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What's On!

SEE PAGES 15-17



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SEE PAGE 18

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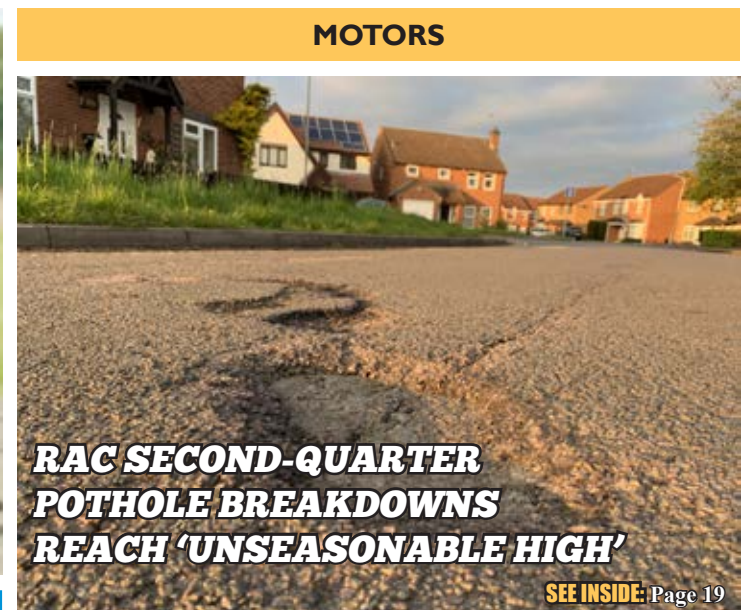
Lesley Ann, Editor

What's inside your paper



Dogs Looking For A Loving Home

SEE INSIDE: Page 21



MOTORS

RAC SECOND-QUARTER POTHOLE BREAKDOWNS REACH 'UNSEASONABLE HIGH'

SEE INSIDE: Page 19

WHAT'S ON



The September Music Scene In Leeds

SEE INSIDE: Page 15

NEWS

COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEME IS A HOME WIN FOR TENANTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

SEE INSIDE: Page 4

PLANS TO BOOST WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLING IN WEST YORKSHIRE TAKE A STEP FORWARD

SEE INSIDE: Page 6

GARDEN WORKS BEGIN AHEAD OF COUNTDOWN TO OPENING OF THE ROB BURROW CENTRE FOR MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

SEE INSIDE: Page 11

HIV AND HEPATITIS TESTS IN LEEDS HOSPITALS' EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS IDENTIFY OVER 100 CASES IN EIGHT MONTHS

SEE INSIDE: Page 23

SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN GETS STAR-POWERED SUPPORT IN LEEDS

SEE INSIDE: Page 24

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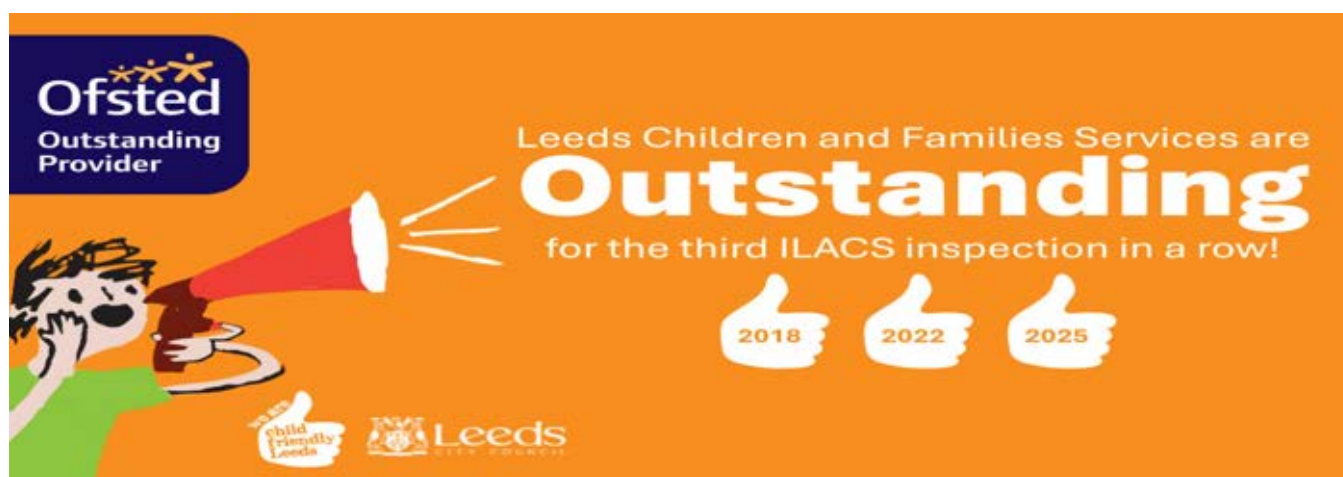
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Leeds City Council's Children and Families services have once again been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted – becoming the UK's first core city to achieve the government inspectors' highest possible grading three times in a row.

The rating has been announced following a rigorous and thorough inspection of the services the council provides for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers.

Ofsted inspectors rated the council as 'Outstanding' for the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, for the experiences and progress of children in care, and for the experiences and progress of care leavers.

The council was rated as 'good' in relation to the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection.

The overall rating was therefore 'Outstanding'.

The council first achieved an 'outstanding' rating for its children's services in 2018, having transformed from 2010 when it was rated inadequate.

Despite the challenges faced by children and their families during the covid pandemic, in 2022 the service was able to retain its 'outstanding' grading.

By achieving 'outstanding' once again in 2025, Leeds is the first of the UK's core cities – a group of 12 major cities outside of London - to achieve the inspectors' highest possible grading for three consecutive inspections.

The latest report states that 'children in Leeds continue to benefit from effective services that improve children's outcomes. An extensive range of well-established early help services meet the needs of many families and

prevent concerns from increasing. When children are identified as being at risk, there is an effective response to children.'

Inspectors said that senior leaders and members of the council 'have a determined vision for improving the lives of children in Leeds. Leaders are ambitious and are delivering service excellence through highly effective partnership working.

'Political and corporate support remains strong, which is evidenced in the council's continued investment in services for vulnerable children. Leaders understand the complex and diverse needs of children in the communities and what this means for children's life chances and outcomes. These insights inform well-defined strategies and planning to respond to children's changing needs.'

The report states:

- 'Leaders are ambitious for children and delivering service excellence', with an organisational culture 'that has an unwavering focus on promoting positive outcomes for children'.
- 'Safeguarding risks to children are identified quickly and are appropriately considered in strategy meetings, which are well attended by relevant partner agencies that share information and agree actions to reduce risks to children. Child protection enquiries are thorough, child-focused and lead to appropriate outcomes'.
- 'Social workers are highly ambitious for children and encourage them to have goals and dreams that children are motivated to achieve'.
- 'The new archway hub is an impressive well-resourced facility for care leavers to meet and access a range of support services and activities'.

Councillor Helen Hayden, Leeds City Council's executive member for children and families said: "Achieving a rating of 'outstanding' following three consecutive Ofsted inspections is a truly remarkable achievement and is something we are incredibly proud of.

"This achievement is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff that we have not only been able to maintain such high standards, but to also make improvements, against a backdrop of significant challenges. This includes continuing to address the ongoing financial pressures we face as a local authority, alongside the inequalities that continue to be highlighted post-pandemic and the rising cost of living.

"In Leeds, our teams are committed to providing the best outcomes for all of our children and young people, and the best possible support to their families. These wonderful efforts have been recognised with our third 'outstanding' Ofsted rating in a row, and I would like to thank all of our staff, alongside our partners, for all of their efforts."

Julie Longworth, Leeds City Council's director of children and families, said:

"The inspection outcome reflects the dedicated hard work of our passionate and committed front line staff, their managers, the wider council, our multi-agency partnership, and our wonderful Child Friendly City.

"We are working in unprecedented times with increased demand for our services, children, and families with the most complex of needs, and significant financial challenges.

"Yet our teams continue to rise to these challenges by putting children and young people at the heart of all that they do. We remain ambitious for the children and families of Leeds, and are steadfast in our determination to help them achieve better outcomes through our ongoing service development.

"I want to thank our incredible staff and partners for all that they do, day in and day out to make a positive difference to the lived experiences of children and their families."

Yvette Stanley, Ofsted's national director of regulation and social care, said: "Leeds City Council's 'outstanding' inspection outcome reflects the continued determination of its leadership team, managers and frontline staff, as well as the wider council and its safeguarding partners.

"This is a magnificent achievement, and the council should be proud of the sustained positive difference it has made for the children and families of Leeds over time."

The full report is available on the Ofsted website:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50284438>

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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West Yorkshire's creative and cultural celebrations have contributed to record visitor numbers, recent figures reveal.

Mayor Tracy Brabin has welcomed research which shows that West Yorkshire welcomed 73 million visitors in 2024, a 3% increase on the previous year, with spending in the local economy rising by 7.8% to £6.26 billion. The tourism and hospitality sector now supports 54,000 jobs for local people, up by 2.6%.

This growth has been attributed to successful 'year of culture' events hosted across the region ahead of Bradford UK City of Culture 2025, taking place this year.

Kirklees and Leeds set the scene in 2023 by rolling out diverse programmes of performances, exhibitions and community-led projects, before handing the baton to Calderdale and Wakefield to showcase even more of the region's creative spirit in 2024.

With Bradford's year in the spotlight now in full swing, the momentum is expected to boost West Yorkshire's visitor economy further in 2025.

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, said:

"It's fantastic that more people are visiting the region and seeing everything we have to offer.

"And these record figures clearly show that culture isn't just nice to have - it helps us create good jobs, vibrant places and economic growth.

"That's why we're investing in culture, heritage and sport, and putting West Yorkshire on the map as the place to be.

"Building on this legacy with even more investment and opportunities will attract more people to a stronger, brighter West Yorkshire that works for all."

Cllr James Lewis, Leader of Leeds City Council and Chair of West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Economy Committee, said:

"It's truly inspiring to see the combined and sustained efforts of cities across the region to put culture at the heart of life in West Yorkshire bearing fruit in such impressive fashion.

"We have long championed the huge social, economic and reputational value of culture and the arts and the unique power they have to unite and galvanise cities and communities to be their best.

"These figures demonstrate that by putting our faith in culture, we can drive economic growth, inward investment and job creation, all while putting our cities on the map and making them incredible, exciting places to live, work and visit."

The new research was carried out by Global Tourism Solutions UK, using the industry recognised STEAM Economic Impact of Tourism Model.

It was commissioned by West Yorkshire's Local Visitor Economy Partnership - a strategic partnership between the region's five local authorities, chaired by Mayor Tracy Brabin, to support the tourism sector across West Yorkshire. The partnership proactively develops tourism product and experiences, and markets West Yorkshire as a visitor destination to attract new visitors.

Belinda Eldridge, Head of Destination Marketing and International Relations and West Yorkshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership Lead, said:

"These results reflect the growing appeal of West Yorkshire as a must-visit destination.

"Through strategic marketing, international outreach, and a strong partnership approach, we're attracting more visitors, encouraging longer stays, and showcasing the very best of what our region has to offer.

"This momentum is vital for sustaining a thriving visitor economy that benefits communities across West Yorkshire."



■ Councillor Jess Lennox, Leeds City Council's executive member for housing, with tenant Paul Bennett at his new home on Amberton Terrace

Work on a new housing development has reached a key milestone as Leeds City Council continues to create high-quality affordable homes for local people.

The development – which will provide a total of 55 council houses and bungalows – began taking shape in the Ambertons area of Gipton in late 2023.

And, in an important step towards the successful delivery of the scheme, tenants are now moving into the first six completed homes after picking up their keys at the end of last month.

The development – which is being built by Wates Construction and forms part of Leeds's Council Housing Growth Programme (CHGP) – is due for overall completion by the end of the year.

It will offer a mix of two, three and four-bedroom houses and one-bedroom bungalows, split across various pieces of brownfield land on Amberton Terrace, Amberton Crescent, Amberton Street and Montagu Avenue.

The homes are all being made available for affordable rent, providing a welcome helping hand for families in an area where there is significant housing demand.

Energy efficiency has played a central role in the design and build programme, with the council's net zero credentials being underlined by the fitting of air source heat pumps rather than gas boilers.

The properties are also level access and can facilitate the installation, where required, of mobility-friendly features such as through-floor lifts.

Most of the cost of the development is being met by the council, with additional support coming from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Brownfield Housing Fund.

And, although the scheme's primary focus is the delivery of new homes, it is also benefiting the local community in other ways.

Funding linked to the development has already been used by the council to carry out improvements to tennis facilities in nearby Harehills Park.

Existing green space off Amberton Road and Lawrence Road is currently being enhanced, with new footpaths and seating set to be complemented by bulb planting and other landscaping work.

An upgrade of the play area behind Gipton's Henry Barran Centre is due to get under way this month.

The council's highways team, meanwhile, is funding a series of footpath and carriageway improvements on Amberton Terrace and Montagu Avenue.

Wates has also carried out a wide-ranging programme of tie-in community engagement activity during its work on the new homes. Notable initiatives have included:

- Partnering with sub-contractor Wernick Hire to donate a repurposed container – worth £2,750 – to Harehills-based charity CATCH for use as a storage facility for its educational farm;
- Providing work experience and pre-employability opportunities for a total of 10 young people;
- The award of a £4,500 grant from the Wates Family Trust to People's Pantry and The Clothing Rebellion, a community charity based at the Old Fire Station in Gipton;
- Volunteering by members of the construction team to support the Gipton Growers gardening group;
- Linking up with a number of local schools, including the Co-op Academy Leeds and Leeds East Academy, for site visits and other work.

Councillor Jess Lennox, Leeds City Council's executive member for housing, said:

"The handover of these properties is a really important milestone and highlights the positive difference that our Council Housing Growth Programme is making to communities in Leeds.

"We know that, despite the programme's achievements, there is still a pressing need for good-quality affordable homes in many parts of the city, including Gipton.

"The Ambertons scheme – and others like it – will help address that need, providing the sort of safe, warm and welcoming housing that can transform lives.

"I'm also delighted that the scheme is benefiting the wider community, with improvements to local roads and green space complementing the engagement work that has been done by Wates.

"It's this kind of collaborative approach – coupled with our determination to ensure that Leeds is the best place in the country to call home – that has helped make the Council Housing Growth Programme such a success."

Councillor Lennox met one of the new tenants, Paul Bennett, during a recent visit to Amberton Terrace with representatives from Wates and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

David Wingfield, managing director of Construction East at Wates, said:

"Since 2020, we have been working in close partnership with Leeds City Council to deliver much-needed affordable housing, and seeing new tenants move into their homes is one of the most rewarding aspects of these projects.

"The Ambertons development is about more than building houses, it is about shaping a connected community where people feel they belong and can thrive for generations to come.

"Our teams have shown immense dedication in bringing this scheme to life, and we look forward to the next milestone on this journey."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, said:

"I'm delighted we're able to help bring more high-quality council homes to east Leeds.

"Having a safe and secure place to call home should be a fundamental right of everyone, which is why we're putting new housing at the heart of our mission to build a happy West Yorkshire.

"Together with partners like Leeds City Council, we're committed to building the thousands of new homes our region needs to deliver a greener, more vibrant future for all."

More than 350 new homes have been built via the council's CHGP since 2018. More than 450 homes have also been acquired as part of the programme, with these properties and the new-builds both contributing to efforts to ease local affordable housing pressures.

Locations where new homes have recently been delivered by the CHGP include Barncroft Close in Seacroft and Scott Hall Drive in Chapel Allerton as well as a site in Middleton formerly occupied by Throstle Recreation Ground and Middleton Skills Centre.

Places where CHGP schemes are, like the one in the Ambertons, currently under construction include Brooklands Avenue in Seacroft, Hough Top in Swinnow and the former Middlecross Day Centre site in Armley.



£1.5 Million Flood Resilience Scheme Protecting Over 300 Homes And Businesses Is Complete

Sheepscar Beck is an historic watercourse that runs through the north of Leeds City Centre. Essential refurbishment works have been undertaken there to enhance flood resilience for over 250 businesses and 50 residential properties in Sheepscar and Mabgate.

The age of the beck stone and brickwork and the presence of invasive species had led to structural weaknesses along the channel. Wetter winters, drier summers and increased rainfall can worsen vulnerabilities and increase the risk of flooding. Without intervention, the risk of collapse could have resulted in significant flooding, potentially affecting many businesses and homes in the area.

The £1.5 million scheme was funded by the Environment Agency and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with modelling undertaken by Mott MacDonald and construction carried out by Hinko Construction Limited. Work focused on repairing and upgrading the beck's infrastructure to maintain its effectiveness in mitigating flood risk.

A key part of the restoration was the reuse of reclaimed brickwork to retain the historic character of the beck, with new materials only incorporated where necessary. Local traders played a role by providing access, facilitating work on their land and helping to procure materials.

While these works do not change the flood zone status of the area, they are essential in preserving current level of flood resilience, preventing costly flood damage and enhancing the city's ability to adapt to climate change.

The completed works are expected to prevent approximately £15 million in flood-related damage and around 2,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions, which would be incurred in the cleanup of a flood event. Those emissions are more than ten times the amount produced during construction.

Alongside maintaining the flood resilience of the area, there are enhancements underway to improve the area for residents and wildlife. Bat boxes, public waste bins and a new public seating area on the corner of Bristol Street and Cross Stamford Street have been successfully installed.

Upwards of 20 trees will be planted in the area later in 2025, and there are plans for a community-led arts installation focused on climate resilience to be commissioned and installed in the area in 2026.

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

"Leeds City Council is committed to improving and maintaining flood resilience across the city and I am delighted that the works at Sheepscar Beck have been successfully completed. Flood risk is one of the most direct impacts of climate change that our city faces, and the financial and carbon cost of cleanup means that schemes like this make a significant contribution to our net zero ambitions.

"This scheme forms part of our wider programme of flood alleviation works across Leeds, helping us manage both large rivers and smaller watercourses to safeguard our residents and businesses from the devastation flooding can bring."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, said:

"Here In West Yorkshire, we've felt the devastating impact of climate change first-hand, as flooding has become more damaging and frequent over recent years.

"By investing in essential defences to protect our communities and businesses, we're building a more resilient region that's fit for the future.

"We remain dedicated to working with our partners like Leeds City Council to build a greener, more secure West Yorkshire for future generations."

Luke Williams, Environment Agency senior flood risk advisor, said:

"We understand the devastating impact flooding can have, which is why reducing the risk is our top priority.

"Working alongside West Yorkshire Combined Authority, we are refurbishing assets along Sheepscar Beck to ensure they are in good condition and ready to respond when needed. Once completed, this will reduce the risk of flooding to over 250 businesses in Leeds city centre.

To find out if you are living in a flood risk area and for information about how to sign up for free flood warnings visit;

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding

Agreement Sets The Stage For New Leeds Kirkgate Market Leisure Attraction

Plans for a new 'container-style' leisure attraction at Leeds Kirkgate Market have taken another significant step forward.

Leeds City Council confirmed STACK in March last year as its preferred operator for the proposed venue, which would offer an exciting mix of food, drink and entertainment in part of the market's outdoor trading area.

Now, following further design and preparatory work, the council and STACK have announced the signing of a formal lease agreement.

This means that, subject to licensing and planning approvals, the start of construction on the scheme could be just months away.

New details have also been revealed about what people can expect from the attraction, which experienced leisure operator STACK intends to build – as it has in other parts of the UK – from repurposed shipping containers.

Under current plans, STACK Leeds would be spread across two floors, with a central plaza seating area covered by a 'stretch tent' providing shelter, when needed, from the elements.

The plaza would be home to two large digital screens as well as a stage that would be used for a busy programme of live music and other entertainment.

Ten street food outlets, six bars and a coffee shop, meanwhile, would serve up a tempting range of eating and drinking options for customers.

A premises licence application has already been submitted for the scheme, with a planning application expected to follow shortly.

If both are approved, then it is hoped building work could start in early 2026 with a view to the venue opening later in the year.

Construction costs would be met by STACK, with rental payments generating a new income stream for the council.

The development – which is expected to create 160 jobs – would, it is anticipated, increase footfall and broaden the customer base for the whole market site.

The outdoor trading area currently has room for a total of 185 stalls, with around 85 of those being filled on its busiest days.

Should STACK Leeds secure the necessary licensing and planning approvals, the number of pitches would be reduced and the freed-up space used as the location for the scheme.

The reconfigured area would still be able to comfortably accommodate all existing traders – as well as new arrivals – and would also remain one of the largest sites of its kind in the region.

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

"The plans for STACK Leeds are really exciting and underline our ongoing commitment to backing and investing in Leeds Kirkgate Market.

"I'm delighted, therefore, that the project has now reached this important milestone, thanks to a great deal of hard work from both the council and STACK.

"Together we are determined to ensure that the new venue is very much part of the market, rather than a standalone attraction.

"Every person heading to STACK Leeds will also be a potential shopper, whether that's on the day or during a return visit.

"Some may even start making regular trips to the market for the first time, having previously been unaware of the recent retail improvements there.

"It is this kind of new custom – combined with the much-appreciated support of existing shoppers – that will help the site's many and varied businesses prosper for years to come."

More than 2.5m people have flocked to STACK Seaburn since it opened on the North East coast in 2020.

Further STACK venues opened last year in Lincoln, Middlesbrough and at Newcastle United's St James' Park ground.

STACK also has sites at various stages of development or planning in places such as Bishop Auckland, Durham, Whitley Bay, Manchester, Sheffield, Wigan and Carlisle.

Neill Winch, STACK's chief executive officer, said:

"We're delighted to be taking this important step towards bringing STACK to Leeds. This is a city with incredible energy and a proud sense of community, which makes it a perfect location for our concept.

"While STACK continues to grow across the UK, our focus remains on creating spaces that celebrate local culture, support independent businesses and provide somewhere people can come together to enjoy great food, drink and live entertainment.

"Importantly, our offer will complement the fantastic outdoor and indoor market by attracting a new audience and, by opening seven days a week from early morning until late, we'll help drive footfall and support the market's wider ecosystem.

"We're excited to work with Leeds City Council to deliver a destination that adds real value to Kirkgate Market and the city centre."

Recent improvements at the market include an ongoing £10m project to repair, conserve and enhance the 1875 'blockshops', the oldest surviving structures on the site. Phase one of this scheme was finished in 2023, with the second and final stage now nearing completion.



The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (CA) started a technical procurement process by opening its "dynamic market" for potential operators. This sets out strict criteria for any bus companies wanting to bid to run services in the region, to raise standards and ensure value for money.

A new West Yorkshire-wide, franchised network will see bus fares, routes and timetables set by the CA, with bus operators accepted and registered onto the dynamic market invited to bid for contracts to run services.

The work will ensure West Yorkshire becomes only the third area in the country, after Manchester and Liverpool city regions, to start the process of signing up operators to run franchised services.

Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Transport Committee Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe said: "We are eager to see franchised services running as soon as possible, and the new dynamic market ensures we are on the road to better buses.

"This is our opportunity to challenge operators to show us what they can offer as part of a new system where the passenger comes first.

"I invite operators large and small to get in touch and get involved, and help us to create a better-connected West Yorkshire."

It is hoped the first contracts can be awarded in Spring/Summer 2026, to start in 2027.

The latest date to join the dynamic market to be able to tender for Tier A is 19th September and Tiers B and C it is 3rd October.

For more information and applications visit;

www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/049474-2025

Parks Tennis Courts Given Complete Overhaul

Work to completely refurbish parks tennis courts across Leeds has finished, with 50 courts in 11 parks given new life.

Parks across Leeds have seen a total investment of over £787,000 ensuring that top quality facilities are available for local communities in the city.

The second phase of the project has recently been completed, where all tennis courts at Meanwood Park, Cross Flatts Park and Potternewton Park were refurbished.

The courts are now all back open after having been closed during the work.

Last summer tennis courts were completely renewed in Beckett Park in Headingley, Burley Park, Chapel Allerton Park, Grove Road Recreation Ground near Temple Newsam, Harehills Park, Roundhay Park, Springhead Park in Rothwell and The Hollies in Weetwood.

The project is part of a £30m nationwide investment by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA, to refurbish public tennis courts across Great Britain and open up the sport to more people.

This investment has seen over 3,000 park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition brought back to life for the benefit of communities across the country through renovation works and improved court accessibility with new gate-access technology and booking systems.

Tennis courts within Leeds' parks are free for the general public to use and provide opportunities for children and adults to get active and enjoy time outdoors.

As part of the project, Leeds City Council is also working with the LTA to deliver a range of activities across the renovated courts, which will host weekly Barclays Free Park Tennis sessions with equipment provided, as well as Local Tennis Leagues, giving people the opportunity to get involved in friendly and social local competitions.

At the refurbished courts, visitors will need a booking to gain access to the courts with a pin code. Bookings can be made for free online at:

www.lta.org.uk/play

Learn more about free tennis sessions at www.lta.org.uk/play/free-park-tennis



Plans To Boost Walking, Wheeling And Cycling In West Yorkshire Take A Step Forward

Safer routes to schools and improvements to greenways and towpaths are amongst plans to boost active travel in West Yorkshire.

It is part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's ongoing commitment to get more people walking, wheeling and cycling in the region.

The Combined Authority recently received a £12.8 million funding boost from Active Travel England – and now regional leaders have approved the schemes it will be used for.

Projects include making streets around schools safer and easier to get around, with two 'school streets' sites to be introduced in Bradford, and improved footways, green spaces and junctions near to Ling Bob Primary School and Christ Church Primary School in Halifax.

Safer routes to school will be implemented in Ackworth and Normanton, whilst better walking and cycling access to schools in Leeds are also part of the plans.

Funding will also go towards improving the Meltham Greenway, Rochdale Canal towpath in Walsden and walking routes in the Bradford district.

As well as delivering projects and campaigns to encourage uptake of walking, wheeling and cycling, the investment will also be used to develop schemes for future funding bids to government.

Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin said:

"Choosing walking and cycling for short, everyday journeys has a lasting impact on people's health, wellbeing and the environment.

"These schemes will benefit people across the region by making active travel a more attractive option and encouraging them to get out and about.

"This is a really important part of creating a better-connected West Yorkshire that works for everyone."

Since the Active Travel Fund was introduced, the Combined Authority has been delivering on projects that have brought positive benefits to people across the region.

There are plans to take this even further as part of a long-term vision for developing walking and cycling networks backed up by a recent active travel pledge signed by Tracy Brabin alongside 11 other mayors.

The pledge involves transforming the school run by delivering high-quality, safer routes across the country, as well as creating a national active travel network and delivering integrated transport systems that connect walking, wheeling and cycling with buses, trains and trams.

For more information on the approved schemes, visit;

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=1468&Ver=4>



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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!'

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Visitors Flock To RSPCA And Police Event Aimed At Protecting Seaside Wildlife

Visitors to Scarborough attended an event organised by the RSPCA and police aimed at stopping people behaving irresponsibly near marine animals such as seals, dolphins and nesting birds.

Called Operation Seabird the scheme is a national police-led operation which aims to promote and protect wildlife amid reports of irresponsible behaviour towards a variety of mammals and birds around Britain's coastline - including in North Yorkshire.

Common disturbances to wildlife include boats, kayaks and paddleboards deliberately getting too close to seals, dolphins and cetaceans. Sadly this often causes stress to the animals and can result in the females suffering spontaneous abortions or babies being abandoned by their mothers.

With Scarborough becoming well known as a place to spot bottlenose dolphins and other marine wildlife such as minke whales, seals and birds like gannets - the coastal area is becoming evermore popular with visitors.

To help promote the message about the importance of protecting wildlife to tourists and residents in the town the RSPCA teamed up with North Yorkshire police and hosted an advice session at the Wild Eye Seawatching Station on Marine Drive.

Geoff Edmond, the RSPCA's Wildlife Partnerships manager who was at the event, said: "It was a sunny day and one of the last days of the school holidays so we had a good selection of people coming to chat to us who were happy to take on board our advice and find out about the work we do to protect marine wildlife.

"We are keen for people to enjoy watching our marine wildlife but this should be done at a safe and sensible distance without disturbing the animals.

"Every year, the RSPCA's wildlife centres have to treat and rehabilitate a wide range of wildlife - including seals and seabirds - which have been injured or orphaned due to human disturbance. Seals and pups often come onto land to rest and they should be left in peace to do so.

"We have had some particularly shocking incidents such as members of the public trying to take selfies and distressing an injured seal who

was recovering on a beach in West Sussex. They seemed unaware that seals can give nasty bites and forcing them back to the sea before they are ready can use up much-needed energy which can cause them health issues.

"We have also seen seals injured by dogs who have attacked after they have been irresponsibly let off their lead and littering such as plastic rings causing horrific suffering to some seals.

"Other common problems include wild camping, beach barbecues and camp fires causing significant damage on the beach and quad bikes or 4x4s vehicles riding over nesting areas.

"Users of boats and other watercraft can also cause severe injury to some marine mammals if they collide with them while trying to watch them.

"While our beautiful beach and coastal areas are great to have fun in and enjoy our wonderful nature, they are natural habitats and breeding grounds for many native and migratory animals, including several species on the endangered list.

"We hope our advice will help safeguard this stretch of coastline, allowing future generations to enjoy the spectacle we see today as the RSPCA continues to promote its For Every Kind messaging."

Operation Seabird urges people visiting Britain's coastline to:

- maintain a significant distance from wildlife, both at sea and around the coast
- never get close enough to touch animals or take selfies;
- read signs and stick to paths
- keep dogs on leads where instructed to do so and keep dogs under control at all times
- Never leave litter - dispose of it safely or take it home

Operation Seabird was launched in 2020 by North Yorkshire and Humberside Police along with the RSPCA, Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership and Flamborough Project, RNLI and wildlife trusts. Its national rollout was supported by the government's Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

Farm Family Fun As Temple Newsam's Play Barn Launches After Major Renovations

The new play barn at Temple Newsam's home farm is set to open to the public on 20 September after works to convert the old cow byre have been completed.

The barn now hosts two play areas, one suitable for up to 12-year-olds and a second one built for toddlers. Both take inspiration from the farm and the park, bringing the great outdoors inside.

Older children are invited to fully immerse themselves in the main room with big slides, puzzles to solve and castles to climb. The toddler room offers soft play, a separate seating area and a dedicated sensory hut.

The barn is also home to a comfortable café serving drinks and light meals and a shop with farm-themed souvenirs and produce.

Entrance to the play barn is included in the Home Farm ticket price and play sessions must be booked in advance to ensure a good experience for all. Each session lasts for 90 minutes and tickets give all-day access to the farm.

The cow byre and its surrounding buildings were built over 100 years ago and were used as a milking parlour to provide clean tuberculin-tested milk to the hospitals in Leeds. The building and production systems were state of the art for their time and by the 1940s, had Shorthorn cows producing over 70,000 gallons of milk each year.

The council ceased dairy farming in 1968 and after that time the building had various other uses including being a vehicle depot for the council's parks department and even being home to West Yorkshire Police's stables in the 1970s.

Temple Newsam's Home Farm is one of the largest working rare breed centres in Europe and boasts over 400 sheep, pigs, poultry and goats, helping to conserve some of the oldest breeds of farm animals in the country.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council's executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, said: "We're very excited for the play barn to be opening to the public. I've been there to have a peek at it and I'm sure it will prove a big hit with Temple Newsam's younger visitors. Combined with the farm and estate grounds it makes the perfect family day out."

The farm and play barn are open seven days a week and closed only on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Tickets can be booked at Home Farm and Play Barn at Temple Newsam.

Admission to the farm and play barn is £9. There is an introductory offer running currently where general admission is £4.50 per person (adult and child) weekdays during term time. Under 3's always go free.



New Landmark Street Art Celebrates The Connections Of A Proud Northern City

CrossCountry has teamed up with Global Street Art, Europe's leading producer of hand-painted murals, to create a giant mural that visually encapsulates the story of what has - and continues to - make Leeds such a vibrant cultural hub.

Via the 14-metre-high mural, artist Elle Koziupa, brings together the important elements that connect the past, present and future of Leeds for those who live there and inspire those making a visit. Drawing on the city's proud industrial history, its renowned cultural vitality, sporting prowess, notable landmarks and inclusive communities, the mural titled The Embrace, reinforces the importance of celebrating the city's strong roots and heritage.

The mural design combines photorealism with integrated painterly and graphical elements to create a vivid and visually eye-catching summation of what the people of Leeds and the city itself stands for.

Making Connections Through Train Travel

Leeds railway station, positioned in the heart of the city, plays a significant role as a destination hub for 34 million passengers per year*. Found on Aire Street, close to the station, The Embrace, is in an ideal location to reinforce the influence of journey connectivity on those heading to and from the station.

Elle says: "I wanted to ensure that the artwork has an emotional and visual impact on those that see it. The central idea features a truly aspirational moment with train travel at its heart. The scene of the train platform with two people greeting each other as they are about to embark on an amazing journey or sharing a joyful reunited moment, is the foundation for many possibilities as people meet and connect."

David Mullins, Head of Brand, Communications & Digital Strategy, for CrossCountry, comments: "As such an important and popular transport hub, Leeds station and the city itself is the backdrop for many people's life experiences, memory making and connectivity. We believe the stunning artwork devised and created by Elle tells the story of Leeds, its residents, and visitors, in an engaging way, touching on a range of historical, cultural, sporting, and commercial references that make Leeds what it is. CrossCountry is proud to help bring people together as they make their own personal journeys and this is perfectly encapsulated in The Embrace."

Dr Lee Bofkin, CEO and Janitor, at Global Street Art, says: "It has been a pleasure to work with CrossCountry, celebrating the great city of Leeds with this gorgeous mural on our Aire Street wall. I hope it brings joy to the people that see it and encourages all the more hugs."

To see the artwork in place, head to Aire Street in Leeds, it will be there until 21st September.

GARDENING

As Summer Waves A Sad 'Goodbye', Harvest Your Apples And Make A Pie

Everything in the garden seems to be slowing down, in fact I noticed last month that a number of the trees in the garden were starting to drop their leaves, this is quite common where we have had a prolonged dry spell. Trees can go into an early dormancy and although it is not good for them they should recover providing these conditions are not a regular occurrence.



Ideally you would water any tree showing signs of stress but with hosepipe bans, it is a challenge to accumulate the volumes of water that our gardens need. Fortunately I have quite a few water butts on the garages, greenhouses and sheds which added to the grey water from baths and washing up provide some help with keeping plants hydrated. Longer term I think we will look at more substantial water storage in IBC tank (Intermediate Bulk Container) which is essentially a large plastic cube in a metal cage on a pallet. They are used in many industries but can be purchased second hand and with a little modification can provide a good reservoir holding 1000litres of rain water. If you are tempted go for those that previously contained food products, make sure it has been properly cleaned out. You may pay a little more for one but its worth it in the end. You may need to elevate the tank so you can fill a watering can, and don't forget to consider an overflow pipe or diverter, just in case it fills up and it's still raining.

I have grown pumpkins and squashes for a long time and find them a valuable vegetable through the autumn and winter months, stored in a cool frost free place they will keep well. This year I tried a new approach partly because I had an area of land that was previously grass that I wanted to convert to growing beds. In the past I have lifted the turf, taken a trench out and dug over the area chopping the removed turf up in the bottom of the trench before turning the next trench (soil) onto it. It can be quite back breaking. I have been experimenting with the 'No Dig' approach, a process developed by a market gardener called Charles Dowding. Basically, rather than digging, you cover an area with brown cardboard and then apply about 150mm (6 inches) of well rotted manure or garden compost over it. Completed in the autumn the area will be ready for planting the following spring, no need to cultivate just plant through the surface compost. This approach also has the advantage of retaining moisture in the soil below as the compost provides an insulation layer reducing evaporation. So I planted my pumpkin and squash plants, honestly they have been brilliant, apart from watering the plants in, I haven't had to water since. Starting the seed off requires a propagator and frost protection until planting out time, but if you don't have the facilities or the time then many garden centres and nurseries will sell plants later in the season ready for planting out directly. When planting out I apply some general fertiliser pellets, usually chicken manure pellets, a handful around each plant. If you already have an area where you grow vegetables you could mulch around your pumpkins and squashes just after planting to help retain moisture. The variety I grow is a pumpkin called 'Crown Prince'. Blue skinned and orange flesh they not only look good but taste great too, they also store well. I grow a butternut squash called 'Hunter', a good reliable type with bottle shaped fruit. I also grow 'Spaghetti Squash', an unusual cultivar that when baked and removed from the outer skin with a fork produces a spaghetti like vegetable, well worth a try and quite tasty too.

The timing of replanting pot displays depends on how well they are looking. If yours are still looking good then keep them going by removing any faded flowers and applying a half strength liquid feed every two weeks.

I have kept containers going until the first frosts, But now is the time to start planning your replacement displays that will provide interest throughout winter and early spring. Bulbs and hardy bedding plants violas, primulas, forget me nots and double daisies will be available at your local garden centre or nursery so in order to secure the type and colour you like, now is a good time to buy. With the plants, keep them somewhere cool, keep them watered, keep an eye out for slugs and snails. Bulbs can be stored for a few weeks in a cool dark frost free place.

If I had said to my grandad that I was going to grow some garlic he would have turned up his nose and said it was a bad idea, but tastes change and over the years many vegetables, herbs and spices that were popular in other countries have become more readily available and are now an accepted part of our culinary requirements.



Garlic is a staple in many of our everyday dishes and the development of cultivars that will grow well in our climate means that you can quite easily grow your own. They are fairly trouble free and being part of the onion family require more or less the same conditions. Good rich soil is essential and I find autumn planting produces very good crops. It is also a time of year when you are not inundated with other tasks in the vegetable garden, and harvesting the following July means you can follow with later crops of winter vegetables.

Buying named cultivars ensures that you have ones that will do well in your area, and although you could try supermarket bought garlic bulbs, they may not perform as well. They require a free draining soil in a sunny position. The process is quite simple, once you have prepared the area, carefully split the corms (cloves) apart and plant pointed end up, about 4cm (1.5 inches) deep, 15cm (6 inches) in rows 30cm (12 inches) apart. Autumn planting generally gives higher yields but if your soil is wet or a little on the heavy side there are cultivars you can plant in spring.

There are two main types, 'soft-neck' produces a cluster of cloves around a soft stem slightly milder in taste. 'hard-neck' produce a firm stem with what looks like a large flower bud on the top called a scape, this can be cut and used in dishes and salads and has a milder taste, the bulbs and corms grow at the base of the stem and are stronger in taste than 'soft-neck' types. 'Hard-neck' types are hardier and do well in northern climates.

Autumn planting in late September/October, cultivars to consider are 'Kingsland', 'Carcassonne', 'Extra Early' (Hard-neck) 'Rhapsody' or 'Maddock' (Soft-neck).

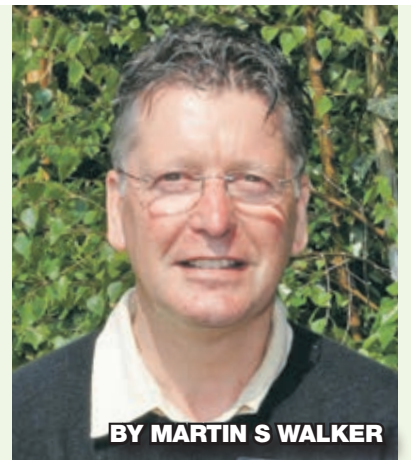
Spring planting, 'Solent Wight' (Hard-neck), Mersley Wight 'Picardy Wight' (Soft-neck).

Harvest when the foliage turns yellow, from late May to late July, carefully lift and dry on the surface before tying them together and storing in a cool shed or garage.

Happy gardening,

Martin

(Next month, protecting tender plants, rejuvenate rhubarb, autumn lawn care.)



BY MARTIN S WALKER

Plant Portrait- 'Kniphofia'

Kniphofia, (Red Hot Poker) are a genus of herbaceous perennials that you either love or hate. Whatever your view they are a valuable late flowering plant with strap shaped leaves and tall slender spikes of fiery colour providing height and vertical lines in a mixed border display.

There are about 73 species, native to the African continent, around seven species have been introduced into cultivation during the 18th century, from which a number of garden hybrids have been developed, many of which highlight the character and value of 'Red Hot Pokers' as a striking late flowering perennial.

There are both evergreen and herbaceous species, both bearing sword like leaves from bluish to dark green arranged in a rosette formation creating a spiky clump that gently increased. The flower spike emerges as a central stem reaching a height of between 70 and 130cm, atop which the tubular flowers radiate from the stem forming a torch like arrangement which, along with its fiery range of colours from bright scarlet red through fiery orange and yellow have earned it the common name of 'Red Hot Poker'. The flowers are nectar rich and a great source of food for pollinating insects. Their spiky character is at home both in mixed borders, interplanted with ornamental grasses, or included in a area with a tropical vibe.

Although Kniphofias will tolerate fairly hot sunny positions they prefer soil that is not bone dry for long periods and one that is fairly rich in organic matter which does not become waterlogged throughout the winter months. A thick mulch of straw organic material in late autumn will also protect the crown during extreme and wet winters. Depending on the species, Kniphofias flower from June to October and as with most plants, removing the faded flower stalk will encourage more flowers to emerge. Once established, Kniphofias will come back year after year.

Kniphofias do spread by underground rhizomes (thick roots), but are easily controlled if you lift and divide clumps every three years, discarding old woody crowns and unwanted divisions. Add an organic fertiliser and garden compost before replanting to improve exhausted soil. Kniphofias may seed around but rarely become a nuisance as they are not prolific seeders and can easily be weeded out. Any dead or messy leaves that appear through the autumn and winter months can be removed in spring and should come away with a sharp tug. I always wear stout gloves to avoid the chance of cuts if your grip slips.

Some cultivars to try,

Kniphofia, 'Scorched Corn', spikes potentially reaching 1.5m (4ft 6 ins), flowers are closely packed, a tawny red at the top fading to white, flowering from summer to early autumn.

Kniphofia, 'Green Jade', spikes reaching 1.2m (4ft) flowers are lime green fading to white, flowering August into September.

Kniphofia, 'Alcazar', spikes reaching 1m (3ft), flowers are an orange red colour, flowering from summer to early autumn

Kniphofia, 'H. E. Beale' spikes reaching 1.2m (4ft), a less common cultivar, with rounded flower clusters emerging an apricot colour fading to yellow. Flowers in early June.

Kniphofia, 'Timothy' spikes reaching 90cm, (2ft 11ins), a looser flower cluster of salmon pink, on bronze stems, flowering in July/August.

Kniphofia, 'Ice Queen' spikes reaching 1.5m (4ft 6ins) faint orange tint at the top fading through yellow to almost white at the base, hangs on well into autumn.

Kniphofia, 'Royal Standard' spikes reaching 1m (3ft) traditional colour bright red at the top and a distinctive break to yellow at the bottom. flowering through July and August.



■ An artist's impression of the gardens planned for the Rob Burrow Centre for MND

Garden Works Begin Ahead Of Countdown To Opening Of The Rob Burrow Centre For Motor Neurone Disease

Work is beginning to create wellbeing gardens for patients, families and staff at The Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease (MND), in the countdown to the opening of the new building this autumn.

The landscaped gardens will extend the centre's therapeutic focus, creating calm, welcoming spaces that offer moments of connection and reflection. They will incorporate mature trees already on site, alongside new planting zones designed for interaction, activity, and quiet contemplation.

The Hands of Hope, handprints of the Burrow family, including Rob's three children, patients and clinical staff, will be featured in the gardens. There will also be areas for sessions using walking aids and wheelchairs and other monitoring, a first for the MND service in Leeds.

Also featured will be a 'Tree of Hope' sapling, grown from the seed of the Sycamore Gap tree, which is being donated by the National Trust.

Leeds based landscape architects, re-form, have designed the gardens surrounding the new centre, intended as an essential part of the building's identity and a key feature in shaping how visitors feel as they arrive and spend time at the centre.

Craig Richardson, Director for Estates and Facilities, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, said: "We're really excited to mark the beginning of the planting works. With more than 5,000 plants, and a limited time in which to plant, this will be a busy time as we countdown to the centre opening to patients this autumn."

The majority of funding for the garden came from donations made immediately after Rob Burrow died in June last year.

Paul Watkins, Director of Fundraising at Leeds Hospitals Charity, said: "The priority of our fundraising appeal was to raise money to build the centre. Since

we achieved the target in December 2024, the public have continued to support the Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease. This has enabled us to focus on funding different aspects that will make a difference to people living with MND, including research and this wonderful garden."

Re-form is working with generous sub-contractors who have donated a mix of time, foliage and tools, including BBS Stone, Corstorphine + Wright, Johnsons, Logic, Nurture Group, Playdale and Van den Berk Nurseries. The design includes:

- A warm and welcoming northern façade which works with the existing treescape alongside new woodland style planting, ensuring access from the car park into the building is safe, easy to navigate, attractive and accessible.
- A therapeutic garden space to the south of the centre, featuring a circular walkway with a variety of opportunities to sit, chat, and have those all-important 'kettle conversations' which a non-clinical, natural setting helps to support.
- Sociable spaces and places for children to play, providing an environment for all those affected by MND. The planting provides a textured, sensory and seasonally varied space, with covered and uncovered seating areas at varying heights throughout.

Hannah Thompson, Associate Director at re-form, said: "With the specialist nature of this facility, we worked with the clinical teams and MND patients to gain a detailed understanding of the needs of all those who will use the outdoor spaces at the centre – including patients, carers and families of those affected by the disease. We'd like to thank the brilliant team who are giving their time, resources and skills to help us bring our designs to life over the coming weeks."

To find out more about the Rob Burrow Centre for MND visit www.leedshospitalscharity.org.uk/mnd

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Antiques And Collectables

With David Oddy



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

I quite often feel sorry for old people and buy things which I often sell at a loss. Other things I buy thinking I will sell them straight away and still have them a year later – although the opposite applies too. I sometimes regret buying and sell the same day. It's a strange business but great fun. I am retired but still enjoy going to the shop 6 days a week.



■ Inside Antiques & Collectables

Summer is always a very quiet time in the shop, with school holidays and people going away, but it has its advantages in that we do get people coming into the shop who are visiting relatives or on holiday. I have had visitors of various nationalities including Australians, Americans and quite a few Europeans. I must admit I was a bit wary when three enormous young men came into the shop. They were Russian and turned out to be quite charming. Through broken English they bought some Russian medals I have had in stock for about 4 years which I thought would never sell! We never know who, or what, is going to come into the shop!

Being from a farming background, as soon as I could reach the pedals on the tractor at about 10 years old, I was useful in the fields. Although I wasn't strong enough to lift bales of straw, I could drive the tractor whilst the men loaded the bales. I thoroughly enjoyed my childhood and would not swap driving a tractor for pushing buttons on a computerised game like the kids of today do.

I have had some really interesting items brought in recently including a pilot's helmet from 1942. It is complete with earpieces and high-altitude oxygen mask. Can you imagine what tales it could tell? Maybe the wearer took part in the Battle of Britain, or Dambusters? I have no provenance so I can only guess. I have also bought a very large collection of model cars, mostly wagons from a truck driver who had an attic full. The couple were downsizing and the lady of the house said, "either they go, or I do!"

If you have any items in your attic that you no longer want to keep, call into the shop and I can give you a no obligation valuation.

Please see advert below for contact details and opening times.



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Diary Of A Pawnbroker

Treat People How You'd Like to Be Treated Yourself

Every year, we're lucky enough to receive so many letters and cards of thanks from our customers. Reading them makes me feel incredibly proud of what we do. Most of the kind words are about the service people receive, especially from our financial services customers who often come to us in moments when they really need help.

But last month, one customer's story really stood out — and it touched not only me, but also our staff. She had inherited a watch and was trying to find out its value. After visiting several jewellers in Leeds without getting the help she needed, she spotted our column in the Yorkshire Reporter and decided to give us a try.



When she came into our Seacroft store, Jo, Cheryl, and Lilli took the time to listen, offered her practical solutions, and even gave her the option to have the watch repaired. She was so relieved to finally find people who cared, in a relaxed environment, without the usual "sales pitch." She told us she felt appreciated.

Since then, she's become a regular — selling gold, buying jewellery, and having more items repaired. What really stuck with us was her comment: "In a do-it-yourself world, it's nice to find people who genuinely care. And for someone who isn't easily pleased, I've been very impressed."

Virginia, if you're reading this — thank you. Your words mean the world to us.



Why Customer Service Matters

On the high street, service is everything. I truly believe that our reputation for treating people well is what keeps us strong. Last month was another busy one across retail, lending, and gold buying — each customer with their own unique story and reason for visiting us.

- One lady needed £540 to pay her car insurance and borrowed against a gold curb bracelet
- Another borrowed £1,020 to redecorate her living room before selling her house
- A gentleman borrowed £3,900 against a Rolex watch while waiting for an insurance cheque
- And another customer borrowed £5,000 against a beautiful 2ct diamond ring to help with a house purchase



The good news is that most of these items are collected again — in fact, over 80% of our pawnbroking customers redeem their goods. We lend against almost any jewellery and most luxury watches, and the process only takes minutes.

Pawnbroking Loans

With bills still high thanks to inflation and interest rates, it doesn't make sense to let your gold or diamond jewellery sit in a drawer when it could help ease your cash flow.

Recycling is part of everyday life now, and more and more people are applying the same idea to jewellery. Some customers use their items for short-term loans so they don't have to part with them. Others choose to sell outright — often using the money for summer holidays, paying bills, or simply treating themselves to something new.



The best part? With pawnbroking, you remain the owner. You can collect your jewellery or watches anytime during the 7-month contract once your loan and interest are repaid.

Summer Bills

While our foreign exchange counters have been hectic with holiday-goers, pawnbroking has also been busier this summer. We usually see a peak in late autumn, but right now it's mums and dads topping up their reserves for back-to-school expenses and clearing credit card bills from the summer holidays.



We've also supported many families preparing for the Asian wedding season. Generous celebrations often involve cash, gold, and jewellery gifts, and many customers borrow against their 21ct and 22ct jewellery to fund those traditions.

Every loan is 100% confidential, and with up to 7 months to repay — plus the option of part payments along the way — customers stay in control. With our interest rates frozen for the past year, our pawnbroking service remains one of the quickest, easiest, and fairest ways to borrow.

Wisdom, Faith & Power

September's birthstone is the sapphire — a gem that's long been associated with wisdom, faith, and strength. Ancient people even believed the world rested on a giant sapphire, and its reflection made the sky and sea blue.



You don't have to spend a fortune to own a beautiful piece of sapphire jewellery. We've recently expanded our range of coloured stone pieces, so whether you're shopping in Christopher Brown Jewellers (Seacroft, York, Pontefract, Goole, Shipley, Stockport, Prescott), Brown and Gold Pawnbrokers (Batley, Toxteth), or our new store Mr Allen Jewellers in Wigan — you'll find something special.

With Christmas just four months away, now's the perfect time to start.

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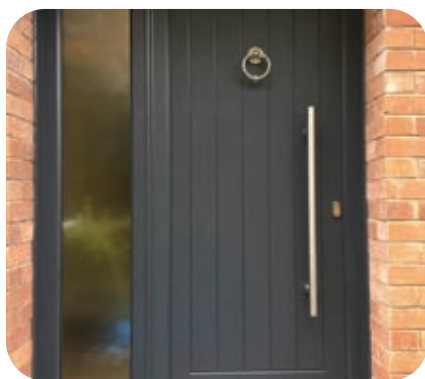
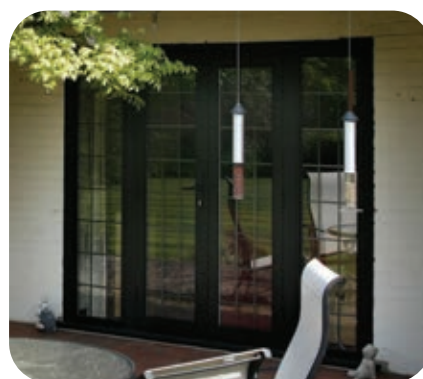
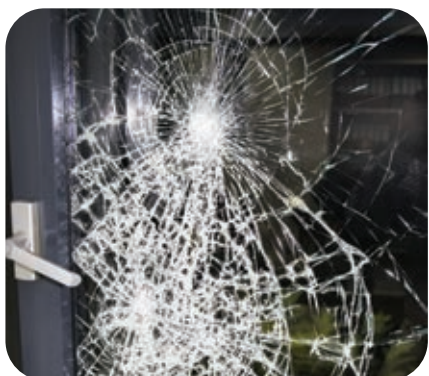
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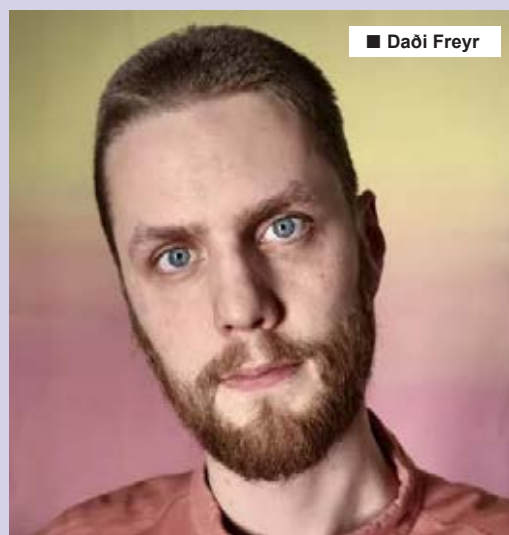




September Music Scene In Leeds

BY STUART GLOSSOP

Blondshell (Sabrina Teitelbaum) released her eagerly awaited sophomore album, ‘If You Asked For a Picture’, in May via Partisan Records. It sees Teitelbaum once again teaming up with producer Yves Rothman to craft a collection as potent and emotionally charged as her acclaimed 2023 debut. The album brims with an urgency, ambition, and devastating potency hinted at on Blondshell’s 2023 self-titled debut, the specificity, self-examination, and nonchalant humour of which turned her into one of the most lauded new artists in recent memory. *Brudenell Social Club Sunday 7th September*

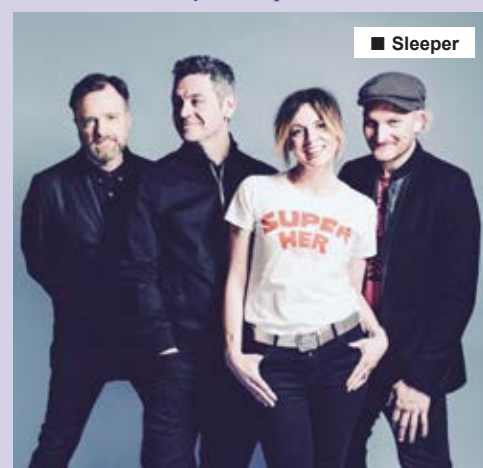


Daði Freyr is an Icelandic singer, songwriter, and producer known for his witty lyricism, infectious synth-pop, and joyful unpredictability. He rose to global attention with his 2020 hit “Think About Things”, a song that went viral during lockdown, earning over one hundred million streams and praise from the likes of P!nk, James Corden, and Russell Crowe. Since then, Daði has built a loyal international fanbase through his uniquely immersive live shows, featuring synchronised dance moves, playful visuals, and a warm, communal energy. He’s sold-out venues across Europe and the U.S., headlined major festivals, and cultivated a reputation as a must-see performer. Now entering a new creative chapter, Daði is releasing music from his upcoming album—blending his signature sound with new collaborations and emotional depth. With each release and performance, he continues to evolve, creating pop music that moves both the body and the heart. *Stylus, Leeds University Union Saturday 13th September*

L.A. Witch have always exuded an aura of effortless cool, whether it manifested as the Americana noir and laconic back-to-basics rock n’ roll of their self-titled debut or the blistering austere adventurism of their sophomore album Play With Fire. The band—comprised of Sade Sanchez (guitar/vocals), Irita Pai (bass), and Ellie English (drums)—began as an informal affair, but the sultry and beguiling reverb-draped songs they

created caught on with the public, moving the project beyond the insular space of the band’s friends and peers in Southern California into the broader world. On their latest album, DOGGOD, the trio push their craft beyond their previous creative and geographical confines, opting to craft the material in Paris, recording the tracks at Motorbass Studio on the Rue de Martyrs. DOGGOD explores broader swaths of sonic terrain, employs a greater arsenal of tones, and probes larger existential and cosmic themes, all while retaining the band’s signature sense of the forbidden, the forsaken, and the foreboding. *Brudenell Social Club Tuesday 23rd September*

Picture Parlour are one of the UK’s most buzzed-about indie rock bands of recent years—vintage in aesthetic, cinematic in sound, and unapologetically bold in their presence. Formed in Manchester by Katherine Parlour (vocals/guitar) and Ella Risi (guitar), the band later relocated to London in 2021. They gained major attention when Courtney Love publicly endorsed them, calling them “Picture Parlour” with glowing praise on social media. Despite early accusations of being “industry plants,” Katherine clapped back: “Ella’s mom is a cleaner. My dad’s a retired factory worker”. Their sound blends classic rock with a noir-ish, theatrical edge. They are not just riding hype—they are crafting a sound that feels both timeless and fiercely current. *Brudenell Social Club Thursday 25th September*



Sleeper were one of the defining voices of the Britpop era—sharp, stylish, and unapologetically clever. Fronted by the charismatic Louise Wener, the band emerged from London in the early '90s with a sound that fused jangly guitars, biting lyrics, and a cool, sardonic edge. Their breakout came with Smart (1995), followed by the platinum-selling The It Girl, which delivered hits like “Sale of the Century” and “Statuesque.” Sleeper was not just riding the Britpop wave—they were shaping it, opening for Blur, and landing tracks on the Trainspotting soundtrack (their cover of Blondie’s “Atomic” became iconic). After disbanding in 1998, they reunited in 2017 with renewed energy, proving their wit and hooks still hit hard. Today, Sleeper stands as a reminder that pop can be smart, stylish, and subversive—all at once. *Stylus, Leeds University Union, Saturday September 27*

Songs from THE RAT PACK

SAT 18 OCTOBER 2025

City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds 7:30pm

Get Ready for an unforgettable night with The Sixteen Piece Northern Swing Orchestra at City Varieties, Leeds on Saturday 18 October 2025.

It’s all systems go for Yorkshire’s premier Big Band, The Sixteen Piece Northern Swing Orchestra, as they gear up for an electrifying performance.

Prepare yourself for an evening packed with timeless music, irresistible rhythms, and entertainment guaranteed to have you tapping your feet and singing along. With their sensational Rat Pack and Big Band Show, this will be an event to remember!

Featuring the legendary hits of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr., alongside the swingin’ classics of Count Basie, the night will transport you back to the golden age of music. Expect to hear iconic songs like “The Lady Is a Tramp”, “Me and My Shadow”, and “Ain’t That a Kick in the Head”, along with swinging instrumental numbers like “Flight of the Foo Birds”, “Splanky” and “Sweet Georgia Brown”.

With three incredible vocalists delivering smooth, powerful performances, you’ll be swept away by the charm, energy, and unforgettable tunes that defined the Rat Pack era.

Don’t miss this chance to experience a night of world-class music and nostalgia! Join us for an evening that promises to be a highlight of the year.

“We always love the Rat Pack show”, says Jonathan Wyatt the bands musical director “The band gets to have a bit of fun on stage and it’s a rare opportunity to see an authentic line up of all three Rat pack singers along with a full sized Big Band so we are bringing something quite unique to City Varieties – if you love the The Rat Pack and the sound of a Big Band then this is definitely for you”.

Songs From The Rat Pack starts at 7:30pm with seats at £30 (inc levy and booking fee).

For further details on the Northern Swing Orchestra visit their website www.northernmswingorchestra.co.uk



Live 16 Piece Big Band The Northern Swing Orchestra



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WHAT'S ON *cont'd...*

Northern Ballet's 'Merlin' Leeds Grand Theatre



■ Rachael Gillespie in Merlin. Image © Emma Kauldhar

Northern Ballet's spellbinding Merlin – an epic adventure of hope, heartache, love and magic, heads to Leeds (13 – 20 September) as part of a nationwide tour.

Breathing new life into the origin story of this legendary character, this dazzling production explores how the young and inexperienced sorcerer mastered his magic to unite a warring kingdom. The fantastical production also re-imagines the source stories of well-known female characters from Arthurian legend including the powerful enchantress, Morgan le Fae and the mystical Lady of the Lake.

A heroic tale of good versus evil, the showstopping ballet combines Northern Ballet's world class narrative storytelling with spectacular sets, special effects and skilled puppetry to create a mesmerising visual treat for all the family. Merlin is both the perfect introduction to narrative dance and a breathtaking experience for ballet-enthusiasts.

The production, which received critical-acclaim following its world premiere in 2021 and connected powerfully with audiences of all ages, is the first full-length ballet choreographed by Olivier award-winning Drew McOnie (Broadway's King Kong and Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom). Its story is a personal one, inspired by McOnie's own exploration of the notion of a 'found family' in his journey to becoming a parent. Most importantly, it's a story about how one's otherness may in fact, turn out to be their own, personal magic.

This other worldly spectacular is taken to new heights with illusions by Chris Fisher, International Illusions and Magic Associate for Harry Potter & The Cursed Child and part of the award-winning Illusions and Visual Effects design team for Stranger Things: The First Shadow, and Colin Richmond's ingenious set and vivid costume designs.

Following its opening run at Leeds Grand Theatre (13 – 20 September), Merlin will tour to Nottingham Theatre Royal (15 – 18 October); Sheffield Lyceum Theatre (4 – 8 November); and Norwich Theatre Royal (12 – 15 November). All venues will offer an audio-described performance to improve accessibility for those with visual impairments. This production will be performed to recorded music.

Tickets for Merlin are available now at;
www.northernballet.com/merlin

DogFest, in partnership with Agria Pet Insurance comes to Harewood House. The ultimate festival for dog lovers celebrates the special bond between dogs and their owners and sees dog lovers enjoy a weekend of festival fun.

First held in 2014, the event has grown into a nationwide series across seven locations. It offers a huge range of fun activities as well as expert-led talks on canine health, training and wellbeing. DogFest prioritises both education and entertainment, making it a must-attend for anyone passionate about dogs. With live music, food stalls, shopping opportunities and more, it's a fantastic day out for dogs and their families.

Each of the two-day events gives every dog and their owner a rich experience – with a huge choice of have a go activities to try with your dog, lots of free expert advice and workshops to widen your canine

The Country's Largest Festival Of History And

Heritage Open Days runs 12th – 21st of this month, offering an exciting programme with thousands of events and experiences. The free festival is brought to you by the National Trust, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery and delivered by thousands of local organisations and volunteers. Each year it brings over a million people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history.

From historic houses to factory floors, museums to music halls, churches to mandirs, and greenhouses to graveyards, a diverse array of places, spaces and community groups will offer up free events for all this Autumn.

Hundreds of organisers will embrace this year's theme, Architecture.

Outside of the theme, 2025 sees a wide range of participants, including places that usually charge for events outside of the festival, free sites putting on something extra special and many places that aren't usually open to the public.

Liam Montgomery, Heritage Open Days Marketing & Projects Manager, said, 'For many, architecture is about more than just buildings; it's really all about people, and the ways we interact with the world around us. This year's festival is a great opportunity to

delve into the rich tapestry of local stories across England. It's an open invitation to explore, learn, and be inspired by people and place'

Founded in 1994, Heritage Open Days has been making history and culture more accessible for more than 30 years. Last year over 2,350 organisers and 41,700 volunteers ran 5,427 events across the country, attracting one million visits. Around one-third of visitors had not visited a heritage site/event in the past year while 82% of festival-goers said their visit made them more proud of their local area.

Laura Chow, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said: "Heritage Open Days bring communities together in a truly unique way, shining a light on the stories, spaces and skills that shape our shared history. I'm delighted that support from players of People's Postcode Lottery helps make this vibrant celebration of culture and creativity accessible to everyone, inspiring new generations to connect with the heritage all around them."

Here we have selected a few of the places that are taking part in Leeds. There are many more to choose from, some require booking in advance, for further information and a full programme of events visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Celebrating Leeds Kirkgate Market

Unit R, 1904 Hall, Vicar Lane, Leeds City Centre, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 7HY

Friday 12th – Saturday 20th September

Pre-booking not required

See www.heritageopendays.org.uk for Timings & Tours



Leeds Kirkgate Market, with West Yorkshire Archive Service Leeds have uncovered some original architectural drawings of the Leeming brothers' vision for the 1904 Hall of the market. Designed by John and Joseph Leeming, the market's design, including the domed roof, was inspired by Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace in London.

On the day there will be a display of the architectural drawings. They will also be highlighting Points of Interest within the market and where you can locate them, which includes the location of an original Egg & Butter sign uncovered during refurbishments in 2016.

There will be colouring in for children, old archive photos of the market, and history books to view.

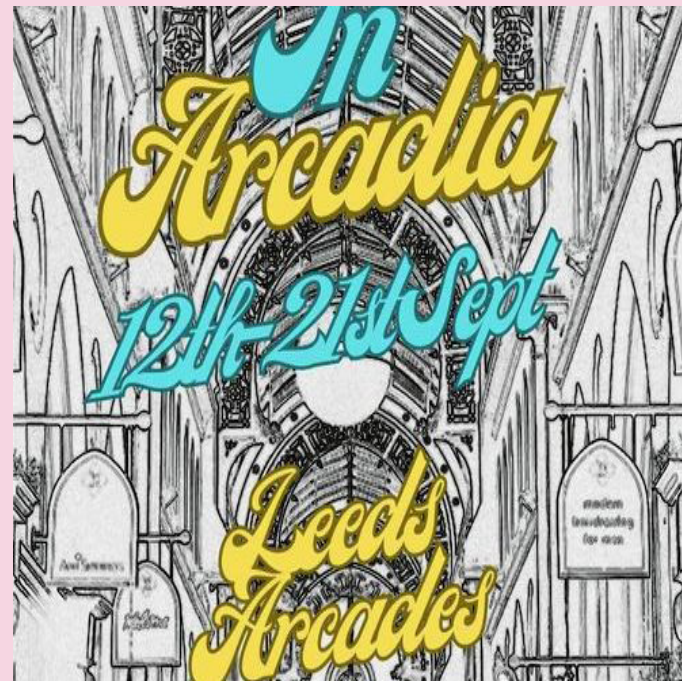
Corn Exchange - Art In Arcadia

The Sculpture Gallery, Leeds Corn Exchange, 8-9 Call Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 7BR

Friday 12th – Sunday 21st September

Pre-booking not required

See www.heritageopendays.org.uk for Timings & Tours



'Art In Arcadia' is a 10-day long art trail event showcasing local art and craft throughout the arcades of Leeds City Centre.

Free Art Trail maps will highlight where visitors can find a range of talented artists and crafters at their allocated shop venues within the historic, diverse, vibrant and culturally rich shopping arcades of Leeds City Centre.

DOGFEST - Harewood House



nd Culture - Heritage Open Days

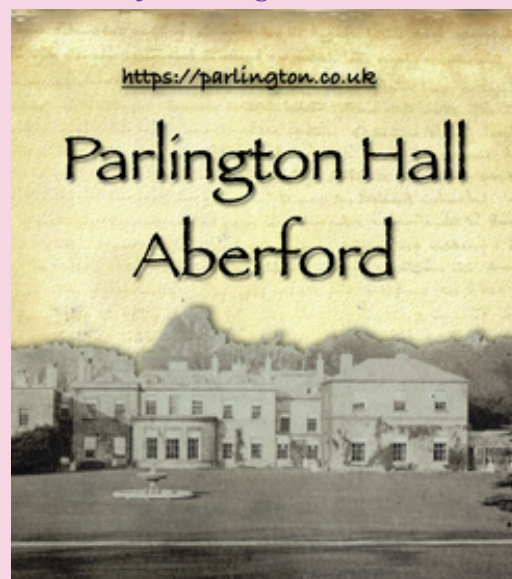
A Detective Story: The Rediscovery Of Parlington Hall

Aberford Village Hall, Main Street,
Aberford, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
LS25 3DA

Sunday 14th September

Pre-booking not required

See www.heritageopendays.org.uk
for Timings & Tours



Local historian Brian Hull will give a talk about the history of Parlington Hall - the home of the Gascoigne family from the 16th to the first decade of the 20th century.

Brian has undertaken extensive research about the Parlington Estate and will share some rare photographs as he analyses the mansion's demise in the twentieth century. Other features of note within the Estate will be considered.

Hyde Park Picture House - 'Do You Remember The Old Cinemas Of Leeds?'

73 Brudenell Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS6 1JD

Wednesday 17th September

Pre-booking preferred

A free talk from Jane Ellis looking back to the era before corporate multiplexes, when Leeds had around 100 independent picture-houses and cinemas, including the Hyde Park Picture House. Some being repurposed from what had been public halls of similar suitable buildings, many were architect designed, becoming instantly recognisable landmarks, and there was the emergence of the international Odeon chain setting the standard for impressive architecture.

In the 1960s, with the coming of television, most of these could not compete and closed. Many went over to bingo but most have either been demolished or converted to other uses.

As these fine buildings began gradually to disappear, speaker Jane Ellis began making a photographic record of what remained from the 1980s and collected the memories of local people who remembered with affection the heyday of "going to the pictures."

Tickets available from www.hpph.co.uk or box office 01132 75 20 45

Briggate Morris Dancers Central Methodist Chapel, Horsforth

Central Methodist Chapel, 106 Town
Street, Horsforth, West Yorkshire,
LS18 4AH

Monday 15th September

Pre-booking not required

See www.heritageopendays.org.uk
for Timings & Tours



Enjoy a relaxed evening of music, dance and a bit of history. Briggate Morris will dance Northwest clog to live music played on traditional instruments. Learn about the history of Northwest Morris and the Central Methodist Chapel.



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



knowledge, world-class displays from top canine athletes, as well as the brand new Makers Market which showcases artisan products from local businesses at each venue.

New features for 2025 also include the Live Stage, flyball, scent work and even a roaming circus troupe. With acrobatics, comedy and surprises at every turn, Boom Circus will keep the whole family entertained all day long.

DogFest 2025 takes place

- 13 & 14 September - Harewood House, Yorkshire
- Standard daily entry is £17.50 with free car parking included, children under 11 and dogs are free

For more information and to book tickets visit www.dogfest.co.uk

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MOTORS



Leeds Brings Together Experts At Vision Zero Conference To Advance Road Safety

The number of casualties on Leeds' roads has reduced over the last three years, according to figures announced by the council at the latest Vision Zero conference in the city.

A recent event at The Carriageworks Theatre celebrated three years of partnership road safety efforts aimed at achieving Vision Zero - eliminating deaths and serious injuries on the city's roads by 2040.

The event for partners and professionals working in road safety, showcased progress including reduced casualty rates and new initiatives, as the council prepares to launch its next three-year Vision Zero action plan.

Since the launch of the first Leeds Vision Zero strategy and action plan in 2022, the number of people killed or seriously injured has reduced from an average of 47 people per month in 2022 to 38 in 2025.

Whilst Leeds' figures are bucking regional and national trends, and are

encouraging, they remain high and are a clear reminder that there is still much more to do to achieve the Vision Zero ambition.

Partners including West Yorkshire Police, University of Leeds, Road Trace, IMPACT and the Older Drivers Forum shared best practice and updates on initiatives aimed at achieving Vision Zero. Together the council and partners reflected on their achievements since 2022 and renewed their commitment to achieving Vision Zero. Sessions explored advancements and thinking around the five pillars of Vision Zero – safe speeds; safe behaviours and people; safe roads; safe vehicles and post-collision learning and care.

Since 2022, work carried out by the council and partners to promote, educate, improve and enforce safe road travel behaviours in Leeds and on West Yorkshire's roads includes:

Delivery of 91,000 road safety sessions to young people in Leeds

Completion of several road safety schemes including on Regent Street, and significant projects to improve safety for active travel on Balm Road, the A6120 Ring Road Farsley and some junctions around the city centre

Supporting the development and delivery of workshops for new and young drivers

Supporting the delivery of an older driver pilot project

Installation of average speed cameras and new fixed speed cameras across the city

Reviewing and creating community concern mobile speed camera sites across Leeds (79 sites) and West Yorkshire (183 total) to address the concerns of residents

Implementing 20mph zones around schools and in residential areas

Developing awareness and behaviour change campaigns to engage with all road users, encouraging safer behaviour and shared responsibility.

The new action plan launching later this year will set out the city's road safety priorities for the next three years. It will renew the council's commitment to the Vision Zero strategy and call for continued bold and innovative approaches to road safety, recognising that the only acceptable number of deaths or serious injuries on our roads is zero.

Deputy Leader and Executive member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development, Councillor Jonathan Pryor, said:

"This conference marks an important milestone for Leeds as we reach the end of our first three-year Vision Zero action plan and prepare to launch the next. Over the past three years, we've worked closely with our partners to deliver initiatives such as rolling out 20mph zones around all our schools, providing vital road safety training to 40,000 children each year, and strategically installing average speed cameras across the city.

"These collective efforts are already having an impact, with deaths and serious injuries on our roads falling. But we know there is still much more to do. The new action plan will build on the progress we've made so far, continuing to focus on making our roads safer for everyone and moving us closer to our goal of eliminating deaths and serious injuries by 2040."

The plan will also emphasise that everyone who uses the roads, whether as a pedestrian, driver, cyclist or passenger, shares responsibility for making them safer for all. Show your support by signing the Vision Zero pledge at;

www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/vision-zero/vision-zero-pledge



GEM WELCOMES CHANGES TO DRIVER EYESIGHT REGULATIONS

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist welcomes the prospect of changes to current UK driver eyesight regulations. GEM has long campaigned for reforms to these rules, and has described recent proposals for compulsory eyesight tests as 'long overdue'.

However, the road safety organisation believes all drivers should be tested, not just those aged 70 or over. GEM is also urging the government to implement an ambitious, first-rate communications strategy alongside any legislative change.

GEM's head of road safety James Luckhurst said: "Regular eyesight tests would help protect all road users by identifying visual impairments that could compromise safe driving.

"For too long we have relied on self-reporting of eyesight problems, and we welcome the prospect of this welcome shift toward proactive safety enforcement. Too many people – and not just those aged 70 or over – are driving with defective eyesight that has deteriorated to a dangerous level.

"To reduce this risk, we want all licence holders to undergo a professional eye examination every two years as a matter of individual responsibility and public safety.

"We believe that reform to driver eyesight rules shows a commitment to making the roads safer for everyone and has nothing to do with unfairly targeting people because of their age, or seeking to restrict anyone's freedom. Mandatory eye tests are essential for everyone's safety.

"Let's also ensure that details of these updates reach road users who don't currently see road safety as relevant to them and bring the public on board to help change minds and behaviours which ultimately save lives. We need to ensure the communication mistakes made at the introduction of the Highway Code 'hierarchy of road users' in 2022 are not repeated."

THREE QUARTERS OF UK VAN DRIVERS SAY EVS ARE RIGHT FOR THEIR BUSINESSES



Three quarters (75%) of UK van drivers now believe that a fully electric van would be a suitable choice for their businesses, up from 67% in 2023, according to research from Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. With EV consideration on the rise among UK businesses, electric light commercial vehicle (LCV) registrations increased by more than 50% year-on-year during the year to June 2025.

The survey of 1,000 UK van drivers reveals cost effectiveness as a key factor driving EV consideration, as 62% of respondents believe that an electric van would now be cheaper to run compared with diesel or petrol alternatives.

For businesses making the switch to electric, Volkswagen's Charge Anytime offer with OVO Energy can help drivers to save up to £542 per year⁴, when smart-charging at home thanks to the low rate of 7p per kWh any time, day or night. Additionally, customers benefit from up to 2,000 free miles for their new electric vehicle with Charge Anytime, plus up to 1,000 extra free miles for the next three years, to help van drivers to keep on-the-road costs to a minimum.

While charging time (49%) and electric range (43%) continue to top

concerns about making the transition, the results show that the majority (69%) of respondents without an electric van on their fleets do expect to purchase one in 2025.

This is because, according to the survey, businesses are looking for ways to make their businesses more sustainable (52%). Also cited was the improved selection of EV options available (37%), leading to greater EV consideration.

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' enhanced line-up of all-electric vehicles is helping businesses to navigate this transition, with options designed to cater to every customer. This includes the new eTransporter panel van which delivers business-ready practicality, with the 83kWh battery variant producing up to 218PS and an all-electric range of up to 200 miles. Customers of the ID. Buzz Cargo, meanwhile, benefit from an all-electric range of up to 277 miles on the 79kWh battery variant, and up to 201 miles on the new entry-level 59kWh variant.

For more information on Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' product range, visit one of our local Van Centres, or read more at;

www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk



RAC SECOND-QUARTER POTHOLE BREAKDOWNS REACH 'UNSEASONABLE HIGH'

Pothole-related breakdowns hit an unseasonable high in the second quarter of 2025 with RAC patrols attending 9% more than they did in April to June last year, according to new data from the RAC's Pothole Index.

In total, the RAC dealt with 6,575 call-outs for damaged shock absorbers, broken suspension springs and distorted wheels – the breakdowns most likely to be caused by poor road surfaces, compared to 6,050 in the same period in 2024. Excluding the first three months of the year which are always the worst for pothole-related breakdowns, this is the highest number of quarterly pothole call-outs since the second quarter of 2023.

The findings also show it continues to be a bumpy ride for the nation's drivers with a worsening picture when looking over a longer period to smooth out the effects of weather. RAC patrols went out to 24,763 pothole breakdowns in the 12 months up to 30 June 2025 – the equivalent of 68 a day – and over 500 more than they attended in the 12 months up to the end of March this year.

Of the three main types of breakdown associated with pothole wear and tear, broken suspension springs top the list – no doubt because they are designed to absorb the impact of irregularities in the road. Between April and June 2025, RAC patrols went to 4,779 breakdowns due to broken suspension springs, up by 23% (892) on the 3,887 reported in 2024. The RAC has also seen a major

uptick in the number of motorists opting to have their broken springs repaired on their drives by the RAC's mobile servicing and repairs team instead of at a garage.

The RAC believes the number of pothole breakdowns seen between April and June are 'unseasonably high' because the weather in the first three months of 2025 was significantly colder than the same period last year. Winter conditions create more potholes due to water seeping into existing cracks in older roads that haven't been sealed with surface dressing treatment, then freezing and expanding.

Looking at the proportion of pothole-related call-outs against all RAC breakdowns, the percentage in the second quarter of 2025 is the highest in seven years at 1.2% – a jump from 1% in the second quarter of 2024.

Separate RAC data found drivers are still directly paying the price of poor road surfaces. Looking at the types of unexpected motoring repair costs, a fifth (21%) said they had to fork out for new suspension parts such as shock absorbers and springs which are most commonly damaged by potholes. This figure rises to 30% for those driving cars between three and 10 years old.

The RAC's nationwide team of mobile servicing and repairs technicians can replace broken suspension springs at drivers' homes or places of work, removing the hassle of getting to and from a garage. To book repairs with an RAC Mobile Mechanic, call 0333 070 2784 or use the myRAC app.

Biker Down! Would You Know What To Do?

If you were the first on the scene of an accident involving a biker, would you know what to do? Would you know who is most at risk, how to protect the area or whether you should remove the helmet of a downed rider?

Actions taken in the first few moments after an accident can be crucial in minimising injuries and can make a real difference to the lives of those involved. But there can be some uncertainty about what to do in these situations.

Biker Down is a free training course run by bikers for bikers, designed to answer these uncertainties. The course uses the expertise of the emergency services and Road Safety Officers to prepare motorcyclists should the

worst happen on the roads.

This is a FREE three hour course that covers the following topics:

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Yorkshire And Humber's 'Popular' Dog Is Revealed In The UK's Biggest Dog Survey

Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Leeds, has revealed that dog owners dedicate more than two hours a day to their dogs, Dachshunds are on the up, and if you have a Labrador named Luna or Alfie, you may not be as creative as you think... The results from Dogs Trust's 2025 National Dog Survey are in!

Hot off the press data from the UK's largest dog poll, Dogs Trust's National Dog Survey, reveals that Labradors named Luna or Alfie are the most 'popular' dog in Yorkshire and the Humber, while Labradors named Poppy and Teddy are the most average dogs in the UK.

The survey, sponsored by People's Postcode Lottery, confirms what many already suspected, Labradors are once again the UK's most popular specific dog breed. Nationally, they account for 13.5% of all pure-breed dogs, while in this region, 8% of all dogs are Labradors. Luna and Alfie take the top spots for the most common names in the region, closely followed by Poppy, Bella, Milo and Teddy.

Every dog is unique, and this year, Dogs Trust has launched an online

quiz alongside the results of the National Dog Survey, inviting owners to celebrate their pet's individuality. By entering your dog's name, breed, and location, owners can discover how their pets compare and just how unique they are. To try the quiz, visit: www.dogstrust.org.uk/ndsquiz

Dachshunds On The Rise, Frenchies On The Decline

With a surge in popularity, the survey also shared that Dachshunds have entered the top 10 most popular dog breeds among puppies under one year old for the first time. While French Bulldogs, who are currently 15th among puppies under one year old, now appear to be declining in numbers, either as a result of fewer puppies since the pandemic puppy boom, or growing awareness around the health issues linked to flat-faced (brachycephalic) breeds.

The UK Loves A Crossbreed!

It isn't just the purebred dogs getting the love. The UK's dog owners are still huge crossbreed lovers, with 42% of dogs in the UK a type of crossbreed

- a dog whose parents are two different breeds. While 'marvellous mixes' (dogs with unknown ancestry) make up a significant portion of mixed-breed pets, among the identifiable crosses, Cockapoos (Cocker Spaniel x Poodle), Cavapoos (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x Poodle), Labradoodles (Labrador x Poodle), and Lurchers (a Greyhound, Whippet or Saluki crossed with another breed of dog such as a Collie or Terrier) take the top four spots.

Two Hours And 14 Minutes – The Time Dedicated To Our Dogs Each Day

In Yorkshire and the Humber, dog owners spend an average of two hours and 14 minutes each day caring for their pets, just over the national average. The Dogs Trust's biggest dog survey also revealed that across the UK, prospective dog owners should expect to dedicate around two hours and 12 minutes daily to dog-related activities such as walks, grooming, and feeding. Nationally, the bulk of this time is spent walking (67 minutes), followed by feeding and enrichment (41 minutes), with an additional 24 minutes typically spent running errands with their dog.

While the idea of the 'Dog of the Nation' might raise a smile, the National Dog Survey plays an important role in helping Dogs Trust, the nation's largest dog welfare charity, shape its services to reflect the needs of dog owners in the UK. In 2022, Dogs Trust responded to its National Dog Survey results by launching the Behaviour Support Line, offering free guidance and expert advice, as a result of the insights showing that dog owners were struggling with their dog's behaviour.

Chief Executive of Dogs Trust, Owen Sharp, said: "With thousands of responses, the National Dog Survey paints a picture of the nation's ever-changing relationship with its canine companions.

"But the National Dog survey is more than just a snapshot of our favourite breeds and names. It is a vital tool to help us understand the impact of dogs, the challenges, and the joy of dog ownership. Whether you are one of the 94% of people who treat your dog as a member of your family, or you have a Labrador named Teddy, every dog deserves a loving home and the right support. The results of the National Dog Survey will help Dogs Trust to continue to tailor our services to meet and support the real needs of dog owners and ensure that every dog has the best chance at finding their forever home."

The National Dog Survey is generously sponsored by People's Postcode Lottery; since 2013, support from its players has raised over £26 million for Dogs Trust, improving the lives of over 100,000 dogs.

Dogs Trust Appeals For More Foster Homes Across Yorkshire Amid Soaring Demand For Domestic Abuse Service

Dogs Trust is urgently appealing for more volunteer fosterers across Yorkshire to support people fleeing domestic abuse by caring for their dogs. This follows new data showing that referrals to its specialist domestic abuse pet fostering service have doubled in the last five years.

Freedom is a service provided by Dogs Trust which offers temporary foster care for dogs, giving owners the ability to find freedom from domestic abuse without the heartache or risk of leaving their pet behind. It was established in response to growing evidence of the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse, alongside the lack of pet-friendly accommodation. Fosterers play a critical role, providing safe and loving homes for dogs until they can be reunited with their families.

Dogs Trust is now calling for more people to volunteer as foster carers across Yorkshire as demand for the service continues to grow. Data from the National Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that the prevalence of domestic abuse continues to remain high, and almost 8% of people aged 16 years and over - around 3.8million people - had experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2025.

Volunteer foster carers receive full support from Dogs Trust's experienced Freedom team, including all necessary pet supplies and veterinary care. Regular updates are sent to the dog's owner, helping them stay connected with their pet while they are apart. Confidentiality is maintained at all times - no personal information is shared between foster carers and pet owners.

Crucially, there is no cost to the foster carer. All expenses are covered by Freedom making fostering an accessible and rewarding way to support people and their pets in times of crisis. To find out more, or to sign up to become a fosterer, visit www.dogstrustfreedom.org.uk.

The need for such services is underscored by Dogs Trust research, which found that pets are often used by perpetrators of domestic abuse as a means to control and coerce. In some cases, animals have been physically harmed or killed. In a survey of professionals supporting survivors of domestic abuse, 97% reported that animals were commonly used to exert control over those they abuse.

After enduring over two years of abuse, Yvonne (name changed) made the difficult decision to leave her home for the second time; this time for good. Her greatest concern throughout was for her beloved dog, Henry, who had been a source of emotional comfort and protection throughout her experience. Initially unable to bring Henry with her to the refuge, she was referred to the Dogs Trust's Yorkshire based Freedom team which offered a lifeline.

With support from her refuge worker, the referral process was simple and fast. Henry was placed in foster care through Freedom, where Yvonne received regular updates and photos, bringing her reassurance and emotional support during a traumatic time. From health check-ups to grooming, every detail of Henry's care was handled with compassion.

The experience brought such peace of mind that Yvonne has since included a legacy donation to Dogs Trust in her will. She expressed deep gratitude to the foster carers and highlighted how vital the Freedom Project is for women facing domestic abuse:

"I put up with abuse for over two years because I couldn't leave my dog, Henry, behind. Freedom gave me the lifeline I needed, and knowing he was safe meant I could finally escape. If I'd known about it sooner, I would've left sooner, and Henry wouldn't have had to suffer either."

Laura Saunders, Freedom Manager at Dogs Trust, said:

"Sadly, too often we see cases where perpetrators of domestic abuse have used dogs as tools of coercion and control, often threatening or harming them to exert power. This creates a devastating barrier for people trying to escape - many delay leaving purely out of fear for their pet's safety.

"Through Freedom, and with collaboration between other UK pet fostering services, we provide a vital lifeline, giving survivors the chance to reach safety while knowing their pet is in a loving, secure foster home.

"Right now, demand for our service is higher than ever. We urgently need more volunteer foster carers to step forward. Offering a temporary home not only protects a dog from harm - it helps transform a survivor's life at a time when they need support the most."

To find out more about Freedom, or to sign up to become a foster carer for the project, visit www.dogstrustfreedom.org.uk



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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.

Ken



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/retriever-labrador/3591669

Ken is a super friendly and easy-going Labrador. Having arrived at Dogs Trust as a stray, the team don't have much background information on him – but from spending time with him, have discovered how affectionate he is. Ken absolutely loves people, and it doesn't take long to build a bond with him once you've given him a treat or two!

Ken likes other dogs too and would happily have walking buddies and could even live with another similar natured pooch. Ken is an older boy and is looking for a retirement home where he can settle in at his own pace. Ken has some arthritis, so he prefers shorter walks, but is still active and travels well so is happy to go further afield for his adventures.

Ragnor



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/german-shepherd-dog/3004888

If you're looking for a super fun, smart and snuggly Shepherd, you're going to LOVE Ragnor! He's four-years-old, full of life and full of potential. He is very friendly with people and the more he gets to know you the more affectionate he gets.

Ragnor is looking for an active home with owners who are happy to have a big bouncy pooch in the home. Ragnor is getting more confident socialising with other dogs, and has become more comfortable when wearing a muzzle. However, when it comes to a forever home, he would like to be the only pet.

Bobby



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/belgian-shepherd-dog-malinois/3463434

Bobby is playful, affectionate and intelligent one-year-old Belgian Malinois Cross, who is looking for a quiet, loving forever home! Bobby is lacking in confidence, so needs patient, understanding adopters who will help him settle in at his own pace, and slowly show him the ropes.

He can be a little shy meeting new people but comes around quickly and loves having a cuddle. Bobby also loves going for calm, relaxing walks, and is looking for a home near to some fun places to explore, as he doesn't like travelling in the car. Bobby is a curious little boy, who in the right home, will become a wonderful addition to the household.

Val



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/belgian-shepherd-dog-malinois/3443047

At just three-years-old, Val the Belgian Malinois has already had a bit of a bumpy start in life, which means she can be shy around new people. But once she's had a little time to settle, her loving nature shines through, and she is a real cuddle bug at heart! Val is full of energy and adores chasing after her toys, especially in a secure garden where she can play off-lead.

Val is looking for an adult only home with adopters who will continue with her training. She loves her outdoors adventures and will need her family to be very active and up for plenty of walks. Val is still learning how to interact with other dogs, so would like to be the only animal in the home.

Teddy



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/spaniel-cocker/3549301

Teddy is an eight-year-old Cockerpool who loves her human friends and loves a fuss but preferably when it's on her own terms. Teddy loves people but can be a little conflicted with her handling so needs patient, adult owners who are happy to give her the time and space she needs to feel comfortable. She is a playful pooch with lots of character and is a clever little lady too who is learning lots of new tricks to help her feel more comfortable.

Teddy likes a quiet, peaceful and predictable life so is looking for an adult only home where she can be the only pet.

Evie



www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/dogs/bolognese/3595240

Evie is a friendly eight-year-old Bolognese, who is looking for a calm and patient forever home where she can settle in at her own pace and come out of her shell in her own time. Evie can be a bit cautious of new people, and getting to know her takes a bit of time, but once you are in her gang, you'll be there for life.

Once you've become one of her trusted friends, Evie becomes a lot more tactile and is happy to potter around with you. Evie would be happy to live with older teenagers who are happy to give her the space she needs at the start, but would like to be the only pet in the house.



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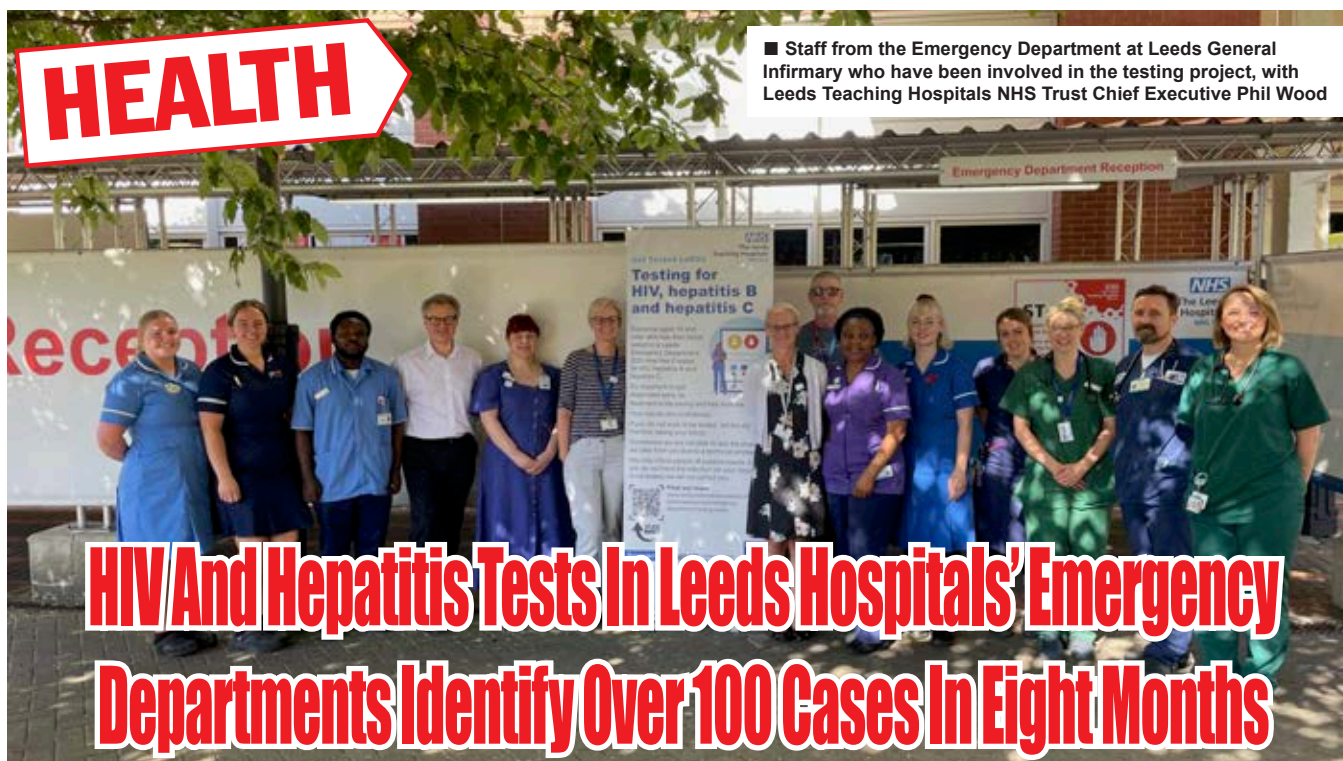
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More than 35,000 patients have been tested for HIV and hepatitis B and C in the first eight months of a new project in Leeds hospitals.

The tests have led to 11 new cases of HIV being diagnosed, with seven more identified who were not receiving treatment, and the diagnosis of 101 new or active cases of hepatitis B or C – meaning these patients can now receive life-saving treatment.

Since the project began in late 2024, patients who attend the Emergency Departments at Leeds General Infirmary and St James's University Hospital and receive routine blood tests are likely to be tested for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, regardless of symptoms, unless they opt out.

Dr Emma Page, Consultant in Virology at Leeds Teaching

Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "Offering routine HIV and hepatitis tests in our Emergency Departments can make a huge difference to patients – it can save lives and give people access to the latest and most effective treatments.

"We're all at risk of blood borne viruses and the only way we can know whether we have them or not is by having a test. We'll often feel very well with them until we've had the infection for many years.

"This is such a good opportunity to be able to diagnose those individuals who have these infections and don't realise they do, because we can offer them life-saving treatment. There are tablets that people can take to control the infection and prevent them from getting unwell, or tablets that can actually cure some of these infections. So we're really excited that these tests are happening in

our Emergency Departments at the moment."

Dr Sarah Schoeman, Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) Consultant at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "If people are identified as having HIV or hepatitis, there is a very clear, and safe and quick pathway for you to be referred either into the HIV service or hepatitis services, to access care, treatment, support, advice.

"This will ensure that you have all the information you need, to be able to keep yourself healthy going forward, and also eliminate any chance of you passing on any infection to partners as well. Knowing your status means that you have all the options available to you to be able to access excellent treatment and a lot of support as well."

Anyone aged 16 and over who has blood tests taken as part of their emergency care at Leeds General Infirmary or St James's University Hospital is likely to be tested for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C unless they opt out and decline. Anyone who tests positive will be contacted within two weeks – no news is good news.

Karina Veitch, Blood Borne Virus Nurse at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, said: "We have had some positive HIV and hepatitis patients who are in their 60s, 70s, and 80s, which just shows what an important piece of work this is, because these patients probably never would have got themselves tested otherwise."

The national scheme is being rolled out in hospitals across the country, to offer treatment for thousands of people in England who are thought to be living with an undiagnosed blood borne virus.

HIV treatments can suppress the virus, allowing people to live a normal life and prevent infection from being passed on. Hepatitis C can potentially be cured, and treatments for hepatitis B and C can reduce the risk of developing serious illness or complications, such as liver cirrhosis and cancer.

Posters are available in the Emergency Departments at St James's Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary, informing patients about the testing, and information is available in a range of formats and languages.

The scheme supports the UK Action Plan to end all new HIV cases by 2030 through earlier identification and detection and the NHS England programme to eliminate Hep C by 2025. Leeds is also a 'Fast-Track City' – part of a global initiative to end the HIV, TB and viral hepatitis epidemics by 2030.

People Need Support To Keep Weight Off After Treatment Ends, NICE says

People coming off obesity medication or finishing a weight management programme should be offered support to help keep the weight off and stay healthy long-term, according to new guidance from NICE.

In an updated quality standard published recently, NICE is calling on healthcare services to offer structured advice and follow-up support for people after they complete weight management treatment.

Research shows that many people regain weight after stopping treatment if they don't get the right help. This can negatively affect both their physical and mental health.

To close this gap, the new standard sets out clear expectations for healthcare providers. These include offering ongoing advice and tailored action plans - covering everything from regular check-ins and practical strategies to support with sustainable routines, social support and accessing community help.

This guidance comes as new weight loss drugs like semaglutide (Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro) are available to those with the greatest need on the NHS. Around 240,000 people are expected to be offered tirzepatide over the next three years.

Professor Jonathan Benger, deputy chief executive and chief medical officer at NICE, said: "Successful weight management doesn't end when medication stops or when someone completes a behavioural programme.

"We know that the transition period after treatment is crucial, and people need structured support to maintain the positive changes they've made.

"This new standard makes sure services provide that vital continuity of care, and it supports the NHS 10 Year Plan to shift from a 'sickness service' to a genuine health service focused on prevention."

Under the new guidance, healthcare teams should monitor people for at least a year after they complete treatment and offer extra support if needed. This could include practical advice from programmes like NHS Better Health on changing daily habits or making adjustments at home or work to avoid slipping back.

Dr Rebecca Payne, Chair of NICE's Quality Standards Advisory Committee, said: "Weight management is a long-term journey, not a short-term fix. The evidence is clear that advice and support for maintaining weight after stopping medicines or completing behavioural interventions can help prevent weight regain and enable people to experience lasting benefits.

"We've seen excellent examples of services that already provide comprehensive discharge planning and ongoing support. This quality standard will help ensure all healthcare providers adopt these best practices, giving every person the best chance of maintaining their weight management success over the long term.

"This standard ensures healthcare services are equipped to provide that essential ongoing support."

The updated standard replaces three previous standards and reflects the most up-to-date thinking on how to tackle overweight and obesity through the health system.

As well as emphasising continuity of care, the quality standard highlights the importance of helping people build long-term behavioural habits, use self-monitoring tools, and draw on wider support - from online communities to family-led interventions and local activities.

The scale of the challenge is clear. In England, 29% of adults are living with obesity, and 64% are classified as overweight or obese. Obesity is known to increase the risk of a number of serious conditions including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, some cancers and musculoskeletal problems - with rising prevalence placing growing pressure on the NHS and the wider economy.

Estimates suggest obesity costs the NHS £11.4 billion a year, with a wider economic impact of £74.3 billion due to lost productivity, unemployment and increased demand for social care.

Healthcare providers and commissioners are expected to begin rolling out the standard immediately. Resource impact guidance is available to help services embed the changes locally.

The full quality standard is available on the NICE website and provides detailed implementation advice for services across England and Wales.

New Immunotherapy Combination For Endometrial Cancer

Around 2,100 people with advanced womb cancer could benefit from a new treatment option following NICE's recommendation of pembrolizumab (also known as Keytruda, by Merck Sharp & Dohme) in final draft guidance.

This is the first time immunotherapy has been combined with chemotherapy as a first-line treatment for this type of cancer, for the whole group of patients. It will be available for people with primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer.

Endometrial cancer is the most common gynaecological cancer in the UK, with around 9,700 people diagnosed each year. Advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer can have a major impact on life expectancy and quality of life. Only 15% of people diagnosed with stage 4 endometrial cancer survive for 5 years or more, highlighting the urgent need for more effective treatments.

Pembrolizumab is given in a drip alongside chemotherapy drugs carboplatin and paclitaxel. It helps the immune system recognise and attack cancer cells. Chemotherapy damages cancer cells to stop them growing and dividing. By combining both, the treatment uses the body's immune system alongside chemotherapy to improve outcomes.

Clinical trials show that adding pembrolizumab to chemotherapy reduces the risk of death by 26% compared with chemotherapy alone. Clinical trials also show that adding pembrolizumab to chemotherapy can slow down cancer progression. Treatment is stopped after 2 years, or earlier if the cancer gets worse or side-effects become too difficult.

Helen Knight, Director of Medicines Evaluation at NICE, said: "For people with advanced endometrial cancer, this innovative combination offers a powerful new treatment option. It marks a major step forward, and we're pleased to recommend it as part of our commitment to getting the best care to people, fast, while ensuring value for the taxpayer"

The treatment will be available immediately through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Crackdown On Unsafe Cosmetic Procedures To Protect The Public

Tough new measures to crack down on cowboy cosmetic procedures that have left people maimed, injured and in need of urgent NHS care will be introduced by the government.

Only qualified healthcare professionals will be able to perform the highest-risk procedures - such as non-surgical Brazilian butt lifts.

These must be done by specialised healthcare workers working in providers that are registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The planned crackdown follows a series of incidents where people have had high-risk treatments from people with little or no medical training, leading to dangerous complications, permanent scarring and even death. These new rules will protect people from unqualified, rogue operators and reduce the cost to the NHS of fixing botched procedures.

The new measures follow growing alarm over unqualified individuals performing invasive treatments in unsafe environments - including homes, hotels and pop-up clinics. Many of these procedures are marketed as non-surgical but, in reality, are invasive and carry serious risks.

Minister of State for Health, Karin Smyth, said:

"The cosmetics industry has been plagued by a Wild West of dodgy practitioners and procedures. There are countless horror stories of cosmetic cowboys causing serious, catastrophic damage.

"This government is taking action to protect those seeking treatments, support honest and competent practitioners, and root out the cowboys as part of our Plan for Change.

"This isn't about stopping anyone from getting treatments - it's about preventing rogue operators from exploiting people at the expense of their safety and keeping people safe. We're giving them peace of mind and reducing the cost to the NHS of fixing botched procedures."

Other lower-risk cosmetic treatments - including Botox, lip fillers and facial dermal fillers - will also come under stricter oversight through a new local authority licensing system. Practitioners will be required to meet rigorous safety, training, and insurance standards before they can legally operate. Once regulations are introduced, practitioners who break the rules on the highest-risk procedures will be subject to CQC enforcement and financial penalties.

The government also plans to bring in restrictions for under 18s on high-risk cosmetic procedures, unless authorised by a healthcare professional.

Through the Plan for Change the government is determined to bolster patient safety. These changes will ensure consumers can be confident the treatment they receive is safe and of a high standard. It will also provide business with better protections, enabling reputable and safe providers to be easily identifiable to patients.

Priority will be given to introducing regulations to restrict the highest-risk procedures first - such as fillers injected into breasts and genitals. A public consultation will be published early next year. This will seek views on the range of procedures which should be covered in the new restrictions.

While the measures are being developed, the government urges anyone considering a cosmetic procedure to check their provider's qualifications and insurance, and to avoid treatments that appear suspiciously cheap.

Millie Kendall OBE, Chief Executive Officer at the British Beauty Council, said:

"The British Beauty Council has worked tirelessly in pushing for increased regulation of the aesthetics sector since its inception. I therefore fully welcome the government's announcement that it is pushing forward with legislation.

"Any measures that increase protection for the general public and professionalise the industry will help instil confidence as well as helping to prevent the normalisation of horror stories that have become synonymous with our sector.

"We will work closely with relevant government stakeholders to ensure these measures are implemented in a way that ensures the sustained, and safe, growth of our sector. This is the first step forward in raising the reputation of our £30.4 billion industry."

Suicide Prevention Campaign Gets Star-Powered Support In Leeds



■ Stars from TV and sport in Leeds are backing a campaign calling for more people to sign up as 'Suicide Prevention Champions'. Pictured, from left: Leeds Rhinos captain Cameron Smith, Actress and TV presenter Lisa Riley, LUFC player Brenden Aaronson

Stars from TV and sport in Leeds have given their celebrity backing to a campaign calling for more people across the city to sign up as 'Suicide Prevention Champions'.

Actors from the cast of Leeds-based ITV soap Emmerdale appear in a new film alongside Leeds United player Brenden Aaronson and Leeds Rhinos captain Cameron Smith to rally people across Leeds and beyond to work together and prevent suicide.

The film, compiled by Leeds City Council's public health team, encourages people to sign up as West Yorkshire Suicide Prevention Champions, to reduce stigma, share messages of hope and connect those in need to potentially life-saving support and resources.

Anyone can sign up as a champion - by watching a 20-minute video, completing an online form and making a pledge, big or small, about how they plan to promote suicide prevention at home, in the community, at work or online.

Champions can then download a digital badge, an information pack and access an array of campaign resources to help spread the word.

In the film, the city's stars share the pledges they've made as Suicide Prevention Champions and urge others to join the cause.

Actress and TV presenter Lisa Riley, who opens the film, says: "Suicide is more common in West Yorkshire than the rest of England. Nationally it is our biggest killer of men and women aged between 20 and 34. We believe that every suicide is preventable and have a zero-suicide vision for West Yorkshire.

"We can work to change things.

"We are urging everyone in West Yorkshire to sign up to become a Suicide Prevention Champion by learning more about suicide, helping to challenge stigma and encouraging action.

"Together we can bring down the suicide rate."

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, also features in the film and said her pledge is to reach out to her friends and "make sure if someone's gone quiet on WhatsApp, I'll call them, not just text".

The Suicide Prevention Champions campaign was initially launched in 2022 by West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, of which Leeds City Council is a member, and is hosted online at www.suicidepreventionwestyorkshire.co.uk/becomeachampion.

The website also offers information on a range of suicide prevention support and resources available across West Yorkshire.

In Leeds, the suicide rate remains higher than the England average, with the latest data by the Office for National Statistics showing the city's three-year average suicide rate in 2021-2023 was 11.6 per 100,000 people - compared to England's rate of 10.7.

The Leeds Strategic Suicide Prevention Group has set a target of

recruiting at least 194 Suicide Prevention Champions in the city - one for every Leeds resident who died by suicide between 2019 and 2021, according to Leeds City Council's most recent suicide audit.

Reducing suicide and the stigma around it is priority among partners across the city, as part of work to make Leeds a mentally healthy city - a key objective in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2030.

Leeds City Council also commissions the Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service, for anyone affected or bereaved by suicide.

The issue will also be highlighted on a city-wide scale this month, when the national Baton of Hope suicide prevention tour comes to Leeds on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10).

The city is one of 20 locations for the tour, which will see people affected or bereaved by suicide carry a symbolic baton to spread the message of hope and challenge stigma around suicide.

Councillor Fiona Venner, Leeds City Council's executive member for equality, health and wellbeing, said: "Preventing suicide is a key priority of our public health work and it's great to see so much happening in the city to break the stigma and amplify awareness of the wide range of support that's available to anyone who needs it.

"Having such star-powered backing to the Suicide Prevention Champions campaign is incredible and we hope everyone watching this new film feels inspired to join the cause."

Victoria Eaton, Leeds City Council's director of public health, added: "Anyone can be a Suicide Prevention Champion - each and every one of us can play our part in bringing the city's suicide rate down.

"Knowing the signs of when someone might need help and how to have those vital conversations about suicide are skills we can all develop and I would urge everyone to consider signing up to find out more. You might just save a life."

Cam Smith, Leeds Rhinos captain, said: "We are proud to support this important campaign and raise awareness around the services in the city and reduce the stigma around mental health.

"Our charity Leeds Rhinos Foundation run courses that focus on mental fitness and these have had a huge impact on the people who have attended and highlight the importance of talking to others.

"It is great to see people across the city coming together to get behind this campaign and hopefully it will improve the lives of those effected by mental health challenges and save lives."

To find out more and sign up as a Suicide Prevention Champion, visit www.suicidepreventionwestyorkshire.co.uk/becomeachampion.

The film is hosted on Leeds City Council's YouTube page at: <https://youtu.be/nc3r0TxQnLA?si=A3ImfBJ1O-j0QPrG>



ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY'S MEMORY WALK TEMPLE NEWSAM 12TH OCTOBER

People across Yorkshire and Humber are invited to join the Leeds Memory Walk. The walk is free to register and starts at 11am, with two routes to choose from - a shorter one and a longer one. Money raised helps to fund Alzheimer's Society's vital dementia support and research.

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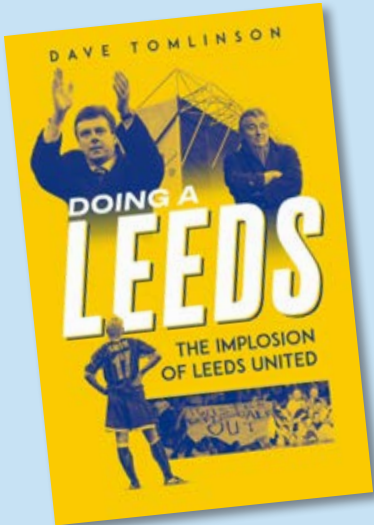
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Great Book Out For
Leeds United Fans

Doing a Leeds charts the roller-coaster ride of Leeds United over two dramatic decades in 1996-2005, exploring how the Whites went from living the Champions League dream to bankruptcy, relegation and a fire sale within four years.



Under chairman Peter Ridsdale, Leeds seemed to be on the brink of glory, but then the nightmare began. The Bowyer-Woodgate trial and financial collapse were followed by a player fire sale. Then came another sale and relegation.

This revelatory book provides a no-holds-barred analysis of what went wrong, including the personal ambitions and misjudgements that took the club off course to make this a cautionary tale of how not to run a business.

Dave Tomlinson brings us the fans’ perspective, revealing how their trust was abused and their hopes and dreams crushed in a story of controversies, legal disputes, faux white knights, and false dawns. So, strap in and get ready for the ride!

Read and you will discover:

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- How unchecked egos and boardroom delusion brought a Premier League giant to its knees
- The dismantling of a golden generation – why a glittering squad was sold for scraps in a desperate fire sale
- From boom to bust – how Leeds became the ultimate cautionary tale in football finance
- How corporate ambition, poor governance, and herd mentality ripped apart a once-proud football institution
- False dawns, courtroom drama and ‘white knight’ owners who weren’t what they seemed
- The unbreakable spirit of Leeds fans – and how their loyalty endured one of football’s darkest sagas

About The Author

Dave Tomlinson has written ten books about Leeds United including Leeds United: A History, Dirty Leeds: Don Revie & The Art of War, Leeds United in the 21st Century, Leeds United in the 1980s and 1990s and The Man With the Plan: Howard Wilkinson's Leeds United. A lifelong supporter of the club, he has developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Whites and their history over five decades of fandom. He is the webmaster behind mightyleeds.co.uk.

Doing A Leeds: The Implosion of Leeds United
Available from www.pitchpublishing.co.uk and Amazon
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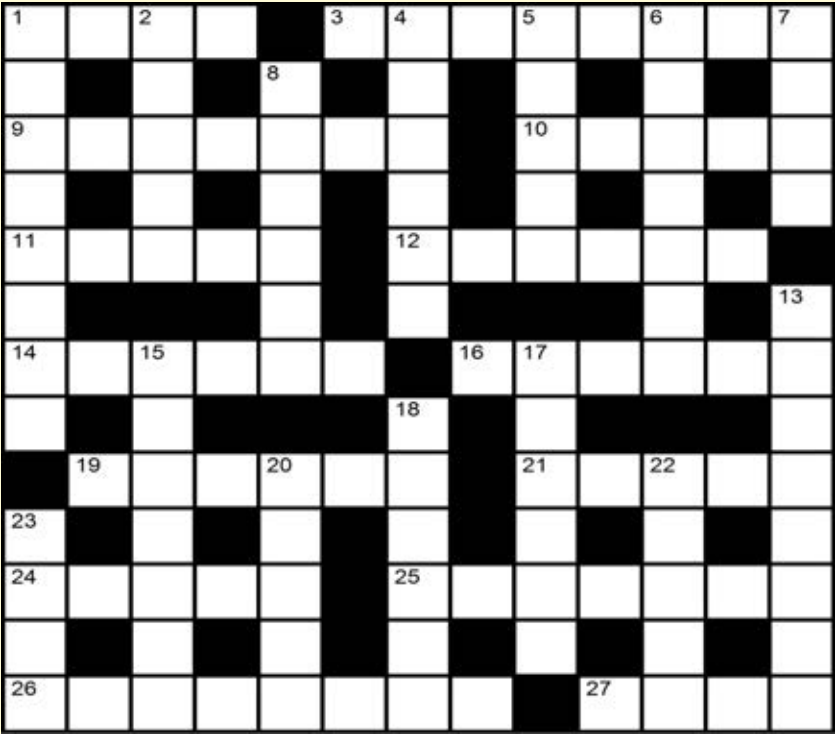
QUIZTIME

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

- 1 Outer covering
- 3 Previously popular people (3,5)
- 9 Violent
- 10 Piece of cake
- 11 Desire
- 12 Floor
- 14 Dyaks short knife
- 16 Fight
- 19 Abandon
- 21 Investment
- 24 Similar
- 25 Vermouth drink
- 26 Quoin
- 27 50's dance

Down

- 1 Printed version (4,4)
- 2 Brazilian dance
- 4 Monet, e.g.
- 5 Operatic bass singer
- 6 Distinguished
- 7 Tallow source
- 8 Collapse (4,2)
- 13 Church living
- 15 Actuality
- 17 Laughable
- 18 Sycophant
- 20 Highly skilled
- 22 Excuse
- 23 Knav

HOW MUCH
INFO
HAVE YOU
RETAINED?

Can you answer these questions about articles in this edition?

1 - How many visitors did West Yorkshire welcome in 2024?

2 - Heritage Open Days runs 12th - 21st of this month, when was it founded?

3 - Since 2013, how much has been raised for Dogs Trust through the People's Postcode Lottery?

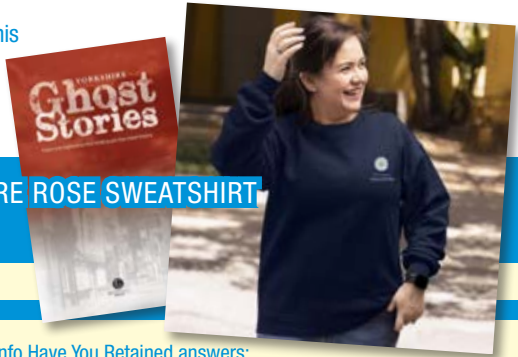
WIN A YORKSHIRE GHOST STORIES BOOK & YORKSHIRE ROSE SWEATSHIRT FROM THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOP - P27

August edition answers



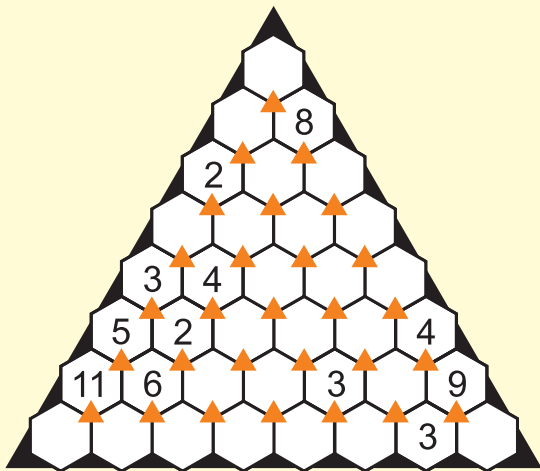
How Much Info Have You Retained answers;

- 1. Amazon
- 2. 35%
- 3. 4141



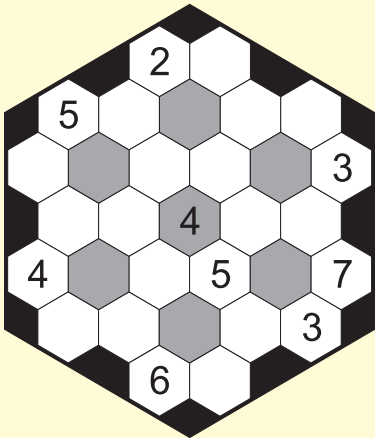
Subaddo 3D

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



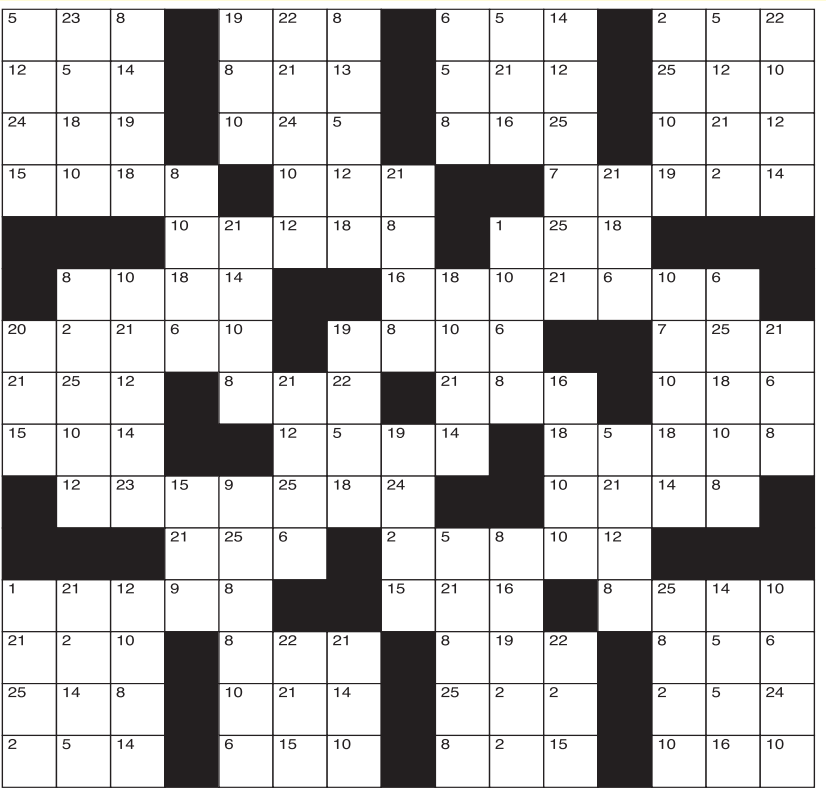
Rosetta

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



Clueless Crossword

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



SOLUTION GRID

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

GIVEAWAYS

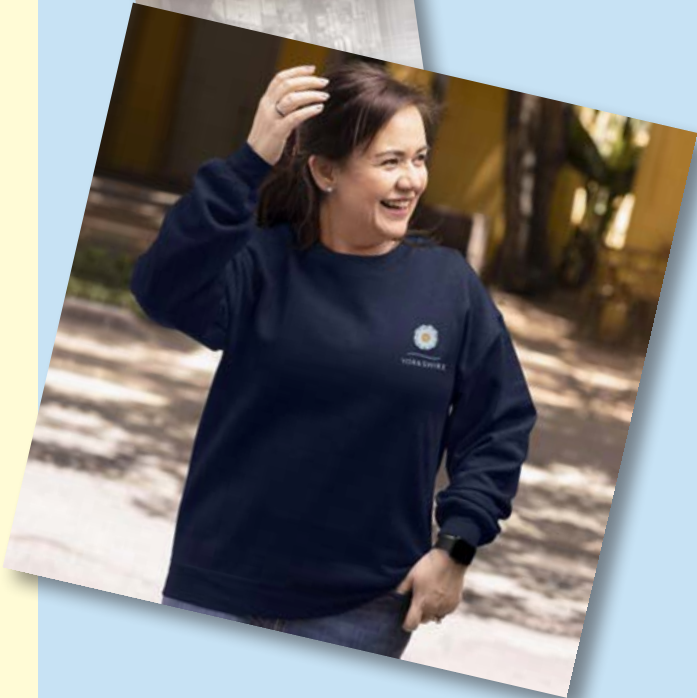
#15 = Y	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
#21 = A	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
#8 = S	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
	V	W	X	Y	Z		

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To enter go to page 26 and answer the 'How much info have you retained' questions then;

Simply send your answers, along with your contact details including tel number to competitions@yorkshirereporter.co.uk

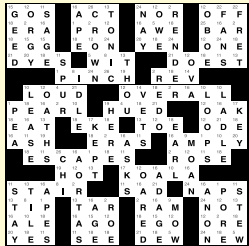
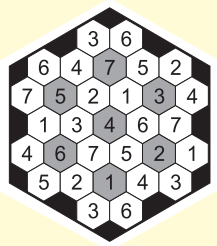
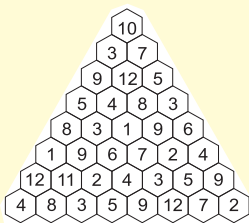
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August edition answers



AUGUST EDITION COMPETITION WINNERS

The Great Yorkshire Shop - Wendy Astin

Leeds Utd book - Ian Fox

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show tickets - Clare Johnson

Congratulations!



Monthly Horoscopes

By Russell Grant

ARIES March 21st - April 20th

September asks you to pause, reflect, and refine. You're brimming with passion and plans, but the universe nudges you to focus on what's actually sustainable. An odd announcement early on may rattle your trust, especially in love or work. But instead of charging ahead, listen more deeply—to others and your own heart. Mid-month offers a test of patience, especially with family interference or workplace shake-ups. Yet your growing self-awareness helps you see what matters most. By month's end, heartfelt conversations and honesty pave the way forward. Set clearer intentions, especially in relationships. You're laying the bricks for stronger bonds—make sure they're solid and mutual.

TAURUS April 21st - May 21st

Balance is your buzzword this September. Life keeps tugging you between the desire to go slow and others pushing for decisions. Early upsets may throw your schedule off, but trust your sense of order—it will guide you home. Mid-month brings clarity around wellness and work. A lingering insecurity is replaced with a calm inner knowing. Relationships deepen through quiet gestures, and you'll feel a welcome shift when someone truly listens. Late in the month, love intensifies, and your natural patience wins the day. Stay true to your pace, and don't let drama derail you. You're quietly transforming from the ground up—beautifully and steadily.

GEMINI May 22nd - June 21st

September brings a tug-of-war between fun and focus. Distractions dart everywhere, yet your deeper dreams won't be ignored. Early in the month, confusion at work or home clouds your vision. Stay centred—truth surfaces if you let the noise settle. Midway through, your communication skills shine as you navigate tension with grace. Be careful what you commit to. The real magic lies in projects that blend purpose with creativity. Romantic sparks fly when humour meets heart, but don't rush emotional decisions. By month's end, your clarity sharpens. Stick with what nourishes your spirit. Your playful side is your strength—channel it wisely.

CANCER June 22nd - July 23rd

This month encourages you to retreat into stillness so your voice can rise with clarity. Family demands and emotional shifts may stir things early on. Boundaries become essential as you realise how much energy you give away. Conversations grow tense mid-month, especially when old hurts resurface. Yet through vulnerability comes healing. By standing your ground compassionately, you'll deepen your bonds rather than disrupt them. A home decision brings closure or fresh beginnings. Prioritise what brings emotional balance. You're learning that your feelings are not a weakness—they're your guide. Let gentleness lead the way as you make space for the life you truly want.

LEO July 24th - August 23rd

September is a dance between drama and diplomacy. Early upsets—financial or emotional—force you to think twice about who you trust and what you give. It's not betrayal, but it is a reality check. Your voice matters now more than ever, especially when silence seems easier. Mid-month brings a spotlight on miscommunication. Someone's twisting the truth, and you won't stand for it. Still, your charm and leadership can cool tempers. Later, home life requires your steady hand—whether fixing what's broken or restoring harmony. By month's end, heartfelt talks reshape key relationships. Speak with honesty, act with intention, and lead with grace.

VIRGO August 24th - Sept 23rd

Your instincts are sharp this month, Virgo—but not everyone will see what you see. Early confusion in partnerships or plans has you second-guessing. But as the dust settles, you'll know exactly what needs adjusting. Don't be afraid to redraw your lines. You've been too lenient in some matters, and now's the time to speak up. Mid-September tests your patience at work, but your steady resolve gets results. By month's end, career opportunities surface through quiet competence. Others may rush, but you're focused on crafting something that lasts. Keep faith in your vision. You're not just fixing things—you're elevating them.

LIBRA Sept 24th - Oct 23rd

You're finding your rhythm again, Libra, after a stretch of deep reflection. Quiet planning pays off now, especially financially. Early disruptions may rattle your calm, but you're more resilient than others realise. This month is about choosing rest over reaction and truth over illusion. Be wary of letting others' confusion cloud your path. Relationships blossom through listening, not lecturing. By mid-month, you'll feel stronger in your stance and clearer about your future. The key lies in trusting your instincts and leading with diplomacy. Late September brings a quiet personal triumph—proof that your calm approach works wonders. Balance is your secret superpower.

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

Expect some curveballs this September, but also trust that you've got the inner strength to pivot gracefully. The month opens with social shifts or changes in a friendship that make you question a shared vision. Mid-month brings clarity through a raw conversation—don't run from the truth. You're encouraged to rest and recharge, even if the world demands your fire. By late September, intuition leads you toward a powerful decision. You might not have all the answers, but your gut does. Avoid conflicts that waste your energy. Silence isn't surrender—it's strategy. Your future's being rewritten, quietly but brilliantly, in the background.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

September offers space to realign your dreams with your reality. Some early plans unravel, and while it's tempting to leap ahead, don't rush. Losses now make room for far greater gains. Friends and mentors guide your thinking mid-month, helping you reframe setbacks as seeds. Career or creative goals take shape as long as you balance enthusiasm with strategy. By the end of the month, an emotional breakthrough brings clarity. There's wisdom in waiting and strength in surrendering control. This is a time for thoughtful risk and meaningful action. Aim high—but keep your feet on solid ground as you do.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

This month demands grit, patience, and a bit of quiet rebellion. Early surprises may shake your sense of structure—especially where long-term plans are concerned. But where others panic, you hold steady. Mid-September brings a career test or conflict, but your measured response impresses someone influential. Quiet progress is being made even if the results aren't obvious yet. Trust your process. Later, practical choices at home or with money reinforce your confidence. You're quietly planting the seeds of future success. Stick to your path—even if it diverges from what others expect. You know what you're doing. And soon, they'll see it too.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

September invites you to look closer at what's truly sustainable—financially, emotionally, and spiritually. A muddled start might prompt you to step back from a commitment that's no longer right. It's not quitting; it's evolving. Conversations grow clearer mid-month, and a second chance emerges where you thought a door had closed. Embrace opportunities to learn, travel, or collaborate on something meaningful. Professionally, you're stepping into leadership with a wiser, more grounded perspective. Someone from your past might reappear, asking for clarity. Offer it, but don't sacrifice your peace. You're entering a cycle of deep growth and transformation—let honesty and self-trust light the way.

PISCES Feb 20th - March 20th

September shines a light on your relationships, especially those that challenge your sense of self. Early in the month, a partner's mixed signals test your patience. You're urged to look beyond surface smiles and ask the real questions. Mid-month brings an emotional revelation—one that nudges you to either recommit or release. Your empathy is a gift, but don't let it blur your boundaries. Career developments feel promising, particularly where collaboration or creativity is involved. By the end of the month, an important negotiation or decision shifts your trajectory. Stay open-hearted, but grounded. When you honour your truth, others rise to meet it.



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