in the landmark heritage project to rejuvenate one of the largest instruments of its kind in the world.

Elsewhere, engineers from Nicholson and Co. Ltd have been working on the colossal, 70 tonne organ's 6,000 internal pipes replacing much of the ageing mechanism to give the organ an improved sound during future performances.

Music lovers also have the chance to adopt one of the historic organ's newly refurbished pipes. Their names will be added to a special book permanently housed inside the instrument when it is completed. Money from the pipe adoption scheme will go to support the cost of the organ refurbishment.

The organ project is itself part of a much wider scheme which will refurbish and restore Leeds Town Hall preserving a Grade 1 listed public asset and ensuring the building can host large-scale events and concerts, generating significant income for the council and the city whilst engaging with the wider audiences.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund pledged a grant of £249,810 toward the project to restore Victoria Hall and rebuild the organ.

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's deputy leader and executive member for economy, culture and education, said: "Leeds Town Hall is one of the city's most beloved heritage assets and has been an iconic part of Leeds's urban landscape for more than 160 years. It's crucial that we protect and preserve such an important aspect of our city's identity and culture.

"This once-in-a-lifetime project is also about the building's future and will create a 21st century performance venue that will welcome thousands of visitors every year and generate significant income and investment for the city as a whole.

"It's exciting to see this landmark project progressing and to see the past, present and future of Leeds Town Hall coming together."

More information on the town hall, including upcoming events and how you can support the building by making a donation and being part of fundraising, can be found at: www.leedstownhall.co.uk/support-us

More details on the adopt an organ pipe project can be found at www.leedstownhall.co.uk/support-us/adopt-an-organ-pipe



Owners Of Whitelock's Ale House To Open New Food & Drink Hall In Leeds City Centre

■ The Whitelock's Team. Image © JMA Photography

The owners of Whitelock's Ale House have announced their acquisition of an iconic building in the heart of Leeds city centre. Located just behind the Corn Exchange, the third White Cloth Hall will be transformed into an exciting new food and drink hall in early 2024, and will champion Leeds' thriving independent food and drink scene.

Originally built in 1775 as a market for merchants to sell undyed or 'white' cloth, White Cloth Hall has hosted various Leeds businesses over the past 250 years. The Whitelock's team will be taking on all three existing units, which most recently housed Pizza Express, a BrewDog bar and a hairdressers - returning the premises to a single, unified space.

White Cloth Hall will work closely with independent drinks producers from across the region such as Kirkstall Brewery, Anthology and Whitewood Distilling and will provide a platform for the best local independent food traders.

White Cloth Hall is the latest project from Whitelock's Managing Director and co-founder of Five Points Brewing, Ed Mason. Mason and the Whitelock's team took over and relaunched Whitelock's in 2012, famous as the oldest pub in Leeds, and most recently opened The Meanwood Tavern in 2022.

White Cloth Hall is set to open in Spring 2024 and is open to expressions of interest and enquiries from local independent food and drink traders.

Ed Mason, Whitelock's Ale House Managing Director said:

"This is such a beautiful and iconic building - we're really excited about taking it over. At Whitelock's we celebrate and support local independent breweries and food and drink suppliers - and we're looking forward to doing the same at White Cloth Hall, on an even bigger scale"

For more information visit www.instagram.com/whiteclothhall

All Aboard The Memory Train! Wellington Place Calls Out For Leeds Central Station Memories And Memorabilia For Mini Museum

Wellington Place is calling for people to share their cherished memories of Leeds Central Station and any related memorabilia to be displayed in a new mini museum soon to be opening at Wellington Place.

Located on the ground floor of Wellington Place's Grade II listed wagon lifting hoist - one of the last remaining parts of the original station - the museum will celebrate Leeds's rich industrial history and focus on different themes throughout the year. The first will highlight the core role that the tower played for Leeds's original railway station and will include an exhibition capturing people's memories of the working station.

The exhibition will include special artefacts spanning the station's more than a century long history including rarely seen photography.

MEPC, the asset managers and developers behind Wellington Place, is encouraging people to get in touch and share their stories and experiences from visiting the station, as well as any souvenirs they've gathered over the years such as old photographs and train tickets. People can get in touch by emailing sophie@wellington-place.co.uk.

Scheduled to open its doors in early 2024 the museum will be free to access by the public during the day.

Dating back to 1850, the lifting tower was one of a pair which stood either side of the river and canal viaduct. Using steam power and large chains, its role was to hoist wagons from the higher level passenger line down to the Great Northern Goods yard at the original Leeds Central railway station.

Leeds Central station closed in 1967, and the entire complex was demolished apart from the one lifting tower. The lifting tower was made a Grade II listed building and received a Leeds Civic Trust blue plaque in July 2011, making it a specific historical point of interest in Leeds city centre.

Along with the construction of the mini museum, the Grade II listed lifting tower is also undergoing a range of repair and restoration work. This includes repairing and repointing the existing building fabric; making the structure water tight; restoration of the staircase to the upper floor; a green roof; new landscaping; new windows and doors, and the introduction of internal and external lighting.

For more information about Wellington Place, please visit;

www.wellingtonplace.co.uk

To advertise your business or Public Notice with us contact;
advertising@yorkshirereporter.co.uk or Tel: 0113 273 5000



Hit The Dance Floor For Martin House And Sign Up To Strictly Get Dancing

Couples are being challenged to showcase their best moves as Martin House Children's Hospice launches the search for its next Strictly Get Dancing champions.



Just as BBC1's Strictly Come Dancing is on our screens, Martin House is launching its own search for couples to learn to dance for its popular fundraiser.

Dancers will learn a Latin or ballroom dance, before performing in front of friends and family – and a panel of judges – in the grand show night next spring.

Maddie Bentley, events manager at Martin House, said: "Strictly Get Dancing is one of the most rewarding experiences to take part in.

"Our dancers always have an amazing time as they learn a new skill and make new friends as they train for the competition."

After enjoying all the thrills and entertainment of the TV show, competitors will be taught the dances in the five weeks leading up to the event.

They will also be raising sponsorship to support Martin House, which cares for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

The hospice provides respite, emergency, symptom control and end of life care to children and their families from across West, North and East Yorkshire, along with bereavement support.

Maddie added: "Our last Strictly Get Dancing raised nearly £40,000, and we're hoping to raise even more this time, so we can continue to provide the specialist support children and their families need.

"We're looking for couples who want to take on a new challenge and have fun while they raise money for this vital service."

As well as couples, colleagues and friends can team up to take part in Strictly Get Dancing.

It costs £50 per person to sign up, and each pair of dancers is asked to raise a minimum of £900 in sponsorship. To find out more and sign up, visit www.martinhouse.org.uk/StrictlyGetDancing.



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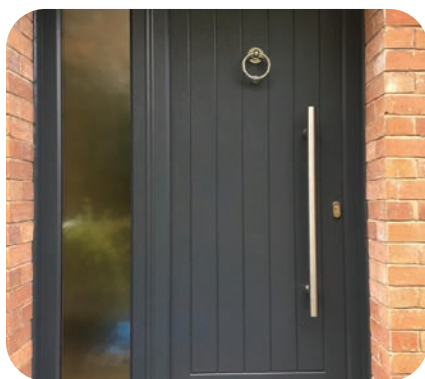
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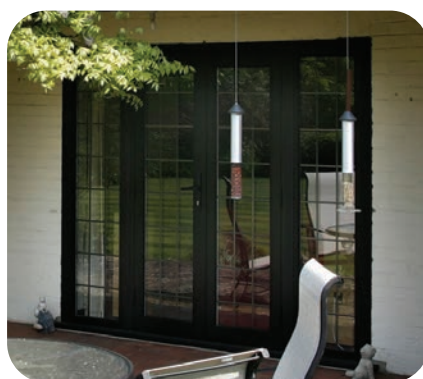
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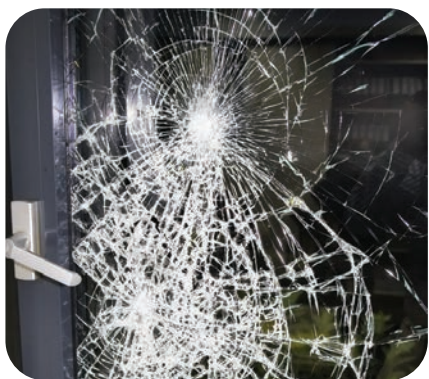
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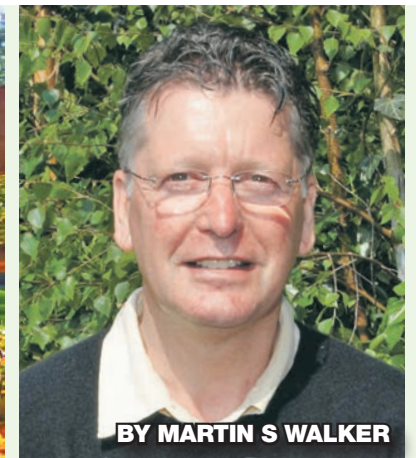
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GARDENING

As Autumn Puts On Its Fiery Cloak, Keep An Eye On That Cloud We're In For A Soak



BY MARTIN S WALKER



Reminder, Daylight Saving
Time Ends

Clocks go back 1 hour at 2.00 am on Sunday 29th October

We are well into harvesting produce from the vegetable garden, preparing and storing to keep us going throughout the coming months. The nights are definitely getting cooler, and some mornings there is a distinct nip in the air. Regular showers make planning work in the garden a little challenging but the changing colour and glints of sunshine remind me that autumn can be a beautiful time of year.



Don't be in a rush to cut plants back although flowers and stems have turned varying shades of strawy brown and golden. Providing they are still stout and standing upright they have a quality that will maintain structural interest contrasting with the ripening berries of shrubs and trees. I only cut back those perennials that have collapsed or bent in an unsightly manner, as many provide seed for the birds and a place for insects such as ladybirds to overwinter.

As the pace of growth slows in the garden my attention moves towards training and pruning unruly plants, completing repairs to failing fences and continuing outstanding jobs such as laying paths and building garden features.

We are right in the middle of bulb planting season with nurseries and garden centres bulging at the seams with bulbs, corms and tubers that promise a floral extravaganza next spring and early summer. Take your time to prepare the planting area adding horticultural grit if your soil is a little heavy and wet. I like to add a little bone meal to the planting area which helps encourage a good root system. Most bulbs available at this time of year can be planted straight away but I would leave tulips until the end of the month and into next month as the cooler soil temperatures discourage fungal attack and encourage root growth rather than soft shoots.

We plant up quite a few containers with selections of tulips which will flower over a longer period next spring and can be moved around taking advantage of more sheltered areas of the garden closer to the house.

I am often asked about pruning and training fruit and one that many shy away from is the blackberry and its relatives. Many of which grow at an alarming rate producing incredibly long new shoots every year and can quickly develop into a thick impenetrable

tangle of thorny stems. Understanding the growth habit is the first lesson, The long arching shoots produced this summer will provide the framework for fruiting next year, and the shoots that have flowered and fruited this year can be cut down to 5cm (2 inches).



Whilst there are some thornless cultivars, most blackberries are very thorny so ideally you should wear gauntlet type gardening gloves when pruning. Take your time and carefully remove the old fruiting stems by cutting short sections off until you have reached 5cm (2 inches) as trying to remove the flowering stem in one go risks damaging the new ones you want to keep. Once the old stems are removed then look at the remaining new stems and select the strongest removing short or spindly ones down to 5cm (2 inches). The remaining stems should be tied onto the support frame (fence or wire) in an arching pattern allowing at least 30cm (12 inches) between each stem to allow fruit development next year. An established plant should be able to produce up to 16 good fruiting canes each year and can take up a 4 - 5m (4-5 yard) length of fence. Next spring as growth commences apply a handful of general fertiliser around the base of the plant and keep the soil moist. Watering particularly in dry weather and as the fruit develops will improve the quality and taste of the fruit.



Looking after your lawn can be as time consuming as the rest of the garden especially if you like a weed free, manicured effect like the fine sports turf seen on golf courses, but if you just want an area of green fairly durable space where you can allow people to relax or play then maybe it doesn't need to be quite so pristine. We allow low growing native species of plant to mingle through our lawn, a little speedwell, the odd buttercup, small colony of clover and patch of daisies adds durability to the lawn and a little diversity for insects, so long as you don't cut too close accepting a height of about 35cm (1.5 inches) these will flower and add interest too. If you have space to leave an area uncut then that's great but bear in mind that at some point you will have to cut and tidy it up. A light raking with a wire rake removing dead grass is good allowing the air to circulate and discourages fungal attack. Lawn feeds for autumn contain more potash and potassium which encourage root growth and strengthens the grass to survive through the colder months. Don't be tempted to use up summer lawn feed as it will encourage soft growth which is more susceptible to disease attack.

Next month, (it's 'bare root' planting season, growing garlic and protecting tender perennials.)

Top Tip - Cool With Your Cucumbers!



Cucumbers are a great addition to salads and sandwiches but can be a little temperamental if not treated carefully. They are best grown in a greenhouse or in a very sheltered sunny part of the garden. They don't like to be wet around the neck of the plant as it can cause them to rot and collapse so I grow them in old tubs about 45 - 50cm (18 - 20 inches) in diameter and about the same deep. (An old dustbin would be fine too so long as it has holes in the base).

I use a general purpose peat free compost mixing in a little general fertiliser and about half a bucketful of horticultural grit before filling the container to about 5cm (2 inches) from the top. Cucumbers need a climbing support and I use garden canes secured to the inside frame of the polytunnel (or greenhouse).



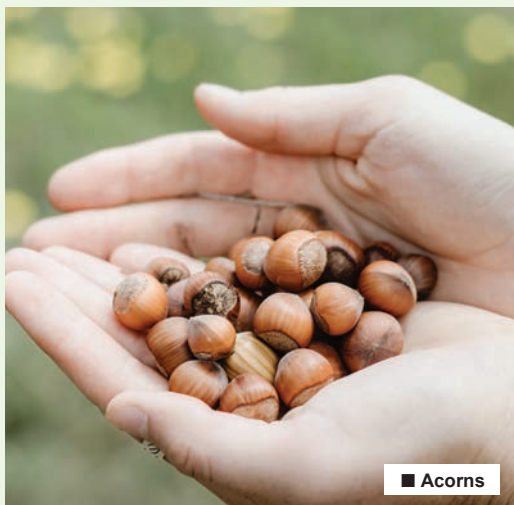
I do grow them from seed but to save time and especially if you only want one plant then nip to your local nursery or garden centre and buy a plant (early May). When the plant is about 15 - 20cm (6 to 8 inches) it is time to plant them into their final pot. Plant them close to the edge of the pot rather than in the centre as this will ensure that the roots of the developing plant are not surrounded by wet compost and will feel the warmth through the side of the container. When watering use a watering-can with a rose and water at the opposite side of the container to where you planted it as this will reduce the risk of the neck of the plant getting over wet. Feed every week with a liquid fertiliser either shop bought or home made.

Finally, when harvesting don't remove the whole fruit simply cut the length of cucumber you will use and leave the rest on the plant. The remaining part will stay fresh on the plant rather than going soggy in the fridge. The cut end on the plant will dry and you can harvest another section or the rest of the cucumber next time you want some.



Collect Tree Seeds To Create Woodlands Around Leeds

In a bid to tackle the climate emergency, people of all ages are being asked to get involved with the 'Seed Collection 2023' programme which is running throughout autumn for the fourth year.



■ Acorns

There are 13 collection points across the city and residents who want to get involved can collect three tree seed species, which are acorns, beech nuts and chestnuts.

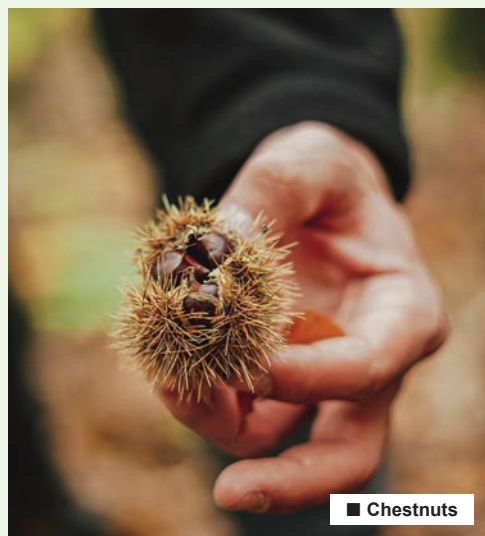
The tree seeds will then be taken to the council's designated specialist plant nursery and garden centre the 'Arium', where they are sown and grown to be planted back into Leeds parks and green spaces.



■ Beech nuts

The Woodland Creation initiative, which is managed by the council's parks service, will manage the planting of new woodlands in a bid to capture carbon, increasing biodiversity by creating habitats for birds, animals and insects. The new woodlands will also enhance green spaces creating accessible woodlands for community use by helping to improve health, wellbeing and understanding of climate change.

More information on the programme can be found on the Arium website at: www.theariumleeds.co.uk



■ Chestnuts

You can collect acorns, beech nuts and chestnuts and place in the boxes at locations below until 29th October;

- 1 - Temple Newsam Café
- 2 - Gotts Manor Golf Club
- 3 - The Arium
- 4 - Three Cottages Café, Meanwood Park
- 5 - Farnley Hall Park
- 6 - Middleton Park Visitor Centre
- 7 - Golden Acre Park Café
- 8 - Tropical World gift shop
- 9 - Kirkstall Abbey gift shop
- 10 - White House Café Outdoor Seating, Otley Chevin
- 11 - TCV Hollybush Kirkstall
- 12 - Wetherby Town Hall (Only until 19th Oct)
- 13 - Lotherton Hall



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Antiques And Collectables

With David Oddy

I am often asked if anything outstanding and valuable has ever come into my shop or if I have found anything in a charity shop or car boot sale. I can say unfortunately not in this past 50 years in the business. I do know of a fellow dealer and friend of mine who stumbled across a piece of Fabergé. It was placed in a box on the bottom shelf of a local auction house. It was amongst several practically worthless items and although it was openly viewed by everyone it was obviously overlooked by the auctioneer. My friend's wife spotted it and the whole box went very cheaply. It went to Sotheby's auction house in London and made the front cover of the catalogue. It achieved tens of thousands of pounds. Good luck to him and well spotted by his wife!



■ David Oddy inside his shop

Approx. 40 years ago I had an antique shop in Crossgates Leeds. One day a builder's truck pulled up outside the shop piled up with rubble. On top of this rubble was a large oil painting of sailing ships in a stormy sea. It was obviously Victorian and very well painted. At that time, I collected Victorian paintings, and they achieved very good prices in those days. The painting was signed, and I looked through my well-known artists book - this was before the internet, now you can click a few buttons and all artists, and the value of their works comes up. Not in those days, you had to rely on experience. Anyway, the artist was not in any of my books, but I really liked the painting and offered £500 for it. The young man said he would consult his father and come back to me.



■ Example of a victorian oil painting

About a week later the young man to his credit came back to the shop and informed me his father had sought a second opinion. It seemed this artist had only painted half a dozen pictures and died at a young age. The picture was sold at auction and achieved over £2000. I would never have known because it would have been hanging on my wall at home.



■ Example of a Lalique figurine

The only other item which springs to mind was a lady with a Lalique figure made of glass which I valued at around £1000. I informed the lady it was a bit too expensive for my shop and advised her to send it to a specialist glass antique auction. It turned out to be a very rare colourway and sold for over £4000 so I am afraid to say that I never had that thrill of finding something really valuable!



■ A much-loved Dinky ambulance, which has seen better days

The shop is really my hobby and making a profit is not my main priority as long as it pays the rent. I get much more enjoyment out of meeting some really nice people and passing on some of my knowledge and generally having a good natter about old times. I particularly like to have young people in my shop asking questions about old items. You would be surprised how knowledgeable some youngsters are. I have several 12- and 13-year-olds who collect a diverse array of interesting objects ranging from old dinky toys to 1st and 2nd World War items. And then I will get 6- and 7-year-olds wondering what a flat iron was used for or how you washed clothes in a posser tub. So please bring in your children and grandchildren, I always give children an old penny and tell them when I was their age that a penny would buy a bag of sweets, but not to try that now in Tesco!

We are always looking for new stock and would be pleased to call to your home completely without obligation to give a free valuation - without any pressure to sell. I do prefer elderly people to have a member of family present, I have been in business over 40 years and have established shop premises. Alternatively, please bring items or photos to shop. A phone call would be appreciated to make sure I am not out on a call.

Thank you,

David.

Please see advert below for contact details and opening times.



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Diary Of A Pawnbroker

Countdown To Christmas



Shopping Tip No1. Buying A Pre-Owned Rolex Watch

When it comes to watches nothing screams luxury like a Rolex. From Submariner to Datejust, Day-Date to Daytona, there is a Rolex for everyone. If you are wanting to purchase a pre-owned Rolex watch, then Christopher Brown Jeweller's York is a great place to start.

This helpful guide will tell you many of the essential questions you need to know when buying a second-hand Rolex watch such as:

- Does it have box and papers?
- Are you buying it from a reputable source?
- What is the condition of the watch?
- Have any parts been replaced over time or are they original?
- Has it had a service or is it due one?
- Is it a fair price?

Why Buy A Pre-Owned Rolex?



The obvious answer is choice and availability. Waiting lists for new models can run from 2-5 years on popular models and even then, your choice may be limited. Pre-owned may often carry a premium in price but that will be reflected in its resale value thereafter as the after-market resale price often exceeds their new RRP due to supply and demand. Over the last decade, the price of pre-owned Rolex watches has climbed upwards sharply making the right model a very worthwhile investment. Although prices have readjusted after the boom in demand following the pandemic, the luxury watch industry overall witnessed an average appreciation of about 7 to 8% on most watches year-to-date.

What Are Rolex Papers And Can You Get Replacement Papers For A Pre-Owned Rolex?

A brand new Rolex comes with a Rolex guarantee card and older models come with guarantee papers. However if you lose these papers they cannot be replaced. The 'papers' these days consist of a plastic card that contains the watches unique reference number, serial number and date of sale. It's worth noting that 'super fakes' now exist that carry false papers and will look almost identical so the most important part is using a retailer that you can trust. Many Rolex have been owned for decades and it is quite common for the original paperwork to get misplaced or thrown away during house moves. With this in mind, if you already own a Rolex, it's important to keep your original Rolex box and paperwork safe.

Is It Worth Purchasing A Rolex Without The Papers?

The most important thing about a Rolex is the watch itself. Original papers will add to the resale value of the watch and will clearly increase the purchase cost, however if you don't plan on reselling your watch, then you can buy a beautiful watch without paying the premium. Overall the true value is

dependent on the model and the age and condition of the watch and your trust in the retailer selling it. All our luxury watches at Christopher Brown Jewellers carry a 2 year warranty and full authentication guarantee giving you complete peace of mind whether the original papers still exist or have been misplaced over time.

Can You Tell If A Rolex Is Second-Hand?

All pre-owned Rolex watches from Christopher Brown Jewellers have undergone a full professional service and strap and case refurbishment. After this level of care, the watch can look like new.

You should look for how tight the links in the strap are, whether there are any marks or dents on the strap or case and whether there is any damage to the face or bezel. These are all tell-tale signs of a watch that's had a hard life and its price should be reduced accordingly. Above all it's important to buy a watch that's been serviced and carries a warranty and we offer a 2 year warranty on all our luxury watches.

Are You Buying Your Rolex From A Reputable Source?



When purchasing a Rolex it's important to talk to experts and find a seller or retailer that you can rely on. Has it been serviced recently, does it contain genuine parts and does it carry a warranty you can rely on?

We recommend staying away from private sellers you don't know as it really isn't worth the risk. There are so many 'super-fake' and replica Rolex watches, which can still cost thousands of pounds, circulating in the market. It can even take an expert 20-30 minutes to distinguish if it's the genuine article. Therefore, buyer beware – remember if it looks too good to be true then it usually is!

Is The Watch A Good Price?



A simple online search will give you a general idea of prices. Remember to compare like for like though with the age, make, model and condition all having a large impact on the value of the watch. To make sure you are getting the best deal talk to the experts and use a reputable trader.

Even a basic Rolex contains around 100 parts and a more complicated chronograph over 300. Before a luxury watch is offered for sale at Christopher Brown Jewellers, every single watch is fully dismantled, cleaned in an ultrasonic, individually oiled and any worn or damaged parts are replaced including the main spring and seals. The case and strap are re-polished and the watch is tested to ensure it has the right amplitude to check that the gear train and parts are all working correctly. We sell our watches with this peace of mind but price them according to the fair online market price so you can be sure that you are buying your watch at the right value and with a guarantee you can rely on.

Whether you are a Rolex collector or just planning to make your first purchase, contact us today at any of our 9 stores across the north including York, Seacroft, Shipley, Pontefract, Goole, Batley, Stockport, Prescot and Toxteth or visit www.christopherbrownjewellers.co.uk to see our latest range.

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Live In Leeds

By Stuart Glossop

The final festival of the season, Live at Leeds have announced 38 new artists to complete the line-up for their In The City festival this October. A celebration of the best in new music across 15+ venues, Live at Leeds: In The City is all set to host over 100 artists and bring thousands of dedicated music fans into Leeds, filling its independent venues, bars and spaces with live music and passionate audiences. Staying true to its origins as a platform for the country's best new music, this year's Live At Leeds is packed with exciting emerging artists. The announcement includes the likes of avant-garde, '80s-inspired pop riser Jessica Winter, Frank Carter's favourite new fist-in-the-air punk rockers Kid Kapichi, Manchester's anthemic indie-pop power trio The Covassettes and many more.

■ The Covassettes



Launched in 2007, Live at Leeds has become one of the country's most recognisable and important festivals dedicated to championing new artists. An unforgettable stop on the careers of thousands of musicians, in its storied history the festival has notably hosted early performances from the likes of Ed Sheeran, Stormzy, The 1975, George Ezra and countless others. So who will be the stand out new band at this year's festival? That honour goes to Alt-rock quartet Another Sky, made up of singer Catrin Vincent, guitarist Jack Gilbert, bassist Naomi Le Dune and drummer Max Doohan, return after a three-year absence from the spotlight. The band formed at Goldsmiths in London, and have already seen great success from their debut album 'I Slept On The Floor', while also gracing Later... with Jools Holland, where their incendiary performance inspired Biffy Clyro to offer them a support slot on their UK tour. Expect to see them at the event's sister festival Live At Leeds In The Park which will return to Temple Newsam on 25th May 2024.

■ Another Sky



■ The Last Dinner Party Guitarist Lizzie Mayland



The Last Dinner Party also play the festival in October and we urge you to catch their latest record Sinner.. It follows the scintillating debut, Nothing Matters, which provoked an instantaneous reaction of acclaim. Guitarist Lizzie Mayland told us "Sinner is a story of self-acceptance, and the longing for the past and present self to become one."

■ Texas



Following a triumphant performance on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury this year, which The Independent described as "one of Friday's most memorable performances", Texas will return to the stage for a run of UK Arena shows in 2024. Kicking off at Leeds First Direct Arena on Friday September 6th and culminating with a home-town date at Glasgow's the run will see the band play a set of classic hits from their recently released The Very Best Of 1989 – 2023. 34 years since they recorded 'I Don't Want A Lover', then watched, gobsmacked, as it reached Number Eight in the charts, Texas, one of the UK's most loved bands, have gone on to produce ten studio albums, selling over 40 million records worldwide.

■ OMD



If that is too long to wait from a blast from pre-Spotify days the recent announcement of their forthcoming new studio album, synth pioneers Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark (OMD) will return to the stage, with the band taking to the road next year. Across February & March 2024, OMD will play 22 dates across the UK & Ireland, including a First Direct Arena headline show at on March 15th, 2024 - with support coming from the legendary Howard Jones & Walt Disco "We are so excited to be able to tour again with a brand new album to showcase." Andy McCluskey of the band told us. "It's been six years since we learned new songs for live performances. The songs from Bauhaus Staircase will fit beautifully into our set-list - we just have to choose which five to play, as we have to treat people to the hits as well!" The band also release 'Slow Train' - the second instalment from their forthcoming new studio album Bauhaus Staircase - out October 27th on 100% Records. A raucous, glam-tinged explosion, 'Slow Train' arrives with help from the band's only other external influence David Watts. Known as a rock producer, who helmed Sheffield band The Reytons' recent No 1 album What's Rock And Roll?, he brings a sharp, exciting new sound to the record.

Slipknot's Corey Taylor To Tour Across The UK This November



GRAMMY® Award-winning, multi-platinum singer-songwriter, actor, and New York Times best-selling author Corey Taylor (Slipknot, Stone Sour) will hit the road across the UK in November. UK tour dates include London's Eventim Apollo, Manchester Academy and Leeds O2 Academy.

Earlier this summer, Corey Taylor revealed the details for his new solo studio album, CMF2, alongside the release of his first single 'BEYOND' which UK crowds can expect to hear live later this year.

CMF2 follows up Taylor's 2020 solo debut CMFT, which featured the #1 Billboard mainstream rock single 'Black Eyes Blue' and streaming sensation 'CMFT Must Be Stopped' (feat. Tech N9ne and Kid Bookie). The LP hit #6 on Billboard's US Top Rock Albums charts.

Tickets now on sale via www.LiveNation.co.uk



Shrek The Musical - Alhambra

From the producers of *Hairspray* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Shrek the Musical* brings together a new creative team to re-imagine this award-winning Broadway and West End hit show for a new audience, featuring all the classic characters from the Oscar®-winning DreamWorks animated film and the iconic songs and story from David Lindsay-Abaire and Jeanine Tesori's original musical.

Rising star Cherece Richards (Once on This Island, Regent's Park Theatre) will make her debut in a principal role as the Dragon, joining the Shrek-tacular principal cast lineup which includes Antony Lawrence (Shrek), Joanne Clifton (Princess Fiona), James Gillan (Lord Farquaad) and Brandon Lee Sears (Donkey) in the brand-new production of *Shrek the Musical*.

The ensemble cast of *Shrek the Musical* will include Leo Abad, Scotty Armstrong, Imogen Bailey, Jabari Braham, Georgie Buckland, Natasha Cayabyab, Mark Darcy, Jonathan David Dudley, Remi Ferdinand, Sonny Grieveson, Edward Leigh, Bethany Kate, Jessica Lim, Andile Mabhena, Bronte MacMillan, India Thornton, Talia Duff, Gabby Gregorian, Roy Shafford and Jamie Jonathan complete the full cast line-up.

The team joining forces to re-create the bright and beautiful world of *Shrek the Musical* includes acclaimed director and choreographer Nick Winston (Bonnie and Clyde, Arts Theatre; Beauty and the Beast, UK tour), co-director Sam Holmes (Club Tropicana the Musical), who returns to the swamp having played Lord Farquaad in the previous UK tour. Set and costume design will be by Philip Witcomb (Bonnie & Clyde, Garrick

Theatre; Jack & The Beanstalk, Everyman Theatre Cheltenham). Further creative team includes Ben Cracknel (Lighting), Jim Arnold (Casting) and Ben Harrison (Sound), Nina Dunn (Projection Design) and Jimmy Grimes (Puppet Design).

Leave your troubles Far Far Away and join the adventure as Shrek and Donkey endeavour to complete their quest of defeating the dragon and saving Princess Fiona. Featuring fabulous songs including I'm A Believer, Big Bright Beautiful World and I Know It's Today.

Shrek The Musical, Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

Tuesday 24 - Saturday 28 October 2023

Evenings: Tue - Sat 7pm, Matinées: Wed & Thu 2pm, Sat 2.30pm

Signed performance: Thu 26 Oct, 7pm, Captioned performance: Fri 27 Oct, 7pm, Audio described performance: Sat 28 Oct, 2.30pm

*Tickets £47 - £20

Concession, Groups 12+, Schools and Family offers available.

Call the Box Office on 01274 432000 or visit bradford-theatres.co.uk

*All prices shown include booking fees but are subject to postage charge if applicable.

Bradford Theatres' usual terms and conditions apply.

■ Annalene Beechey (Anna Lenowens) and Darren Lee (King of Siam). Image © Pamela Raith Photography



Multi-Award Winning Production Of The King And I Returns To Leeds Grand

Following a critically acclaimed Broadway smash-hit run, a sold-out season at the London Palladium (which resulted in the biggest global live event cinema release of 2018) and a previous record-breaking UK and International tour, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I* returns to delight audiences at Leeds Grand Theatre from 31 October to 4 November 2023.

Seasoned musical theatre star Annalene Beechey (*The King and I* UK & International Tour, *Marguerite*, *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*) will reprise the role of Anna Leonowens, joining Broadway star and film actor Darren Lee (*Hackers*, *Sister*, *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*) who will play the title role of *The King of Siam*.

This gloriously lavish production is brought to the stage by an internationally renowned creative team under Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher (*South Pacific*, *My Fair Lady*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*) and will feature a world-class company of talented performers and a full-scale orchestra.

Joining Darren Lee and Annalene Beechey is Dean John-Wilson (London Palladium production of *The King and I*, *Aladdin*) who will reprise his role as Lun Tha, Marienella Phillips (*Henry V*, *Carmen*) who will play Tuptim

alongside Cezarah Bonner who returns as Lady Thiang, the King's head wife, Kok-Hwa Lie (2020 UK Tour of *The King and I*, *Rent*) will play the role of Kralahome, Caleb Lagayan (*Les Misérables*) will play Prince Chulalongkorn, Sam Jenkins-Shaw (*The Night Watch*, *Jane Eyre*) takes the role of Captain Orton/Sir Edward Ramsay and Maria Coyne (*Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*) will be the Alternate Anna.

Set in 1860s Bangkok, *The King and I* tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist King, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children.

The King and I is a sumptuous, timeless romance from the golden age of musicals, adored by the public and critics alike – and boasting one of the finest scores ever written, including *Whistle a Happy Tune*, *Getting to Know You*, and *Shall We Dance*.

The King and I is at Leeds Grand Theatre from Tuesday 31 October to Saturday 4 November 2023. Book tickets online at:

leedsheritagetheatres.com or call the Box Office on 0113 243 0808

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BOOKS

Camra Guide Highlights Pubs And Brewery Numbers Across Yorkshire



The Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) Good Beer Guide – the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide – is celebrating its 51st edition with a striking cover and a foreword supplied by Iron Maiden's Bruce Dickinson. The Guide, which surveys 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinker's guide for those seeking the best pints in the nation's pubs.

Dickinson's foreword shines a spotlight on the cultural tradition of pubs within the United Kingdom, the importance of protecting the heritage, charm and welcoming nature of pubs and clubs, and not taking them for granted.

The Good Beer Guide, which is published annually by CAMRA, helps beer lovers take a barometer of the local beer scene. As well as covering 396 of the very best pubs across Yorkshire, it keeps track of brewery numbers, and notes a net loss of 13 breweries. The story is the same across the UK, as although the Guide records 82 new breweries, 142 have closed.

This year's Guide contains 910 newly featured pubs, which is a fantastic prospect for the pub trade which has been struggling to stay afloat in recent years following the pandemic and rising fuel costs. The trade also faces an impending threat from unlawful demolitions, which CAMRA has declared a 'national scandal' in the wake of the demolition of the Crooked House in Himley.

CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona said: "The last few years have been an incredibly difficult time for the industry, and we need more support than ever before to keep our nation's pubs and breweries open and thriving. I'd encourage everyone to use this year's Guide to visit the very best pubs and breweries across the UK and support them for generations to come."

The Good Beer Guide, which reviews over 4,500 pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinkers' guide to the very best pints in a variety of styles of pubs to suit individual tastes. Compiled by thousands of independent volunteers, it helps identify significant trends and themes locally and nationally.

To order *The Good Beer Guide 2024*, visit;

<https://shop1.camra.org.uk/product/the-good-beer-guide-2024>



**CAMPAIGN
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REAL ALE**

A Remarkable Tale Of Intrigue And Survival

As the daughter and cousin of queens and the granddaughter and niece of kings, Lady Margaret Douglas was an integral part of the Tudor royal dynasty. A favourite of her uncle King Henry VIII and a close friend of Queen Mary I she courted scandal which saw her imprisoned in the Tower of London on more than one occasion. Against the orders of Queen Elizabeth I she plotted the marriage of her eldest son Lord Darnley to Mary, Queen of Scots with disastrous consequences.

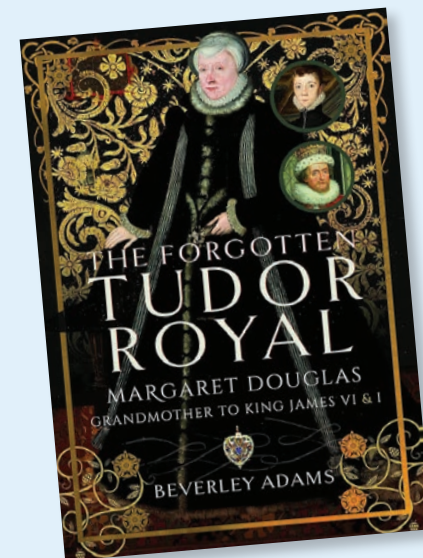
She came as close to the executioners block as she did to the throne of England, with some believing she had a right to be queen. A devout Catholic all her life, she lived at a time when religious division split the country in half yet she remained steadfast in her beliefs. A respected and revered lady on both sides of the border, Lady Margaret Douglas, later Countess of Lennox through her marriage, suffered much heartbreak and loss. Her husband and son were both murdered at the hands of the Scots and she outlived all her children.

Despite these tragedies she never gave up on her dream of uniting the thrones of England and Scotland which was realised through her grandson King James VI/I.

The story of her life is a remarkable tale of intrigue and survival and deserves to be more widely told.

About the author

Beverley Adams was born and raised in Preston, Lancashire. She gained her MA in English in 2018 and her first book, *The Rebel Suffragette: The Life of Edith Rigby*, was published in September 2021. She is passionate about bringing the lives of inspirational women back to life. Her interests include history, in particular local history, reading and travel.



The Forgotten Tudor Royal: Margaret Douglas, Grandmother to King James VI & I

Author: Beverley Adams

Publisher: Pen & Sword History

Available from Amazon

Priced £18.19

An Uplifting World War 2 Saga Set In A Fictional Village In The Yorkshire Dales



Can she help the village survive the war? April 1941. When Bobby Bancroft arrived in Silverdale to take a job as a reporter on *The Tyke* magazine, the sleepy Yorkshire Dales village felt like a little pocket of a past long gone.

While much of the country was suffering nightly bombing raids as the Blitz raged, life in isolated Silverdale carried on just as it had for a hundred years or more. But as the summer of 1941 approaches, war finally seems to have come to Silverdale. The villagers face new

hardships when shortages and rationing begin to bite, young men become scarce as more and more are called up, and Bobby finds herself juggling her job on the magazine with a new role as an ARP warden. Even her surly editor Reg and his wife are doing their bit, taking two young evacuees from London into their home.

Meanwhile, Bobby has been growing closer to village vet Charlie, who is preparing to leave Silverdale to begin training with the RAF. The villagers are whispering that wedding bells will soon be chiming, but then Bobby is confronted with an impossible choice. Can she bring herself to give up the job she adores to be with the man she loves? Authentically researched, a must for lovers of James Herriot, Gervase Phinn, Pam Howes and Maggie Mason.

About the Author

Betty Firth grew up in rural West Yorkshire... and she's still there. After graduating from Durham University with a degree in English Literature, she dallied with living in cities but eventually returned, with her own romantic hero in tow, to her beloved Dales. She worked at *The Dalesman* magazine for many years and writes romantic comedies under the pen name Mary Jayne Baker and Lisa Swift, and wrote *Edie's Home for Strays* as Gracie Taylor.

War Comes to the Dales

Author: Betty Firth

Publisher: Canelo Hera

Available from Amazon from 19th October

Priced: £7.65

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— BY LINZI DAVIES —

It's that time of year again when we imagine things that go bump in the night. Costumes and treats hit the shops, pumpkins are carved, and we hit the dark cold streets with our miniature witches, wizards and zombies all hoping for a basket full of treats by the end of the night.

The celebration of Halloween has increased a lot over the years, certainly since I was a child when all you could buy was a plastic face mask with two eye holes and one for your mouth that cut your tongue when you couldn't resist poking it through. Pumpkins were not readily available then either – I remember my mum carving a swede instead, how she managed I will never know as I find them hard enough to simply dice up for a stew! But where does this strange tradition come from? Who decided it would be a good idea to dress up as the most hideous creature you can think of and wander the streets in search of goodies?

Well, I discovered that Halloween has not always been about pumpkins and trick or treating. In this month's feature, find out all about how this autumnal festival came about and the traditions over the years.

THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

We can trace Halloween back to the time of the Celts in Britain. Celtic Britain was pre-Christian, and the year was organised by the growing seasons. As the summer ended and the harvest began before the dark and cold winter months set in, the people in these farming communities saw it as a change from the abundant time of growth into a time of dormancy. As they saw this transition between 'life' and 'death' they celebrated the festival of Samhain which symbolised the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead. The Druids – the Celtic priests, would lead the celebrations and a major part of this was to light a large bonfire in each village. The Celts believed that the ghosts of the dead were able to revisit the mortal world for one night and the bonfire was lit to ward off any evil spirits that might also try to sneak through. The hearth fire of each house was re-lit from the embers of the bonfire to protect the inhabitants throughout the coming winter months. Another 'protection' method the Celts used was to dress up as evil spirits. This way if they came across any they would think that they were one of them!

When the Romans invaded Britain in 43AD they assimilated their own celebrations into the existing Celtic festivals. The Roman goddess of fruit and trees was known as Pomona and her symbol was the apple. As her festival was celebrated at harvest time, when the Romans would have consumed apples, nuts, and grapes, it is suggested that this may be where the tradition of 'bobbing' for apples came from which many people still enjoy playing today at Halloween.

A MOVE INTO CHRISTIANITY

In the early 5th century as Romans began moving out of Britain, it was invaded by a new set of conquerors – the Saxons, Jutes and Angles. This pushed the Celtic tribes to the north and west of the country. Christianity began arriving over the next few decades from both the early Celtic Church, and the arrival of Saint Augustine in 597AD. Among the Christian festivals to arrive on our shores was All Hallows' Day – or All Saints Day. This was traditionally celebrated on the 13th May each year to commemorate all those who had died for their beliefs, but in the 8th century Pope Gregory moved the feast to the 1st of November, attempting to replace Samhain with a celebration more in keeping with the Christian faith. This is where we get the name Halloween from as the night of Samhain became known as All-hallows-even, then Hallow Eve. It later was adapted into Hallowe'en before finally becoming Halloween.

Despite the changing faiths of Britain over the centuries, many people still believe Halloween to be a special time of year when the spirit world can make contact with the physical, and a time when magic is at its strongest. This is where hollowed out swedes and turnips come into play, only recently replaced by pumpkins. The faces carved into the vegetables would be lit from within by a candle and placed in the window to ward off evil spirits – the same thing the Celts were doing 2000 years ago with their bonfires!

TRICK OR TREATING



As well as the Celts dressing up as evil spirits all those years ago, the Christians would dress up as saints and angels as part of their All-Saints Day celebrations. This means that there is a tradition of dressing up around Halloween for thousands of years.

The first form of trick or treating began in the Middle Ages. Children and sometimes adults from poor families would dress up and go door to door begging for food or money in exchange for songs and prayers on behalf of the dead. This was called 'souling' as they would often be begging for soul cakes. These sweet, spiced currant cakes were baked as an offering to the dead and were then given to the children as alms. One such rhyme used by the children went like this "Soul, souls, for a soul cake; Pray you good mistress, a soul cake!" The practice was also mentioned by Shakespeare in his comedy 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' when the character Speed accuses his master of "puling (whining) like a beggar at Hallowmas."

The first recorded use of the words 'trick or treat' comes from Alberta Canada in 1927. It says, "Hallowe'en provided an opportunity for real strenuous fun.....The youthful tormentors were at back door and front demanding edible plunder by the word "trick or treat" to which the inmates gladly responded and sent the robbers away rejoicing." It did not become widespread though until the 1930's in America, and this was halted during WW2 due to sugar rationing. The term 'trick or treating' did not become popular in Britain until the 1970's-80's.

Today, the custom is still a matter of much debate. While many households see it as harmless fun for children, providing them with an opportunity to dress up and eat large amounts of sweets, some hate it. They see it as begging, bad manners and a huge inconvenience to have constant knocking at their door.

Whatever your personal views are on Halloween, children invariably love it and even though it has changed a lot over the years, it is one of our longest running traditions!

Here are some family friendly events in your area which are sure to send a tingle of terror up your spine!



Pumpkins, witches, massive mummified maze, zombie laser tag, a spooky panto and more adventure playgrounds than you can rattle a bone at... it's the Halloween Adventure at Stockeld Park!

Yorkshire's biggest, best and most family-friendly Halloween extravaganza returns to this hidden woodland gem this October, situated conveniently between Harrogate, York, and Leeds.

Every child who visits the Park during half-term can choose a FREE pumpkin from Stockeld's amazing pumpkin field! Then explore the Enchanted Forest where woodland witches are lurking. Get lost in the maze but watch out for a mummy you really don't want to meet! Brave young souls can then pick up their laser guns and look to save Stockeld from the zombies in the frightening woodland laser-tag arena. Then warm up with a hot chocolate but get ready to shiver again as the Stockeld Theatre presents their spooky panto, Halloween Street...

Opening Times for Halloween Adventure:

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October

Open daily from Saturday 28th October – Sunday 5th November.

Tickets from £16

www.stockeldpark.co.uk





HALLOWEEN EVENTS!



HALLOWEEN AT THACKRAY
Sat, 28 October 2023 - Sun, 5 November 2023
Dissecting Stories of the Forgotten

This half-term Thackray Museum of Medicine tells the chilling history of surgery and dissects the forgotten stories of the inhabitants of Leeds Union Workhouse.

- Play at being surgeon with the giant operation game. Can you save your patient before the buzzer sounds?
- Get creative in the dedicated making station and craft your own spooky corpse. See it brought to life in the haunted Thackray graveyard.
- Come on now, look lively and stand up straight, Matron is coming! Daily talks will bring to life a day in the workhouse, and reveal your chances of survival on the Victorian operating table
- Show and Tell: Beckett Street Bodies – get up close to the toolkit of a Victorian surgeon, while hearing about the long-forgotten stories of those on the operating table. The team explore how dissections and post-mortems from the period shaped our modern understanding of the human body, but at what cost? And would these experiments take place today?

Activity runs every day of the holidays. Show and Tell: Beckett Street Bodies will take place every day at 11am and 2pm, with the exception of Tuesday 31 October, Thursday 2 and Saturday 4 November. Book your place on arrival.

Activities included in cost of admission
www.thackraymuseum.co.uk



HALLOWEEN CELLAR TOURS AT TEMPLE NEWSAM
Date/Time
28 October 2023 - 04 November 2023
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Dare you venture into the cellars of Temple Newsam House? Explore the dark and scary route below the creaking floorboards – what horrors will you find there?

Be sure to book your cellar tour in advance to avoid disappointment. Purchase your general admission tickets and there will be the option to add tours on for just £5 extra per person. Tours are every half hour with the first at 11am and the last at 4pm.

Please note that access to and from the cellar is via stairs only. The cellar is dark and has uneven surfaces. This experience is unsuitable for children under 7 and all children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

www.museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk



SPOOKY SKELETONS TRAIL AT LOTHERTON
27th October 2023 - 5th November 2023
Lotherton Hall and Estate

Visit Lotherton this October half term and follow the spooky skeletons trail around the estate and into the haunted house!

Dress up in your best Halloween costume and prepare to be scared as you explore the woods and seek out all of the skeletons who have made Lotherton their home.

Don't miss the Nocturnal House in Wildlife World to see the bats in action!

Bring your little ones along for a great day out during the school holidays with plenty of spooky surprises along the way.

Pre-booking a time slot is essential to secure tickets during half term, including members.

Skeleskare is a thrilling evening event for families with children aged 8 and over!

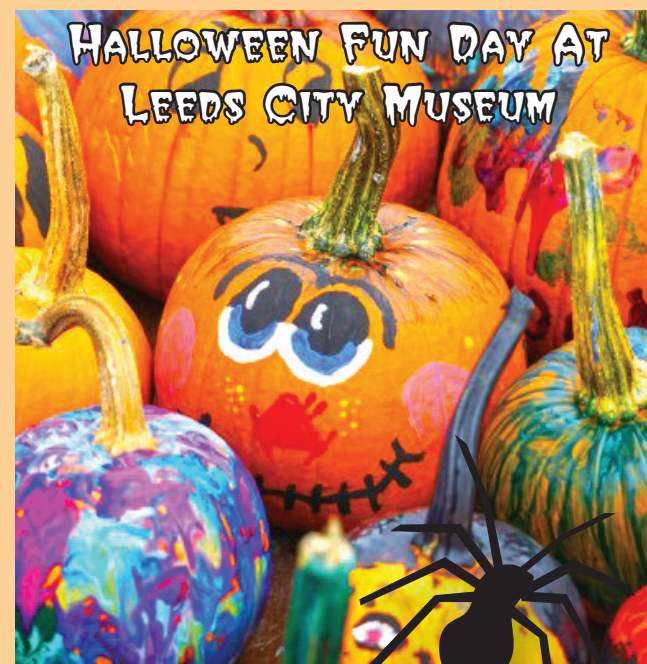
Are you brave enough to visit after hours when skeletons come alive? Experience Lotherton in the dark in the haunted woods and ghoulish gardens and spooky skeletown with a skeleton surprise to scare you silly around every corner.

This event is for the grounds and gardens only, the Hall and Wildlife World will be closed.

Please note this event has live characters and suitable only for age 8+.

Pre-booking a time slot is essential to secure tickets during half term, including members.

www.museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk



HALLOWEEN FUN DAY AT LEEDS CITY MUSEUM
Date/Time
31 October 2023
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join the museum on Halloween to see monstrous magic shows, bat-tastic balloon creations, and get involved in frightening face painting.

This activity-packed fun day is free and suitable for all the family – why not pick up a Shadow Seekers Trail and craft your own shadow puppet while you're there?

www.museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk

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A Roarsome Adventure



Calling all budding Rangers! Prepare to go on a JURASSIC adventure!

Jurassic Earth is stomping into SCARBOROUGH on FRIDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2023 with a huge cast of the biggest and best Dinosaurs that ever walked the earth in this extraordinary realistic show!

Meet the bravest of RANGERS as they take you on a journey through Jurassic Earth, introducing their herd of the most incredible Dinosaur species to have ever lived!

Bring your biggest ROOAR and your fastest feet as you take Rangers Danger's masterclass to become an Official Dinosaur Ranger – gaining the skills you need to come face-to-face with the World's largest walking T Rex, a big-hearted Brontosaurus, tricky Triceratops, uncontrollable Carnotaurus, vicious Velociraptors & sneaky Spinosaurus.

Feel the EXCITEMENT of watching a Dinosaur Egg hatch in front of your eyes and the THRILL of meeting the cutest Ankylosaurus, Pterodactyl and baby Hatchlings...

We spoke to Head Ranger, Doctor Bones and asked a few questions:

So Doctor Bones, what is your role at Jurassic Earth?

"It's me that unlocks the action, feeds the Dinosaurs and sends the Jurassic team on the road to Theatres around the country. Every day is an adventure here."

There are other Dinosaur Shows out there, what makes yours different?

"We were the first UK company to bring Dinosaurs to the stage and remain the largest touring Dinosaur show; and I believe hundreds of genuine reviews speak for themselves! Our show features the most realistic Dinosaurs – we really bring these extinct creatures to life - just ask Holly Willoughby and Ashley Banjo who both were scared witless by our Raptor during Dancing on Ice! https://youtu.be/nOa_pGqQTbs

Also, this is not just a show – it's an experience that starts as soon as you enter the Theatre, with our cast roaming the foyer on arrival! We have animatronics, props and giant Dinosaur Eggs for photo opportunities."

Is Jurassic Earth safe?

"If you follow Ranger Danger's survival training, you should be almost, absolutely fine."

A few additional survival tips for visitors:

- Don't put your hand inside a dinosaur's mouth.
- Don't pull a dinosaur's tail.
- Say hello, take a photo, then run for your lives.
- Bring meat to distract the flesh-eating predators."

Can Children help feed the Dinosaurs?

"No, please do not feed your children to our dinosaurs. This is not a service we provide. Although we have been inundated with enquiries."

Expect a fun-filled 75 minute family show suitable for all ages, featuring astounding animatronics and excitingly REALISTIC performances.

So ROARSOME, you'll never want it to end

Ticket information visit;

www.scarboroughspa.co.uk/whats-on/jurassic-earth



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NYMR Light Spectacular

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway (NYMR) is already gearing up for its mesmerising Light Spectacular event, which takes place during October and November. Tickets are now on sale for this captivating steam train experience that departs from Pickering Station every evening from 27th October to 5th November and 10th to 12th November 2023 at 6pm and 7:45pm.

The hugely popular, hour-long, illuminated journey is an immersive audio and visual experience pulled by a steam train adorned with 17,000 LEDs, which will entertain the whole family. Tickets for the must-see (and hear) experiences are £25 per person, and include an hour-long illuminated experience between Pickering and Levisham station.

When passengers arrive, they are given a flashing wristband which synchronises with the on board lightshow and music which will have you singing and dancing in your seats. If that's not enough, the entertainment by the NYMR's onboard compere, TV's 'Voice Over Man' will ensure you're in the mood to party.

With carriages covered in thousands of LEDs, from the moment you enter the platform, spot the train and then climb on board, the whole family will be fully immersed in colour, light and sound that will get you in the mood for a party!

Luke Hudman, Marketing Manager at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway explains, "It's a fantastic event that has the wow factor and just makes everyone gasp and smile from the moment you see the train arrive at the platform - even the grown-ups! It's so impressive and seeing the faces of families light up is a highlight in our events calendar each year. It's a great way to end our main running season and we've already had many asking about tickets, so I recommend you book yours early!"

In addition, the award-winning attraction that welcomes 300,000 visitors a year has also announced the return of the Santa Specials (various dates throughout December).

Specially discounted rates for groups of 20 people or more are also available and can be booked via the NYMR Customer Service Team; info@nymr.co.uk

To find out more, or to book tickets for the Light Spectacular visit;

www.nymr.co.uk/light-spectacular

For more information about all other NYMR events visit;

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National Highways is encouraging drivers to be prepared before they travel by carrying out checks to ensure their vehicle is ready for the damp, cold and foggy conditions which will likely arrive this autumn.

National Highways has also introduced a handy guide called TRIP to help motorists prepare for their journey. Topping up anti-freeze in your car and checking your tyres are inflated to the correct air pressure are just two important things you can do to prepare for driving this autumn.

And there are lots of travel tips and advice for negotiating severe weather on the National Highways website to help improve driver confidence when travelling as temperatures get colder, the nights draw in, low-lying sun hampers vision, and the potential for fog, rain and high winds increase.

National Highways works closely with the Met Office on weather forecasting throughout the year to help inform all road users of changing traffic conditions.

Autumn can prove problematic for motorists when glare from the lower lying autumn sun could be an issue, or perhaps where daytime drivers will need to use their headlights and fog lights for the first time in months. There is also the hazard of fallen leaves on wet, slippery and frosty roads which can cause a skid hazard.

With potential for hard frost and ice to come in the months ahead, it is timely to ensure your vehicle's antifreeze levels are good. Ask a mechanic to top them up if necessary. Also check your battery is in good working order as damp conditions can have an adverse effect on its performance.

Ground frost on the road reduces traction, so reduce your speed and avoid hard braking or abrupt acceleration, while frost on your windscreen must be cleared to give you full visibility, so keep de-icer in the car, allow more time in the morning to clear it, or keep a sheet on the windscreen overnight as it gets colder.

Autumn is also the time to pack a seasonal kit of important items to be ready for any unforeseen traffic delays or vehicle breakdown.

For more information visit;

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/travelling-in-severe-weather



It's taken the removal of ten miles of steel and enough earth to fill two Olympic swimming pools – but now a safety upgrade of two motorway barriers near Leeds and Wakefield is complete.

National Highways has removed the last of the lane closures for the replacement of the central barriers around the M1 and M62, near Lofthouse Interchange.

In total, more than five miles of barrier between junctions 28 (Tingley) and 29 (Lofthouse) on the M62, as well as between 42 and 43 (Belle Isle) on the M1 and junction 7 of the M621 (Stourton), has been replaced with a stronger, safer concrete version.

National Highways Project Manager Daniel Edwards said:

“We’ve worked day and night to put in place a stronger barrier on these areas of motorway. The barrier will reduce the likelihood of vehicles crossing from one carriageway to the other and will mean fewer closures for repairs in the future.”

The scheme began in January this year. As the upgrades have progressed, National Highways has removed around 16,000 metres of steel barrier and almost 6,000 cubic metres of earth, replacing them with superior materials.

Lighting has also been upgraded to LED, further enhancing safety for drivers. In addition, National Highways has also improved around three miles of drainage, waterproofed the central reserve of two bridges and carried out further general maintenance.

Once the concrete barrier was in place on the M62, National Highways also undertook repairs to the central column of Dolphin Lane footbridge near Thorpe on the Hill.

On the M1 and M62, road closures had been expected to remain in place on the scheme until winter – however, the final part of the upgrade, on the M62 between junctions 29 (Lofthouse) and 28 (Tingley), is now complete.

Daniel added:

“While we carried this work out, we tried our best to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible while keeping our workforce safe.”

“Our engineers had very confined spaces to work in, but they really did everything in their power to successfully carry out the upgrade – and well ahead of schedule too. We are so proud of everything our teams have achieved despite the constraints.

“We also recognise that, due to the closures we had to put in place, drivers unfortunately faced delays to their journeys. We want to say a massive thank you to them for their patience during this scheme. We are genuinely very grateful for their support and are glad to have been able to reopen the lanes earlier than expected, reducing longer-term disruption.”

As well as bringing benefits to motorists, the programme has also provided support worth a total of £3.3m to the surrounding community.

As part of this, the teams from National Highways and contractors connected to the programme:

- Gave 49 hours supporting local career events. They went to Westerton Primary School, Airedale Academy, HMP New Hall, Outwood Grange Academy, Freeston Academy, Rodillian Academy, Oulton Academy and Crofton Academy carrying out mock interviews, attending careers fairs and giving career talks.
- Spent 59 hours volunteering in areas such as Rothwell Park, Armley Park, Middleton Railway Museum and Adel Wood Park
- Spent over £3m with local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (40%)
- Helped with donations for Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Their work still continues – some of the team are taking part in The Big Sleep in November, where volunteers will spend a night sleeping outside to raise awareness of some of Leeds’ most vulnerable people.

For more information on other schemes in Yorkshire and the North East, please visit our Yorkshire and North East page, follow Twitter @HighwaysYORKS or on Facebook - National Highways: Yorkshire.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED FOR SECOND PHASE OF £23M CONNECTING WEST LEEDS TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

The first phase of highways improvements along the A6120 Outer Ring Road are already underway, with the second phase of work programmed following a positive response to the consultation.

The overall completion of both phases is scheduled for winter 2024. £20m of the work is funded by the Government's Levelling Up Fund with the remaining £3.257m being provided by West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the work was consulted on in November and December 2021 and is made up of improvements to Fink Hill, A6120 Broadway, Horsforth roundabout and the creation of a segregated off-highway cycle path.

Improvements to Fink Hill, A6120 Broadway and Horsforth roundabout are already underway and due to complete at the end of this year. Construction of the segregated cycle path, from Horsforth roundabout to Rodley roundabout, will begin early next year and is scheduled to complete autumn 2024.

Phase 2

Phase 2 was consulted on between July to September 2022, and is made up of an accessible bridge, connecting the communities Calverley and Farsley; an off-highway mixed-use path for walking, wheeling and cycling between Rodley roundabout and Dawsons Corner; traffic light improvements to Rodley roundabout; no right turn safety measures out of the junctions of Calverley Bridge and Calverley Lane; planting and landscaping; and the reduction of speed to 50mph from Horsforth roundabout to Stanningley Bypass at Henconner Lane Bridge, including enforcement through average speed cameras.



The second phase of works are currently in detailed design. Construction of the mixed-use path is scheduled for winter 2023 and the accessible footbridge spring 2024.

The accessible ramp to Leeds-Liverpool canal is not possible to deliver due to land ownership constraints. Alternative options for the ramp also cannot be progressed due to impact on existing utilities, and extensive tree removal including the loss of at least two mature oak trees. Instead, alternative upgrades to the existing cycle network link to the canal are being planned to improve access.

The speed reduction to 50mph on the A6120 Outer Ring Road and A647 Stanningley Bypass, from Horsforth roundabout to Stanningley Bypass at Henconner Lane Bridge will be enforced by average speed cameras, a first for West Yorkshire, and is currently being delivered. Additionally, the existing 40mph speed limit on A647 Bradford Road from Dawsons Corner to Thornbury roundabout shall be enforced by average speed cameras.

Road signage to support the new lower speed limit and the calibration of the average speed cameras has commenced and is due to complete next month. Once completed, the cameras will become operational.

Councillor Helen Hayden, Leeds City Council's executive member for sustainable development and infrastructure, said:

“It’s encouraging to see a major scheme developing in the north-west and west areas of Leeds. Phase two proposals were met with a 74% positive public response at consultation and I’m pleased the momentum of delivering this work is being swiftly progressed.

Both phases aim to better link local communities, improve active travel options for residents, and make progress towards our carbon-neutral targets.

The new speed limit, and enforcement through average speed cameras, will aim to reduce the number of speed-related collisions on these routes, creating a safer road environment for all users whilst aiming to meet our Vision Zero target of zero deaths on Leeds roads by 2040.

Together with our construction partners, we will update local residents and businesses affected by any construction work throughout.”

THE UPGRADED AUDI Q8 SUV



Audi is updating the flagship of the Q family with a sleek new design and upgraded technology. The revised exterior aesthetic with new front and rear bumpers underscores the strong character of the SUV coupé. For the first time, Audi is equipping the Q8 SUV with HD Matrix LED headlights, including a laser as an additional high beam on top-spec models. These headlights feature digital daytime running lights and selectable light signatures. Digital OLED rear lights with four selectable rear light designs complete the expanded light offering. New wheels, colours, decorative inlays, and seats with contrast stitching highlight the car's top position among the Q models. UK sales begin on October 10 with prices starting from £75,500 (OTR).

With its expressive new design, the revised Q8 is a sporty, elegant SUV coupé from the brand with the four rings. The short overhangs and long wheelbase make for sporty, muscular proportions that can be accentuated with distinctive exterior colours and wheels.

The unmistakably powerful and upright Audi Singleframe with an octagon

LS24x Powered By Cardo Systems Now Available



Following LS2's announcement of its adoption of the new Universal Communications Solution (UCS) standard in selected helmets during EICMA 2022 in Milan, the LS2 INTERCOM – LS24X powered by Cardo – is now available.

The LS24X has been specifically designed for seamless installation into the ECE 22.06 compliant VECTOR 2, ADVANT and INFINITY helmets,

design now features vertical inlays, which makes it clear at first glance that the Q8 belongs to Audi's top models. The self-assured appearance of the Q8 is underscored by the new prominent air intakes, which are neatly integrated into the lower section of the front bumper, and new tailpipes.

On Black Edition and Vorsprung models striking new accents frame the Audi Singleframe, the trim on the side windows, and the front and rear bumpers, whilst the Singleframe mask is finished in high-gloss black.

The innovative headlights featuring HD Matrix LED technology and an additional laser light (Vorsprung spec only) as well as the digital daytime running lights positioned on the upper horizontal edge give the Q8 an even more self-assured expression. In conjunction with the digital OLED rear lights, which are available for the first time in the Q8, the premium-class character of the model becomes even clearer. At the rear, an LED light strip together with black high-gloss trim and integrated Audi rings links the digital OLED rear lights across the entire width of the car.

offering customers a choice of full face, convertible or open face with UCS-compatibility.

Offered as a factory-fit solution at time of purchase in dealerships; there will also be the option to add the unit post-purchase too later this year, depending on the individual's preference.

The dedicated LS2 INTERCOM LS24X product, developed by Cardo Systems, connects up to four riders across Bluetooth, has a range of 1.2km/0.75 miles, features Sound by JBL, Natural Voice Operation, Open Bluetooth intercom (OBi) and is fully waterproof. The compact unit also boasts auto-reconnecting Bluetooth, so riders can ride their own ride without having to worry about connection issues.

Later this year, there are plans for LS2 INTERCOM pre-installed helmets to be released as well as carbon versions.

Shachar Harari, Vice President, Business Development at Cardo Systems, commented: "We are excited to collaborate with LS2 in delivering the best Bluetooth communication experience in the market. LS2 choice to base its solution on the UCS platform underscores the importance of this new industry standard for embedded communications. We are excited about the future that lies ahead as we continue our collaboration with LS2."

Luca Porcellati, Marketing Director at LS2, adds: "We're extremely happy to be launching the UCS-compatible helmets to motorcyclists across the globe in partnership with Cardo, a company who shares our vision of innovation and quality. By offering a full-face, convertible and open-face helmets with this functionality, there's an option for all kinds of motorcycle rider."

To check out the whole helmet range from LS2, www.ls2helmets.com, or for more information on Cardo Systems, visit www.cardosystems.com.



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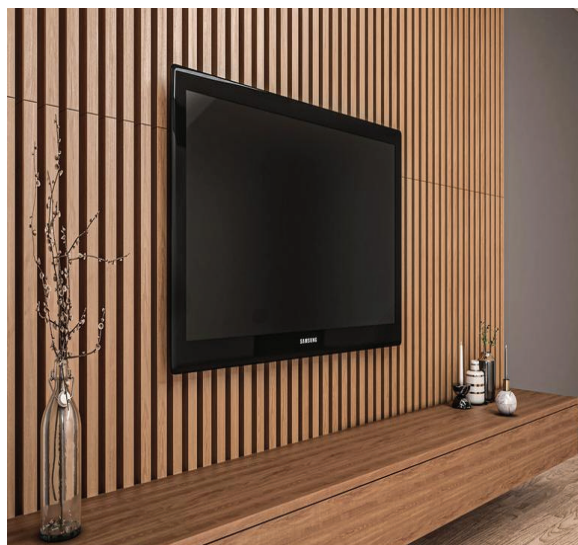
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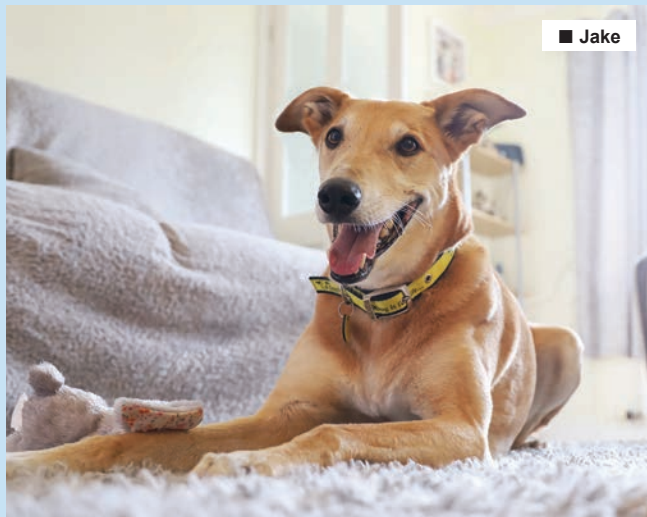
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WAGGING TALES!

Could You Give An Old Age Pooch A Furry-Tail Ending?



■ Jake

Dogs Trust Leeds is shining a spotlight on its OAPs (Old Age Pooches) in the hope that people with a dog-shaped hole in their lives will open their homes as well as their hearts to a gorgeous golden oldie.

Since June this year, almost 40% of people wanting to adopt a dog from Dogs Trust were looking for a four-legged friend under six months, compared to just 10% looking for a dog aged 8 and over. But the Dogs Trust Leeds team are hoping that these golden oldies will buck the trend and prove every dog really does have its day.

Emma Wakefield, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Leeds said:

“Sometimes older dogs can be overlooked in favour of younger pups, but they deserve just as much attention and care from new owners as their younger counterparts.

“There are lots of benefits of rehoming an Old Age Pooch. Often older dogs don’t need quite as much exercise and although they can be a little less energetic, senior canines can be just as fun and playful.

“Older dogs are more likely to be fully house-trained and, as they are older and wiser, they usually know other training basics too, but you can certainly still teach an older dog new tricks.

“They can also make the perfect napping partner and enjoy a good snuggle.”

Golden oldies currently patiently waiting to find families to spend their twilight years with include Jake the nine-year-old Lurcher.

Jake has been waiting to find his forever home for over four years now, making him the longest-term resident at the Leeds rehoming centre.

He has a dedicated team of handlers who go above and beyond their daily duties to provide Jake with all the love and attention he deserves. To illustrate their commitment, one of Jake's best friends, Canine Carer and Media Coordinator Kevin Johnson, takes him on long weekends to his parents' home in the Yorkshire Dales.

Jake is hoping that his special someone is out there, someone with the right home environment and the passion to help him gradually settle into his new life. In the meantime, Jake will continue to receive the care and love he deserves, as well as enjoy many more holidays in Wensleydale.

If you feel that you can give Jake a forever home, please visit:

www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/lurcher/1133215

Other Old Age Pooches available for adoption at Dogs Trust Leeds include:



■ Amy & Alfie

• Amy & Alfie are a pair of 15-year-old Pug Crosses
www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/pug/1267601



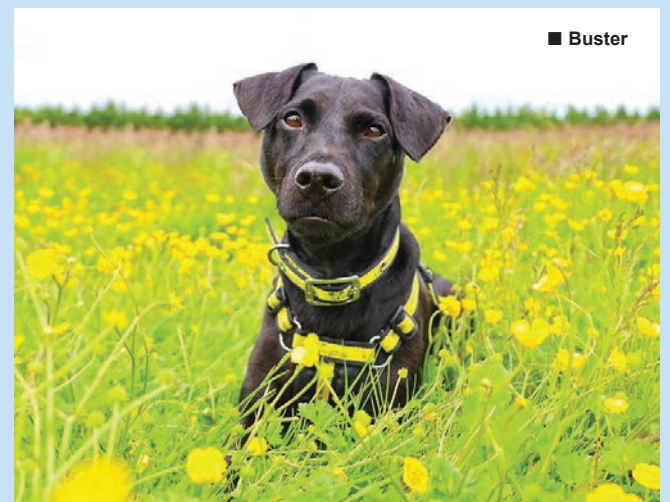
■ Deefor

• Deefor, is an 11-year-old Boxer Cross
www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/boxer/3056038



■ Domino

• Domino is a 9-year-old Lurcher
www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/lurcher/1147941



■ Buster

• Buster, is a Patterdale Terrier
www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/terrier-patterdale/1257187
If you think you could help Dogs Trust Leeds show that age is just a number, please visit: www.dogstrust.org.uk/leeds



Much-Loved Pet Looking To Brighter Future With One Eye After Vet Surgeons At Wakefield Animal Hospital Remove Other To Save Her From Cancer



A much-loved Staffordshire Bull Terrier is looking forward to a brighter life with one eye after surgeons at a Wakefield animal hospital removed the other to save her from cancer.

Fourteen-year-old Dotty underwent the highly-complex operation at Linnaeus-owned Paragon Veterinary Referrals, which also involved rebuilding part of her face.

Dotty's cancer scare started when her owner Sue Helm from Heywood in Lancashire noticed a small wart-like growth on her eyelid that then started to rapidly grow.

Grateful owner Sue said: “We were extremely concerned for Dotty's health, particularly given the fact it required extensive surgery and Dotty's age.

“However, we were kept fully informed of the procedure and what was involved, and throughout her recovery whilst in Paragon's care.

“Once home, David, the surgeon, kept in regular contact with us to check on Dotty's progress.

“The fantastic news is that Dotty's no longer in pain and is almost back to her old self. She's adjusting well to having one eye, particularly now her whiskers are growing back. We are all incredibly proud of our brave Dotty.”

David Barker, soft tissue surgeon at Paragon, led the operation to remove the tumorous growth after a biopsy by the ophthalmology department confirmed sarcoma.

David said: “The position of the mass was unusual and made the surgery challenging. It was quite difficult to try and keep far away from the tumour without cutting through the important blood vessels that run within the skull.

“The surgery, called an orbitectomy, involved removing Dotty's eye, cheek and part of her nose. The operation was a success and clear margins were obtained when removing the growth so no further treatment is necessary.

“I've kept in contact with Dotty's owners to check on her wellbeing and it's great to hear she's adapting so well to life with one eye. She's an amazing character and we wish her all the best for the future.”

Paragon provides expert care in anaesthesia and analgesia, cardiology, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and soft tissue surgery.

For more information on Paragon Veterinary Referrals, visit www.paragonreferrals.co.uk or search for Paragon Veterinary Referrals on social media.

Crufts Begins Search For UK's Top Hero Dog

■ The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award 2023 winners, Stella and Claire. Image © The Kennel Club and BeatMedia



Organisers of the UK's biggest dog event have opened nominations for The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award 2024

The nationwide search has begun for the UK's top dog to be crowned the 2024 winner of The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award, which celebrates extraordinary unsung canine heroes and is supported by The Kennel Club Charitable Trust.

Nominations for those dogs who deserve to be recognised for the difference they make can be submitted at Crufts website, with categories spanning from rescue and working dogs to simply 'best friends'. From the nominations, five heroic finalists, each of whom are awarded donations for their canine charity of choice, will head to Crufts next year, with a public vote deciding the winner.

At Crufts 2023, retired Police Dog Stella was announced as the winner of the prestigious award, presented by the competition's ambassador, broadcaster Kay Burley, and aired live on Channel 4. Stella served for eight and a half years at Gloucestershire Police Force as a drugs, cash and firearms recovery dog, alongside her owner and handler PC Claire Todd, despite her sad start to life as a rescue dog. In her working career, Stella found weapons and thousands of pounds worth of drugs and cash.

"Stella being awarded The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award 2023 is just amazing," commented Claire. "She is so special because she's a rescue dog and also the first Staffordshire Bull Terrier in the country to be a police dog.

"Police Dogs don't realise how important their job is but to us it is invaluable. They do such an incredible job."

The Kennel Club, organisers of Crufts, is now searching for more inspirational four-legged friends and is calling for the public to nominate those unsung canine heroes who deserve to be recognised for what they do for its Hero Dog Award 2024.

The winner of the award, which is supported by The Kennel Club Charitable Trust, will be revealed at Crufts 2024 on Sunday 10 March, and will be awarded £5,000 for a dog charity of their choice. Runners up will receive £1,000 for their chosen dog charity.

Nominations for four-legged heroes can be made within in the following categories:

Extraordinary Life Of A Working Dog

For those who have shown extraordinary qualities working in the army, police force, RAF, airport, search and rescue etc.

Hero Support Dog

Celebrating all support and assistance dogs, from medical detection dogs or hearing dogs, to therapy dogs or pets who provide emotional support

Best Friends

Celebrating a canine companion who has seen its owner through the hardest times, as well as the happiest

Child's Champion

Recognising a dog that has supported and had a positive impact on a child's life (16 years and under)

Rescue Dog Hero

For a rescue dog who has overcome adversity and gone on to irrevocably improve the life of their owner/s.

Nominations are open until 18 October 2023 and five finalists will be chosen to go forward to the final at Crufts 2024, where the overall winner, selected by public vote, will be announced before the grand finale of the Crufts Best in Show award on 10 March 2024.

Cathy Guiver, Head of Events at The Kennel Club which runs Crufts, commented: "Through thick and thin, dogs provide us with unconditional love, loyalty and companionship. Some give confidence and independence to those with disabilities and others work to keep the nation safe, providing a unique contribution to society.

"The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award, with the prestigious final held at Crufts, celebrates these unsung canine heroes – those who have changed their owner's life, made a difference for a friend or family, or put their paws on the line to protect or improve our lives. We urge anyone who knows of a four-legged hero to put them forward for the title of The Kennel Club's Hero Dog 2024 and showcase the difference they have made.

"Our finalists will take centre stage at Crufts, an event which is dedicated to celebrating the diverse role that dogs play in society and all the ways that they transform our lives for the better."

Nominations can be made by visiting www.crufts.org.uk. Finalists will be announced next year, ahead of the winner being crowned at Crufts 2024, taking place at the NEC in Birmingham from 7 - 10 March 2024.



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A cutting-edge pathology laboratory designed to serve patients across West Yorkshire has been officially opened by the Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care, Will Quince.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's Centre for Laboratory Medicine marks a significant milestone in regional healthcare as it is set to house pathology services from Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust and Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

In addition to Minister Quince, the opening event attracted a host of VIP guests including West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin, all of whom had the privilege of touring the state-of-the-art facility.

Adding a touch of educational value to the occasion, young scientists from Mount St Mary's Catholic High School participated in pathology experiments alongside the Trust's dedicated staff, as part of the project's wider community engagement programme.

Guests also engaged with project staff and partners from BAM, Siemens Healthineers and Clinisys to gain insights into the benefits this modern facility promises to deliver to patients, healthcare professionals, and the wider community.

This pioneering regional partnership, forged in collaboration with the West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT), will drive innovation in testing and diagnostics. Equipped with advanced technology and state-of-the-art equipment, the laboratory aims to deliver faster results for patients, irrespective of their geographical location.

Health Minister Will Quince said: "This new, cutting-edge pathology laboratory will serve thousands of patients across West Yorkshire – helping to deliver faster results, speed up diagnoses and cut waiting lists.

"Backed by £35million of government funding, this new lab will look at more innovative ways to test and diagnose patients and will be equipped with advanced technology and the latest equipment. Crucially, by consolidating current services into one place it will streamline access to testing and improve working environments for staff."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, said: "This new centre firmly

cements West Yorkshire as a global leader in health technology – it will fuel innovation in diagnostic testing and deliver better outcomes for patients worldwide.

"It was inspiring to meet the staff who will pioneer these new technologies, as well as the talented high school students who could be our homegrown pathologists of the future.

"With this new centre, I'm confident that Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will continue to play a vital role in our mission to build a brighter, happy West Yorkshire that works for all."

BAM commenced construction of the Centre for Laboratory Medicine in April 2022 and involved fitting 338 glass panels to create its windows, in addition to installing 1,357 individual rainscreen cladding panels on its facade.

This new laboratory is a flagship project within the Leeds Teaching Hospital's "Building the Leeds Way" capital investment and improvement program.

Currently, most of the Trust's pathology services are delivered from outdated facilities in the Old Medical School at the Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) as well as from St James's Hospital.

The new building will bring many of these services together into one purpose-built facility and once vacated, the Old Medical School will be repurposed as part of a plan to use surplus estate at the LGI to develop an innovation village which is expected to deliver up to 4,000 new jobs, more than 500 new homes and almost £13bn in net present value.

Consolidating these essential pathology services within this state-of-the-art facility will streamline access to routine and direct testing while fostering improved working environments for staff. It will also facilitate seamless continuity and transfer of patient care across the region.

Dame Linda Pollard, Chair of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, expressed her excitement about the opening of the new pathology laboratory, saying:



People from all walks of life and all parts of West Yorkshire are invited to join the group that's working to improve health and care services in the region.

West Yorkshire Voice is a network that brings together individuals, groups, local panels, networks, and organisations to ensure the voice of people is at the heart of health and care decision-making in West Yorkshire.

The network especially wants to hear from people with experience of health and care services, unpaid carers, people from diverse communities and those who might not normally get involved in formal groups.

There will be various opportunities to get involved, share experiences and views including, completing surveys, taking part in discussion groups and other community events. The opportunities for and outcomes from involvement will be published in a regular newsletter and on the network website.

Jude Woods, West Yorkshire Healthwatch, said: "Ensuring we hear from a wide variety of people is essential to help health and care services meet the needs of all our communities. We especially want to hear the voices of

those who experience the greatest health inequalities and who we might not usually hear from. Please come forward and get involved".

West Yorkshire Voice will have a core group of people who reflect the geography and diversity of West Yorkshire. This group will be the key voice of the network and hold decision makers to account and link directly to our NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and Partnership Board Members.

Cathy Elliott, Chair of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board said: "We really want to reach as many people as possible, so that we can make sure people's feedback and experiences of local services are heard at the highest level. This is ultimately all about making the right decisions and ones that make a positive difference to everyone's lives".

To find out more

Call Healthwatch on: 0113 898 0035 or

email: info@westyorkshirehealthwatch.co.uk

or visit: www.wypartnership.co.uk/wy-voice

"This is a landmark occasion for Leeds Teaching Hospitals and is the fruition of months of hard work from our staff and partners.

"I am incredibly proud to see that this fantastic new facility is now officially opened. Pathology plays a crucial role in the delivery of frontline care, and I am excited to see how, together with our colleagues in Calderdale and Mid Yorkshire, we can really drive innovative diagnostic testing across West Yorkshire."

She also highlighted the broader impact, stating: "This impressive new building is a key milestone in our wider capital investment programme, as we start to progress our plans for a new hospital at the LGI. The completion of our new pathology laboratory is a catalyst for our proposed innovation village when the Old Medical School is vacated, bringing far-reaching economic benefits for the whole region."

The Trust's commitment to sustainability and innovation is evident in this world-class pathology building. Designed with flexibility and digital integration in mind, the facility is on track to achieving high-certified standards in staff well-being and sustainability.

Its environmentally conscious features include full mechanical ventilation with heat recovery systems to minimise power consumption and promote heat reuse.

Additionally, the laboratory will adopt a single, shared Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to enable electronic test requests, tracking, and results reporting to clinical services across West Yorkshire and Harrogate.

The Centre for Laboratory Medicine is set to become fully operational in 2024 after the installation of cutting-edge equipment and technology.

In addition to this milestone, construction of a new Acute Hospital Laboratory at Leeds General Infirmary has been completed, providing essential pathology testing facilities to support clinical services as the primary pathology services transition to the new St James's facility.

'Speak With A Midwife' Campaign Encourages Women To Book By 10 Weeks Of Pregnancy

Pregnant women across West Yorkshire and Harrogate are being urged to speak to a midwife as soon as they find out they're pregnant, as part of a new campaign across the area that aims to ensure they get the care they need as early as possible.

The West Yorkshire and Harrogate Local Maternity and Neonatal System (WY&H LMNS) is promoting maternity (also known as antenatal) care beginning at the earliest stage of pregnancy so women can be given the information and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy.

National guidance recommends that women should be offered a first booking appointment with a midwife by 10 weeks of pregnancy. Booking sooner in the pregnancy journey ensures an approach that's right for the individual and means they'll get important information about things such as folic acid supplements, access to screening or stopping smoking, all of which will help ensure a healthy pregnancy.

Early booking appointments also mean that those with specific needs or risk factors can be identified early on so that they can get the care they need. Some tests to check for any baby health risks or conditions should also be done before 10 weeks.

Sara Hollins, Director of Midwifery at Bradford Royal Infirmary and Chair of the Inequalities Steering Group at the WY&H LMNS said:

"A positive pregnancy test can mean different things for different women, depending on their circumstances. They may be excited, surprised, nervous or confused or experience a mix of emotions. But however they feel, it's important that they speak to a midwife as soon as possible to make sure they get the care they need.

"We know from local data that early booking rates differ in some parts of the region and are much lower in some groups than in others. This can affect the health of both mothers and babies, so we want to make sure that we're addressing this inequality. That's why we're working with our healthcare colleagues and maternity partnerships to increase awareness of the importance of early booking.

"We've worked with local women, representative of our diverse communities, to create a campaign that is meaningful, representative, and non-judgmental. We'll be using it to share vital information across West Yorkshire and Harrogate in a variety of ways."

Jenny Roddy, Consultant Midwife Health Equity at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust said:

"Every pregnancy journey is different, but seeing a midwife early is proven to deliver better outcomes for both mum and baby.

"Once you've found out that you're pregnant the most important thing is to make contact and start a conversation. Midwives are here to help even if you are unsure of whether to continue with the pregnancy.

"Pregnancy care appointments are safe, confidential and accessible to everyone. Come talk to us. Find an appointment that suits you at speakwithamidwife.co.uk"



Consultation Launched Into Unregulated Cosmetic Procedures

People and businesses are being invited to share their views on how to make non-surgical cosmetic procedures – including Botox, laser hair removal and dermal fillers - safer as thousands complain of ‘botched’ procedures.

The government's first-ever consultation on treatments - also known as aesthetic procedures - will be used to shape a new licensing scheme for practitioners and cosmetic businesses which operate in England. This could include age limits and restrictions for high-risk procedures, including those involving injecting fillers into intimate parts of the body - including the breasts and buttocks.

Any new licensing scheme would protect patients from potential harm associated with poorly performed procedures. This will provide reassurance to people that wherever they go to get their treatments, they will receive the same high standards of practice.

The beauty industry is hugely important for the UK economy and is largely made up of female-owned, small and medium sized businesses, with the non-surgical cosmetic industry previously being valued at an estimated £3.6 billion in the UK.

New regulations will support businesses by introducing high standards across the sector, raising the reputation and professionalism of the industry.

Minister for the Women's Health Strategy, Maria Caulfield said:

"Whether it's Botox, dermal fillers or even a chemical peel, we have heard too many stories of people who've had bad experiences from getting a cosmetic procedure from someone who is inexperienced or underqualified.

"There's no doubt that the popularity of cosmetic procedures is increasing, so it's our role to ensure consistent standards for consumers and a level playing field for businesses and practitioners.

"We want to make sure we get this right for everyone, which is why we want to hear your opinions and experiences through our new consultation."

An estimated 900,000 Botox injections are carried out in the UK each year. Save Face - a government approved register of accredited practitioners - received almost 3,000 complaints in 2022, with over two-thirds of those complaints relating to dermal fillers and almost a quarter relating to Botox.

Ashton Collins, Director, Save Face said:

"Whilst we appreciate that we are still at very early stages of any potential licensing scheme being implemented in England, we are delighted to have been invited by the government to contribute our thoughts and ideas ahead of the release of this public consultation.

"Being involved in the process has enabled Save Face to actively contribute to roundtable discussions with ministers, policy makers and key stakeholders.

"As the largest and longest established Professional Standards Authority accredited register, we are able to provide a unique level of insight based on 10 years of gathering data from practitioner and clinic audits as well as patient reported complaints, adverse reactions, and complications.

"This will enable us to help develop a fit for purpose scheme that has public safety as its primary focus. We look forward to continuing to work

closely with the government and key stakeholders during the next stages of the process."

Professor David Sines CBE, Chair of the Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners, said:

"I warmly welcome the government's decision to consult on this new, proposed licensing scheme. It will help to ensure that people who undergo non-surgical cosmetic procedures receive treatment from practitioners who are properly trained and qualified, have the necessary insurance cover and operate from premises that are safe and hygienic.

"I would urge everybody to seize the opportunity provided by this consultation and support the move towards sensible and proportionate regulation in this important sector."

Victoria Brownlie, Chief Policy Officer at the British Beauty Council said:

"Since its inception, the British Beauty Council has been working to raise the reputation of the beauty industry and we see greater checks and balances around aesthetic procedures as a key part of this. Having worked with the government to achieve the ban on injectables for under 18s in 2021, we are delighted that they have continued this momentum with the commitment to introduce a licensing scheme covering a raft of higher-risk aesthetic treatments, many of which are largely unregulated.

"Those seeking treatments deserve to do so with confidence that their practitioner is properly qualified in the service they're offering, to the appropriate level of government approved educational standards. The Council has worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care to get to this point, so we look forward to seeing the outcome of the consultation and helping to shape the regulatory framework as it progresses."

The consultation closes on Saturday 28 October 2023.

It follows the passing of the Health and Care Act in April 2022, which gave the Health and Social Care Secretary the power to introduce a licensing regime.

Under the proposed scheme, which will be operated by local authorities in England, practitioners will need to be licensed to perform specific procedures, and the premises from which they operate will also need to be licensed.

The government has already made it illegal for under 18s to access Botox and filler treatments for cosmetic purposes and banned TV and social media adverts targeting under 18s with cosmetic procedures.

Anyone considering a cosmetic procedure should reflect fully on the possible impact of the procedure on both their physical and mental health and, if they decide to go ahead, take the time to find a reputable, insured and qualified practitioner.

New Treatment Option For Long-Term Insomnia

NICE has published draft final guidance recommending a new treatment option for long-term insomnia in adults.

Daridorexant (QUVIVIQ, Idorsia) is a pill taken once a night, around half an hour before bed.

Daridorexant is recommended only if:

- Cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBTi) has been tried but not worked, or
- CBTi is not available or is unsuitable.

The standard first treatment for long-term insomnia is both sleep hygiene advice and cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBTi). Daridorexant would be offered as a second-line treatment option.

Evidence submitted to NICE's independent appraisal committee showed a reduction in insomnia compared with a placebo over a 12-month period. The committee concluded that daridorexant was effective in improving symptoms related to long-term insomnia, reducing the total number of minutes that a person is awake after initially falling asleep and the time it takes for the person to fall asleep after going to bed.

It is estimated that just over 20,000 people in England could receive the treatment in its first year as uptake would be dependent on receiving a diagnosis of long-term insomnia that has not resolved through improved sleep hygiene or through CBTi (if available and suitable) from a GP.

Long term-insomnia in adults is defined as having symptoms lasting for three nights or more per week for at least three months and whose daytime functioning is considerably affected.

The drug blocks the action of two types of orexins, chemicals that help the body stay awake to improve night-time sleep and daytime functioning.

The final guidance is due to publish on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at www.nice.org.uk.

Major Upgrade Of Telecare Services In Leeds Successfully Completed

A major four-year project to upgrade equipment providing emergency telecare alarms and support to people in Leeds has now been completed.

Leeds Tele Care Services run by Leeds City Council has invested £1.6million in successfully upgrading all its equipment from analogue to digital systems in a project which began in September 2019.

The upgrade has been needed to improve the functionality of the network and also to ensure services can continue when the analogue telephone services in the UK are switched off by 2025, with traditional phone lines and telecommunications infrastructure being replaced by digital networks using internet protocols (IP).

Telecare is the continuous, automatic and remote monitoring of real-time emergencies and lifestyle changes over time in order to support vulnerable people living independently. It is a development of the community alarm equipment which Leeds has provided for older and disabled people since 1986 with the first-generation 'Care Ring' Service.

Telecare sensors are placed around the home on ceilings, doors and walls or may be worn by the service user in the form of a pendant. Sensors include smoke detectors, flood detectors, fall sensors and medication dispenser alerts.

If a sensor activates in an individual's home an alert is automatically raised to the council's 24-hour Tele Care Alarm Receiving Centre, who will make contact with the service user to check on their safety. Often practical advice and reassurance is all that is required, but on some occasions a personal visit or physical help may be needed. On these occasions the response centre staff will arrange the appropriate support by contacting a family member, providing a visit by the Tele Care mobile response service, or, if necessary, contacting an emergency service. The response centre holds relevant personal information about the service user and can identify which sensor in the home has activated to ensure the appropriate responses are arranged promptly.

More than 5,200 items of equipment have been upgraded to digital as part

of the infrastructure update, with sensors now operating on a standalone basis using SIM technology and not directly connected to or impacted by any other connectivity in the home such as a broadband or wifi signal.

All aspects of the Alarm Receiving Centre's infrastructure have also been upgraded to ensure continuity of service and the fastest and most effective response times possible.

Leeds Tele Care Services currently support nearly 10,000 people in the city, with 6,227 of those directly linked to the Alarm Receiving Centre and a further 3,343 having equipment which alerts a carer or member of the family living in the same property as the service user.

In 2022/23 there were 537,451 alerts taken by the Alarm Receiving Centre, resulting in 1,256 ambulance calls, 833 calls to the fire service to attend and 289 police visits. The team's mobile response also helped in 3,236 cases while 78,557 phone calls were made to reassure the service user who had triggered the alarm.

Leeds Tele Care Services also supports Yorkshire Ambulance Service by responding to around 75 non-injury falls per month, keeping ambulances free to be able to respond to other emergencies in the city.

Leeds City Council executive member for adult social care, public health and active lifestyles Councillor Salma Arif said:

"Leeds Tele Care Services provides a vital role in the city helping to support and keep safe some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. It is very pleasing that this essential upgrade of the equipment and infrastructure has been completed well ahead of time, and the service is now stronger and more effective than ever moving into the future. We look forward to seeing the service continue to grow, as part of our commitment to Leeds being a compassionate and age-friendly city supporting people to live independently at home or in a place of their choice."

Leeds Tele Care Services are currently looking to expand the number of Leeds residents they support. To find out more about the support on offer email TelecareReferrals@leeds.gov.uk or call the team on 0113 378 2991.

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QUIZTIME

WELCOME TO OUR QUIZ PAGE

Every month we give you new and hopefully challenging puzzles for your enjoyment.

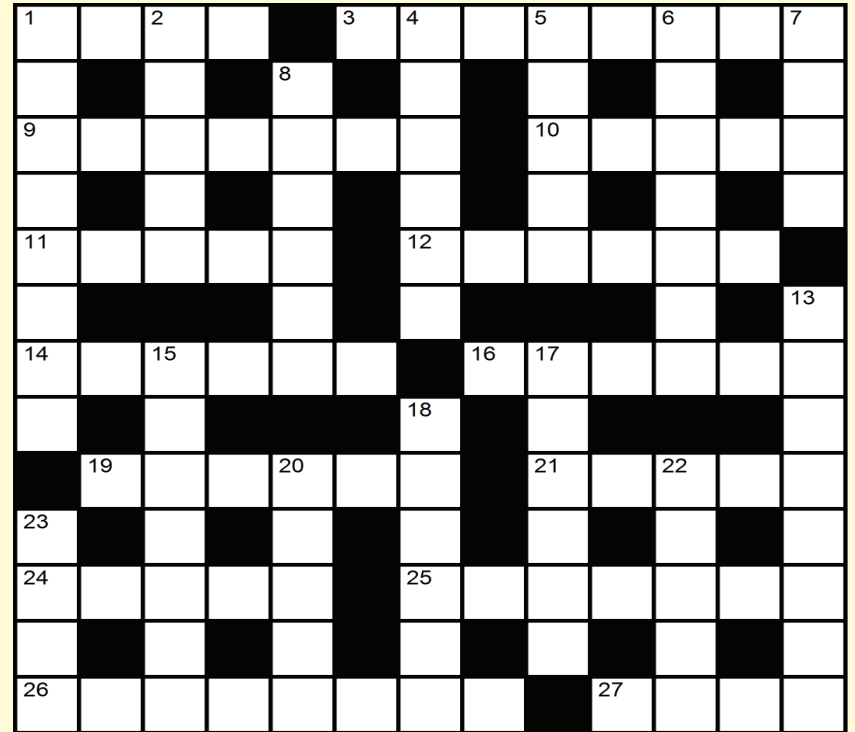
Make sure to pick up next month's issue for all this month's answers & solutions.

Wordsearch

L U M O N S T E R S L Q S W J F R
 C B J E T R I C K O R T R E A T U
 N O L V Q D Z H V B S N I L B O G
 L C S W L O I S A M O K J E I D J
 R C K T M I R B S U S E H C T I W
 E H O B U Y Y T H O N T S A V V F
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- COBWEBS
- COSTUMES
- GHOSTS
- GOBLINS
- HALLOWEEN
- HAUNTED
- MONSTERS
- PARTY
- PUMPKINS
- SPOOKY
- SWEETS
- TRICK OR TREAT
- VAMPIRES
- WITCHES
- ZOMBIES

Crossword



Clues:

Across

- 1 Girl
- 3 Sentimental fondness (4,4)
- 9 Version of a language
- 10 Hue
- 11 Dead tired
- 12 Laugh wildly
- 14 Agreement
- 16 Grass cutter
- 19 Senna shrub
- 21 Old
- 24 Omit vowels
- 25 Appease
- 26 Teachers
- 27 Sensed

Down

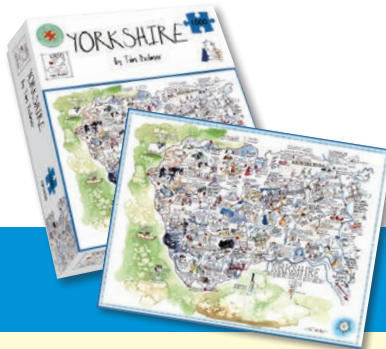
- 1 North Star
- 2 Vibrate
- 4 Blunt
- 5 Stun gun
- 6 Pretend (4,3)
- 7 Christmas decoration
- 8 Rouse
- 13 Emphatic
- 15 Russian empress
- 17 Share star billing (2,4)
- 18 Caravan
- 20 Coil of yarn
- 22 Visibly shocked
- 23 Boxing prize

HOW MUCH INFO HAVE YOU RETAINED?

Can you answer these questions about articles in this edition?



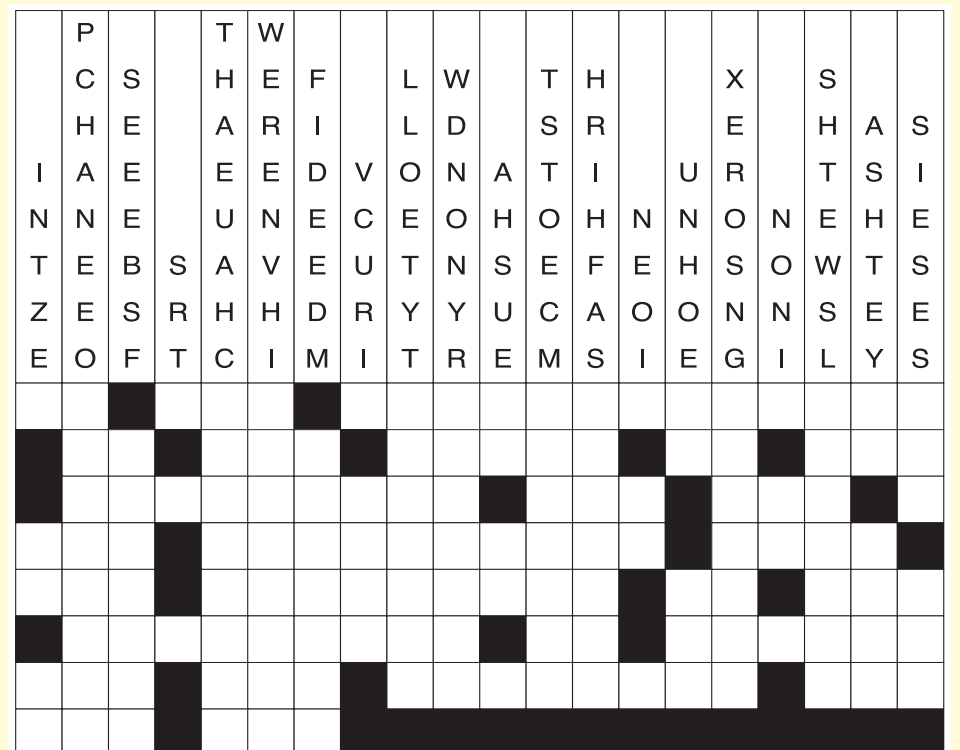
- 1 - Who are challenging couples to join Strictly Get Dancing and showcase their best moves?
- 2 - When does 'Daylight Saving Time End' this year in the UK?
- 3 - When did the Romans invade Britain?
- 4 - What is stomping into Scarborough on Friday 3rd November?
- 5 - Who are asking you to give an old age pooch a furry-tail ending?
- 6 - How much is the non-surgical cosmetic industry being valued at in the UK?



WIN A TIM BULMER YORKSHIRE JIGSAW PUZZLE FROM THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOP - P35

Drop Quotes

Drop Quotes are similar to cryptograms, in that the goal is for the solver to uncover a hidden quote. A black-and-white crossword-style grid is set up for each quote, with a number of letters "hovering" above each column. Your task is to "drop" each of those letters into the appropriate square in each column, until the entire quote is revealed. All punctuation (commas, periods, dashes, etc.) has been removed. Good luck!



Sudoku

Just like a regular 1-9 puzzle, only this time using the letters A-L in a 12x12 grid. Good luck!

September edition answers

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| L | C | H | F | J | B | A | E | I | D | K | G |
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| G | K | I | L | E | A | C | F | D | J | B | H |
| F | E | B | K | D | C | H | G | J | I | A | L |
| I | F | A | D | G | H | J | B | E | K | L | C |
| C | G | E | J | A | I | K | D | L | F | H | B |
| B | D | L | E | C | K | F | A | H | G | J | I |
| J | H | K | B | L | F | I | C | G | A | E | D |
| K | I | F | G | B | L | D | H | A | E | C | J |
| D | A | G | H | K | J | E | L | C | B | I | F |
| E | L | J | C | F | D | B | I | K | H | G | A |
| H | B | C | A | I | E | G | J | F | L | D | K |

How Much Info Have You Retained answers:

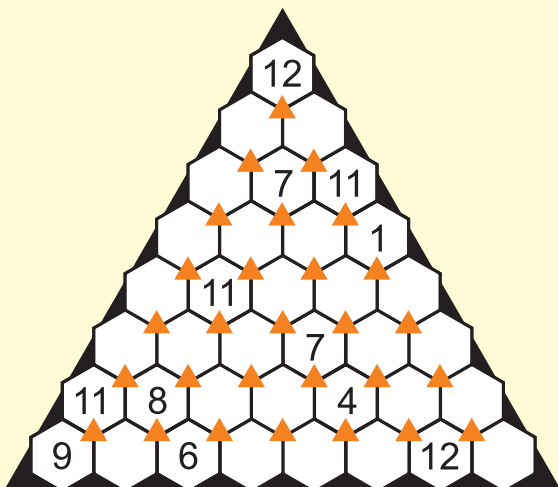
- 1. 3,000 2. 3rd October
- 3. The Knitting & Stitching Show
- 4. Mini UK 5. 23rd & 24th September
- 6. Leeds Corn Exchange

Drop Quote Answer:
 It is only the constant exertion and working of our sensitive, intellectual, moral, and physical machinery that keep us from rusting, and so becoming useless

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| J | F | L | D | | A | | E | B | | | |
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| | G | J | | | | K | | L | D | H | A |
| | | K | I | A | | C | H | G | L | E | B |
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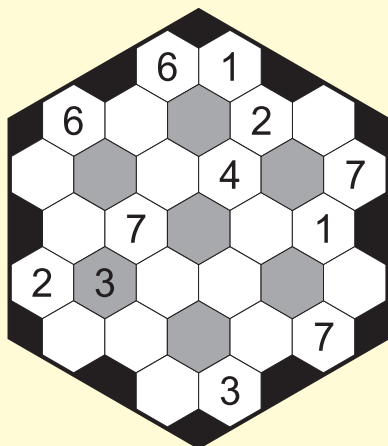
Subaddo 3D

Each orange triangle connects a set of three numbers. Two numbers must add or subtract to equal the third. All numbers must be between 1 and 12 and no number can be repeated in a horizontal row or diagonal row.



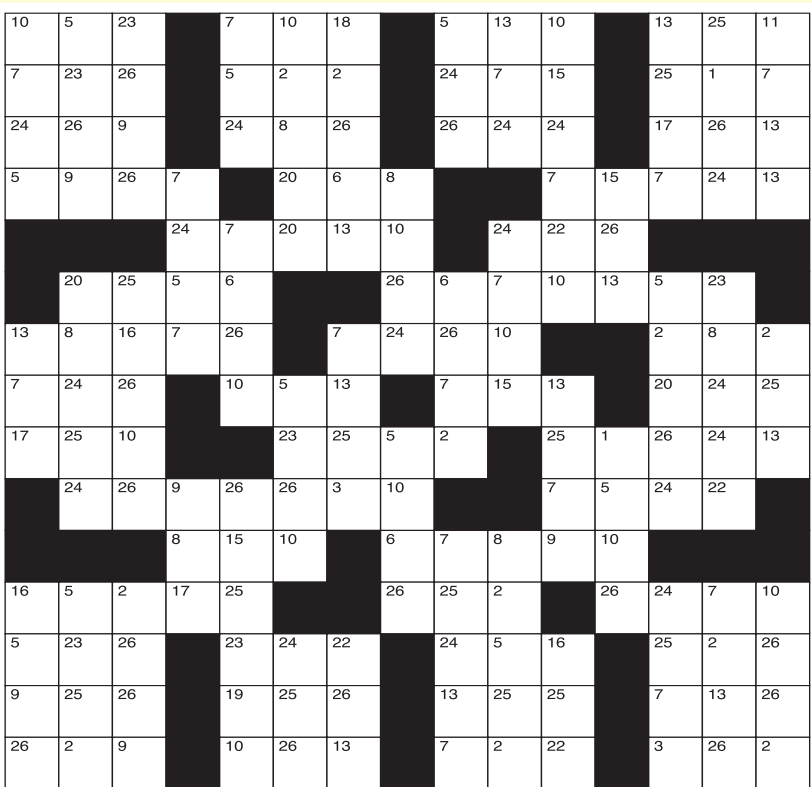
Rosetta

Fill in all 7 Rosettas with each number between 1 and 7 in no particular order while also ensuring that no number is repeated in a horizontal row and each number from 1 to 7 are represented in the 7 grey colored hexagon cells



Clueless Crossword

Think of a Clueless Crossword as a mix between a regular crossword puzzle and a cryptogram. Unlike many crossword puzzles, this grid is filled only with common, everyday English-language words - no abbreviations or other special "crossword" spellings are allowed. Each square in the grid is numbered 1 through 26, and each number corresponds to one (and only one) letter in the alphabet. Your goal is to completely fill in the crossword grid by gradually uncovering the letter that belongs to each number. We've given you three "giveaway" combinations - fill those into the solution grid and into any corresponding boxes in the crossword grid to get started. It helps to cross out each letter in alphabet as you use it in the grid, since no letter can be used more than once. Note that not all letters of the alphabet may be used in any given puzzle. If a number isn't used in the puzzle, it is greyed out in the solution grid.



SOLUTION GRID

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | |

GIVEAWAYS

- #16 = B
- #23 = C
- #20 = F

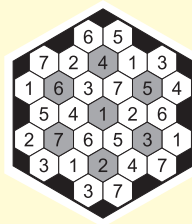
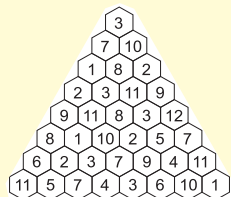
A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

Word Scramble

Can you solve these word scrambles?
Each word is taken from this month's edition.

- 1 - HOEIRKSY PORRERTE
- 2 - ROCEY YAOLRT
- 3 - LCAHKOTSESN
- 4 - KOTSCLED RKAP
- 5 - WALEOHNLE FNU NESVET
- 6 - HLGTI PSCTLUCAARE
- 7 - ORANGPA EARVTNYREI RAFLRREES
- 8 - IRTOCIVA EONWBIRL
- 9 - AUARQSUI
- 10 - LSEED SASGL

September edition answers



Word Scramble;

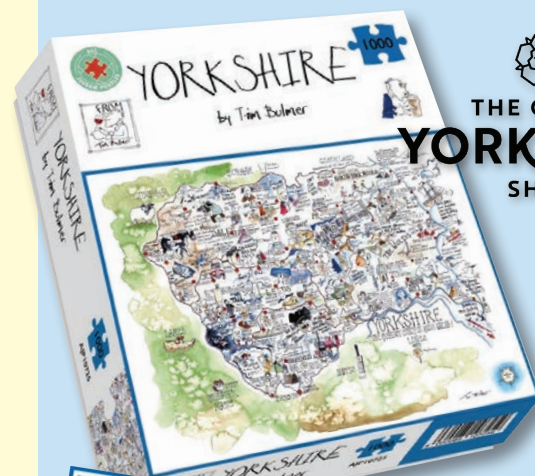
1. Rina Sawayama
2. Northern Swing Orchestra
3. Ilkley Literature Festival
4. Waddingtons
5. Fishergate Postern Tower
6. Gabs Healthcare
7. Russell Grant
8. Games Temple
9. Leeds Glass
10. United Carpets

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SEPTEMBER EDITION COMPETITION WINNERS

The Great Yorkshire Shop competition - Coleen Allison

Knitting & Stitching Show tickets - Brenda Gregson, Amanda Henry, Maria Smith, Kit Perkins & Julie Deane

Graham Parker tickets - David Stainthorpe

Rat Pack tickets - Karen Ries

Copy of 'The 169-Storey Treehouse' - Joe Wood

Copy of 'Rusted Souls' - Karen Ries

Congratulations!



Monthly Horoscopes By Russell Grant

ARIES March 21st - April 20th

Seize a chance to exercise your leadership skills on the 3rd; this will lead to a big career breakthrough. Don't neglect your best friend or romantic partner because of work on the 9th. Your professional path will be clarified on the 10th when an authority figure offers you a job with firm guidelines. On the 14th, the Solar Eclipse triggers a powerful partnership that changes your outlook. The prospect of pairing up with someone else won't seem threatening anymore. The Lunar Eclipse on the 28th brings an end to a source of income. This will allow a much more lucrative job to flow into your life. Focus on saving more than you spend on the 29th to establish a secure financial foundation.

TAURUS April 21st - May 21st

You'll turn plenty of heads on the 9th when your natural good looks are evident for the world to see. An ardent admirer pursues you on the 12th, giving you a nice ego boost. A wonderful job involving art, real estate, or the law arrives on the 14th, courtesy of the Solar Eclipse. Thanks to this position, you can afford many more luxuries. Your upbeat attitude causes someone to fall head over heels in love with you on the 22nd; this could be the beginning of a passionate romance. Walking away from a limiting role will be easy on the 28th due to the Lunar Eclipse. You'll adopt a much higher profile due to this shift. Obey an impulse to begin a creative project on the 31st; you'll be very happy with how it turns out.

GEMINI May 22nd - June 21st

Talking with a relative renews your hope for the future on the 3rd. It's nice to know this family member is in your corner. On the 5th, a charming flirt will catch your attention; make sure to get their number before they slip away. The Solar Eclipse on the 14th will mark an electric romantic attraction that's impossible to resist. You could get engaged or married at the drop of a hat. If you're already in a relationship, your partner could take you on a lavish vacation. Trying to buy someone's affection is a mistake on the 21st. The Lunar Eclipse on the 28th pushes you to end a period of isolation and join society again. Don't let fear prevent you from pursuing an exciting job on the 29th.

CANCER June 22nd - July 23rd

A passionate encounter changes your outlook on the 3rd; you'll start viewing yourself in a much more positive light. Don't let a relative criticise your romantic partner on the 9th. You must draw healthy boundaries here. Finding a beautiful place to live is favoured on the 14th due to the Solar Eclipse. You can negotiate a fantastic deal on this day, thanks to your powerful perceptions. A business trip on the 24th will be highly successful. Take some time to visit places of historical and cultural interest while you're away. On the 28th, the Lunar Eclipse prompts you to whittle down your friends on social media. Maintaining relationships with the people you truly value. An unusual group of friends will encourage you to record a podcast or write an article on the 31st; express yourself.

LEO July 24th - August 23rd

A wonderful business opportunity is worth pursuing on the 9th. This is your big chance to earn a living from your creative talent. You'll notice the benefits of a health regimen on the 10th; give yourself a reward for your hard work. On the 14th, the Solar Eclipse brings exciting news about a travel or educational opportunity. Getting a change of scenery or learning something new makes you more attractive than ever. Ask a former employer to write you a recommendation on the 22nd; their warm praise will help you land a wonderful new job. Changing career paths is a distinct possibility on the 28th, thanks to the Lunar Eclipse. This is a good time for you to venture into a more creative field.

VIRGO August 24th - Sept 23rd

Be realistic about romantic expectations on the 2nd, or a promising relationship will slip right through your fingers. More money for luxuries becomes available on the 5th when you're offered a great job that brings lots of intellectual stimulation. Your charisma is more powerful than ever on the 10th, allowing you to capture hearts wherever you go. A committed relationship highlights your communication skills on the 24th. Let a romantic or business partner promote your talent. On the 28th, the Lunar Eclipse finds you graduating from an educational programme, publishing some written work, or returning from a long trip. You're able to embark on a new adventure. Undertaking an unusual course of study on the 31st appeals to your sharp intellect, giving your eyes an attractive sparkle that's impossible to ignore.

LIBRA Sept 24th - Oct 23rd

An argument with a stubborn relative on the 9th is more trouble than it's worth. Avoid sensitive topics since nobody will change their mind. The Solar Eclipse on the 14th inspires you to change your image in a dramatic way. Don't be surprised when people who were once indifferent to your charms take a sudden interest in you. Someone who is jealous of your popularity tries to rattle your confidence on the 21st. Pay no attention to their petty criticisms and continue to flaunt your fabulous personality. The 22nd is perfect for getting rest and relaxation; resist the urge to check work messages. A source of passive income comes to an end on the 28th due to the Lunar Eclipse. This prompts you to put a brilliant business idea into effect.

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

Your keen perception helps a friend improve their image on the 3rd; they'll be grateful for your advice on conducting job interviews. Don't let anxiety keep you from telling a relative or neighbour something important on the 9th. Feel free to pursue the object of your desire on the 13th; it will be almost impossible to resist your charm on this magical day. On the 14th, the Solar Eclipse urges you to take a prolonged break. Getting rest and relaxation will improve your outlook, helping you to find solutions to stubborn situations. Your charisma helps you get whatever you want on the 23rd. A romantic or business partnership ends on the 28th due to the Lunar Eclipse. This change of status will be liberating.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

Don't neglect your work responsibilities on the 2nd, even if you have something weighing heavily on your heart. Money is tight on the 9th, but fortunately, you never associate wealth with happiness. By focusing on feeling good, the resources you need will become available. You'll make a whole new group of friends on the 14th due to the sociable Solar Eclipse. These associates will encourage you to develop a bold idea that you've been considering for a long time. Your health blooms on the 22nd, helping you command attention. This is a good time to go to an interview or audition. The Lunar Eclipse on the 28th causes you to break a bad habit, allowing your health to thrive. Don't neglect your spiritual life for the sake of work on the 31st.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

Your powerful personality paves the way to an exciting educational opportunity on the 3rd. Getting advanced training will greatly improve your career prospects. On the 9th, don't let a pushy authority figure cause you to rush a project that needs time, care, and attention. The Solar Eclipse on the 14th attracts a thrilling career opportunity. Getting paid for your expert opinion will be gratifying. A power struggle with an authority figure breaks out on the 21st; you may decide to look for another job due to this tension. The 22nd is great for going to a job interview or audition. Your thoughtful comments about a friend's troubles on the 24th earn their undying loyalty. Finishing a creative project on the 28th will bring a great deal of prosperity, due to the Lunar Eclipse.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

Be practical about money on the 2nd, or you could suffer a big loss. It's better to save than spend on this confusing day. Pour all your energy into landing a dream job on the 12th; this position is worth the extra effort. The chance to travel to a beautiful land you've never visited before arrives on the 14th, courtesy of the Solar Eclipse. The 22nd is perfect for buying beautiful furniture and artwork; you'll have fun sprucing up a drab area of your home. The Lunar Eclipse on the 28th brings the end to a painful family situation. This resolution will make you happier than you have been in months. On the 31st, a relative brings surprising news. You could receive a beautiful heirloom or a big inheritance. Accept this tribute with a grateful heart.

PISCES Feb 20th - March 20th

Don't expect your best friend or romantic partner to read your mind on the 2nd, or an argument could erupt. Melting a love interest's heart will be easy on the 9th when you immediately understand their needs. If you get a choice between taking a flat salary or earning a commission on the 13th, pick the latter. You'll get more money this way. A source of unearned income greatly improves your financial situation on the 14th, thanks to the Solar Eclipse. If you play your cards right, you'll never have to worry about money again. An intense conversation on the 24th paves the way to an intimate relationship; your partner deserves your trust. On the 28th, the Lunar Eclipse causes you to reduce work responsibilities for the sake of education.



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Masala Hut, Authentic Indian Cuisine



— BY LINZI DAVIES —

Masala Hut is a hidden gem just tucked at the back of Austhorpe Road in Crossgates.



■ Owner Kabir (left) with two of his staff

This family run business is not only renowned for its authentic Indian food, but the warm and welcoming staff too, and this winning combination has led to a large following of loyal customers who return week after week.

The wide selection of traditional Indian dishes that their customers love, along with some modern additions created by the experienced in-house chef are sure to tantalise tastebuds. One of the most famous dishes at Masala Hut is their Chicken Tikka Masala of which there are three different versions to choose from – mild, medium and Asian style which is spicier and a little hotter.

Owner Kabir says “We cater for all different palates offering a variety of spice levels and are happy to dish up half portions for children, or even nuggets and chips if that’s what they prefer so that the whole family can dine together. Of course, allergies and dietary requirements are all catered for too!”



As well as their à la carte menu, twice a week is the Mega Buffet. On Wednesday: 5pm - 10pm and Sunday: 4pm - 10pm customers can enjoy a variety of starters and seven different mains which include meat and vegetarian options along with popadoms and a pickle tray. A great buffet for just £14.95 each and £7.95 for under 12’s.

Masala Hut has a bring your own drinks policy, selling only soft drinks on their menu. This means that you can tuck into your curry and wash it down with your favourite beer, wine or whatever tittle you prefer without being limited to a restaurant wine list.

With its cosy interior and good honest food, Masala Hut is sure to go from strength to strength building on its already fantastic reputation.



Customers Bridget Markey and Lisa Waterworth said “Along with Nichole Mitchell and Wendy Taylor we come for the excellent food which is great value for money and the staff are just the best. They even know our regular order and get it ready for our ‘Monday Club’ as we like to call our weekly outing!”

Jane and José are also regulars, eating at the restaurant at least once a week for years ever since Spaniard José has been in Leeds! Jane said “The food is always brilliant, and the staff are lovely. We have tried other Indian restaurants when we have been visiting other areas, but we always compare them to Masala Hut.”

Visit Masala Hut and see for yourself why this little hidden gem is so popular with diners both locally and from further afield!



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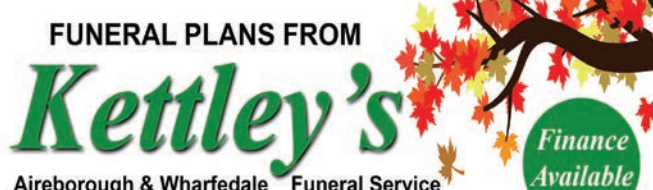
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