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Welcome to the Yorkshire Reporter

Now in our 12th year of bringing you the largest independent, free to pick up monthly newspaper in West Yorkshire, we are confident that inside you will find local news and stories relevant to you and your community, along with a wide range of interesting columns and features.

As a family owned business, we pride ourselves on supporting local community groups and businesses. With our team, you can be certain of a personal and professional service, so if you have something going on in your community that you want to shout about, or are thinking of advertising with us, please get in touch.

Lesley Ann, Editor

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Historic Trade Deal Signed With India To Deliver £170 Million Boost To Yorkshire And The Humber

Businesses and workers in Yorkshire and the Humber are set to benefit from the UK's trade deal with India, as new analysis shows the landmark agreement will deliver a £170 million boost for the local economy as part of the Plan for Change.

Both Prime Ministers met for the signing of the landmark UK-India trade deal as new analysis reveals communities across every region of the UK will benefit from its £4.8 billion increase to UK GDP each year.

It comes as a series of investment and export wins have been confirmed by UK and Indian businesses, representing an overall boost of nearly £6 billion and creating over 2,200 jobs.

India is a strong, growing market for Yorkshire and the Humber, where 747 businesses exported £321 million in goods last year – this could grow even more thanks to lower tariffs, fewer barriers to trade, and easier customs.

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to the UK's second-largest medical

technology workforce, with approximately 14,800 people employed in the sector. As a result of this trade deal, tariffs on a range of medical devices, between 8.25% to 13.75% will be halved or eliminated within 10 years.

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said:

"The millions brought to Yorkshire and the Humber each year from the deal we've signed with India will be keenly felt across local communities, whether that's higher wages for workers, more choice for shoppers, or increased overseas sales for businesses.

"This government is proving time and again that we can deliver on our mission to grow the economy, put more money in pockets and boost living standards under our Plan for Change."

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin said:

"India is already one of West Yorkshire's most valued trading partners, with nearly a billion pounds of goods traded annually, and Indian

businesses playing a vital role in our local economy.

"I'm proud that our regional trade mission to India has helped pave the way, securing investment in high-quality jobs for local people while growing the economy and showing just how valuable these international connections are for UK businesses.

"With one of the UK's largest Indian diasporas here in West Yorkshire, this is about more than trade - it's about deepening ties between communities and creating a brighter region that works for all."

Workers in Yorkshire and the Humber will enjoy an uplift in pay as UK wages grow by £2.2 billion each year, and could also see cheaper prices and more choice on clothes, shoes, and food products. The UK already imports £11 billion in goods from India but liberalised tariffs on Indian goods will make it easier and cheaper to buy their best products.

For businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber this could mean potential savings when importing components and materials used in areas such as advanced manufacturing or luxury and consumer goods.

India's trade weighted average tariff will drop from 15% to 3% which means companies in Yorkshire and the Humber selling automotive products to India will find it easier to sell to the Indian market. It gives the UK an advantage over international competitors in reaching the Indian market, forecast to have over a quarter of a billion high income consumers by 2050.

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to a large range of food and drink manufacturers, such as sweets, whisky and soft drinks. As a result of this deal, existing tariffs of 33% on a range of UK food exports, such as chocolate, gingerbread and sweet biscuits and soft drinks will be removed within 10 years, and non-alcoholic beer will see tariffs halved over 5 years.

Mark Ridgway OBE DL, CEO of Rhodes Group, said:

"As a manufacturer of advanced metalforming machinery used in the forming and lightweighting of aircraft, India is a strong market for Group Rhodes and offers significant growth potential. The recent UK-India trade deal not only sets the scene for reduced tariffs on machinery but also serves to both enhance our competitiveness as a UK exporter and reduce the complexity of trade with this fast-growing market.

"Importantly, the UK-India FTA recognises UK origin content of at least 20% as qualification as a 'local supplier' in India. This provides equal treatment in the Indian government procurement process and the opportunity for Group Rhodes to build on its existence reference sites within the Indian aerospace sector."

Cloud 9 Windows – Service with A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloud 9 Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Paul McGeechan feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up, we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about

saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.' Cloud 9 Windows are based locally

and Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from family and friends of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Paul a call for a free quotation on 0800 328 8213 and he'll be happy to help!



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Multi-Million-Pound Transport Cash Boost Across England And Wales Including West Yorkshire

Working people will get better access to jobs and opportunities as the Government confirmed £301 million for transport schemes across England and Wales.

Government funding will be used to create direct links between towns and economic hubs including West Yorkshire, King's Lynn, Leicester, and the Isle of Wight with new road junctions, cycling, walking and bus networks.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, said:

"We are investing in Britain's renewal, in what matters to you in the places that you live. This latest confirmation will further unlock economic power by delivering the infrastructure needed to grow the economy.

"This £301 million investment is exactly what our Plan for Change is about – economic growth which connects people to opportunity, creating construction jobs and making it easier to get about."

This includes £48 million for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, subject to business case approval, to redevelop Peterborough Station with a new entrance, passenger facilities and improved active travel connections.

West Yorkshire will receive a total of £42 million for improvements to 14 bus stations, including over 1,000 new bus stops, bus lanes and cycle routes alongside improved access to roundabouts.

Kirklees Council will receive up to £48m, subject to business case approval, for the Penistone Line upgrades work which will partially unlock future ambitions for half hourly services between Huddersfield and Sheffield and deliver improvements to stations along the Penistone Line.

In Wales, this confirms funding for Neath Port Talbot Council and Powys Council – including £12 million to reopen Newbridge Bridge and build shared pedestrian and cycle track alongside the carriageway.

The Chancellor allocated this cash during June's Spending Review, which also saw £15.6 billion for buses, trams and local train infrastructure in England's city regions through Transport for City Regions (TCR) funding – the biggest ever investment.

The Government also confirmed, subject to business case approval, £28.4 million for Lancashire County Council to develop and deliver Cottam Parkway, a proposed new railway station on the Blackpool and Preston line which will connect homes and businesses on the edge of Preston along with a new housing development being built to the north west of the city.

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said:

"This investment is a step toward building a transport system that serves every corner of England and Wales, especially in areas that have been overlooked for far too long.

"This isn't just about faster journeys - it's about unlocking growth, creating new jobs, and laying the groundwork for a more connected country."

What Should Leeds Be Like In The Future? Have Your Say On The City's Development



People and businesses in Leeds are being asked to have their say on the future of development and land use in the district as Leeds City Council launches a consultation to update its Local Plan.

The Leeds Local Plan is a legal framework that will set out the council's vision and strategy for sustainable growth up to 2042. The plan guides how land is used and developed across the district and influences planning decisions to ensure any developments meet the needs of the community and the environment.

By having this long-term plan, the council can better manage where new homes, businesses, and services are built and ensure the right development happens in the right places.

The consultation, which will provide vital feedback in shaping the future of Leeds, is open for 10 weeks, and is asking for opinions on:

- The vision and aims of the new Local Plan
- The key issues that it needs to address and the options, including homes, schools, workplaces, green spaces, waste management, carbon reduction and infrastructure
- Where new development should take place across the entire district

Deputy Leader and executive member for economy, transport and sustainable development, Councillor Jonathan Pryor, said: "As one of the fastest growing cities in Europe, we must ensure that the right developments and services happen in the right places, whilst also giving everyone across the entire Leeds district a voice in planning our city's future.

"The opinions of people and businesses are hugely important in planning a sustainable future for our city, and this consultation is a real opportunity to have your say and tell us what you think Leeds and the surrounding district should be like by 2042.

"The consultation has been designed to be as easy as possible to complete online, or if you prefer, come and speak to us, ask any questions, and share your thoughts at one of the in-person events.

"Your feedback is vital to making Leeds the best city possible and I encourage everyone to get involved."

The Leeds Local Plan consultation is open until Monday September 15, 2025. By visiting the dedicated and accessible on-line portal, you can:

- Read the draft Local Plan.
- Explore supporting documents.
- See the potential sites that have been suggested.
- Submit your feedback.
- View the full schedule of in-person events in your area.

Alternatively, you can join one of the thirteen in-person events being held across the Leeds district to have your say in person.

The Leeds Local Plan on-line portal can be found by visiting:

<https://leedslocalplan.commonplace.is>

Princes Acquires £23m Cross Green Site In Leeds

Princes has completed the £23 million acquisition of the Cross Green site in Leeds, further embedding the Symington's business into its UK operations and reinforcing its commitment to long-term growth in the region.

This transaction marks an important stage in the integration of Symington's brands, which include household names such as Chicken Tonight, Ragu, Naked, and Mug Shot, into Princes' operational portfolio in the UK. The Cross Green site is a key operational hub for Princes, encompassing production, warehousing, and corporate activities to support the business's continued development.

The acquisition provides long-term confidence for colleagues, with ownership ensuring stability while supporting the organisation's flexibility to develop strategic investments and pursue business growth. Princes has also announced that it has purchased the iconic Royal Liver Building in Liverpool where it has been headquartered since 1982.

Simon Harrison, CEO of Princes, said: "This acquisition demonstrates our commitment to Leeds and recognition of the regions role in Symington's' and now Princes' growth. By investing in Cross Green, we are strengthening the foundations of both businesses while reaffirming our commitment to West Yorkshire".

Joe Dent, Chief People Office at Princes added: "The purchase of Cross Green, alongside Princes purchase of the Royal Liver Building, is a clear demonstration of the importance placed on



the infrastructure of the business as a whole. It's a significant investment, not only in financial terms but also in terms of our commitment to UK manufacturing."

As one of the UK's largest food manufacturing businesses, Princes operate 10 sites across the country and employs almost 3,000 people. The business recently announced a campaign to champion UK food manufacturing. Its range of products will soon receive a UKM stamp of approval, signifying products made in UK factories and the contribution made to local manufacturing and the UK economy. The company said these purchases of both sites is a further commitment to the UK and its unwavering ambition for a more prosperous future for the nation and the communities the business serves.

Princes acknowledges Leeds' valuable contribution to its national and international success, reaffirming its commitment to the local community and workforce in the region.

Stuart Tait, Head of Commercial Banking at HSBC UK, said: "Supporting businesses that invest in the UK's communities is at the heart of what we do. We are delighted to have provided financing to Princes to secure the Cross Green site in Leeds."

The Cross Green acquisition marks another step in Princes' mission to deliver operational excellence, inspiring confidence in its future as one of the UK's leading food and drink brands.



New businesses are making Leeds Kirkgate Market an even better choice for shoppers as its multi-million pound improvements programme continues to deliver the goods.

An impressive total of 18 indoor businesses have opened at the historic and much-loved retail destination over the course of the last 12 months.

And although the market's food offer remains as strong as ever, the range of other products being sold by its latest arrivals are a reminder that this is a shopping spot with something for everyone.

One of the recently-opened businesses, Zen & Pops, is based in the 1904 Hall and specialises in autism-friendly sensory and educational toys.

Toys Shop, another newcomer that is sure to be a hit with younger customers, can be found in the 1981 Hall.

Luggage retailer Bargain Bags has opened in the 1981 Hall while a furniture business, Buy Direct UK, that was already trading at the market has expanded its presence there by moving into a large previously-vacant unit, again in the 1981 Hall.

The recent flurry of openings has come as work continues on Leeds City Council's £10m refurbishment of the market's 19th-century 'blockshops' area.

The first phase of the scheme saw a total of 24 units renovated and improved with features such as new canopy fronts, electric roller shutters, extraction ducting, LED lighting and extra storage space.

Another 16 units were completed earlier this year, with one of the new businesses in this section – Hellenic Delicacies & More, a delicatessen selling Greek grocery products and pastries – set to open shortly.

Work on the renovation of the remaining 12 blockshop units is due to finish next year.

Footfall figures for 2024, meanwhile, show the market received more than 5.9m visits over the year, four per cent up on the total for 2023.

Those figures were in part driven by a packed summer

Green Light Given - £23.9million Investment In Two New Sports Hubs

Senior councillors in Leeds gave a final green light to a £23.9million investment in two new sports hubs in the city.

At a meeting of the council's executive board at Civic Hall, councillors approved work starting on new sports pitches and supporting pavilion facilities at Woodhall in Calverley and Green Park in Temple Newsam.

The plans for the sites have been developed by Leeds City Council in partnership with the Football Foundation as part of their national Parklife (Sports Hubs) programme, which aims to increase the number of third generation artificial grass pitches in the country.

At each site, three new full-sized pitches with floodlighting will be created for football and rugby use along with other play areas, biodiversity habitats, landscaping and parking. The Green Park site will also include a large multi-use hard court space that can be used for accessible or wheelchair sports or those sports needing a hard surface such as hockey or basketball. It will also offer walking and running routes in a park setting to encourage active lifestyles.

Both sites will also feature a new sports pavilion building providing a café and meeting space together

schedule of free family-friendly activities.

And visitors to the market can look forward to more of the same in 2025, with a free children's activities programme running there until August 29.

The What's on at Kirkgate webpage will be updated through the summer with details about this year's programme, which will include fun sessions featuring everything from circus skills to real-life arcade-style games.

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's deputy leader and executive member for economy, transport and sustainable development, said:

"Leeds Kirkgate Market is rightly renowned for the quality and value of the produce served up by its butchers, greengrocers, fishmongers, bakers and array of other food retailers.

"That's not all the market has to offer, though, as shown by the range of exciting new businesses that have opened there over the last year.

"I'm delighted that our substantial investment in this important local landmark is making it even more attractive for traders and customers alike.

"The support of everyone who works or shops at the market is very much appreciated as we continue our efforts to ensure its future is just as bright as its long and storied past."

Dating back to 1875, the blockshops are the oldest surviving structures at the market and comprise eight two-storey buildings linked by an infill glazed roof.

The ongoing transformation of the area's trading units has been complemented by wider structural work which has seen roofing repaired, walkways brightened up with new glazing, new guttering installed and floors lowered to enhance accessibility.

For more information about trading opportunities in both the blockshops and the market as a whole, visit:

<https://markets.leeds.gov.uk/trade-our-markets/trade-kirkgate-market>

with ancillary features such as toilets and changing rooms, including Changing Places toilet facilities.

The plans have been refined and developed following consultation with the public, local sports clubs, disability groups and local councillors, with changes made to accommodate feedback received.

The new hubs are to be funded by Leeds City Council, the Football Foundation, Section 106 developer contributions and private sector funding. Proposals are also being developed for a possible third site at the former Matthew Murray High School in Holbeck, with further details on those plans to follow.

Work will begin at Woodhall this month to be completed in a year with the new facilities open the end of August 2026. At Green Park initial ecological works will also begin this month before construction starting in October, with the new pitches ready for play in August 2026 and the new sports pavilion opening the following month.

Once opened the hubs will be managed by the National Football Trust, a not-for-profit organisation, with all surplus income generated to be reinvested in outdoor sports facilities across Leeds.

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Council Helps Pensioners In Leeds Access Over £1million In Unclaimed Pension Credit

News that pensioners across Leeds have been helped to access over £1million in unclaimed Pension Credit has been welcomed by senior Councillor Mary Harland.

The council's welfare and benefits team has been working hard to promote and encourage uptake of the additional support available, including proactively contacting pensioners who may be eligible but are not currently claiming.

As a result, the team has helped at least 249 households secure Pension Credit awards with the largest being over £400 per week, money that otherwise those residents would not have received.

Councillor Mary Harland, Leeds City Council executive member for communities, customer services and community safety, said:

"I am delighted that our welfare and benefits team has been able to bring in an extra £1million for pensioners across the city and I'd like to thank them for the work they have undertaken. This is money that people were entitled to but were not receiving, and with the biggest award being over £400 per week it is easy to see just what a difference this additional income could have for some of our most vulnerable residents.

"There are a number of reasons people don't claim – they may not be aware they are eligible, fear of stigma, difficulty applying or language barriers – but the work undertaken by the team has shown that a targeted approach has real impact. However, there are still a number of households who have been sent letters encouraging take-up who have not responded and I would encourage everyone who is contacted by the team to get in touch so that we can help them claim any money they are entitled to."

A Pension Credit claim can be made online, by phone or by requesting a paper claim form.

<https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start>

Pension Credit claim phone line: 0800 991 234

New £30,000 Grants Available To Support Creative Industry Careers In West Yorkshire

Amazon has launched the Regional Creatives Fund, offering grants of up to £30,000 to UK charities that develop creative industry career pathways. The Regional Creatives Fund is open to organisations in West Yorkshire and across the UK that help underserved communities access careers in publishing, music, gaming, film, TV, fashion, advertising, and more. Applications are open now via;

www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/community/amazon-regional-creatives-fund

The aim of the Regional Creatives Fund, which aligns with the Government's recently announced Creative Places Growth Fund, is to increase access to careers in the creative industries for people from underserved communities. The fund is open for applications from single charitable organisations and consortiums based in the same region that are currently running impactful skills projects and are seeking additional funding to scale, sustain, or innovate their efforts. Applications for up to £30,000 can be made by individual organisations that meet eligibility criteria, while consortium applications for up to £100,000 are also available. Regional Creatives Fund grants will give charities with existing creative upskilling programmes the flexibility to address their most pressing needs.

Applications are open for small to mid-size organisations who are registered charities in the UK. Applicants must currently be running a programme that focuses on upskilling people from underserved communities for careers in creative industries.

In addition to financial support, the Regional Creatives Fund will also use Amazon's network of creative industry professionals to offer charities pro bono upskilling programmes for their organisations as well as their beneficiaries - including mentoring, work experience, placement opportunities, and digital training. Support will be provided by creative minds from Amazon Music, Prime Video, Amazon Games, and more.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the fund will be used to expand or continue an existing, impactful programme. Examples of programmes that a Regional Creatives Fund grant can be used for include funding for placements in game development studios, music production training, and portfolio development for future advertising creatives.

Grants will be awarded by an independent judging panel. The panel includes senior leaders from Amazon, The National Theatre, Arts Council England, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, Help Musicians, and Music Minds Matter.

Funding applications will be assessed across five key areas. Strong proposals will reflect the fund's spirit with energy, optimism, and a clear creative purpose; deliver real impact through skills, access, and industry links; show a smart, achievable plan with confident delivery; centre inclusion by amplifying underrepresented voices; and build on existing programmes to grow what's already working. More information on the judging criteria is available via;

www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/community/amazon-regional-creatives-fund

"Creativity is our superpower, and the future of our country depends on talent being nurtured everywhere," said Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire and RCF Board Member. "This game-changing initiative will help creatives to break down barriers and unleash their potential, no matter their background or circumstances."

"Amazon has been a passionate supporter of creative industries in the UK for many years and the Regional Creatives Fund will supercharge that support in West Yorkshire and across the country," added Paul Firth, Director, Global Music Industry, Amazon Music. "The aim of the Regional Creatives Fund is to help charities amplify the reach of existing programmes that support pathways to careers in the creative industries. We understand talent is everywhere, but access isn't, and we're working to change that. Through the Regional Creatives Fund, we want to help create a future where creativity belongs to everyone."

Amazon has invested over £4.2 billion in the UK's creative industries since 2010, with over 2,000 people permanently working across Film and TV, music and audio, books and publishing, fashion, and gaming businesses, and supporting 16,000 additional jobs.

To find out more about the Regional Creatives Fund, visit;

www.aboutamazon.co.uk/news/community/amazon-regional-creatives-fund



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Seven Leeds Parks Awarded As Some Of The Best In The Country



■ Otley Chevin

Some of Leeds' most popular parks have been awarded the Green Flag Award after being recognised as being of international quality.

Golden Acre Park, Kirkstall Abbey, Middleton Park, Otley Chevin Forest Park, Pudsey Park, Roundhay Park and Temple Newsam Estate are all managed by Leeds City Council and have yet again been listed among the best in the country.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Some of the Green Flag parks in Leeds have received the award every year for at least 15 years.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council's executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, said: "Our teams and volunteer groups work very hard to keep these sites to a high standard and for them to be spaces that people can enjoy every single day. We're thrilled that we have once again received the prestigious Green Flag Award for these seven green spaces and that they are deemed of international quality."

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd MBE, said: "Congratulations to everyone involved at Leeds City Council who have worked tirelessly to ensure that these parks achieve the high standards required for the Green Flag Award.

"Quality parks and green spaces like these seven make the country a healthier place to live and work in, and a stronger place in which to invest.

"Crucially, these parks are vital green spaces for communities in Leeds to enjoy nature, and during the ongoing cost of living crisis it is a free and safe space for families to socialise. It also provides important opportunities for local people and visitors to reap the physical and mental health benefits of green space."



■ Northern gannet *Morus bassanus*, adult pair courting, RSPB Bempton Cliffs Nature Reserve. Image © Les Cater (rspb-images.com)

Record Visitor Numbers At Yorkshire's Seabird Nature Reserve

RSPB Bempton Cliffs has announced record visitor numbers today with a whopping 31.15% increase compared to the same six months in the previous year (Jan – June). 91,667 visitors have been recorded so far this year, up from 69,666 in the same six months last year, meaning the reserve is on track to have its highest annual visitor figures ever.

The nature reserve has put its success down to a range of factors, including the seasonally good weather, offering the warmest of Yorkshire welcomes, as well as the impact of being showcased on national television. But reserve Visitor Experience Manager, Poppy Rummary, also believes the word is simply getting out that Bempton is a must-see visitor attraction on any trip to Yorkshire.

As well as record visitor numbers, Bempton is also celebrating a 90% score in the annual VisitEngland quality assessments for visitor attractions. Bempton Cliffs was commended for its exceptional standards, easy to use website, warm visitor welcome and quality of the café. This means it has qualified for a nomination for a 'Best Visitor Welcome' accolade 2024/2025, and successful attractions will be notified late summer/early Autumn. Praise was also given for its outstanding accessibility for visitors with both visible and non-visible disabilities.

Open to visitors year-round, except for Christmas day, around half a million seabirds gather there between March and August to raise a family on the towering chalk cliffs that overlook the North Sea. Between April and July visitors find the cliffs transformed into England's largest seabird colony. Puffins, Gannets, Kittiwakes and Guillemots live life on the edge and there are more Gannets acrobatically diving into the deep than anywhere else on mainland England. When the seabirds leave, wild walks and dramatic seas draw visitors over the winter months too for the spectacular scenery and chance to spot Short-eared Owls hunting over the grassland.

Scott Davison-Smith, Commercial Operations Manager, said:

"We're delighted with these visitor numbers. People are realising that getting away from their smart phones and computer screens is a brilliant way to relax and that nature can be so restorative. They just want to re-connect with nature and what better way to do it than visit the only place in Yorkshire where you can see this amazing seabird spectacle. Receiving a 90% score from VisitEngland's annual quality assessment is the icing on the cake."

"It's heartening too to know that our visitors want to help make a difference for nature. Doing more to look after our marine environment has never been more important given the range of threats our seabirds face and every visit made helps us to conserve the special wildlife here".

Poppy added:

"Not only have we seen good numbers of Gannets and other seabirds here, but we also now have the best visitor figures ever! We used to be a hidden

gem but now the word is well and truly out, and people are traveling from the UK and right across Europe to see these amazing birds. We've had people from Holland, Germany and even Australia!"

Right now, the Gannets are diving into the sea, bringing food back for their chicks and August is the perfect time to spot Minke Whales and Dolphins too.

Whilst Bempton is celebrating the visitor figures Davison-Smith has cautioned it's important people understand not everything is well with our seabird populations. The most recent seabird census, published in November 2023, found that more than half (62%) of the seabird species on British and Irish coasts have declined over the last 20 years. And, shockingly, around one in four Puffins have been lost from across the UK since 2000.

He explained: "This is one of the reasons why visitor support for Bempton is so vital. When people visit us, they learn more about the threats seabirds are facing and help support our crucial conservation work here, including monitoring of species. Almost half of our seabird populations are in decline but when we act, they can recover."

Bempton's internationally important seabird population means it has special protection. It is both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and its European importance is recognised in its designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It is renowned for its Puffin colony, but it is also the only mainland breeding colony of Gannets in England.

As well as the nature reserve, Bempton has a Visitor Centre, shop and café (serving bird friendly coffee of course) and has increased its range of events for the summer season. 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Visitor Centre, made possible through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Dave O'Hara, Reserve Manager, RSPB Bempton Cliffs, said:

"We're delighted with these results. We have a loyal following of visitors from across Yorkshire and increasingly from across the country and overseas. It's this support that helps us do more to protect our seabird populations, such as our successful campaign to end industrial Sandeel fishing in the North Sea. Thanks to this, our Puffins and other seabirds have finally been given a much-needed lifeline."

Every year from May to September, spectacular seabird cruises run from nearby Bridlington Harbour. The boat tours take visitors to the seabird colony for close-up views of Puffins, Gannets, Guillemots and more. RSPB's conservation work at Bempton is supported by a team of around 70 volunteers. From practical conservation work to welcoming visitors or carrying out wildlife surveys.

Teachers And Educators Urged To Sign Up To RSPCA Week And Help Animals

The RSPCA is urging schools and educators to sign up to RSPCA Week and help build a new generation of animal champions.

RSPCA Week will run from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October and is a great way for primary and secondary schools to get involved with the world's oldest and largest animal welfare charity.

Teachers and educators are being urged to sign up to receive a special RSPCA Week pack – which provides support and engaging content for students.

The pack will also include lots of fundraising activities and fun lesson powerpoints to go along with them.

Matilda Verbeeten, Community and Corporate Fundraising Manager at the RSPCA, said: "This is the first time we have run an

RSPCA Week aimed at the younger generation, and we are really hoping schools and education venues across England and Wales will sign up to the event.

"Children are the next generation of animal guardians and these packs will provide valuable educational information which we hope will help in creating a world where all animals are respected and treated with kindness and compassion.

"Animal welfare education empowers people to understand animal sentience and the challenges animals face. By promoting respect and positive animal welfare, it inspires individuals to make thoughtful, compassionate choices in their daily lives.

"Those schools and educators who sign up will be provided with everything they need to introduce students to animal welfare, the value of supporting a charity, and teamwork.

"The best thing is teachers and educators can choose the activities they want to do, and how many days they want to dedicate to them.

"Primary and secondary schools that sign up via the website will be provided with a pack of fundraising activities and lesson powerpoints. These activities will include opportunities for students to raise vital funds, whilst learning about who the RSPCA is, and what we do."

Activities are tailored separately for primary and secondary school ages and will include lots of educational information as well as fundraising activities and ideas.

For more information and to sign up visit;

www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/education/rspcaweek

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These days most homeowners suffer from a lack of storage space. So many precious items that need to be kept – but where to store it all? That's where Yorkshire Loft Ladders come in.

The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50 sq ft of boarding and a light all fully fitted in less than a day from just **£277 + VAT**. But it's not just the affordability of the package the company offers that makes Yorkshire Loft Ladders stand out as manager Warren Ingleson explains:

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Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen so our customers are assured of the best job. Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and Value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford. Our business relies on referrals and we got a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers - that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers

lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, however big or

small, call Warren on **0800 612 8359** and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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GARDENING

Make The Most Of Summer Sun, Spend Time In The Garden And Have Some Fun

I know it may not be to everyone's liking but I am grateful for the rain when it comes, and as the weather patterns change we seem to be moving to a more extreme, excessive heat then excessive rain. It does make you realise that climate change is a real issue.



Wisteria are a woody shrub usually trained against a wall, flowering in late spring/early summer with long pendulous tassels of sweetly scented blooms in shades of lilac through to white. Trained over a single or series of arches they can produce a spectacular display, especially if they are combined with clematis, extending the interest and colour throughout the year.

The key to reliable flowering and maintaining a good shape is to prune them twice each year, January/ February and July/August. I will deal with the winter pruning in a later issue, so for now we will look at July/August pruning. The reason why we prune now is to control all the whippy growth, maintain the shape and framework and encourage the remaining shoots to ripen which usually encourages improved flowering. The technique is fairly straight forward but involves looking at each new shoot and cutting them back to five leaves from where it started growing this year. You can tell where this is as the old stem will be pale, often grey in colour whilst new shoots are usually a fresh green colour. If you count five leaves from where the new growth starts cut the shoot with your secateurs about 2mm above the leaf/bud. If your wisteria is a young plant and you want it to spread over a larger area, restrict your summer pruning to side shoots and tie in those you want to extend. Again winter is the time to re-position and prune these.

In dry spells it's a good idea to give your wisteria a little water, about two gallons (5 litres) every three weeks unless we get a few regular rain showers, although the soil nearest the house does tend to dry out more quickly than in the open garden.



I love growing onions, and find them quite reliable. Although not for the show bench, we do have enough to last us well into the following year, in fact we are still eating last year's crop which have been stored in a cool brick garage with no windows. It is like a giant cold store for many of our vegetables. The key is to ripen them properly as this is crucial if they are to

store well. An indication that the bulbs have reached their final size is that the top of the plant naturally bends over. Depending on the cultivar and growing conditions the bulb can be anything from 5 - 10cm (2 - 4 inches) in diameter, although selected cultivars and special treatment can result in the giants you see on the show-bench. When most of your plants have bent over any remaining can be gently bent ensuring you don't snap the stem. With a garden fork, gently press the fork into the soil about 5cm from the bulb and ease back the fork loosening the ground, don't pull it out at this stage. You are simply encouraging the plant to ripen. after a few days the leaves will be starting to turn straw coloured and after a week, you can start to lift them. Gently ease out with a fork shaking most of the soil from the roots, If the weather is fine the plants can be left on the soil or placed on a bench in the shed if you have one. We have some wire mesh frames that we lay the plants across which allows better air flow and dries them more evenly. After a couple of days I remove the dry roots and remaining soil just by rubbing them with your hand, I also remove a couple of layers of papery skin as this removes any blemishes and damage. Keep them spaced out on the bench until they are fully dry, bulbs and leaves. We then plait the stems together to create onion ropes that can be hung in the garage and used when required. Any damaged or misshapen onions should be used first as they don't store well.



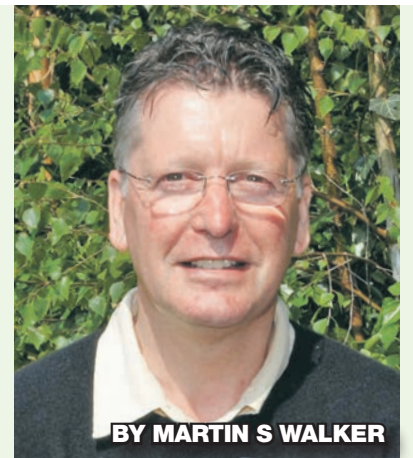
August is a great time to start your Christmas potatoes. Specially prepared tubers are sold both online and at your local garden centre/nursery. These have been cold stored to hold them back in order that they can be planted in summer and will provide a crop of fresh new potatoes for Christmas. The technique is fairly simple but does require them to be grown in a container (potato growing bag or large deep pot), With a potato growing bag place about 10cm (4in) of general purpose compost in the bottom of the bag and place three tubers equally spaced apart in the bottom, on one end of the tuber there will be a cluster of very small buds this should be placed upwards as you place in the compost. There is no need to 'chit' (start off) the tubers. Place 10cm (4ins) of compost over the tubers and water the compost. As the shoots develop continue to apply compost leaving just a couple of inches of growth showing, until you are 5cm (2ins) from the top of the growing bag. Continue to water the container and watch them grow. During summer and until the temperature gets towards freezing the containers can be kept outside in a sheltered spot, but before the frosts come the containers will need to be brought into a greenhouse or shed with good light from windows. Allow the foliage to die down naturally and leave them in their bags until you need them. You can have a little dig in the compost just to make sure there are some tubers and just cover then over until needed. Do not water once you have brought them inside as the compost needs to dry out otherwise the tubers will rot.

We have found that potatoes grown and stored in this way are a fresh and tasty addition to the festive table.

happy gardening,

Martin

(Next month, pumpkins and squashes, autumn container displays, get ready for garlic.)



BY MARTIN S WALKER

Plant Portrait- 'Lavender'

Lavender or rather, *Lavendula*, is a woody plant with grey/green leaves and a strongly aromatic scent commonly grown in gardens but originates from Mediterranean regions including France, Spain and Italy. The species, *Lavendula angustifolia* is often referred to as English Lavender however it is not native to the United Kingdom. Lavender is quite hardy and will survive most winters providing it is not grown in wet or waterlogged soil, however it is ideal for areas of the garden that are free draining and dry making it a plant that is suited to our changing climate.

A well known garden plant whose scent is distinctive and used in many ways throughout our daily lives in fragrances, herbal remedies and cooking, it's attributes are said to encourage calmness and aid restful sleep.

Although there are species that will grow to 1.5 - 2 metres in British gardens it is considered a small shrub trimmed annually to maintain a bushy low shrub between 30 and 50cm (1 - 1.5feet) high. although the flowers are strongly scented so are the leaves and stems due principally to the fact that the whole plant contains natural oils that harness its distinctive aroma.

Breeding has resulted in a number of cultivars whose flowers, foliage, height and character provide variation and contrast in planting schemes. Flowers are predominantly deep mauve to pale blue/lilac, although there are white forms too. French Lavender (*Lavendula stoechas*) is becoming popular due to its more showy, feather like flowers, although the plant is not reliably hardy and in colder parts of the UK is best grown in a container and protected from severe cold and wet through the winter.

Lavender is fairly easy to look after and given the right treatment will remain attractive for 10 to 15 years, It is easy to propagate from semi ripe cuttings but is also readily available as pot grown plants or rooted cuttings. It prefers free draining soil in full sun with not much organic matter, so does not need feeding or mulching, indeed this will cause the plant to become leggy and lax, so it is advisable not to plant it with other subjects that need rich soil.

Once planted, water for the first two to three weeks after which it should not need to be watered again. In order to maintain a compact bushy plant it is advisable to trim the plant every year in late summer after flowering, cutting back the flowering stem to a growing leaf joint and not into old wood as Lavender is slow to regenerate if cut hard and often dies back.

Throughout the summer you can harvest the flowering stems and place in small vases or dried and place in cotton bags. These bags can be placed in drawers of clothes to deter moths. Flowers can be dried and mixed into other flowers to fragrance a room and it is said that a cotton bag of lavender placed under your pillow will aid restful sleep.

Here are a few cultivars to try,

- *Lavendula angustifolia* 'Alba', White flowers long narrow pale green leaves, will grow to a height of 70cm (2ft 6ins). There is also a more dwarf white form, *Lavendula angustifolia* 'Nana Alba'.
- *Lavendula angustifolia*, 'Hidcote' Dark lavender blue flowers on long stems grey green leaves will grow to a height of around 45cm (18 inches).
- *Lavendula angustifolia*, 'Munstead' Purple-blue flowers on short stems, grey green foliage,, will grow to a height of around 45cm (18 inches).
- *Lavendula angustifolia*, 'Old English' a slightly taller cultivar reaching 60cm(2ft), with long stems of light blue flowers with slender silver grey green leaves.
- *Lavendula stoechas*, 'Helmsdale', green foliage and deep burgundy flowers, will grow to 70cm (2ft 6 ins)(not reliably hardy).
- *Lavendula stoechas*, 'James Compton' green foliage with purple red flowers grows to a height of around 80cm (2ft 8 ins) (not reliably hardy).



Blooming Good Family Fun At Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

The Harrogate Autumn Flower Show returns to the spectacular setting of Newby Hall and Gardens, Ripon from Friday 19 September until Sunday 21 September.

With a family focus, this year's show is set to inspire the next generation of growers with an engaging raft of new children's hands-on activities, as well as its trademark spectacular floral displays, awe-inspiring fruit and vegetable competitions, expert talks and live demonstrations.

Designed to encourage discovery, creativity and family fun, activities for children include a new nature-inspired fun zone with workshops, activity trails and storytelling, as well as encounters with birds of prey and a petting farm.

Creative workshops offer the opportunity for children to create their own posy, plant their own mini garden plot and build a bug hotel to encourage garden insects. Young growers can also join in the gardening competitions to showcase their best homegrown fruit and veg or a jam jar of flowers.

Staged by the North of England Horticultural Society (NEHS), the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show attracts more than 30,000 visitors over the three days, as well as hundreds of exhibitors, competitors and volunteers and showcases the best in fresh produce and flowers.



Show highlights include the magnificent floral displays in the Grand Floral Pavilion where visitors can enjoy seasonal displays from the UK's best growers, nurseries and specialist plant societies, including the National Dahlia and National Chrysanthemum Northern Championships.

The Incredible Edible Pavilion attracts fruit and vegetable displays from across the country with growers showcasing the pick of this year's harvest. This year's Pavilion will host fiercely contested competitions, from the popular NEHS Giant Veg competition and the

National Onion Championship to the National Vegetable Society's Northern Championships and classes for seasonal produce, from apples and pears to onions and carrots.

The show will see the return of the popular Human Gardener and Grow Live! stages with gardening experts sharing their passion, gardening advice and inspiring floristry demonstrations. New for 2025 is the Makers Table stage with experts demonstrating how to make the most of the seasonal harvest with delicious pickles, chutneys and jams alongside the secrets to drying flowers and even homemade homecare hacks.

Show visitors can also enjoy 'The Country House Weekend' with stunning floral arrangements installed throughout Newby Hall's magnificent Adam interiors. Designed by internationally celebrated floral designer Jonathan Moseley, the feature takes inspiration from Newby's great history and its award-winning gardens, which this year won a coveted gold medal at Chelsea Flower Show.

The Harrogate Autumn Flower Show is one of two flower shows hosted annually by the NEHS with the Spring Flower Show taking place in Harrogate in April. Last year's Autumn Flower Show attracted 30,000 visitors, with the profits used to support and promote the work of specialist societies and groups, and charitable horticultural organisations.

Nick Smith, director of Harrogate Flower Shows, said: "September is the perfect time to celebrate the year's horticultural achievements. This year, as well as offering inspiration through the beautiful floral displays and exceptional competitions we are so well known for, we're focussing on encouraging youngsters to get involved in growing through some of the many hands-on activities on offer. So, with full access to Newby Hall's brilliant adventure playground, it's a perfect day out for families."

Tickets are £23 per person available online from <https://www.flowershow.org.uk/> until 2 September or £28 on the door. Admission includes access to Newby's gardens which feature some of Europe's biggest herbaceous flower borders, 15 stunning garden 'rooms' and family adventure garden.

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Terms & Conditions – Entries must be in by the 23rd August 2025. The winner will be contacted by phone or email and may be required for a photoshoot of them receiving their prize. Yorkshire Reporter's decision is final and no cash alternative will be offered.



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Antiques And Collectables

With David Oddy



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

Going back to my childhood, on a Saturday morning I would go to the toy shop and with my pocket money I would buy a Dinky toy. The first thing I did was take it out of its box and throw the box on the fire. I then proceeded to crash the car into the other battered cars in my collection and run them into the skirting boards until hardly any paint remained. These old dinky toys are now worth about £2 in battered condition. If I had kept them in their boxes in mint condition they are now highly collected and can achieve really competitive prices. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but kids will be kids!



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

I have a really large collection of boxed toys in the shop, sadly very few old ones but nowadays people realise to keep toys boxed and they do hold their value. Most of my stock came from one enormous collection. The collector was a wagon driver, and I have every conceivable make of wagon. There are lots of collectors of modern models of Star Wars and film model memorabilia etc.



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

People used to collect stamps and cigarette cards but the market for these is really gone, except for really old or rare examples. On the other hand, the collector's market is very strong for old post cards, coins, medal, watches, items of silver and most valuable of all is any gold jewellery.



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

Gold price is at a 20-year high and even bits of broken chains, odd earrings, and rings with stones missing are still very valuable.

If you have anything like this, please bring it into the shop or I will call to you without obligation. I will make an offer which you certainly don't have to accept. I am looking for new stock and will be pleased to look at anything old or interesting. The hardest part of running an antiques shop is finding novel items of interest!

Please see advert below for contact details and opening times.



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Diary Of A Pawnbroker

It's Time For Summer To Shine!

The school summer holidays are here, and with them comes one of the busiest times of the year. Parents who have been juggling work and life seamlessly suddenly find themselves with a house full of energetic children—and a growing list of expenses. Holidays need paying for, uniforms must be bought, and household bills don't take a break.

It's no surprise that our pawnbroking services see a surge in demand around this time. Many customers pop in looking to borrow a few hundred pounds to smooth out their holiday cash flow—and we're here to help.

Gold Still Going Strong

The good news is that gold prices remain high. We're seeing plenty of customers bringing in unwanted gold and jewellery—often surprised at just how much they're worth. In fact, gold prices have risen by around 35% over the past year. Gold remains a safe, reliable investment—and a quick and easy way to unlock funds when you need them most.

Interestingly, when the global gold price rises, we also see an increase in demand for investment gold—especially sovereign coins. In times of high inflation and low interest rates, owning gold is a smart way to store value. Whether it's coins or jewellery you can enjoy wearing, it's a reassuring and tangible asset to hold.

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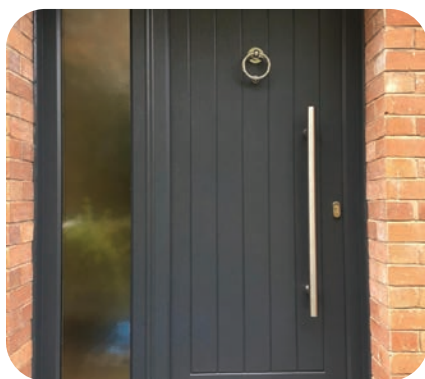
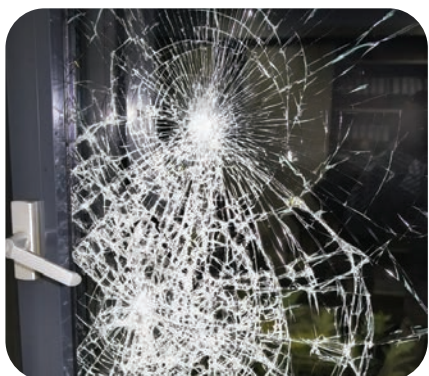
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■ Lambrini Girls

Countdown Is On - Leeds Festival 2025

BY STUART GLOSSOP

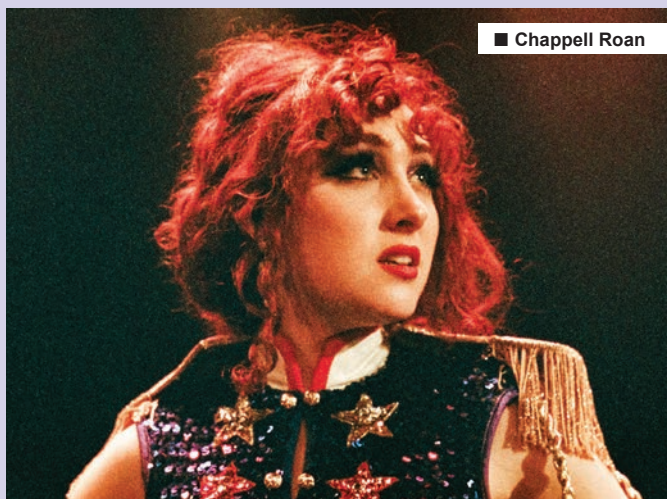
The countdown is on. From Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2025, Leeds Festival returns to the rolling grounds of Bramham Park, promising an electrifying weekend of music, culture, and community. As one of the UK's most iconic summer festivals, Leeds continues to set the standard for genre-defying lineups, immersive experiences, and unforgettable memories. There is little else happening this month!

This year's edition is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious yet, with a roster of global superstars, rising talent, and fan favourites across multiple stages. Whether you're a seasoned festival veteran or a first-time camper, Leeds Festival 2025 offers something for everyone.

The Festival will be headlined by three powerhouse acts, each bringing their own unique energy to the main stage:

Travis Scott, the genre-defying force behind Astroworld and Utopia, will ignite Bramham Park with his only European festival performance of 2025. Known for his immersive stage productions and visceral energy, Scott's headline set promises to be a full-throttle spectacle. Fans can expect a setlist packed with viral hits like FE!N, HIGHEST IN THE ROOM, and GOOSEBUMPS, alongside new material from his surprise Jackboys 2 release. Scott's shows are more than concerts—they're cultural events. With over 68 million monthly listeners and a reputation for pushing boundaries, his Leeds performance is poised to be one of the most talked-about moments of the summer. This is a moment you'll talk about for years.

Irish singer-songwriter Hozier returns to the UK festival circuit for a rare and intimate headline performance. Closing the Main Stage on Saturday night, Hozier will bring his signature blend of poetic lyricism and soulful vocals to Bramham Park. From the haunting Take Me to Church to the ethereal Unreal Unearth era, his set will be a journey through emotion, storytelling, and sonic beauty. Hozier's appearance at Leeds marks the end of his current album cycle, making this performance a poignant farewell to a chapter that has captivated fans worldwide.



■ Chappell Roan

The self-proclaimed "Midwest Princess" Chappell Roan is set to transform Leeds Festival into her own glittering kingdom. With her breakout album *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*, Roan has become one of pop's most exciting new voices—unapologetically queer, fiercely theatrical, and emotionally raw. Her headline set will be her biggest UK show to date, and fans can expect a full-blown spectacle. Think costume changes, dance breaks, and anthems like *HOT TO GO!* and *PINK PONY CLUB* that turn the crowd into a sea of joy and liberation.

Closing the weekend with a thunderous roar, Bring Me The Horizon returns to Leeds for what frontman Oli Sykes calls "the greatest show of our careers". Fresh off their *Post Human: Nex Gen* album, BMTH will deliver a genre-blending set that spans metalcore, electronic, and alt-rock—complete with viral hits like *Throne*, *Can You Feel My Heart*, and *Kingslayer*. This performance marks their only UK show of 2025 and the final European date of their current campaign. Joined by Limp Bizkit, Enter Shikari, and Becky Hill, Sunday's lineup is a masterclass in musical chaos and catharsis.



■ AJ Tracey

Beyond the headliners, Leeds Festival 2025 boasts a lineup that reflects the diversity and dynamism of today's music scene. With over 100 acts performing across multiple stages—including the BBC Radio 1 Dance Stage, Festival Republic Stage, and BBC Introducing Stage—attendees can expect a genre-hopping journey from sunrise to sunset. Highlights include: Hip-Hop & Rap: AJ Tracey, Trippie Redd, D-Block Europe, Digga D. Indie & Alt-Rock: The Kooks, Bloc Party, Wallows, Sea Girls. Pop & Glam: Conan Gray, Suki Waterhouse, Caity Baser, Flowerovlove. Punk & Hardcore: Soft Play, Lambrini Girls, Origami Angel. Emerging Artists: Nia Archives, James Marriott, Rachel Chinouriri and The Cliffords (the Irish band tipped to be bigger than U2)



■ Sea Girls

Leeds Festival 2025 is more than a weekend—it's a celebration of music, identity, and connection. With a lineup that spans genres and generations, and a festival experience that goes beyond the stage, Bramham Park is set to become the beating heart of the UK's summer. Whether you're chasing the thrill of a headline set, dancing till dawn in the woods, or simply soaking up the atmosphere with friends, Leeds Festival 2025 promises to be the ultimate summer blowout.

Grand Ambition Calls On City's Musicians To Revive Victorian Golden Oldies

They were the boisterous barroom ballads that once rattled the rafters of Victorian music halls across Leeds.

Now librarians are calling on the city's modern-day musicians and singers to help them bring an incredible collection of vintage sheet music to life for the first time in more than a century.

The array of late 19th and early 20th century songs is part of a vast collection at Leeds Central Library, which includes a combination of well-known musical classics alongside forgotten songs penned by local composers.

Usually having comic, satirical or political themes, the raucous melodies would have been a hit with the eager crowds who packed into music halls and theatres which were hugely popular at the turn of the 20th century.

With a small selection of sheet music currently on display outside the building's newly refurbished music library, the search is now on for pianists and vocalists to perform more pieces at a series of events planned to celebrate Heritage Open Days this September.

The library is keen to hear from local pianists and singers who think they can take on the challenge of performing the historic hits, some of which have not been played in more than a hundred years.

Tunes which make up the collection include famed classics such as *Ride a Cock Horse*, billed as a "drawing room comic song" performed by Harry

Liston, and George Leybourne's "great comic song" *The Organ Man* which he both wrote and performed.

They are joined by titles including *The Parson and the Clerk*, sung by G H MacDermott and *The Mouse-Trap Man*, also by George Leybourne.

Other highlights include *Mr and Mrs Baggs*, described as "a most thrilling narrative giving an account of the frightful apparition, the appearance of which so affected Mrs B's nerves that she was laid up for seven weeks after."

The front cover shows the eponymous, pyjama clad Mr Baggs brandishing a blunderbuss at a terrified cat as his horrified wife looks on.

Lee Noon, music librarian at Leeds Central Library, said: "Music hall tunes like these were once a hugely popular part of leisure and entertainment in cities like Leeds, and would have been enjoyed by people of all different classes and backgrounds- they were very much the pop songs of their day.

"Many of these songs won't have been performed or heard by an audience for more than a century now, and we'd love to give people in Leeds the chance to experience them again and for our local musicians to try and recapture a bit of what was really the golden age of music halls.

"Each of these pieces of music represents a little bit of the city's musical history and it would be a really special moment to help bring them back to life again."

The music hall songs are just one element of Leeds Central Library's huge collection of sheet music. One of the biggest collections in the UK, the library loans pieces to orchestras and musical institutions across the country.

As well as a piano available to use, the building's newly refurbished music library also includes specially created walk-in recording studios and podcasting facilities.

Councillor Mary Harland, Leeds City Council's executive member for communities, customer service and community safety, said: "Our music library and its collection is an incredible resource for the city and a great example of the multi-faceted role which libraries have in our city and its communities.

"Having such a historic and unique array of music housed in Leeds is a real privilege and it will be wonderful if we can involve local talent in performing some pieces to celebrate the city and its heritage."

Any pianists, singers and groups interested in performing some of the pieces this September can contact lee.noon@leeds.gov.uk using the subject line "Heritage Week Piano."

More information about Leeds Central Library including facilities and opening hours can be found via;

<https://libraries.leeds.gov.uk/libraries/central-library>



Children and young people can look forward to fun times in the great outdoors as Leeds's annual Breeze In The Park has begun for another summer.

Organised by Leeds City Council, the roadshow-style programme will see a total of 26 low-cost play days taking place in local communities.

Each event is held in a different park or green space and will feature interactive activities such as arts, crafts, sports and games together with Breeze's much-loved giant inflatables.

The visits to Armley, Beeston, Bramhope, Cross Gates, East Ardsley, East End Park, Harehills, Kirkstall, Middleton, Morley, Potternewton and Wortley will include quieter and more relaxed sessions for those with additional needs. Extra staff will be on hand to offer assistance at these sessions, with queuing kept to a minimum and designated parking provided where possible.

All of the Breeze In The Park events will have one main session, running from midday to 4pm.

Additional needs sessions will run from 11am to midday, with those attending them being welcome to stay on for the afternoon activities at no extra charge.

Tickets for all sessions cost £1 each and must be bought in advance. Purchases can be made via www.breezeleeds.org. A full list of event dates and locations can be found on the same web pages.

Breeze In The Park is funded with the generous support of the council's network of local community committees.

Breeze Pass holders get fast-track access to some of the most popular inflatable attractions. Please note, pass holders must still purchase tickets in advance.



A Lotherton Summer Holiday

Leeds has its own seaside resort this summer, complete with beach huts, a pier and a fairground.

Lotherton's grounds have been transformed for the summer holidays with their new installation which will run until 31 August.

A Lotherton Summer Holiday invites the entire family to come and enjoy the beach and pier display and a full entertainment programme including live music, dance class pop ups, hilarious magic and sublime science shows.

The Lotherton beach boasts a giant deck chair and traditional seaside shop, and beach dwellers can also visit the fortune teller display or the games room for the quintessential British seaside pier experience.

Rowing boats that were used on Waterloo Lake in Roundhay Park in the 1980s have also been donated to the installation. The park's boat hire started in the early 1900s and Lotherton's visitors can now experience what it was like on summer afternoons 40 years ago.

Families can also take part in arts and crafts activities and search for picnic items in a trail around the impressive Edwardian house, Lotherton Hall.

By popular demand, last year's deer park tractor tours will be returning for the holidays, taking visitors out among the estate's deer herd to get close to the magnificent animals. Running every

weekday at 11am and 1pm each tour can take up to 30 people who will get to learn all about Britain's biggest native mammal.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council's executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, said: "It's great to see summer return to Lotherton, with this year's display being bigger and better than before.

"They've got everything that is unique about a British seaside resort right here in Leeds and there are plenty of activities to take part in.

"Lotherton is also home to a spectacular variety of wildlife species including emus, cranes, Arthur the tapir and critically endangered Visayan warty pigs, so it is the perfect day out for the whole family."

A Lotherton Summer Holiday runs until 31 August. The fairground will finish on the 25 August. Full entertainment programme can be found at;

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/whats-on/a-lotherton-summer-holiday-xqz6>

The deer park tours run on weekdays and can be booked as an add-on to ticket admission (at an additional cost) via;

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/whats-on/deer-tractor-tours-83ms>

Reading Is A Walk In The Park With Free Audiobooks



Visitors to parks in Leeds are being encouraged to listen to stories while they take a stroll this summer through the new 'Walking Books' project.

The hope is to introduce reading to new audiences with free eAudiobooks and promote wellbeing.

Librarians in the city have created a new reading list specially designed for people walking in the park, so visitors can listen to

a story that is the length of a stroll around the park or try out titles themed around mindfulness.

The list of short books, poems and stories can be found on the BorrowBox app, which is entirely free with a library card. Borrowbox allows you to download up to six ebooks or eaudio books to your own device, with thousands of titles for all ages and tastes to choose from.

eAudiobooks can promote reading by introducing books to those who might not otherwise engage with them, such as reluctant readers or those with reading difficulties. They can also help remove barriers around reading for children and help them access more advanced stories by listening to them.

Leeds Libraries secured a £5,000 project grant award from the National Acquisitions Group to encourage more people in the city to listen to books and boost their wellbeing in local green spaces.

Dawn Stanley-Donaghy, the librarian behind the project, said: "We know that being in nature is good for mental health and so is reading, even for just a few minutes. 'Walking Books' is encouraging people to go out and enjoy our parks and be present in the moment by listening to a story or a poem.

"Some of our libraries are very close to parks, so it is a great opportunity to remind people using the parks for a walk that they can download eAudiobooks for free."

The reading list is live on the Borrowbox app, and will be promoted at events over the summer, with special banners across Leeds' parks to reach new users outside the library walls.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council's executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, and Councillor Mary Harland, executive member for communities, customer service and community safety, said: "2026 has just been announced as the national year of reading so it is the perfect time to encourage people to pick up, or download, a book.

"Reading and walking in the park are both great for mental health and we hope that this project will bring more people into our parks and our libraries."

Get a library card and learn more at;

<https://libraries.leeds.gov.uk/walking-books>



Pattern Making Poetry at Leeds Art Gallery

Creative family fun session with artist Kalisha Piper Cheddie. Use drawing and collage to make patterns on long pieces of paper that will be hung on the large walls in Central Court on the first floor of the gallery. While you're there, take some time to find out more about Lynette Yiadom-Boakye's favourite music and poetry that inspired her exhibition, *To Improvise a Mountain*: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates. Drop-in, no need to book.

Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 August, 11am to 3pm, cost: give what you can

For more information visit;

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/whats-on/pattern-making-poetry-7pq8>



Trains run every Saturday and Sunday between 10:30 and 15:30



KIDS FOR A QUID
Every Wednesday
In August



A Magical Miffy Summer At Leeds City Museum

Hop down to Leeds City Museum over the summer holidays to experience Miffy summer fun! Take part in sing-along storytimes, make Miffy-inspired wands, experience dazzling magic shows, and design interactive artwork at electric paint and animation workshops. There will also be a pop-up sensory room filled with dark tents, light-up toys, squishy floor tiles, dens and a bubble tube.

Taking place until Wednesday 27 August, at various times (booking required for some activities - please see website for more details), cost: give what you can

For more information visit;

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/pQdMnCd/miffy-s-70th-birthday>



Crafty In The Cloister At Kirkstall Abbey

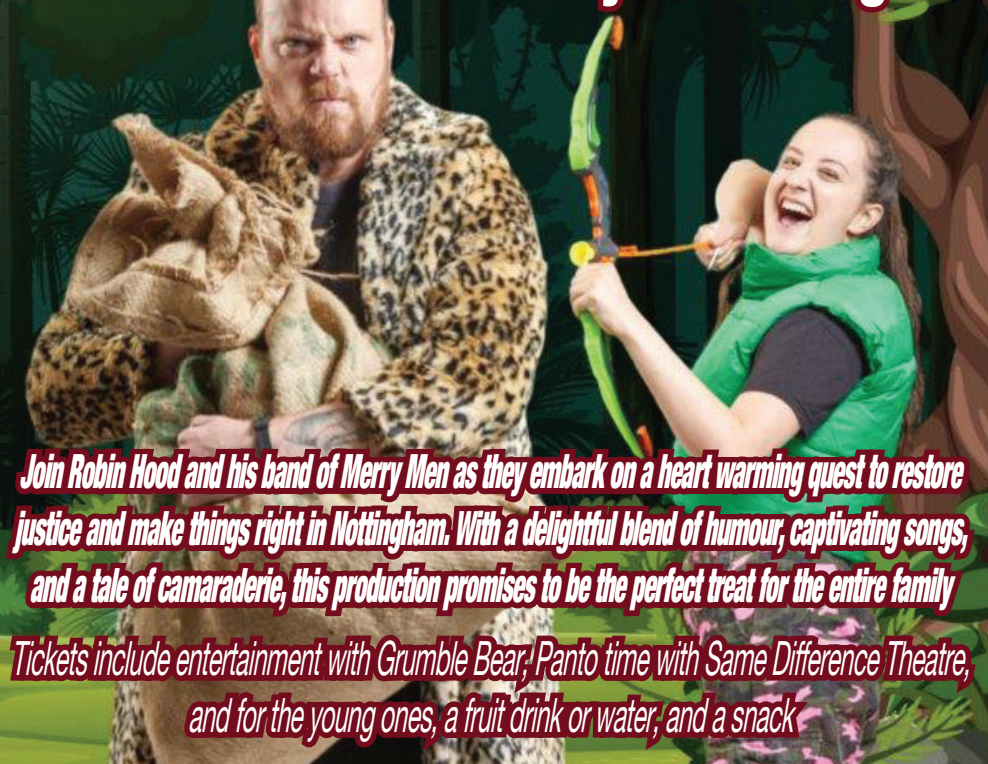
Take part in craft activities in the heart of the Abbey - the cloister. Every Thursday afternoon there will be new craft and colouring activities, reflecting on the nature in the abbey. The Cloister is the central courtyard in the abbey that served as a quiet area, surrounded by covered walkways to minimise noise and disruption. A quiet and meditative space for the Cistercian monks.

Thursday 7, 14, 21, 28 August, 2pm to 4pm, cost: give what you can

For more information visit;

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/whats-on/crafty-in-the-cloister-ql7t>

Robin Hood At The Railway! - 16th August



Join Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men as they embark on a heart warming quest to restore justice and make things right in Nottingham. With a delightful blend of humour, captivating songs, and a tale of camaraderie, this production promises to be the perfect treat for the entire family

Tickets include entertainment with Grumble Bear, Panto time with Same Difference Theatre, and for the young ones, a fruit drink or water, and a snack

BOOK NOW! 07376 74 47 99

www.middletonrailway.org.uk

Middleton Railway Trust Ltd, The Station, Moor Road, Hunslet, Leeds LS10 2JQ. Telephone lines open 10:00 - 16:00

MOTORS

JAECOO Confirms UK Specifications And Pricing For Hotly Anticipated JAECOO 5 SUV

JAECOO UK has officially confirmed pricing and specifications for the all-new JAECOO 5, which will be on sale later this summer. Following its UK dynamic debut at Goodwood Festival of Speed, JAECOO UK can confirm the JAECOO 5 will be priced from £24,505 OTR*. The smaller JAECOO 5 builds on the success of the JAECOO 7, bringing the same design language and outdoor-focused approach to a new corner of the SUV segment.

Defined by its upright silhouette, wide shoulders and signature waterfall grille, the JAECOO 5 takes visual cues from nature, with body lines inspired by mountain ridges and dramatic natural landscapes. But while its appearance is rugged, its intent is refined: this is a compact SUV designed to support busy, style-conscious drivers looking for versatility, capability, and everyday comfort.

Inside, the cabin focuses on space, function, and calm. Five adults can

travel comfortably, with two rear ISOFIX points, while a portrait-format touchscreen and double layered silent glass reinforce the premium feel. As standard in Pure trim, it features Automatic Halogen headlights, a six-speaker SONY audio system, level 2 ADAS, six-way manually adjustable front seats, and wireless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™. The Luxury trim further elevates the experience, adding an eight-speaker SONY audio system, cooled wireless phone charging, six-way power-adjustable heated and ventilated front seats, and enhanced interior finishes.

Additional premium features in the Luxury trim model include ambient lighting, a tilt and slide sunroof measuring 1.45m², a cooled front storage box, dual-zone climate control. With over 35 storage spaces and up to 1,180 litres of boot space (with the rear seats down) in both variants, the JAECOO 5 is ready for everything – from the school run to weekend escapes and everyday commuting needs.

Power comes from the Chery International-manufactured 1.6-litre turbocharged direct injection engine and 147 PS and 275 Nm of torque, paired with a responsive 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Designed to offer a dynamic yet composed drive, the JAECOO 5 is equally suited to urban commuting and longer-distance travel, with Eco, Normal and Sport driving modes to adapt to different driving styles. The front-wheel drive platform delivers reassuring performance, supported by chassis geometry specifically tuned for UK roads by Chery International's European R&D centre.

Victor Zhang, UK Country Director JAECOO UK commented: "Following on from the success of the JAECOO 7, of which we've now sold more than 8,000 cars since its launch in January [2025], the JAECOO 5 is a key addition to our growing UK range – a compact SUV that's spacious, capable and ready for real life. As we recently demonstrated at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, this is a model that stands out in any setting. Debuting in the First Glance paddock and confidently making its way up the Hill, the JAECOO 5 proved it's a car for all occasions.

"Whether you're travelling solo, with family, or four-legged passengers in tow, it really has been engineered with thoughtful features for every journey, alongside the best in safety and driver-assistance technologies. It delivers the premium SUV experience, without the bulk."

With JAECOO's 'Enjoy Each Moment Outdoors' ethos, the JAECOO 5 provides customers with peace of mind and reassurance thanks to a global five-star safety rating, Level 2 autonomous driving and 19 ADAS safety functions. The safety suite available is designed to reduce driver fatigue and enhance focus on the road, using the latest technologies available to support drivers when needed. From its adventure-ready practicality to its refined finish and distinctive styling, the JAECOO 5 reflects the brand's growing momentum in the UK and commitment to premium design, technology and safety.

The JAECOO 5 is available to order now at £24,505 OTR in Pure specification, and £28,000 OTR for the Luxury option, through OMODA&JAECOO UK's expansive nationwide dealer network, which currently sits at 75+ dealers. Additional JAECOO-approved pet accessories for the JAECOO 5 are also available to purchase directly from these retailers, too. Deliveries are expected from October 2025. All models come with a 7-year/100,000-mile warranty, whichever comes first, with no mileage limit for the first 3 years alongside RAC Home Start as standard.

JAECOO UK will also offer a pure EV powertrain for the JAECOO 5. Further details on the JAECOO 5 EV will be announced later this year.

ELECTRIC BOOST: EV CHARGEPOINTS IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER GROW BY 34% IN A YEAR

Electric car drivers and those looking to make the switch in Yorkshire and the Humber can get around with the confidence that a chargepoint will be close by, as a further 1,044 public chargepoints were added to the region in the past year.

Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood has confirmed that there are now 4,141 in Yorkshire and the Humber – a 34% boost compared to July 2024.

The constant growth of chargepoints means local drivers and those thinking of buying an EV can drive with the increased confidence that public chargepoints are just a short drive away.

The new chargepoint numbers follows the recent announcement that drivers will soon enjoy discounts of up to £3,750 on new electric cars, on top of a £25m boost to help more drivers charge at home and save up to £1,500 a year when switching to electric.

The Government is investing £4.5 billion to make it cheaper and easier to own an EV, while backing British carmakers to create jobs and drive investment – all part of the Plan for Change. This is securing the UK's position as a world-leader in electric vehicle adoption - with Britain the largest EV market in Europe in 2024 and sales up a fifth on the previous year - while helping put more money in people's pockets.

The new regional numbers come as national public chargepoint figures hit record levels of more than 82,000 across the UK.

The sustained growth in the charging network in all four corners of the country shows that this Government is firmly on the side of drivers, coming on top of a record £1.6 billion to tackle potholes and keeping the 5p fuel duty freeze until spring 2026, saving the average motorist between £50 and £60 a year.

INSECURE ROOF BOX INSTALLATION COULD LEAD TO £2,500 FINES AS OVER HALF OF UK DRIVERS LACK CONFIDENCE IN SETUP

As drivers across the country pack up their cars for their summer holidays, new research from eBay has revealed a worrying lack of confidence behind mounting roof accessories, with more than half (51%) of motorists not confident when installing them.

While nearly a third (31%) of drivers own a cycle rack or roof box, more than half (58%) were unaware they risk a fine and three points on their licence for incorrectly installing them. Nearly a quarter (23%) of drivers in the study use roof accessories at least a few times a week, so UK drivers are risking huge fines which could put a dampener on their summer getaway.

Failure to correctly secure a roof rack can result in a maximum fine of £2,500 and three penalty points on the driver's licence under Section 40A of the Road Traffic Act 1998.

Only 7% of motorists said they check and secure their roof box or cycle rack ahead of a road trip. They were much more likely to examine tyre pressures (70%) and oil and water levels (62%).

While few will double check their roof box ahead of a trip, nearly a quarter (22%) said they would be happy to fit the accessories themselves.

To ensure the roof box and fittings are correct, eBay is urging British motorists to use its My Garage function to ensure they are using the correct roof-mounted accessories for their vehicle.

My Garage allows customers to input the registration or make and model of their vehicle. eBay will then display parts and accessories that are relevant to that vehicle on the Marketplace. This gives customers the confidence to purchase items regardless of their knowledge base.

Abir Tewari, UK Director of Commercial Operations, Parts & Accessories at eBay, said: "Roof racks, boxes and cycle racks are a great way to maximise luggage space for summer holiday road trips and eBay's My Garage function is specifically designed to put motorists at ease, by helping them find precisely the right accessory for their vehicle.

"Installation is often straight forward but we advise motorists to take their time when fitting new accessories, follow the instructions and make sure their load is securely attached before setting off."

With eBay Assured Fit, when customers purchase an eligible vehicle part or accessory, if it doesn't fit their vehicle, they can return it for free within 30 days of taking delivery of it and receive a full refund.



Royal Enfield Summer Rewards: Brand New 2025 Offers Now Available

Royal Enfield introduces new summer finance offers, including for the first ever time on the Shotgun 650 with a new 0% APR 50/50 offer - pay half now and half in 24 months, plus over £800 of free accessories for the Super Meteor 650 Astral.

Summer is in full swing, and Royal Enfield has launched not one but two exceptional deals available to new customers on two popular 650cc models, making motorcycling more accessible whilst providing added value, making it easier than ever for you to spend your summer in style.

For those looking for a custom-inspired motorcycle with flexible payment options, it'll be easier than ever to get a brand-new Shotgun 650 out on the road this summer.

A motorcycle that defies categorisation, transforming in minutes from a single seat bobber, to a weekend tourer, to a dual seater roadster and back. A machine that pays homage to the past while hurtling towards the future, the Shotgun 650 is a tribute to self-expression. Each one is engineered to be a canvas for artists, custom builders and riders across the world — an invitation to create a Royal Enfield unlike any other.

Three finance offers are now available, including:

- 50:50 Advance Payment Plan (APP) deal (50% up front, nothing for two years, and optional 50% final payment)
- 4.9% APR Hire Purchase (HP) offer
- 4.9% APR Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)

New for summer, and for the first time for Royal Enfield, the Shotgun 650 will be made available at an incredibly competitive 50:50 Advance Payment Plan (APP) offer, at 0% APR*.

You can pay half now to secure the motorcycle, ride for 2 years with no monthly payment, and an optional final payment for the remaining 50% at the end of your two-year ride. No added cost, no added worries, just pure riding.

As an example, an initial deposit of £3,349.50 will secure a Shotgun for 24 months, with zero monthly payments for 24 months, and the optional final payment of £3,349.50 to purchase the bike at the end of the term - or you can opt out, or trade in for something else.

Hire Purchase (HP) agreements will also be available at 4.9% APR, starting with the base Shotgun secured with a £1,420 deposit, £99 monthly payments over 60 months, and £109 optional final payment.

There will also be a 4.9% APR offer available on the Shotgun under a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) agreement, with deposit set at £671.39, £99 monthly over 36 months, at an annual mileage of 4,000 PA. Optional final payment is then set at £3,232. This 4.9% offer applies to all new Shotgun models sold, including the base, mid, and premium variants - with deposits increased for each, and monthly installments remaining at £99.

This is an incredible opportunity to secure a summer of riding, with one standout feature of the Shotgun 650 being its modular design and rear seat - swap out the pillion seat for a bobber vibe, or opt for the seat to maximise luggage potential on touring rides with the sublime 650cc twin engine.

Ts&Cs Apply - your local Royal Enfield dealership will be able to assist with any questions.*

Squires is a family friendly place that welcomes all kinds of bikers from sports bikes to cruisers and every variant in between.

None bikers will also be taken by the sheer spectacle of the place when thousands of bikes descend upon us so come along and have a look, grab a bite to eat and maybe fall in love with all things BIKE...

Tues 5th August - Japanese Car Meet

The monthly Japanese car meet (evening) £3 entry per car

Thurs - Sat 7-9th August - Yorkshire Rock and Bike Show

Featuring 3 days of music and bikes. This year the show is in the top field in a massive marquee and not in the car park. Therefore the cafe will be open as normal. Tickets for the show are available from the cafe counter. Tickets are also available online at www.yorkshirerocknbikeshow.co.uk

Sat 23rd August (AM) - Autojumble

Our monthly autojumble. Pitches are £5 each for sellers

Sat - Sun 30-31st August - South Yorkshire Minature Steam Rally

Lots of minature steam engines on site to look at and see working

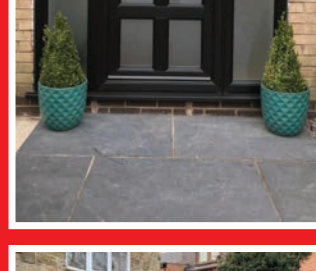


Visit www.squires-cafe.co.uk for more details

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WAGGING TALES!

Puppies Needed For Ground-Breaking Research In Yorkshire And Humber



Residents living in Yorkshire and Humber, who have recently bought or adopted a puppy are being asked to sign up to the first ever study to follow dogs of all breeds throughout their lives to help understand contributing factors to dogs' health and behaviour.

Generation Pup, funded and operated by Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, which has a rehoming centre in Leeds, has almost reached the milestone of recruiting 10,000 puppies and is on the hunt for the final few hundred pooches under 16 weeks to join the project.

By collecting information about puppies such as their environment, family, health, behaviour and experiences, the charity can build a picture of a whole generation of dogs across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This means that researchers can investigate whether aspects such as environment, social interaction, diet, exercise or daily routine may be important in the development of a range of health and behaviour conditions which impact on the welfare of our dogs.

The latest peer-reviewed paper to be published as part of the Generation Pup research is Owner-Perceived Undesirable Behaviours in Young Dogs and Changes with Age, which examined data submitted by owners when their dogs were 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 months old. The study found that the highest proportion of dogs showing one or more undesirable behaviour was for the 12-month-old dogs, with barking, recall issues, pulling on the lead and jumping up the most frequently reported behaviours, signalling that this is the 'sassy teenager' age.

Jane Murray, Welfare Project and Grants Deputy Head of Research at Dogs Trust said, "This important research study aims to deepen our understanding of how early life experiences influence the health and behaviour of dogs throughout their lives. Your participation will make a valuable contribution to improving the welfare of dogs now and in the future."

For more information and to sign up please visit:
www.generationpup.ac.uk



Hot Summer Sparks Blue-Green Algae Warning From Vets

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is urging pet owners to take precautions when walking dogs near freshwater bodies this summer, as the warm weather brings with it an increased risk of toxic blue-green algae growth.

The warning comes after several recent news reports of algal bloom sightings in lakes, ponds or rivers around the UK, including the Lake District, Greater Manchester and parts of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland. Confirmed sightings are identified by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's Bloomin' Algae app, which encourages people to submit details and photos if they suspect they have spotted it.

Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, is a group of bacteria that can contain dangerous toxins which can be harmful and potentially fatal to pets, livestock and birds if ingested even in small quantities. The algae may appear as green or greenish-brown scum on the surface of water like lakes and ponds. Dogs can swallow it by drinking water from an affected lake, river or pond or while licking their fur after going for a swim. It's also possible for dogs to come into contact with it even if they don't go for a paddle, as toxic blooms may be blown to the edges of water bodies.

British Veterinary Association Junior Vice President Dr Rob Williams said: "Lots of dogs love water and won't hesitate to dive straight in when they see a lake or go for a paddle in a pond. But toxic blue-green algae is very difficult to identify and, if ingested, can make dogs seriously ill and can even be fatal.

"We're urging pet owners to keep their dogs on leads near water bodies

where blue-green algae has been confirmed or, if unsure if a water body is safe, to keep them away from it completely as it is not worth the risk.

"With no known antidote for the toxins, prompt treatment is critical to help give affected pets a chance of recovery. Symptoms can appear within a few minutes or hours of exposure, and commonly include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, disorientation, trouble breathing, seizures, and blood in faeces. If you have any concerns or are worried your pet may have had contact with blue-green algae, speak to your vet as soon as you can."

Top Tips For Pet Owners

- Look out for any warning signs near water bodies.
- Keep pets on a lead and by your side around water bodies known or suspected to have a blue-green algal bloom – don't let pets swim in it or drink from it.
- If your dog has been swimming outside, wash its coat thoroughly with clean water afterwards.
- Seek emergency veterinary treatment if you're concerned your pet may have ingested toxic algae.
- Report sightings of suspected blue-green algae with a photograph via the Bloomin' Algae app. You can also set up notifications for confirmed sightings in your area.
- There are other ways to help your dog keep cool in the warmer weather: paddling pools can give them somewhere to cool off and you should always make sure they have access to clean water and shade if outdoors.

Purina Calls On Organisations In Yorkshire To Apply For £170,000 Grant

Leading pet care company Purina is calling on organisations in Yorkshire to apply for its BetterWithPets Prize, with £170,000 of vital funding on offer.

The Prize aims to support local organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of people in vulnerable situations through the pet-human bond.

Organisations in Yorkshire are encouraged to apply for the chance to access a community of past winners to share expertise and best practice, alongside a share of a two-year grant of £170,000.

The BetterWithPets Prize forms part of Purina's commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of one million people in vulnerable situations by 2030, through the power of the pet-human bond.

It also follows recent research from Purina which found 86% of adults in

Yorkshire believe humans share a special bond with their pets, while four out of five (82%) pet owners in the region say their pet has helped them when feeling vulnerable and over half (54%) admit to feeling a stronger bond with their pet than their family and friends.

First launched in 2018, the BetterWithPets Prize has helped previous winners from the UK to grow and support even more individuals in their communities, including Pets as Therapy who facilitate pet visits to hospitals, schools and prisons to provide a mental health boost to communities, and StreetVet, who provide veterinary care for the pets of people experiencing homelessness.

This year, Purina is especially interested in hearing from organisations in Yorkshire who work with assistance dogs to support those with physical or mental conditions, those who offer animal-assisted therapies, and groups providing pet companionship for the elderly.

Calum Macrae, Regional Director of Purina UK&I, said: "We know there is magic in the pet-human bond that can affect positive change in the world around us. We've seen firsthand how inspiring and life-changing the work of our partners is, and we hope to support even more brilliant organisations through this next edition of the BetterWithPets Prize.

"If you're an organisation or entrepreneur making a real difference to people's health with the support of pets, we'd love to hear from you and invite you to join our dynamic network of changemakers!"

Applications for the BetterWithPets Prize is open and will close on Friday 12th September. For more information on the terms and conditions and to enter, please visit www.purina.eu/our-impact/better-with-pets. Entries will then be judged by an expert panel against criteria such as the organisations' mission, innovation, impact and organisational structures.



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Dogs Looking For A Loving Home

Can you offer a loving home? A selection of Dogs with paws crossed from Dogs Trust Leeds hoping to find their pawfect new family.

Brogan



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/greyhound/3588447

Brogan is a very handsome two-year old ex-racing Greyhound. He's super friendly and loves people! He'll immediately lean in for a bum scratch from anyone! Brogan loves to get out on his walkies and is very good on lead. He can get quite playful when the mood takes him and enjoys chasing after toys. His favourite thing to do, in true Greyhound fashion, is snoozing in his bed! He will be fine living with older kids who are confident around larger dogs, and while he's fine around other dogs out and about, he wants to be the only pet in the house.

Spud



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/greyhound/3589248

If you're looking for a super chilled out dog, then meet Spud! He's a four-year old ex-racing Greyhound who likes a peaceful life. He is a friendly boy and the more you get to know him, the more interactive he'll become. Spud is quite an independent lad who seems quite happy in his own company, especially if that's snoozing on his bed! He's fine around other dogs but really isn't interested in them, preferring to be left in peace.

Skylar



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/alaskan-malamute/3574797

Skylar is a gorgeous seven-year old Malamute who is looking for her forever home! She is a friendly girl that enjoys meeting new people and should be fine living with teenagers in the home. Skylar is a lovely girl that likes being around people in general and enjoys her walks. She is looking for a calm home where she can settle in at her own pace and find her forever home.

Bonnie



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/lurcher/3560888

Bonnie is a beautiful three-year old Lurcher who is looking for a relaxed family who will enjoy lots of snuggles! Bonnie a real sweetheart and clearly loves people. She likes to live a calm and peaceful life so would suit a family who enjoy having an affectionate dog around. She is more than happy to live with teenagers, but would like to be the only pet in the home.

CJ & Lola



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/bichon-frise/3586627

CJ (8yrs old) and her best friend Lola (10yrs old) are two Bichon Frise looking for a very special home together. Having been found as strays, CJ and Lola have had a rough start but have stuck together through thick and thin. They may be older in years, but they're full of love and affection. They are looking for a retirement home together where they can have their own secure garden as they LOVE to play together off-lead and this will also help with a refresh on their housetraining.



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HEALTH

■ Dr Hilary Jones. Image © James Jebson Photography

Doctor Hilary Jones Issues Urgent Carbon Monoxide Warning As Cases Rise In Summer

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) has teamed up with Doctor Hilary Jones to highlight the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning this summer, after confirmed or suspected cases of carbon monoxide incidents across the North of England rose by 16% last summer.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that you can't see, smell or taste, and if you breathe it in, it can cause serious illness or even death. Dangerous CO emissions can be produced by fires and appliances that burn fossil fuels such as gas, wood, oil or coal, which are commonly used more frequently during the colder winter months.

However, NGN's data has confirmed that cases of CO poisoning are also rising in the summer, when BBQs, camping stoves, outdoor heaters and pizza ovens all present an additional risk. CO poisoning can also happen in hotels, holiday lets, tents, campervans and caravans.

Northern Gas Networks and Dr Hilary are now urging people to know how to spot the deadly symptoms of CO in summer, and what they should do if they suspect they've come into contact with the silent killer. Around 40 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning in England and Wales every year, while over 4,000 Brits seek treatment in A&E.

The Six Signs And Symptoms

Dr Hilary says: "I want more people to know what carbon monoxide poisoning is, how to recognise the signs and symptoms, and how to prevent it from happening. The fact is it can kill you, or certainly cause serious long-term health implications. Know the warning signs and seek help before it's too late.

"In summer it's quite common for people to catch a summer cold, suffer from hay fever, drink to excess and get a hangover, or come down with a common summer virus such as enteroviruses, rhinoviruses, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which can cause flu-like symptoms and respiratory illnesses. Additionally, COVID-19 and the flu can also circulate during the summer. All of these illnesses can cause symptoms such as headaches, shortness of breath and fatigue – but they can also be potential signs of the far more sinister carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

"I've seen so many patients suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning, but they haven't been aware of the symptoms as they so often overlap between common illnesses. The main six symptoms to look out for are headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, shortness of breath and collapse.

"If multiple people in your household are experiencing the same symptoms when inside, but they get better when they're outside, this could also be a sign that you have been exposed to increasing levels of CO in your home. It's vital that you visit a medical professional to get checked out."

Prevention

The best way to prevent CO poisoning is to have domestic gas appliances safety checked annually, and to have a CO alarm in your home. Northern Gas Networks has also offered some crucial guidance on what to do to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in summer:

Measles can affect both children and adults. Those at higher risk, such as babies, young children, pregnant women, and individuals with weakened immunity, may experience more severe complications.

If you suspect that you or your child has measles, contact your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not visit the GP surgery or A&E as measles is highly infectious. Children should not be sent to school or childcare if measles is suspected.

The best way to prevent measles is by getting the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide lifelong protection. If you are unsure whether you or your child has been vaccinated, check with your GP surgery. The vaccine is available for free on the NHS.

Dr James Thomas, Medical Director at NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board said:

"There is a real risk of a measles outbreak in West Yorkshire – vaccination rates have fallen over recent years.

"Measles is more than just a rash; it is a serious, potentially life-changing condition that spreads very easily. It can lead to severe illness and even death in children. For pregnant women, it can cause premature birth, low birth weight and still births.

"But measles, as well as mumps and rubella, is preventable, so if you or your child have not had your MMR jab, it is really important that you come forward."

Having two doses of the MMR vaccine offers the best protection for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities. It's never too late to get vaccinated.

For more information on measles symptoms, self-care, prevention, vaccination, and potential complications, visit the NHS website www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles

Pack A Portable Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm When Travelling

Whether you're staying in a caravan, a hotel or a holiday let in the UK or abroad, make sure you pack a portable CO alarm that will beep and flash if it detects the dangerous gas. Although most hotels and holiday homes have them, you never know if they work or have been properly maintained, so it's always best to take your own to keep safe. It should be an essential item in your suitcase, alongside your SPF.

Never Take Your BBQ Inside

All BBQs, including portable and disposable ones, produce carbon monoxide whilst they're burning, and can emit the deadly gas for hours after they've been extinguished and are cold to touch. Never take them inside – whether that be in your home, tent, holiday let or caravan. If it begins to rain when you're using one, leave it where it is or safely move it to a sheltered spot outside.

Only Use Outdoor Heaters, Pizza Ovens And Camping Stoves Outside

Like BBQs, outdoor fuel burning heaters, pizza ovens and camping stoves should only ever be used outside in open spaces to avoid CO poisoning. CO from these types of appliances can build up quickly in enclosed or unventilated spaces, so you should never take them inside your home, garage, tent, caravan, or holiday let.

Get Your Boiler Serviced In The Summer

It's important to get your boiler serviced by a Gas Safe Registered Engineer every year. Summer is a great time to do it as engineers are usually quieter. Although we use our boilers less in the summer, most of us still use them daily to heat our water, so make sure yours is working properly and place a CO alarm nearby to alert you if it starts to leak CO.

What To Do If You Suspect Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

If you have experienced the main symptoms of headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, breathlessness, collapse or loss of consciousness, you must take immediate action.

- Turn off the appliance that you think may be causing it
- Open windows and doors
- Leave the building or place you're in
- Seek urgent medical advice. Dr Hilary explains: "A medical professional will carry out breath tests to see if you've been affected by carbon monoxide and will advise you on what to do next."
- Call the National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999. They will send out a specialist engineer to investigate the cause.

To help people stay safe this summer, NGN is now giving away 1,000 free carbon monoxide alarms to customers living in the areas in which it operates. To find out more about carbon monoxide and to claim your free CO alarm, visit www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/carbonmonoxide. Terms and conditions apply.

First Immunotherapy For Severe Birch Tree Pollen Allergy Recommended By NICE

Up to 27,000 people in England with moderate to severe birch tree pollen allergies could be set to benefit from the first under-the-tongue tablet immunotherapy shown to build long-term tolerance to allergens.

The treatment, betula verrucosa (Itulazax 12 SQ-Bet) which is made by Alk-Abelló, for severe hay fever (allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis), offers the potential for long-term rather than temporary symptom relief for this debilitating condition.

The recommendation of betula verrucosa is the first NICE approval for an under-the-tongue immunotherapy for these conditions. Unlike conventional treatments that merely mask symptoms, this immunotherapy offers the potential for long-term relief by training the immune system to tolerate tree pollen over three years of daily use.

The soft tablet contains birch pollen allergen extract and represents a new treatment option for people whose symptoms persist despite antihistamines and nasal sprays.

Clinical trials demonstrate the treatment significantly reduces allergic rhinitis and conjunctivitis symptoms by fundamentally changing how the body responds to allergens.

Severe tree pollen allergies affect far more than seasonal comfort. Sufferers experience debilitating fatigue, breathing difficulties, inflamed sinuses, eye pain, light sensitivity and vision changes that significantly impact their quality of life.

The immunotherapy works by gradually increasing the body's tolerance to tree pollen through controlled daily exposure to small amounts of pollen. This approach addresses the root cause rather than symptoms, offering hope of long-term relief.

The NHS in England will provide the treatment within three months of NICE publishing final guidance. Patients require positive skin prick or blood tests confirming their birch tree pollen allergy before accessing the therapy.



Health services in West Yorkshire are urging residents to ensure that they and their children are vaccinated against the disease.

With the school summer holidays and more people mixing, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is urging people in West Yorkshire to get vaccinated against this extremely contagious infection.

Measles is a highly contagious infection that spreads through breath, coughs, and sneezes. It can lead to serious complications in some individuals, including pneumonia, meningitis, and in rare cases, death.

The Symptoms Of Measles Include

- Initial cold-like symptoms such as a high temperature, runny or blocked nose, sneezing, cough, and red, sore, watery eyes.
- Small white spots that appear a few days later inside the cheeks and on the back of the lips.
- A rash that typically appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms, starting on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body.

Four AI Technologies To Help Detect Undiagnosed Fragility Fractures

Four artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that could help healthcare professionals spot spinal fractures in patients undergoing routine CT scans have been conditionally recommended by NICE.

The technologies can help detect vertebral fragility fractures (VFFs) on medical images taken for unrelated conditions, potentially identifying fractures in thousands of patients who would otherwise go undiagnosed.

By spotting these fractures opportunistically, they can be treated and future fractures avoided, which could save the NHS money and result in better outcomes for patients.

Vertebral fragility fractures (VFFs) are breaks in the spine that occur when bones are weakened, often by osteoporosis. Fractures of the spine may not always have obvious symptoms and even if symptomatic, a person may choose not to seek care. Undiagnosed VFFs lead to complications such as a curved spine (causing the person to lean forward), height loss, immobility, pain, as well as loss of function. VFFs are also a significant predictor of future osteoporotic fractures such as hip fractures.

More than 55% of people with a hip fracture have evidence of previous VFFs. Despite their prevalence, many VFFs remain undiagnosed.

NICE's independent Diagnostics Advisory Committee has conditionally recommended that BriefCase-Triage, CINA-VCF Quantix, HealthVCF and IB Lab FLAMINGO can be used in the NHS while further evidence is generated.

The draft guidance emphasises that AI technologies must only be used alongside clinical judgement, not as replacements for radiologist review.

Dr Anastasia Chalkidou, HealthTech programme director at NICE, said: "Despite ongoing efforts to raise awareness of vertebral fragility fractures, most remain undiagnosed.

"Clinical evidence suggests that AI technologies can help opportunistically detect vertebral fragility fractures that would otherwise have been missed.

"By identifying more people with VFFs who need treatment for the underlying cause of the fracture, we could reduce the risk of future fractures, while potentially reducing demand on other costly services such as those needed to manage hip fractures."

The incidence of VFFs increases with age. Recent data shows an incidence rate of 7.1 per 10 000 person years in adults aged over 50. Women are more commonly affected. An incidence of 12% has been reported in women aged 50 to 79 years, increasing to 20% in women over 80 years old.

The costs associated with VFFs and hip fractures are significant – the health and social care costs in the first year of post-hip fracture are over £33,000 per person.

The committee concluded that there is a clear unmet clinical need that can be addressed by the AI technologies, noting that thousands of radiographic images are taken annually in the NHS that could be used to opportunistically detect VFFs.

Professor Neil Hawkins, vice-chairman of NICE's Diagnostics Advisory Committee said: "There is clearly great interest in this technology. However, we need further evidence from 'real-world' clinical settings to establish whether investing in AI to aid opportunistic detection represents good value for money.

"The four technologies have been conditionally recommended for NHS use over the next three years while further evidence is generated. Once this period has been completed, the committee will review the evidence and make recommendations on which technologies should be used going forward."

During the three-year evidence generation period, research will focus on several key areas including diagnostic accuracy compared with current NHS standard care, failure rates of the technologies, impact on referral and treatment rates, effects on healthcare professional workload, and short-term quality of life improvements.

1 In 4 Brits Don't Feel Comfortable Looking At Their Poo

1 in 4 Brits (24%) don't tend to look back at the toilet bowl after doing a poo, despite it being a natural and free health tracker. In a bid to change this and get more of us looking at, talking about, and tracking our poo, Andrex has partnered with Bowel Cancer UK to encourage us to look back and track - think less smart tech and more smart... poo.

As a nation, we're tracking-obsessed. Andrex research reveals that 41% of us track our health, with the average Brit owning at least one health tracker, most commonly a smart watch or phone app (19% for both). Top markers to track include heart rate (45%) and sleep (43%), yet only 15% of those who track their health monitor their bowel movements.

Look Back & Track is designed to be a cue to the nation, reminding them to look back at what's in the toilet and on the paper, before they flush. There is a free, effective health tracker that 12.8 million of us aren't using, making bowel health awareness as effortless as tracking with your phone or smartwatch.

As a parody of our obsession with health tech, Andrex has created The Really Smart Ring. This spoof creation contains absolutely no tech at all, is handmade by Albert Zubaida, a Hatton Garden jeweller, and engraved with 'Look Back & Track.' This has been gifted to influencers including Abraham Bunga, to help spread the word about why looking back and tracking is so important.

The research by the No.1 toilet tissue brand reveals that Gen Z is more likely to track their health with at least one device (60%), compared to 47% of Millennials and Gen X. However, when it comes to looking at their poo, they're the ones who are the most squeamish. 35% of Gen Z don't feel comfortable looking at their own poo, compared to 26% of Millennials and 25% of Gen Xers.

Changes in pooing habits (i.e: going more or less frequently, or having diarrhoea constipation that might come and go) can be signs of a bowel-related issue, yet the research shows that 15% of us wouldn't do anything if we noticed these changes. Look Back & Track by Andrex, in partnership with Bowel Cancer UK, is about changing this narrative, getting people to confront their embarrassment and get comfortable about going to the loo and with speaking to a GP about any bowel-related concerns.

Andrex and the UK's leading bowel cancer charity have been working with Dr Sandi Mann to debunk our fears, explain why we have an issue with poo and how we can get comfortable with speaking to medical professionals. Dr Sandi Mann says: "There could be various reasons why people might be reluctant to look at their poo. Although it is a natural waste product, we have been conditioned to consider poo as rather gross! This is because the smell is designed to put us off, and we are only taught to express it in places that can ensure it is quickly whisked out of sight. Should we then fail to do this beyond a certain age, we will meet strong

societal disapproval. We might also be afraid of what we might see and what it might indicate, so it feels easier to literally look the other way. However, of course, that means we are ignoring a really important way to monitor our health, so attitudes really need to change so we can normalise looking back and tracking."

Of the 1 in 4 Brits who rarely or never track their poo, the main reasons for not doing so were a lack of knowledge on what to look for (36%), followed by feelings of disgust (31%), and not realising that it could be informative on one's health (18%).

When tracking their poo for any potential health problems, Brits would be most inclined to look out for the colour (62%), changes in their pooing habits (50%), or the texture (41%). Surprisingly, 14% would also pay attention to how long it takes to flush and 11% would listen out for the sound their poo makes when it hits the water.

Niamh Finan, Marketing Director at Andrex comments: "We are currently on a mission to break down the embarrassment barriers when it comes to the toilet and encourage the nation to 'Get Comfortable' with their bowel health. We have partnered with Bowel Cancer UK to change this narrative and tackle the stigma around pooing. Our joint mission is to get the nation to tackle the embarrassment around pooing and drive earlier diagnosis of bowel cancer. Encouraging people to look back and track their poo is a step towards achieving this."

The Look Back & Track campaign is about increasing the amount of people tracking their poo, and Genevieve Edwards, Chief Executive at Bowel Cancer UK comments: "We're delighted to be partnering with Andrex on this campaign to encourage people to track their poo and pooing habits. It's important for people to know what's normal for them and watch out for anything unusual or signs of something more serious. If you're worried or feel that something's not right, it's important to speak to your GP."

Main symptoms to watch out for when tracking your poo are: bleeding from your bottom or blood in your poo, a change in your pooing habits (you might be going more or less often, or have diarrhoea or constipation that might come and go), losing weight but you're not sure why or feeling very tired all the time but you're not sure why, or a pain or lump in your tummy. Having these symptoms doesn't always mean you have bowel cancer, but it's still important to find out what's causing them. Even if you have just one of these, ask your GP for a simple test you can do at home.

The Look Back & Track campaign is part of a three-year partnership between Andrex and Bowel Cancer UK, which has included several initiatives including placing bowel cancer symptoms on the back of over 100 million packs of Andrex toilet tissue a year.

Visit the Andrex Look Back & Track hub to find out more;

www.andrex.co.uk/get-comfortable/campaigns/lookbackandtrack

New Cystic Fibrosis Drug Fast-Track

People in England will be among the first in Europe to access a new treatment for cystic fibrosis, following NICE's recommendation of a once-daily triple therapy in final draft guidance.

Alyftrek (also called vanzacaftor–tezacaftor–deutivacaftor and made by Vertex) will be an option to treat cystic fibrosis in people 6 years and over who have at least 1 F508del mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene.

The recommendation forms part of an evolving treatment landscape for cystic fibrosis, where CFTR modulators are continuing to shift care away from symptom management towards targeting the underlying cause of the disease.

This decision follows a rapid assessment by NICE that compared Alyftrek with the company's other NICE-approved triple therapy Kaftrio. This suggests Alyftrek is at least as effective as Kaftrio, with similar costs, but with the additional benefit of a once-daily regimen over Kaftrio's twice-daily regimen. It also follows a commercial agreement reached between NHS England and Vertex.

Licensed for use in the UK in March, Alyftrek will now be funded by the NHS in England and available immediately.

Helen Knight, director of medicines evaluation at NICE, said:

"CFTR modulators are already revolutionising the way cystic fibrosis is treated so we're pleased to be able to recommend Alyftrek, the latest of this type of treatment that has been shown to be effective, with significant benefits for people with the condition.

"The decision follows NICE's approval last year of Kaftrio and comes just weeks after Alyftrek was licensed for use in the UK. This is great news for people with cystic fibrosis and underlies our commitment to getting the best care to patients fast while ensuring the best value for the NHS drugs budget."

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive condition that limits life expectancy. It is an inherited (genetic) multi-systemic disease. The cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene normally creates a protein that regulates levels of sodium and chloride in cells. If the CFTR gene is faulty, cells are unable to make functioning versions of this protein, leading to a buildup of thick, sticky mucus in the body's tubes and passageways.

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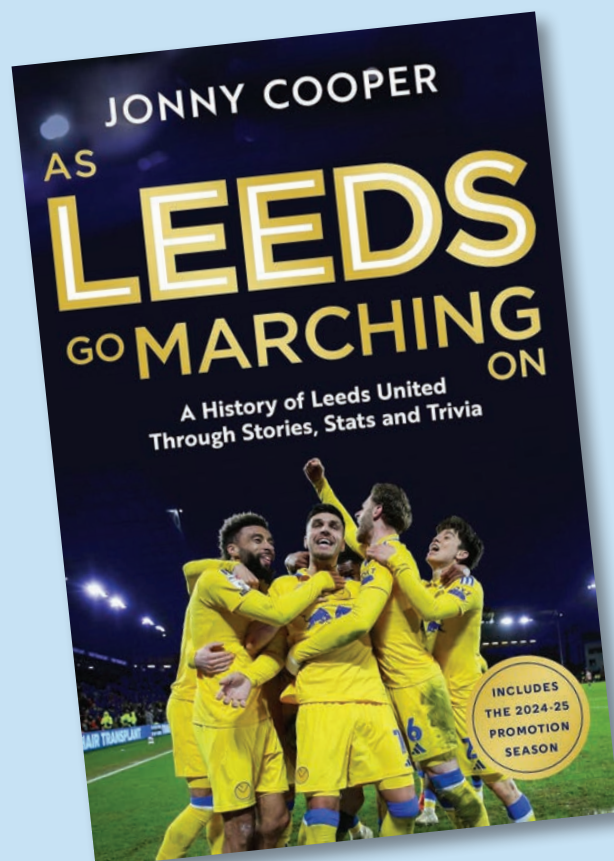
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About The Author

Jonny Cooper is a football writer, statistician and Leeds United fan. He has worked in the Data Insights team at Opta, one of the world's most influential sports analytics companies, for 10 years and is one of the team behind the highly successful and award-winning @OptaJoe account. He is also a regular contributor to The Square Ball, the leading Leeds United fanzine and podcast. He lives in Harrogate.

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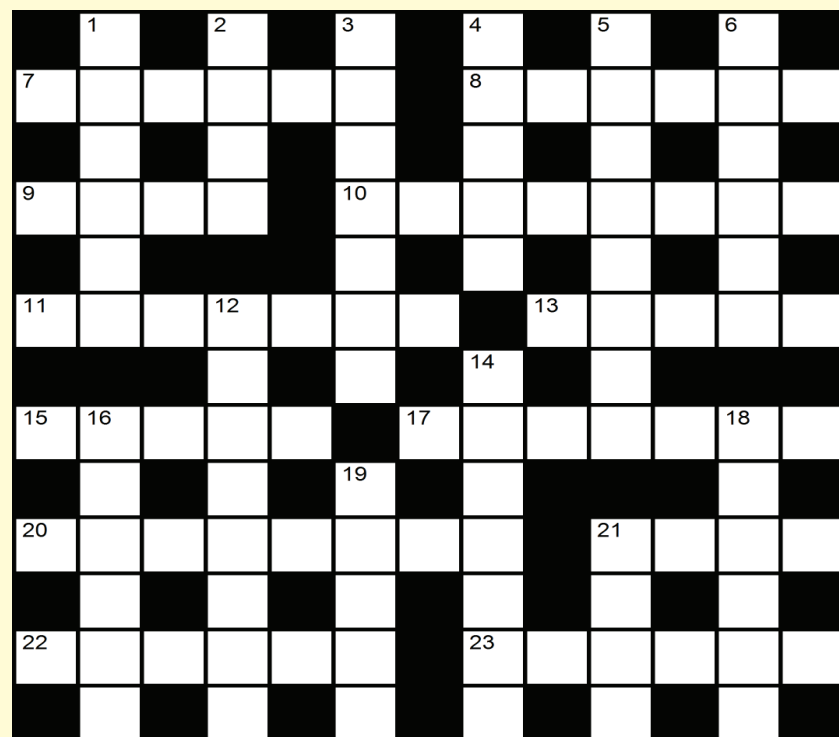
QUIZTIME

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.

Crossword



Clues:

Across

- 7 Thin plate
- 8 Public speaker
- 9 Knowing
- 10 Feeling of uncertainty
- 11 Wailer
- 13 Vestibule
- 15 Waste conduit
- 17 Kind of block
- 20 Pig feet
- 21 Wound mark
- 22 Go back
- 23 Cocktail preparation vessel

Down

- 1 Cereal meal
- 2 Be in accord
- 3 Domestic rodent
- 4 Inferior
- 5 Without shoes
- 6 Ruffle
- 12 Flowering vine
- 14 Haunt
- 16 Breadwinner
- 18 Moulded
- 19 Flu symptom
- 21 Concrete section

HOW MUCH INFO HAVE YOU RETAINED?

Can you answer these questions about articles in this edition?

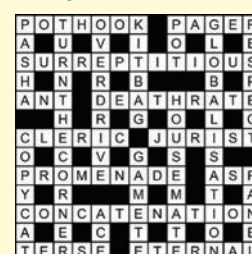
1 - Who has launched the Regional Creatives Fund, offering grants of up to £30,000 to UK charities?

2 - Gold prices are on the rise, how much have they risen by over the past year?

3 - How many public EV chargepoints are there in Yorkshire and the Humber?

WIN YORKSHIRE DALES MONOPOLY FROM
THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOP - P27

July edition answers



How Much Info Have You Retained answers:

- 1. 43
- 2. 18 - 20 July
- 3. Harvest mice

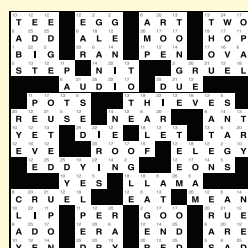
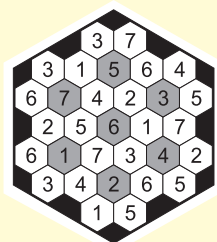


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Congratulations!



Monthly Horoscopes

By Russell Grant

ARIES March 21st - April 20th

This month opens up with bursts of fresh inspiration and an appetite for the unknown. You're eager to get ahead but don't underestimate the power of patience. Others may drag their feet, but that's no excuse to leap in without checking the landing. Hold back when necessary and listen carefully—especially in work and romance. Mid-August will bring conversations that stir the soul and spark change. Domestic routines and wellbeing need a fresh look, so make sensible adjustments. Toward month's end, your diligence pays off in subtle but satisfying ways. Let passion lead but keep one foot firmly planted. This is a time of solid growth through grounded confidence.

TAURUS April 21st - May 21st

There's a ripple of change beneath the surface this August, and while it stirs up some doubts, it also brings a sense of quiet excitement. Relationships—platonic, romantic and professional—are shifting gently, helping you find clarity. Keep plans flexible and listen to your heart when weighing creative decisions. Friends offer grounding comfort, especially when life feels muddled. Mid-month, you'll rediscover joy in hobbies and shared goals. Romance may blossom from the simplest of moments. Focus less on where you're headed and more on how you're feeling. As the month draws to a close, trust that even the smallest joys are building a much brighter tomorrow. Let love and art guide you.

GEMINI May 22nd - June 21st

The pace picks up this month, and you're loving the buzz. Creative collaborations, online chats and team efforts bring satisfying results. You're positively glowing with clever solutions and insightful ideas. But tread carefully when navigating delicate emotional terrain—especially with those closest to you. People may test your patience with confusing mixed messages. Step back, breathe, and choose kindness over chaos. Later in the month, family matters or home improvements demand thoughtful attention. A fresh routine can be revitalising. Don't let restlessness rush your choices—great things take time to grow. Harness your curiosity wisely and remember: your words are powerful, so use them to uplift, not scatter.

CANCER June 22nd - July 23rd

There's no avoiding it: financial matters are front and centre this month. A few surprise opportunities could appear out of the blue, but take your time before making any long-term commitments. A well-meaning elder offers useful advice, even if it comes wrapped in a lecture. Take what helps and leave the rest. Creativity is calling you, too—whether it's writing, decorating or finding beauty in the everyday. Conversations turn deeper mid-month and may trigger important emotional reflections. Don't ignore them. They're helping you realign with what truly matters. By the end of August, you'll feel more at peace with your path. You're laying the groundwork for greater emotional security.

LEO July 24th - August 23rd

August is your season to shine, and you certainly won't go unnoticed. Your natural flair and confidence win admirers left, right and centre—but don't let flattery cloud your judgement. If gossip swirls, pause before reacting. You're building something meaningful now, and that takes more than charisma—it takes heart and planning. Team efforts thrive mid-month, especially when you share the spotlight. A financial discussion later in the month could lead to a new path or project. Trust your instincts but take time to double-check the details. You're not just stepping into your power—you're learning how to use it wisely. Share your light generously, but protect your peace.

VIRGO August 24th - Sept 23rd

Steady progress and a quietly rising confidence make this a powerful month for you. Early on, you'll find opportunities to sharpen your focus and tidy up loose ends. Financial matters or health routines get a refreshing update, but avoid idealistic promises—if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Mid-month offers deep insights and a supportive nudge from someone who truly believes in you. Trust that steady, simple steps are leading somewhere extraordinary. As your birthday approaches, you'll feel the urge to define your next chapter. Start with small shifts in mindset and action. This is your time to take the reins—without losing your calm.

LIBRA Sept 24th - Oct 23rd

August asks you to balance your love for connection with a growing need for peace and purpose. While your natural charm draws others in, be careful not to overcommit. Shared ventures, especially those creative or spiritual in nature, bring both inspiration and the risk of burnout. Honour your own limits while supporting those around you. Mid-month, a younger person's bold approach will inspire a change in your outlook. By month's end, quiet reflection offers powerful clarity. Solitude doesn't mean loneliness—it's a sanctuary where dreams take shape. Let your heart lead you to what feels authentic. You're recharging for the next big, beautiful chapter.

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

Your focus turns toward future goals this month—and you aren't afraid to roll up your sleeves and do the work. Powerful progress comes from determined, strategic action. Someone influential may offer guidance just when you need it. Use this connection wisely. Mid-August is ripe for reconnecting with old friends or your wider community, where your leadership skills shine. Emotions run deep later in the month—especially in private matters. Don't suppress what needs to be healed. Transformation begins with truth. Whether in love, work or personal growth, know that each step forward is shaping your destiny. Let purpose drive you and faith steady your path.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

Adventure calls—but not without responsibility. You're craving excitement, whether it's through travel, study or simply escaping routine. Conversations early in August open unexpected doors, yet not everyone close to you shares your enthusiasm. Tread gently with loved ones who feel left behind. Mid-month brings a brilliant opportunity to mix fun with purpose—say yes to events that broaden your world. Work ambitions take a leap, but remember, success needs structure. By the end of the month, domestic matters demand attention. If your roots are solid, your freedom can soar. Balance is key now: plant strong foundations before chasing the next horizon.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

August brings changes—financial, emotional and professional—that may shake things up, but ultimately move you forward. Your practical nature will guide you through a few twists and turns, especially in career discussions or partnership matters. Mid-month sees deeper emotional ties forming, some of which surprise you. Vulnerability is not weakness; it's a bridge to stronger bonds. Later, you'll crave intellectual stimulation. Seek out knowledge that feeds both heart and mind. A creative approach to work or money pays off unexpectedly. Let go of rigid expectations. You're building not just stability, but a life filled with depth, love and meaning. Trust where you're headed.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

People take centre stage this month—collaborators, friends, lovers, and even rivals. You're learning how to stay true to your individuality while connecting deeply with others. Mid-August brings powerful teamwork and the chance to turn an idea into something more substantial. Relationships—romantic or platonic—thrive on open communication. Don't be afraid to ask for what you need. A desire for travel or fresh knowledge pulls at you as the month ends. Say yes, but balance the excitement with grounded plans. You're redefining your role in your social world. The right people will stay. Let the rest drift away. Honour connection—but never compromise your truth.

PISCES Feb 20th - March 20th

This month is all about clarity—clearing up confusion in relationships, routines and your sense of purpose. Early August may stir doubts or mixed signals in personal bonds, but with gentle honesty, you'll navigate through. Pay attention to your body's messages, too—it's asking for better care. Later, close relationships become the mirror through which you understand yourself more deeply. Whether it's love, work, or family, healing begins with calm, open communication. You're learning that not everyone is meant to walk beside you forever—and that's okay. As the month ends, peace returns through purpose. When you align with your own values, everything else begins to fall into place.



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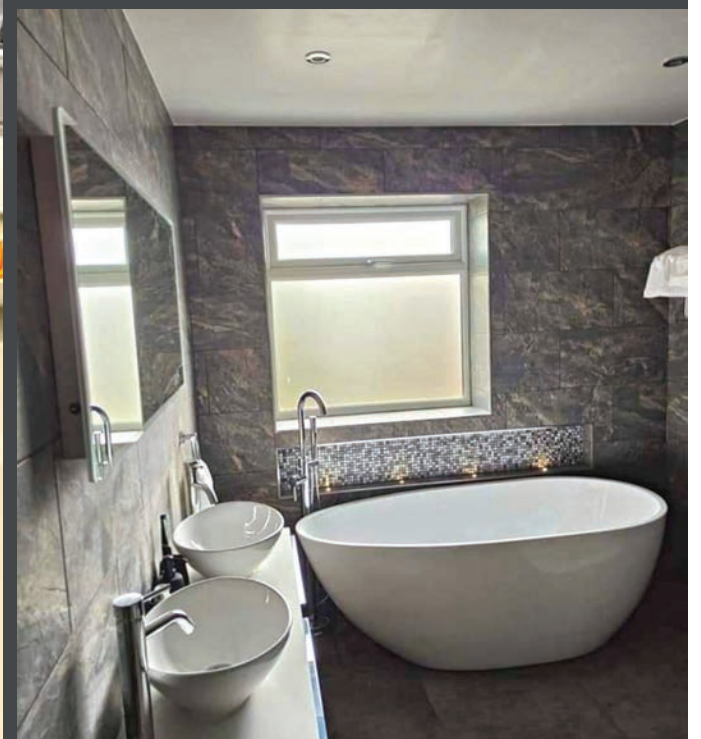
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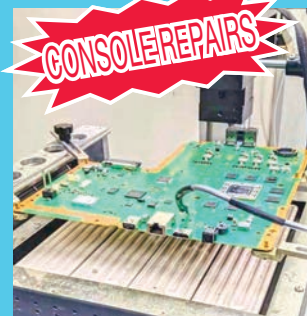
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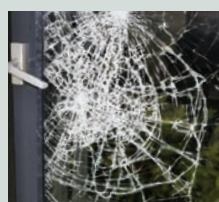
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