

Bolton Scene

The council newspaper for the Bolton family

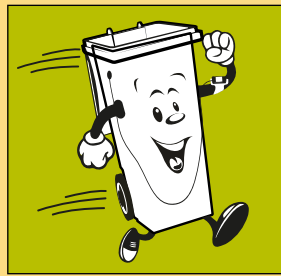
www.bolton.gov.uk

Issue 136 Spring 2016



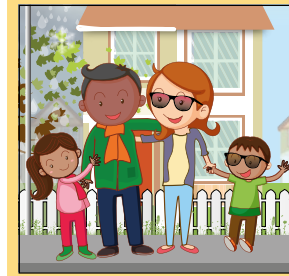
Central Scene supplement

See inside



Your new slim bin is on its way

See page 5



Keep warm and well this winter

See page 11

Developing the borough



CURTAIN UP: A £2m grant from the council has seen the Octagon Theatre secure further funding from the Arts Council and other sources for their ambitious redevelopment plans

This year will see several major developments come to fruition as part of ongoing plans to improve the town centre and the borough. Although the economy still remains difficult, projects funded with about £100m of private sector investment are set to open. In this edition of Bolton Scene we provide an update of what's happening.

FROM new entertainment and social facilities to transport links and manufacturing, 2016 will see new developments opening across the borough.

The past few years have seen the council working with a number of private and public sector partners to bring in new investment. This work is well underway with cranes on the skyline

of the town centre, and developments are set to open.

This year will see:

- Opening of the new Light Cinema complex as part of the £19m invested in the Market Place Shopping Cen-

- Opening of new restaurants and bars, including Nando's, Prezzo, Gourmet Burger Kitchen and the Great Ale Year Round pub, in The Vaults development in the Market Place.
- Opening of Logistics North, the largest distribution, logistics and employment site in Greater Manchester with Aldi's new distribution centre fully operational.

- Opening of the new Bolton Interchange linking buses with trains.
- Opening of a new £6.5m office block, Bolton Central fronting Great Moor Street as part of the interchange development.
- £3m regeneration of Newport Street with new paving and street furniture and upgrading the shop fronts.

Further planning for Rivington Chase, the residential and employment

scheme at the site of the former Horwich Locomotive Works, and for the Academic Village in the town centre will also take place. The academic village forms part of a university masterplan which will enhance its facilities, to take account of plans for major growth during the next 10 years. Inside we give a round up what is happening in the town centre and around the borough.

Free Parking

at NCP multi-storey car parks Deane Road, Topp Way and The Octagon at weekends and Bank Holidays

Plus a Free Metroshuttle bus service operating around the town centre. For more information visit www.visitbolton.com

Visit
Bolton

Meet your councillors...

Astley Bridge



Hilary Fairclough
01204 336343 or 07814378406
hilary.fairclough@bolton.gov.uk



John Walsh
01204 332216, 840118,
07836 363635
john.walsh@bolton.gov.uk



Paul Wild
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paul.wild@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Fri 25 Mar
and 29 Apr,
6-7pm at
Drummond St
Community
Centre

Bradshaw



Mudasir Dean
01204 336493
mudasir.dean@bolton.gov.uk



Walter Hall
01204 525257 or 332151
walter.hall@bolton.gov.uk



Stuart Haslam
01204 385096
stuart.haslam@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Fri 25 Mar
and 29 Apr,
7.30-8.30pm
at Harwood
Methodist
Church Hall,
Longsight

Brightmet



John Byrne
01204 523141
john.byrne@bolton.gov.uk



Lynda Byrne
01204 523141 or 337878
lynda.byrne@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Every Mon,
5.30-6.30pm
by appointment
only



Kate Lewis 0750 5759297
kate.lewis@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 12 Mar and Sat 9 Apr,
10.30-11.30am at Brightmet Library, next to
Brightmet Health Centre

Bromley Cross



Norman Critchley
01204 594311
norman.critchley@bolton.gov.uk



David Greenhalgh
01204 335621 or
07813 386415
david.greenhalgh@bolton.gov.uk



Alan Wilkinson
01204 305934 or 336028
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Surgeries
Please
contact for
details

Crompton



Hanif Darvesh
0771 5048806 or 01204 336195
hanif.darvesh@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Guy Harkin
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guy.harkin@bolton.gov.uk
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bilkis.ismail@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

Protecting the vulnerable with less money

Since the government started to reduce its funding to local authorities in 2010, the council has made £100m of savings, and we will have saved a further £43m by 2017. The government has also said that by 2020, they will introduce further changes to how councils are funded. In this edition of Bolton Scene we look at what has been done so far and what is to come.

IN the past five years, local councils across the country have seen decreases in their budgets and there's still more to come. When the full council meeting in February 2015 agreed savings of £43m this was on top of £100m that had already been found.

During this time the council has tried its hardest to protect vital services, while still providing support for the most vulnerable.

We've tried to protect front line services for as long as we can, through savings in accommodation, procurement and reducing management and administration costs. But with further savings to come, and to continue protecting those

vulnerable people, we need to look at how we provide services differently.

The council's budget comes from three main sources – but the only part we directly control is the amount of council tax we raise. Back in 2010, around 25% of the budget came from council tax, with the rest coming from what the council received from government grants, and a share of the business rates raised in Bolton.

The government decided how much grant and business rates to give to each council.

In the past five years the amount of government grant has been cut back, and there have been some changes to business rates. This means that around 40% of our budget now comes from council tax, and 60% from government grants and business rates. The

government announced in December that by 2020, councils will no longer receive a government grant - but will be allowed to keep all of the business rates raised in their area. Based on today's figures, this would mean a significant loss. So the council needs to prepare for a much reduced budget in future.

Unlike a business, the council isn't allowed to borrow money to run services - so it has to match how much it spends with how much it earns.

Closing the funding gap just by raising council tax isn't possible - a 1% rise in council tax brings in around an extra £1m, so to replace the loss of grants would require a huge rise.

The council therefore needs to make savings and to look for new sources of income.

New Chief Executive



THE council's new Chief Executive is Margaret Asquith.

She has worked at Bolton Council since 2006 as Director of Children's Services and then as Director of the merged Children's and Adult Services department. Most recently she was Deputy Chief Executive.

"During the last 10 years I've got to know many colleagues, members and partners. I know that the council has many strengths to build on and that we are capable of meeting the challenges we continue to face.

"My role will be to lead the council and continue to work with staff and partners to deliver our strategic priorities."

Margaret's role includes overseeing the current round of savings reviews as part of the budget for 2015-17.

Investing in the future

DESPITE the need for making savings when it comes to running services, the council is able to make one-off investments.

This is called capital funding and the money comes from the one off sale of assets or the dividends from Manchester Airport.

It's a bit like when you are buying or renting a house you use your wage to pay the mortgage – this is similar to the council using government grants, business rates, and council tax revenue, while a lottery win could be used to buy extras – capital funding.

You wouldn't want to rely on winning money on the lottery every month to pay your mortgage or rent.

In the same way the council can't rely on selling assets and getting dividends from the airport to run services every year.

Money that comes from sale of assets or from dividends can only be used for one-off projects and not for ongoing running of council services.

The budget report sets out one-off funding for the year ahead:

- £2.5m, announced as part of £5m last year, is invested in Highway maintenance schemes including residential roads and pavements
- £1m is invested in aids and adaptations to people's homes to improve their quality of life and enable them to live independently longer
- To provide an additional £1m for improved street lighting within the borough
- An additional £0.5m for the Community Empowerment Fund for the voluntary and community sector
- £1m for improvements and additional facilities at Bolton One
- £1m to repair and provide additional flashing road speed warnings
- £1.5m for new 3G pitches in the borough
- £0.5m to develop free breakfast clubs in primary schools

Restructure



THE council is changing its structure and number of departments so as to better meet the needs of the borough in the future with the limited resources available.

The current Director of Environmental Services and Director of Development and Regeneration are both due to retire. These posts will be combined and replaced with a new single post of Director of Place.

The combined post of Director of Adult and Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive will be replaced with a new post – Director of People.

The changes will see the number of top management posts in the council reduced from 21 to 17.

Savings 2010-15

BETWEEN 2010 and 2015, the council saved more than £100m from what it spent. Priority was given to projects which drove efficiencies in management & administration. Examples of the ways in which savings were found include:

- £1.75m from reviewing our accommodation across the borough – reducing the number of buildings we occupy, making our properties as efficient as possible, and sharing them with other organisations.
- Restructuring of services and reduction in management posts, including £1.25m saved from reducing senior management
- Savings from parks and open spaces, street cleaning, public toilets and ground maintenance
- £500,000 savings from leisure services
- Changes to the libraries service to save £500,000 by changing five smaller branch libraries to neighbourhood collection points
- Savings of £600,000 from housing services.
- £800,000 from bringing the Adults and Children's departments together into a single department, and merging their support services.
- New arrangements for waste collection aimed to save at least £2.6m.
- Changes to services provided at Children's Centres to save £1.5m
- Sharing IT services with Wigan Council, to save more than half a million pounds

Progress on the two-year budget

By 2017, the council needs to have saved another £43m from its budget, on top of the £100m saved over the past 5 years.

The council approved a budget last year for the two years from 2015 to 2017. This gave time to work out the detail of the savings proposals which were outlined in the budget, and to plan for how they'd be delivered. At the recent council meeting on 24 February, the budget report gave an update about progress, as well as setting out some more detail on a range of one-off funding which the council has created to support key areas of work.

New adult social care company takes shape

PLANS to create a new company to deliver adult social care in the borough are a step nearer completion.

The council's Cabinet approved proposals to set up the not-for-profit company earlier this year. The council has to make £43m of cuts by 2017, with the adult social care department contributing £7.75m. This is on top of £100m cuts to the council's budget since 2010.

The company will be called Bolton Care and Support Ltd and is expected to save the council around £3.5m each year.

Services that will trans-

fer to the company include: supported living services; disability day care; older adults day care; extra care services and the shared lives service.

Around 400 employees are expected to transfer to the company on April 1, although some may opt for voluntary severance or early retirement.

Staff are in the process of discussing their options with the council and are being taken through the new terms and conditions.

The council has carried out extensive consultation about the changes with

employees, trade unions, service users, their families and carers, and has considered their comments carefully before finalising the details.

Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Linda Thomas, said: "We have to make considerable cuts across adult services due to reductions in government funding and we decided to explore the creation of an arms-length social care company as a realistic alternative to outsourcing – a route that some other authorities have taken. We also made a commitment to protect services to our

most vulnerable residents; therefore cutting these services was not an option.

"After months of negotiating with staff and trade unions, we are now at the stage where we are ready to move forward with the new company. New employees will benefit from competitive terms and conditions and existing employees have a number of options to suit their circumstances. We value our employees and the work that they do, and together we intend to make this a successful company that will deliver excellent care to those who need it most."

Message from the Leader



Councillor Cliff Morris

Welcome to the Spring edition of Bolton Scene, the council's newspaper.

At this time of year, much attention is focused on the council's budget for the coming year, and the level of Council Tax.

Council approved a two-year budget in February 2015, when we thought we'd need to save around £43m between 2015 and 2017 because of ongoing reductions in government funding. We've made good progress, but it has involved some difficult decisions.

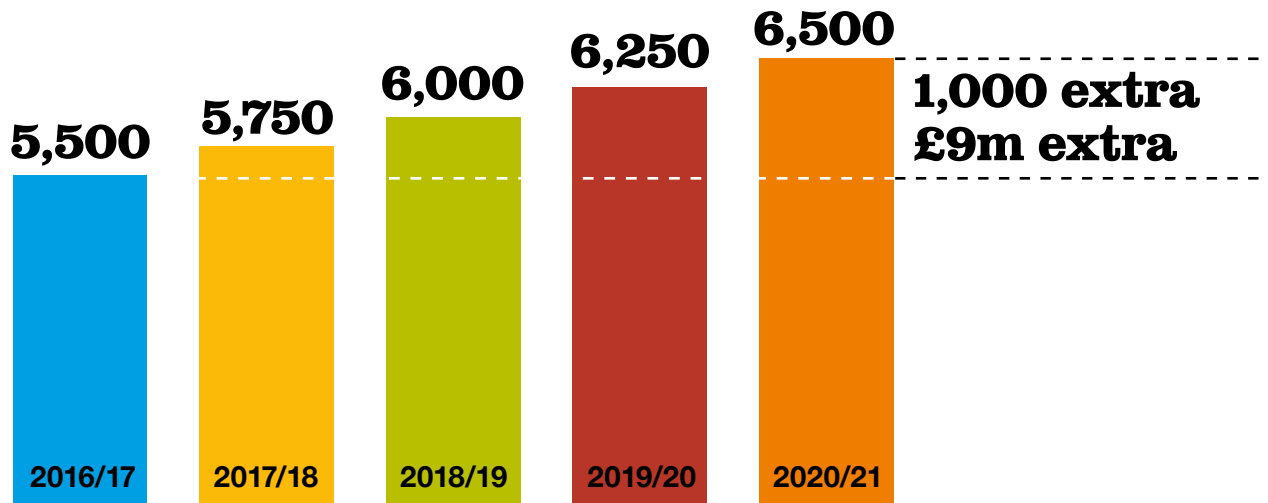
The council also has to set the Council Tax for the coming year. Last year, we took a decision to freeze Council Tax. This year, we also had to make a decision about the new Social Care Levy, a new charge the Chancellor introduced in the November budget, separate to any increase in council tax, to help fund rising costs of social care. Our forecast suggests by 2021, this could cost an extra £9m every year, mostly because we are providing care to more people than ever, as we live longer and need more looking after.

Even after doing everything we can to prevent, reduce and delay the need for care, we think our social care costs will rise by about £3.7m this year. Opting for the full 2% social care levy will raise £1.8m – a shortfall of about £1.9m this year.

The final decision by the council was to take the full 2% social care levy to do as much as possible to meet the costs of caring for our vulnerable elderly residents; and to increase council tax by 1.5%. We realise that this will not be easy for many of our households, but felt it was the only choice if we are to continue to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

We do have more flexibility around capital funds – one-off amounts of money – and you can find details on page 2, of schemes we have introduced to improve the environment, invest in leisure, and support local voluntary and community groups.

Increase in people receiving care



The current trend shows that around 250 more adults are receiving social care from the council every year. By 2020/21 that will be 1000 extra people, which will cost an extra £9m per year to provide services.

Adults receiving a long term service



Meet your councillors...

Farnworth



Jean Gillies
01204 332131
jean.gillies@bolton.gov.uk



Asif Ibrahim
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asif.ibrahim@bolton.gov.uk



Noel Spencer
01204 793800 or 336833
noel.spencer@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Sat 2 Apr,
10.30-11.30am
at Farnworth
Town Hall (use
the rear door)

Great Lever



Mohammed Ayub
07838 119522
mohammed.ayub@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Mohammed Iqbal
01204 335620
mohammed.iqbal@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Madeline Murray
01204 694092
madeline.murray@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

Halliwell



Cliff Morris
01204 336329 or 331094
cliff.morris@bolton.gov.uk
Next ward surgery will be at Bolton Town Hall. Please contact Members Secretariat on 01204 331094 for an appointment



Linda Thomas
01204 332090 or 07879 891129
linda.thomas@bolton.gov.uk
Please contact the Members Secretariat office for a surgery appointment on 01204 331094 or 07879891129



Akhtar Zaman
07980 962826
akhtar.zaman@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

Harper Green



Mike Francis
01204 336331
michael.francis@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Susan Haworth 07415509103
susan.haworth@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Fri 1 April, 10-11.30am at Sunnyside Residents Association, 189 Paulhan Street, and Sat 2nd April, 10.30am-noon at St Catherine's Church, Highfield Road



Champak Mistry
01204 397522 or 331320
champak.mistry@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

Heaton and Lostock



Robert Allen
01204 451341 or 335096
robert.allen@bolton.gov.uk



Andrew Morgan
01204 656202
andrew.morgan@bolton.gov.uk



Colin Shaw
01204 844489 or 331958
colin.shaw@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Please contact
at area forum
meetings or
contact direct

Health and social care under one roof



ONE CARE: Pictured (from left) are Paul Craven, MD of Medway Heating (Bolton) Ltd (left), Cllr Linda Thomas, and Darren Thomas, site manager for Medway Heating (Bolton) Ltd looking over plans in the expanded day care area

PLANS are well under way to transform the Winifred Kettle Centre in Westhoughton to bring together a range of health and social care services under one roof.

The council is working with NHS Bolton CCG and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust to turn it into an integrated neighbourhood base for a number of community health and care services.

Work is being carried out at the property to remodel the rooms inside in order to

provide a base for the local district nursing team, the health visitor teams and the integrated neighbourhood team. It's Bolton's new approach to delivering health and social care services to our most frail and vulnerable residents.

It will also see a brand new district nursing treatment room service, enabling residents to access clinical assessment for a wide variety of wound care issues, including leg ulceration, injection administration and other therapeutic services currently not available in this area of the borough.

There will also be spare

office space for a voluntary sector partner to use in the future.

The renovations are on track so that the first teams can move into their new home within the next few months, and this includes around 11 health visitors and 15 district nurses who are currently based at Westhoughton Clinic.

Winifred Kettle is also home to an Older Adults Day Care Service on the ground floor, which has temporarily moved to Daisy Hill Community Centre while the work is being carried out.

It is expected that the building will be fully oper-

ational, with all major partners settled in, later this year.

The Deputy Leader of Bolton Council, Cllr Linda Thomas, said: "Our integration plans in Bolton are moving at pace and we are working with our partners to provide a range of services, aimed at supporting the most vulnerable residents in the Westhoughton community, from one central base."

"I am pleased to see that these plans for Winifred Kettle are well under way and it won't be too long before everyone is settled in and making use of the facilities."

Gifts support charities



(Left to right) Simon Verhaege from Ikea with Cllr Morris and Mayor of Bolton Cllr Carole Swarbrick



CHARITY DONATIONS: (left to right) Simon Verhaege from Ikea with council leader, Cllr Cliff Morris, and Janet Patterson from Save the Children

TWO charities have benefited from Scandinavian furniture giant Ikea's sponsorship of last year's Bolton Food and Drink Festival.

Save the Children and the Mayor's Charity Appeal for Urban Outreach, Bolton Lads and Girls Club, and Bolton

Hospice have received £500 each.

Ikea donated garden furniture for the festival to the council and it was also used recently at the Christmas artisan market.

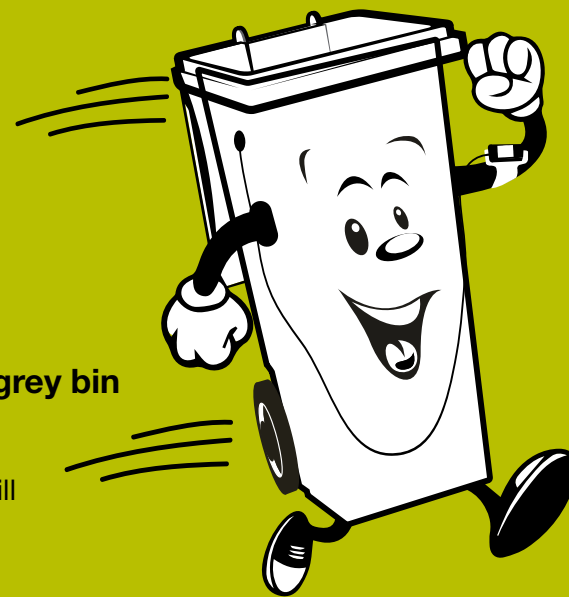
Your new slim bin is on its way

Between June and November 2016, we will be exchanging your 240 litre grey bin for a slimmer 140 litre bin.

By introducing slimmer grey bins and recycling more we will save £1.25m per year, which will contribute to the £43 million savings Bolton Council needs to find between 2015 and 2017.

Are you prepared for the changes?

Order your **free** recycling bins now at www.bolton.gov.uk/lovereycling



The only plastics we can recycle in your burgundy bin are plastic bottles such as:



Why we can only recycle plastic bottles?

We know it can be confusing when we are all trying to recycle more. However, there are really good reasons why we can only recycle plastic bottles in Bolton.

1. Manufacturers that make new products demand high grade plastics such as plastic bottles. Your yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic trays are made using a low grade plastic and at the moment there is no market in the UK for these items.
2. Our sorting machines do not sort between different plastic items. This means that the low grade plastic pots, tubs and trays contaminate the high grade plastic bottles.

What should I do with my plastic tubs, pots and trays?

Your plastics pots, tubs and trays don't go to waste. Put them in your grey bin and they will be turned into green electricity.

Don't forget you can recycle your glass bottles and jars, food and drink cans, foil and foil trays in the burgundy bin.

There's no butt about it

A water butt collects all that lovely rain, so that you can give plants a free drink. Plants love rainwater, so there's no need to waste your tap water.

In partnership with United Utilities we are offering 1,000 residents the opportunity to save water by reusing their old 240 litre grey bin as a water butt.

If you would like to receive a free water butt kit, visit: www.bolton.gov.uk/lovereycling and we will arrange for one to be delivered during the roll out of the new slim bin.



recycle for Bolton

Bolton recycling animation

To find out what you can recycle, why you need to recycle and what happens to your recycling, watch our short animation now at www.bolton.gov.uk/lovereycling



Bolton Council

Meet your councillors...

Horwich and Blackrod



Alan Bury
01204 332238
alan.bury@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Ann Cunliffe 01204 332375
ann.cunliffe@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 12 Mar, and Sat 9 Apr, 10-11am at Blackrod Library. For issues in Horwich please contact me for an appointment



Stephen Pickup 01204 337078
stephen.pickup@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 2 Apr, 9.30-10.30am at Horwich Library, and Sat 12 Mar and Sat 9 Apr, 10-11am at Blackrod Library

Horwich North East



Joyce Kellet 01204 331094
joyce.kellet@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Kevin McKeon 01204 692115
kevin.mckeon@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 2 Apr, 10-11am at Horwich Library



Richard Silvester
01204 467914
richard.silvester@bolton.gov.uk
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Hulton



Diane Parkinson
01204 332504
diane.parkinson@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Shafaqat Shaikh
01204 331094
shafaqat.shaikh@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

Vacant

Kearsley



Derek Burrows 01204 335231
derek.burrows@bolton.gov.uk



Carol Burrows 01204 335231
carol.burrows@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 2 Apr, 10-11am at Prestolee Community Centre and 11am and noon at St Stephens Church
Fri 25 Mar and 29 Apr, 6-7pm at Kearsley and Farnworth Labour Club



Liam Irving 07985674470
liam.irving@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 12 Mar and Sat 9 Apr at 10.30-11.30am at Kearsley Mount Cottage, St Johns Fishers

Little Lever and Darcy Lever



David Evans
01204 332086
david.evans@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

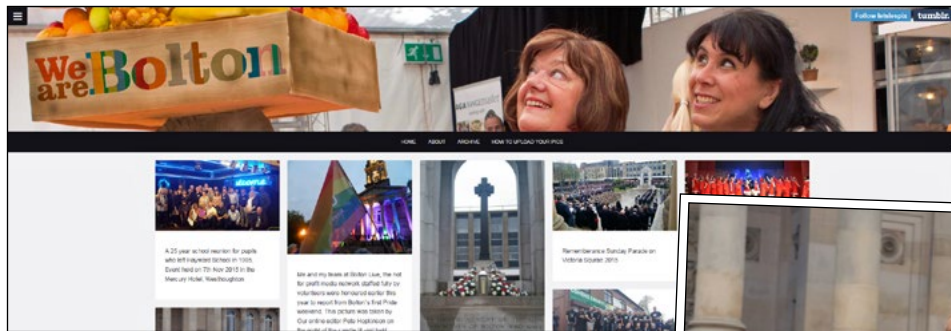


Sean Hornby
07583 725578
sean.hornby@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Paul Richardson
07815 678640
paul.richardson@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details

'We are Bolton' website launched



IS QUEEN'S Park where you played as a child? Was the Octagon where you met your future wife? Or is Smithills Hall where your grandparents took you as a special treat?

The Mayor of Bolton, Councillor Carole Swarbrick launched a project to discover and celebrate the people and places of Bolton.

The new website 'We are Bolton' has been created to celebrate the Bolton family and to recognise people and places which are special to them.

Residents can email photographs to the new website of themselves or

someone else they know in a location or building in Bolton, with a brief explanation of why that place is special to them.

The Mayor of Bolton, Councillor Carole Swarbrick said: "I have travelled all over the world and have met people from many walks of life, but I have always been impressed by the pride that the people of Bolton have in their town and the friendly and welcoming people who live here. I'd like to encourage all Boltonians to show their pride and love for their town, by sharing their memories and special places on this website."

To visit the web site and start taking part go to <http://wearebolton.co.uk/> or email your photos to wearebolton@bolton.gov.uk



LOCAL PRIDE: The Mayor of Bolton, Cllr Carole Swarbrick launched the website earlier this year

Volunteers key to success

VOLUNTEERS are an integral part of everything that Age UK Bolton does.

All services and activities are delivered by the large team of hardworking and dedicated volunteers supported by an experienced staff team.

In order to extend the range and availability of services, the charity is always looking for new volunteers to join the team of dedicated people who regularly give their time, energy, talents and skills to help older people in Bolton.

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Do you want to help to improve the health and wellbeing of local older people?

Age UK now has the following vacancies:

- **Befriender** - Giving friendship and informal support to a local older person who is socially isolated and experiencing feelings of loneliness. This involves making weekly visits for a chat and cuppa in their home or accompanying them to engage in social or com-

munity activities eg going out for lunch, visiting a garden centre or going for a little walk.

- **Home from Hospital Volunteer** - Providing low level practical and emotional support to people aged 65+ following discharge from hospital. Tasks may include shopping, attending follow up medical appointments and preparing light meals and snacks.
- **Information and Advice Assistant** - Dealing with customers face to face or over the phone who need advice and information on a range of subjects including benefit entitlements, available grants and care needs etc.
- **Insurance Products and Services Arranger** - dealing with customers visiting our offices or contacting us by telephone looking for information on insurance products and related services, generating quotes for them and proceeding with the sale of policies/services if it meets the individual's needs.

Full training and ongoing support will be provided for all volunteer roles. For more information call

Heather Crook, Community Services Manager on 01204 701525 email: heathercrook@ageukbolton.org.uk



Age UK Bolton is a registered charity that offers a range of services, products and activities for people aged 50 and over. We are independent and self-financing, and we rely on the support of others to continue our work.

Our services include:

- Information & Advice
- Insurance Products & Services designed for the over 50s
- Legal Advice & Will-making Service
- Befriending & Afternoon Teas
- Lunch & Leisure Clubs
- Physical Activity Classes
- Leisure & Creative Classes
- Home from Hospital Service
- Wheelchair Hire
- Room Hire (at our Farnworth site)

Age UK Bolton
01204 382411

Our 300 volunteers play a vital role in our work and in helping us to deliver all of the above services. To find out more about our products and services or becoming a volunteer, give us a call on 01204 382411 or visit us at The Square, 53 - 55 Victoria Square, Bolton BL1 1RZ.



Foster with Bolton

The council always needs foster carers to look after our vulnerable children. In particular it needs people to come forward to look after teenagers and groups of brothers and sisters. For this edition of Bolton Scene we spoke to Pam and Alan Lace who have been foster carers for 14 years. They were already parents to three boys when they decided to apply. During that time they have looked after more than 20 children. Here's their story – names of the children have been changed.

THE council is very committed to fostering and achieving the best possible outcomes for children who can't live with their birth families.

Children's services teams work very hard to enable children to keep living within their own families whenever possible.

Children need to be looked after by the local authority for all sorts of reasons. These include death of parents, domestic violence, parental alcohol or drug misuse and abuse.

There are several types of foster care placements:

- If you become a short term foster carer you will look after a child with a view to that child moving on. This may be back to family, to an adoptive placement or into a long term foster placement
- Long term fostering. Adoption is not appropriate for every child and some children may not be able to return home or go to other family members. When this is the case children may need long term foster carers to provide stability and a caring and loving family environment until they reach independence

- Family and friends fostering. This is short term or permanent foster care offered by people related to or previously known to a child
- Enhanced Fostering. This is foster care provided by highly skilled and experienced foster carers. We ask them to look after children with complex health, behaviour or disability needs and, because of this, we offer a higher level of financial reward

If you think you might be interested in becoming a foster carer for Bolton Council, we would love to hear from you. There are several ways to contact us.

You can telephone on **0800 107 1564**, or by emailing fostering@bolton.gov.uk, or fill in the enquiry form on the council's website www.bolton.gov.uk/fostering

The council is currently recruiting foster carers, especially for teenagers and groups of brothers and sisters.

“The most rewarding thing we have ever done”



Pam and Alan Lace

“Fostering has been the most challenging but also the most rewarding thing we have ever done,”

“It's something that I have considered since being quite young but Alan didn't think about it until we discussed it together. I worked as a nurse but decided I wanted to devote my time to fostering and I love it.” said Pam.

“After hearing first hand from my mother Eileen about what it

was like growing up in a children's home, I knew I wanted to do everything I could to make the youngsters I fostered feel like part of the family.

Listening to what mum went through had a massive impact on our decision to foster. Alan and I feel that young people in care are society's responsibility — not just

the government or Social Services.

“After discussing it at length with my husband, we contacted the council's Children's Services and asked them to send us some information.

“After the initial enquiry process, we began the preparation classes, which we really enjoyed and that made us hungry to get

started. We then went to a panel who rubber stamped everything and within a couple of weeks we had our first placement. Wherever possible, the council will place Bolton children with Bolton families, so they're never too far away from home, school and friends.

“We were determined that the children we looked after would not experience anything like my mum had. We always try to find out as soon as possible, prior to a child coming to us, what their favourite toy, cartoon or TV show is, or what their interests are, we will then try to personalise their room by putting posters up, using character bedding or make sure they have a treasured toy with them wherever possible through liaison with the child's social worker.

“We first welcomed Rachel, then aged five, to our home in 2001. Rachel was the first child that we fostered and she's still with us now aged 19.

“Rachel was more interested in the dogs than us at first. She presented us with very challenging behaviour initially, but with consistency, love, fantastic support from our link social worker the child's social worker and all the training, Rachel is as much a part of the family as our boys, and is invaluable in supporting us help settle in other children

and young people.

“Three years after Rachel arrived, her sister Claire, now 17, came to us, and she also is still with us. We also have two other young people in long-term placements, James aged 16, and Melanie aged 10.

“Initially we did worry about the kinds of challenges we would face, but you get an abundance of information beforehand from Social Services and there has never been a child that we have said no to.

“The department also facilitate support group meeting for carers, there is an ongoing programme of training, a buddy system which allows foster carers to support each other and there is always someone on the end of the phone to lend a helping hand when you need it. The key is to never be afraid to ask for help or advice.

“Recently James was involved in a very challenging TV programme with Bear Grylls which is being aired at the moment, he is also a great footballer and cricket player; Clare has always done well at school, and with horse riding.

She is now doing very well in a full time apprenticeship; Rachel, we discovered, is a fabulous swimmer. She now works full time as a beautician and has

matured into a confident, independent and beautiful young woman; Melanie is also an accomplished horsewoman and her self-confidence grows month by month, she moves over to secondary school this year and we look forward to seeing her achievements as she grows into a young woman.

“The role is not all plain sailing though and sadness sometimes comes with the territory.

One time in particular, involved a young boy we fostered for a couple of years, his parents could not look after him and, whilst we would have loved to have continued to care for him (or maybe even adopted him) many members of his extended family came forward to take him in.

This outcome is undoubtedly a positive thing for him, and it is right that any child should stay within their family if at all possible — this was one of the hardest things we have had to deal with.

“Despite these difficult times, we would not change our decision to become foster carers. The rewards outweigh the challenges. It has helped that we have strong support from our family and our sons.”

Visit Bolton



Walks on the West Pennine Moors

Bolton has a lot to offer this Spring...

With stunning countryside, and an ideal location right next to the scenic West Pennine Moors, Bolton is a great place to enjoy the fantastic outdoors this Springtime.

Whether you are passionate about outdoor pursuits and sport, a dedicated rambler or just an occasional lover of fresh air and fantastic views, Bolton's countryside has a lot to offer.

With superb moorland scenery set amidst miles of countryside and lakes, you can walk or cycle for hours and will never be short of a great picnic spot.

There are also plenty of opportunities for you to indulge in some cracking outdoor pursuits including horse-riding, golf, fishing and even taking on an outdoor challenge or two at Go Ape!

Our brand new countryside page is packed full of great information and advice on new ways to explore Bolton's Countryside www.visitbolton.com

To find out more about our fantastic attractions including Barrow Bridge, Smithills Hall, Moses Gate Country Park, Queens Park, Hall i'th' Wood and Smithills Open Farm and loads more get online at www.visitbolton.com/things-todo

Bolton's wonderful industrial heritage is clearly visible around the borough and lives on through our canals, railways and of course people.

Some of our most famous Bolton sons include Samuel Crompton, Fred Dibnah and others whose character, work and inventions have all left a visible imprint on Bolton. There's an array of attractions scattered across the borough for you to visit, but if you fancy a walking trail or need some inspiration, our website has a page dedicated to Bolton's heritage.

The trails available for exploration:

The Crompton Trail – taking you on a journey through the life of Bolton's Samuel Crompton who revolutionised the cotton industry when he invented his Spinning Mule in 1779. The trail includes attractions such as Hall i'th' Wood and Crompton's birthplace at Firwood Fold.

Bolton's Industrial Heritage Trail – this is a Borough wide trail that has 9 main sites of interest including historic buildings, museums and attractions including Bolton Steam Museum

and the Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre where our history has been preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Bolton Town Centre Heritage Trail – our Industrial Heritage Town Centre Walking Trail features 12 sites of interest all within close walking distance of each other in Bolton town centre. Sites include Bolton Town Hall, Bolton Parish Church and some of Bolton's architectural treasures.

Horwich Heritage Trail – take a self-guided walk around the historic town of Horwich and take in sites including Horwich Heritage Centre, Horwich Town Hall and some of Horwich's beautiful houses and streets.

You can follow the trails at your own pace. We would advise that you check the websites of individual attractions for opening hours prior to visiting. We hope you enjoy the trails and discovering something new about Bolton's fantastic industrial heritage!

www.visitbolton.com/boltons-heritage



Le Mans Crescent



Hall i'th' Wood

Central Scene

www.bolton.gov.uk

Issue 19 - Spring 2016

On the up

As we move into spring, with the promise of better weather to come, there's plenty to look forward to in this edition of Central Scene.

The plans by the private sector, the council, and other partners, for many years are coming to fruition with several developments due to open and work continuing on others.

The town centre's entertainment and leisure offer will receive a boost with the opening of the new nine-screen cinema at the Market Place and the opening of the Vaults with restaurants and bars.

The new Transport Interchange will open in winter improving links with train services, and transport across, and into and out of the borough. Work has also begun on new office accommodation as part of the interchange.

Work has commenced to transform Newport Street into the new gateway to the town centre.

Work to the Octagon Theatre and the Albert Halls will boost the live performance experience in Bolton.

We've also got some great events lined up for later in the year. Ironman UK and Ironkids return this summer encouraging people to take up sport and get active.

Ironman is one of the toughest sporting events on the planet and since it has come to Bolton it has grown.

A handful of Boltonians competed in the first event in 2009 but 166 took part last year.

Bolton's Food and Drink Festival has become the biggest in the north west with more than 200,000 people coming last year.

The event is a firm favourite on the foodies' calendar attracting big name celebrity chefs as well as the best of regional chefs and food producers.

And as ever you'll find a range of offers and information from our town centre partners.

Don't forget there's free parking at the Octagon, Deane Road and Topp Way NCP car parks every weekend.

For the latest news and info: www.visitbolton.com

In this issue...

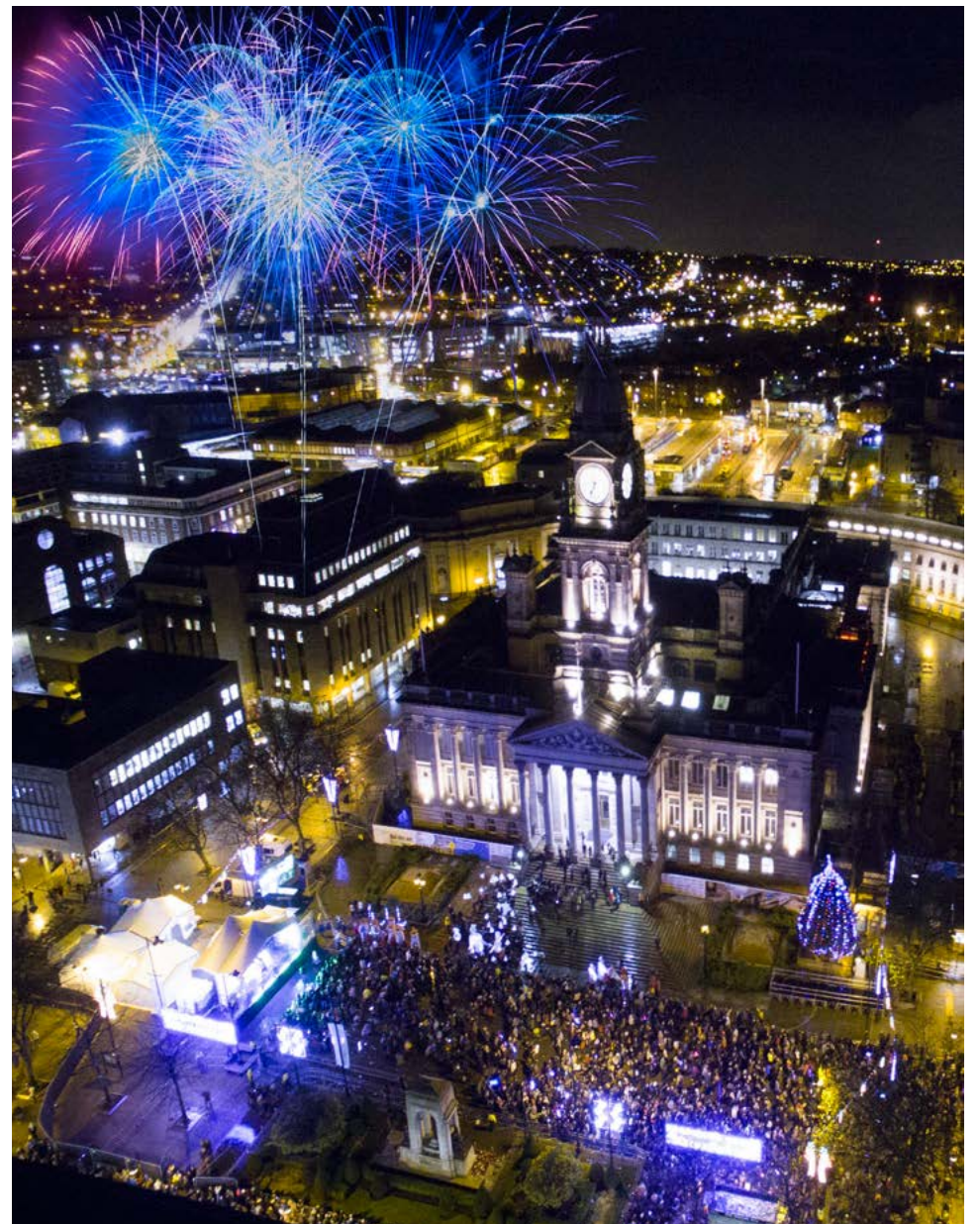
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If you want to find out quickly what's happening in the town centre, visit www.visitbolton.com

This supplement and all of the features within have been paid for by members of the Central Bolton Partnership. The views expressed are those of the individual and not Bolton Council.

Free Parking

at NCP multi-storey car parks Deane Road, Topp Way and The Octagon at weekends and Bank Holidays

Plus a Free Metroshuttle bus service operating around the town centre. For more information visit www.visitbolton.com

**Visit
Bolton**

Award winning market



Bolton's main market is located on Ashburner Street, right in the heart of the town centre. The market has a growing reputation as the premier food market in the North West.

Recently it has been 'Highly Commended' in the Business of the Year Awards 2016 in the category Markets and Community Events; awarded the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) 'Market Innovation of the Year 2015' and 'Innovative Saver 2015' by Love Energy Savings.

In the recently refurbished Lifestyle Hall you'll find a great mix of traders including fashion, jewellery, handbags and electrical goods as well as some brand new additions including quirky gifts, cosmetics, books and a tropical florist. There's a central seating area and spacious layout; it's the perfect place to visit for a spot of lunch, a coffee or even a pint while you shop.

The Fish and Meat Hall has stalls plying a wide variety of quality meats, fresh fish, shellfish, poultry, eggs and seasonal game. All produce can be prepared to your liking by our qualified and knowledgeable butchers and fishmongers.

The Fruit and Vegetable Hall offers the widest range of exotic fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from all over the world, to meet the needs of a cosmopolitan Bolton and beyond. The hall has traders sourcing Asian and Afro-Caribbean fresh fruit and vegetables.

It has dedicated cafés and excellent deli facilities as well as a Halal butcher and loads of choice for freshly sliced meats and the finest selection of cheeses in the region. A variety of freshly produced biscuits, cakes, breads, kitchenware, hardware and everyday cleaning products has contributed to make it a success.

The outdoor market contains a range of traders with cabins on both sides of the market and a covered area with access through the Lifestyle Hall near Customer Services.

Usual opening days:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
9am-5pm



Let's get together

with Marks & Spencer...

Gather family and friends around the table for an easy-to-prepare Easter feast with new-season roast lamb and all the trimmings.

Follow our easy tips and ideas for an effortlessly delicious Easter lunch.

Why not try?

For glossy, buttery carrots, bring to the boil enough stock to cover the veg, plus 1sp sugar and 30g butter. Add trimmed Chantenay carrots, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

Remove the lid and boil until all the liquid has bubbled away.

Simple steps to success

1. Starters should be easy but packed with flavour. Find inspirations on the 'Cook with M&S' app. Try the Tostati with goat's curd and minted mushy peas for a quick and colourful option.
2. The secret to achieving perfect crunchy-on-the-outside, fluffy-on-the-inside roast potatoes is to parboil them first. Do this the day before so you'll have more time with your guests.
3. Your centrepiece doesn't have to be complicated. Stick to a recipe or cut of meat you're comfortable with, and transform it using fresh herbs or a marinade.
4. For a stunning spread with a minimum of effort, take a look at our 'Food to Order' service at www.marksandspencer.com – just place your order, then pickup on the day of your choice from a participating store.

Hot Cross Bun Pain Perdu with honey roasted figs

Ready in 15 minutes – serves 2

4 ripe figs, quartered
1 tbsp runny honey plus extra to serve
2 eggs
75ml whole milk
2 St Clement's hot cross buns, halved
1 tbsp unsalted butter
icing sugar, to dust
Crème fraiche



1. Heat the oven to 200oC/180oC fan/gas 6. Place the figs skin side down in a baking dish, drizzle over the honey. Roast in the oven for 5-10 minutes, or until the figs start to soften.
2. Meanwhile whisk together the eggs, milk and a pinch of salt in a bowl. Put the hot cross bun halves in a shallow dish, and pour over the egg mixture. Leave to soak for a minute, then turn the buns over and soak for 1 minute more.
3. Put the butter in a large frying pan over a medium heat. When it starts to foam, place the buns in the pan. Cook for 1-2 minutes on each side until golden brown.
4. Transfer to 2 plates. Dust with icing sugar, then top with the figs, a dollop of crème fraiche and a drizzle of honey.

Per serving: 454 calories, 20g fat (10g saturated), 56.8g carbohydrates, 40.9g sugar, 3.8g fibre, 4.7g protein, 05g salt.



Decathlon - the world's largest sports retailer

Why not call in store and check out Bolton's largest indoor and outdoor tent showrooms this spring.

If you don't fancy camping, then test out a range of our bikes around the store. We don't have water in store, but we do have kayaks that you can sit in, table tennis tables that you can play on or even a badminton court set up for a game against the kids.

If you are a keen runner, why not call in for a free gait analysis and advice on the best running products to suit your running style.

Decathlon has a selection of their innovation products available to test in store which include the Soft Archery Set, The Rollnet and the Badminton Easy Set.

On Sunday 10 April, Decathlon will be hosting their annual Duathlon from the Wilton Arms on Belmont Road. The cost of the event is £20 and tickets can be purchased via our Facebook Page @ Facebook.com/decathlonbolton. The event consists of a 6km run, a 28km bike ride, followed by the same 6km run again.



Support your local school with the Market Place



Following its success last year, Market Place Shopping Centre's annual campaign to support local schools is starting again soon.

Throughout the six week campaign, which runs from Monday 21 March to Sunday 1 May, customers are invited to convert the pounds they spend in stores at the centre into points for their chosen school by simply presenting their receipts at a designated desk in the centre. Shoppers don't have to be parents to participate, so it is a great way of supporting your local school or a school of a close friend or relative without any additional financial outlay.

Shoppers can also enjoy the chance to win a £200 voucher for their own personal spending in stores at Market Place.

Meanwhile, if you're looking for something fun to do with the kids for Easter weekend, without a messy house to clear up and a severely depleted bank balance, head to Market Place Shopping Centre to join in with this month's FREE Little Rascals kids club activity.

Join them on Good Friday, 25 March, where your Little Rascals can enjoy Easter basket making and decorating, with their creations then filled with treats to take home. Then on Saturday 26th March they can take part in chocolate making workshops with Chockle'Arty, to create some Easter treats to add to their baskets from the previous day. The workshops run from 11am-4pm on both days and with FREE parking for the first 90 minutes of your stay, there's plenty of time to enjoy a spot of shopping and spoil yourself with an Easter treat of your own.

Spring into 2016 with Visualase

As a glasses or contact lens wearer, what's in store for you in 2016?

A new pair of prescription sunglasses for the summer, or will you switch from daily disposable contact lenses to the best extended wear monthly ones so you don't have to take them out every night?

We have another option for you. Banish your glasses and contact lenses and make this year the year you have laser eye correction. Just think of all the benefits laser eye surgery can bring. Imagine clear vision as soon as you wake up every day. Not having the hassle, irritation and ongoing expense, of contact lenses. Not having to clean your glasses.

The freedom to participate in sports better. Having laser eye surgery could be more cost-effective for you in the long-term and is probably more affordable than you might think. We offer a wide range of payment plans including 12 months 0% interest-free credit.

So, if you think it's time to make a change and would like more information please browse through our website www.visualase.com or give us a call on (01204) 387467. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

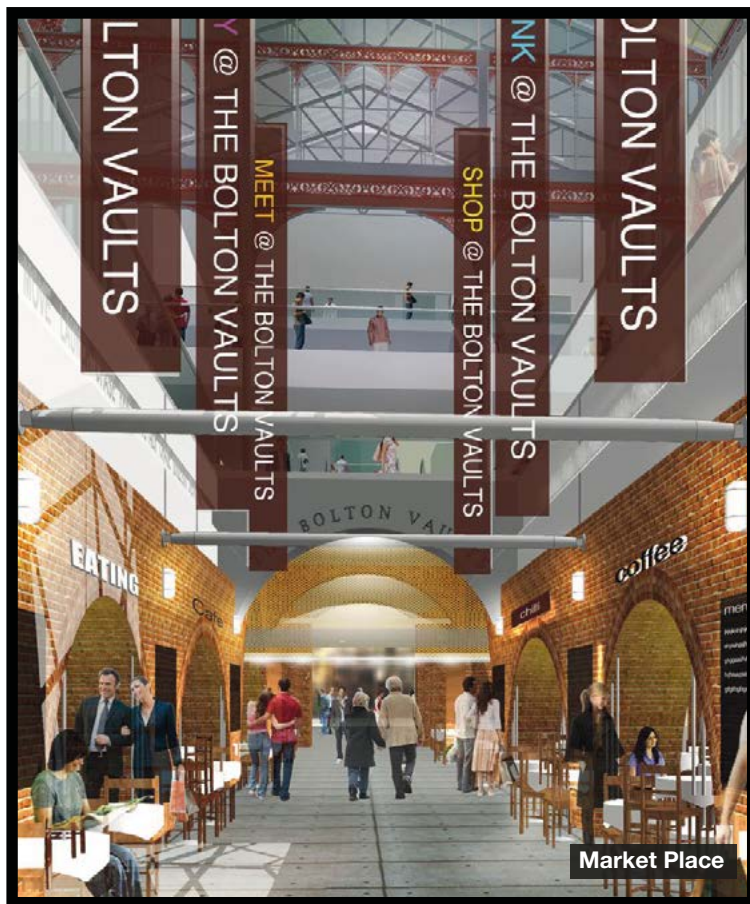
Thousands of the patients we have treated over the last 15 years are happy to be waking up with great eyesight every day, enjoying family life, sports, hobbies and holidays without the hassle and inconvenience of glasses or contact lenses. And don't forget, at Visualase, located on Newport Street, you receive a no obligation, no pressure, free assessment and consultation with the actual surgeon who will perform your procedure - something which is surprisingly rare amongst other laser eye surgery clinics.

For many of our patients, laser eye surgery proves to be life-changing and the only regret most have is not having had the treatment done earlier so make 2016 the year you treat yourself to better vision.



Destination

Bolton



Lights, camera, action

Bolton town centre's new cinema will open this summer.

The Market Place is undergoing a £19m refurbishment by owners Moorgarth Group.

Plans include the building of a nine screen cinema with a capacity for 1200 seats and the development of 30,000 sq ft of new restaurant space, creating seven to eight restaurants by opening up the vaulted basement of the old market.

Nando's, Prezzo, Gourmet Burger Kitchen and the Great Ale Year Round have

confirmed they will be coming to the Vaults. The bars and restaurants are due to open this spring, with the cinema opening in summer.

The shopping centre has also announced plans for a new playzone. The playzone will include a indoor recreation space and climbing wall, an 18-hole adventure golf course, a 43 metre model railway, a new café and special party zones which will be able to be booked for events.

Curtains up for plans

The Octagon Theatre's ambitious plans for redevelopment have taken a step forward with further funding announced.

The theatre celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. The council announced it was giving the theatre a £2m grant as part of its town centre investment last year.

The funding has meant the theatre has been able to secure additional grants from other sources including the Arts Council.

The plans include replacing the seating in the auditorium, improving the front of the building and installing air conditioning.

The theatre would be extended with new rehearsal studios for actors, students and youth theatre and more room for community work.



Destination

Bolton



Bolton Town Hall

Albert Halls

The first stage of improvement work to the Albert Halls is coming to an end.

The building, which is more than 130 years old, has been transformed to provide a modern and accessible office space as part of the council's cost saving plans.

Work is now underway on the Albert Halls entertainment complex which is undergoing a £6.5m transformation to create a multi-purpose venue.

Town centre events

A whole host of town centre events make Bolton town centre the place to visit:

- **Easter Saturday, 26 March**
Passion for Bolton drama about the last days of Jesus' life, at noon on Victoria Square
- **Sunday 22 May**
Civic Sunday
- **Saturday 18 June**
Midnight Memories Walk sponsored 8 mile walk
- **16-17 July**
The world's largest Ironkids event and Ironman UK
- **Bank Holiday weekend 26-29 August**
Bolton Food and Drink Festival, the north west's biggest and best
- **Friday 11 November**
Armistice Day
- **Sunday 13 November**
Remembrance Sunday
- **Thursday 17 November**
Christmas Lights Switch On
- **Nov/Dec**
Winter Festival



Bolton Food and Drink Festival

Spring clean your wardrobe

Whether it's suiting up smartly for work, dressing down for a weekend at home, or dressing up for a big night out, Bolton has everything you could want to wear.

Bows are set to be a big trend for this spring and this beautiful ruffle blouse from **M & S** is perfect for looking smart at work.

Or it can be teamed with these skinny burgundy cords from **Next** for a more casual look.

After the rainy and dark winter, this off the shoulder orange top from **Debenhams** will brighten your mood and is perfect for a spring night out.

You can also add these sparkly slingbacks and flowery necklace from **Next** to add a touch of summer glamour to your outfit.

Denim is also top of the trends this Spring and this denim dress from **Debenhams** can be dressed up for work or down for a casual night in at home.

Finally, if you want to invest in a jacket to see you through till autumn, this gorgeous suede jacket and boots from **River Island** will see you through any bad weather.



Principles at Ben de Lisi £45



M & S
Autograph ruffle blouse
£59



Debenhams
Red Herring top
£28



Next
Skinny cords
£28



Next
Slingbacks £28 and Next necklace
£16



River Island
Suede jacket

Spring time at Holiday Inn

This spring we have an array of activity taking place at the Holiday Inn, Bolton.

From our 'Decades Disco' to our Children's Easter Party and our Elvis Tribute night, there's something for everyone.

Our 'Through the Decades Disco' is taking place on 18 March and will celebrate a night of music from the 70s/80s/90s and 00s. Join us from 7pm-12.30pm and let your hair down! Tickets are just £14.95 with a 10% special group booking discount for a group booking of 10+.

If you're looking for something fun to do with the kids over the Easter break, come along to our Children's Easter Party. We'll have a Carvery, Children's Entertainer and most importantly an Easter Egg for the Children and a visit from

our very own Easter Bunny! When: 26 March, noon-2pm.
Cost: £14.95 per adult / £9.95 per child.

More of an Elvis fan than an Easter Bunny one? Come along and join us for a 3 course dinner, Elvis tribute act plus a disco.

Hear all your favourite Elvis hits and dance the night away!
When: 29th April, 7pm – 12.30pm. Tickets are just £25 per adult with a 10% special group booking discount available for a group booking of 10+.

For more information on any of our events, visit <http://www.cloistersbolton.com/#/business/ctmt> or to book, call our team on 01204 879 988.



The new season at the Octagon

Spring is all about new beginnings, and the Octagon Theatre has plenty of brand new productions and family-friendly events taking place throughout the season.

This April, the theatre will welcome *The Macbeth Curse*: an exciting and eccentric world-premiere by Terry Deary, author of the incredible *Horrible Histories* books. *The Macbeth Curse*, which centers on a doomed Macbeth rehearsal led by 'Sir' Alphonse King and his Sixty Minute Shakespeare Ensemble, will tour local schools before setting up shop in the Studio from 19 – 23 April. In the main auditorium, the Theatre will welcome a new co-production of a contemporary classic, the sultry and stylish *Look Back in Anger* (showing from 7 – 16 April) which will celebrate its 60th birthday, this year. Embodying the frustrations of a generation of working class men, *Look Back in Anger* is set in 1950s Derby, so who better to co-produce this powerful play with than Derby Theatre.

In May, the Octagon welcomes fresh new talent and exciting original work with National Theatre Connections (11 – 20 May). Each year, the National Theatre commissions new plays by brilliant leading playwrights for young theatre companies all over the country to perform in a nationwide Connections Festival, which celebrates the combination of great new writing for the stage, and the energy, commitment, and talent of young theatre-makers. Finally, what better to take us through to the Summer than the new play by Freedom Studios and Emma Hill, *#ChipShoptheMusical* (11 – 21 May). It may not be warm enough to scoff chips at the seaside, yet, but luckily this fantastic musical will be performed somewhere even better: in the iconic Olympus Fish and Chip Restaurant!

Spring at Crompton Place

Spring's nearly here and Crompton Place Shopping Centre has everything you need to stand out! With over 45 high street names and local independents, we have something for all the family.

Kick start spring with booking a holiday at Thomas Cook, then pop to Primark for the seasonal trends, with accessories from just £3! Plus, men can look extra stylish for less with trendy gear from Blue Inc.

Our final spring/summer essential is sun care from Boots, whether it is for the UK or overseas.

What's On

Crompton Place will be hosting FREE interactive activity across May and summer holidays, from 'Me & My Piano'...inviting you to play the piano in the centre to be in for a chance of winning one! And 'Crompton's Patchwork Place'; making a big patchwork quilt with primary schools and staff to display in the centre and donate to a homeless charity in time for winter 2016.

Make sure you check out all the latest events, offers and activity on our website www.crompton-place.co.uk, like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter.

Crompton Place is open from 9am – 5.30pm Monday – Saturday and 10.30am – 5pm on Sunday with parking from only £1.50 for the first hour.



The Olympus Restaurant

Based in the very heart of Bolton, The Olympus has become a local landmark in the town centre and has been serving up mouth-watering fish and chips for more than 28 years.



Our staff will be attentive to you as soon as you walk through the door, from showing you to your seat, taking your coat and serving up delicious food straight to your table. As you sit and enjoy your meal, you may be treated to the soothing sounds of our resident pianist Guy Porteous tinkling the ivories on our grand piano every Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time.

In both the smart surroundings of its spacious 200 seater restaurant and its conveniently situated takeaway, you will always find a warm welcome and the promise of best possible service.

Tasos Tours

At the Olympus we would like to make your day even more enjoyable, so in the summer of 2014 we introduced Tasos Tours, Luxury day trips to some of the UK's best destinations. This Spring we are going to places such as Harrogate, Buxton, Windermere and New Brighton to explore, do some shopping or visit the museums. What you do there is up to you. For more information on the restaurant or our tours, please give us a call on 01204 523887 or come into the restaurant.

Events this Spring

April 23 7.30pm

A Smithills Night of Music @ the Victoria Hall for St Georges Day. Tickets Cost £6 and can be purchased from the Victoria Hall. Present you ticket at the Olympus for a Cod Special Meal including tea or coffee for only £7 (regular price £8.60)

May 11 to 21


Chip Shop the Musical – A collaboration of the Octagon Theatre and the Olympus working together to bring you a great musical whilst you dine. A must see for all.

For more information visit

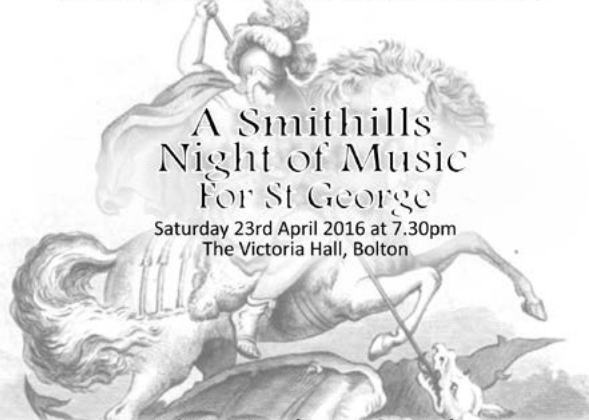
octagonbolton.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01204 520661.

May 27, 28, and 30

1940s @ The Olympus – Join us at the Olympus for a bank holiday weekend, taking you back in time to the 1940s, the staff dress up in the army uniforms and we welcome the Farnworth Performing Arts Society to serenade us with some of those great songs of the 40's whilst you dine.



Pre-Show Dinner
Present your ticket at the Olympus Fish and Chip Restaurant on the night for an Olympus Cod Special Meal with tea or Coffee for only £7 (Normal Price £8.60).



A Smithills Night of Music For St George
Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 7.30pm
The Victoria Hall, Bolton

Admission £6 (concessions £5)
Tickets are on Sale from:
The Victoria Hall Box Office (Tel. 522569)
Smithills School Main Reception (Tel. 842382)
Mr Gerry Russell (Tel. 07764 826233)
Mr Tom Fraser (Tel. 656744)
On the Door

A taste of culture



Come and enjoy amazing history, art, culture and activities at Bolton Central Library, Museum and Aquarium.

Ranging from Egyptian mummies to local history and wildlife, Bolton's collection has something for everyone. There are family friendly events and exhibitions available all year round, and Greater Manchester's only public aquarium, celebrating 75 years this year is based in the building.

Our extensive fish collection contains a wide range of fresh water fish from all over the world.

Events in the next few months include:

- **Incredible Animals exhibition - Bolton Museum**

There are more than a million known species of animals in the world and they are all different in their own special way. Did you know... snails have thousands of teeth, frogs have to blink to swallow and honey bees have hairy eyes! This family friendly exhibition shows you a range of animals from around the world: parrots to insects, kangaroos to otters, seashells to penguins and lots of weird and wonderful facts.

To Tue 31 May, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 9.30am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Admission: Free

- **20th Century British Prints: Highlights from the Sycamore Collection**

A fantastic opportunity to view prints from our collection by some of the best known artists of the 20th Century. On display are works by famous names such as Gwenda Morgan, Eric Ravilious, Henry Moore, David Michael Jones, John Craxton and many other celebrated printmakers.

To Tue 31 May, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 9.30am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Admission: Free

Invest in Bolton



Academic Village

Academic Village

THE proposed Academic Village has taken another step forward with the production of new designs.

The developer, PSP Bolton LLP, is now appointing an architect to produce the detailed

architectural design. These designs will then inform a planning application, and will also be used to consult about the proposals.

The application is expected to be submitted in late 2016.



Logistics North

Logistics North

THE largest distribution, logistics and employment site in Greater Manchester to Junction 4 of the M61, just 3 miles from the M60 and M62.

Aldi has built a distribution centre to support their growing business in the North of Eng-

land, which is now operational.

MBDA is developing a new facility which will combine high-quality manufacturing space with offices. Joy Global have purchased 8 acres and are on site constructing their new facility.



Horwich Loco Works

Rivington Chase

A residential and employment scheme at the site of the former Horwich Locomotive Works, and more than 50 acres of open space including pedestrian and cycle routes.

The scheme includes 1700 new homes within a green envi-

ronment and currently retains some of the original Loco Works buildings and will provide for a new access road linking the site with Horwich Parkway rail station, junction 6 of the M61 and the adjoining Middlebrook retail, leisure and business park.



Bolton Transport Interchange

Transport Interchange

BOLTON's new transport interchange is making progress and scheduled to open this autumn.

The new, £48m development will co-locate the main bus station with Bolton rail station with

the two connected by a pedestrian skylink bridge.

The scheme also includes a new £6.5m Grade A office block fronting Great Moor Street for which work has begun.

Meet your councillors...

Rumworth



Dr Ebrahim Adia
01204 332371
ebrahim.adia@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Please contact for details



Ismail Ibrahim 01204 337636
ismail.ibrahim@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Every Saturday, 10.30am to noon please contact 01204 331098 to make an appointment



Rosa Kay 01204 650527
rosa.kay@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 2 Apr, 10-11am at the Emmanuel Church Hall

Smithills



Roger Hayes
01204 841008
roger.hayes@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Tue 15 Mar at
7.30-8.30pm at
Church Road
School



Andrew Martin
07890 880053
andrew.martin@bolton.gov.uk

Thurs 7 Apr at
7.30-8.30pm at
Hope Centre,
Tattersall Avenue



Carole Swarbrick
01204 492967
carole.swarbrick@bolton.gov.uk

Tonge with the Haulgh



Martin Donaghy
01204 336239
martin.donaghy@bolton.gov.uk

Surgeries
Mon 7 Mar
and Mon 4
Apr, 6-7pm
at Tonge
UCAN centre
and Fri 18
Mar and
Fri 15 Apr,
5-6pm at
Tonge Ucan
Centre



Nicholas Peel
01204 459949
nicholas.peel@bolton.gov.uk



Elaine Sherrington
01204 391092
elaine.sherrington@bolton.gov.uk

Westhoughton North and Chew Moor



Martyn Cox 01204 331190
martyn.cox@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 12 Mar at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall



Anne Graham 07913 417353
anne.graham@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 9 Apr at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall



Zoe Kirk-Robinson 07834 590737
zoe.kirk-robinson@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 2 Apr at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall

Westhoughton South



David Chadwick 01942 818526
david.chadwick@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 16 Apr at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall



Kevan Jones 01204 337969
kevan.jones@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 19 Mar at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall



Anna-Marie Watters 01204 335516
anna-marie.watters@bolton.gov.uk
Surgeries: Sat 23 Apr at 10.30-11.30am at Westhoughton Town Hall

Residents opt to slim bins

LAST July, the council approved the introduction of slim grey bins, to save £1.25m a year and increase recycling levels.

The council has already made significant efforts to reduce grey bin waste and increase recycling, but must make further changes, as waste disposal costs have increased from £16m in 2011/12 to £20m in 2014/15. Most Greater Manchester councils are taking steps to reduce waste disposal costs, either

introducing slim grey bins, or moving to three weekly collections.

The council will therefore be replacing all 240 litre grey bins with slim 140 litre grey bins between June and November 2016, but there will be no other changes to collection rounds or days for residents.

More than 4000 residents now have a slim grey bin and the council asked a group of volunteers to keep a diary to see how they managed with the new bin.



Susan Richardson

One resident who was happy to swap her bin for a slim bin is 60-year-old Susan Richardson of Brightmet.

She said: "We regularly recycle but I used to be very against the food recycling side of it. I thought that it

would be smelly and unhygienic. However, when we switched to a smaller bin, we got a food caddy and started recycling food as well.

"We have found that the food waste caddy is not smelly at all as long as it's emptied regularly, but we also noticed a significant change in how full up the grey bin is.

"It was also remarkable to see how much food we were throwing away and it has inspired us to look at ways to save food, like freezing things. It takes just a little bit of effort but it's really not hard."

Mrs Richardson said she and her husband have also coped well with the smaller grey bin because they already recycled plastic bottles, glass and paper and this means that even with the slimmer bin, it is never full.



Shelley Duncan

Another resident who was happy to switch to a slim grey bin was single mum, Shelley Duncan who lives with her children Macie 8, and Jaxon 4, in Westhoughton.

Shelley previously recycled her plastic bottles, paper and glass, but there were

a few items she was not sure about recycling, such as shampoo bottles and baby wipes, which were easy to check by asking for a waste audit from the council's waste and recycling team. Shampoo bottles can be recycled in the burgundy bins and baby wipes are not recyclable and have to go in the grey bin.

Shelley had not previously recycled food and had always found that her bin was full on collection day.

However, she decided that the switch to a slim bin was a good time to introduce food recycling in the home.

"The kids have really enjoyed learning about the different types of recycling you can do in the home and now they know exactly what type of waste goes in which bin."

She added: "Previously my grey bin was pretty full on collection day and also heavy to move. Now, it's not usually full except at Christmas or after a family party and it's much lighter for me to put out for collection."

Anju Lilley, from Westhoughton, was concerned when she heard about the introduction of slim bins, as she has five children and already recycles a lot.

However, after a call to the council's waste and recycling team, she was reassured that families of six or more would be allowed to keep their larger grey bin, as long as they are recycling.

Anju has always recycled and was taught about recycling at home and school, as a child. She was brought up in a culture of upcycling and she has also brought her children up to understand recycling in the home.

Anju said: "It's easy to make recycling a part of your everyday life and fairly simple to understand what to put in the different bins, as even my younger children can do it."

She is happy that she will be able to keep her large grey bin, as despite recycling as much as possible the family of seven does find that the bin is pretty much full by collection day.

The council wants to encourage any residents who feel they need help with waste and recycling to apply for support.

Large families with six or more people, families with three or more children in nappies and households with one or more people producing medical waste can apply for a waste audit and may be eligible for a larger bin, as long as they are recycling as much as they can.

You can apply for a waste audit or help and support by visiting www.bolton.gov.uk/lovere recycling or calling 01204 336632.

Bolton Council Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Cllr Nick Peel said: "It is great that people like Susan, Shelley and Anju have put themselves forward for these case studies.

"We hope that other families and households will see from these case studies that it is possible to manage with a slim bin. All of our case studies have found that if they are all recycling fully, including food recycling, that they can reduce the amount in the grey bin."



Cllr Nick Peel

Saving energy and money all year round



For help and advice on saving money on your energy bills and keeping warm and well in your home **Call 01204 328178**

Bolton in brief

RECYCLE DONATION: Recycle for Greater Manchester and Viridor have donated 13 tonnes of Revive Multi-Purpose Compost to Bolton community organisations, in the last year, to help them grow fruit, vegetables and plants.

ELECTRIC CARS: Electric vehicle use in Greater Manchester has rocketed over the past twelve months. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) developed more than 300 charging points and during 2015 there were 28,744 charging sessions compared to 10,174 in 2014.

STEAM MUSEUM: Bolton Steam Museum is open the Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 1 and Monday 2 May, and Sunday 29 May and Monday 30 May and 10am-4pm. Free admission to the museum on Mornington Road behind Morrisons. Volunteers have rescued and restored 30 old stationary steam engines - some of the engines which once powered the cotton mills of Lancashire.

AT SEA: Bolton Aquarium celebrated 75 years earlier this year. The popular attraction which welcomed 100,000 visitors last year, has more than 70 varieties of fish from all around the world. It opened in 1941.

MORE BOOKS: Bolton library users can borrow books from other libraries across Greater Manchester. Libraries in the region have launched a shared online catalogue system giving access to 2.8m million books and other items using their existing Bolton Libraries card.

IRON KIDS: Places are running out for the world's largest Ironkids. The race, takes place on Saturday, July 16. To enter complete an entry form at www.ironkids.co.uk. The fee is £3 per child.

PLAY AREA: Six-year old Thomas Webb was guest of honour when a vandalised play area was redeveloped. Thomas offered to donate all the money from his piggy bank when the play area in Suffolk Close Park in Little Lever was damaged.

ELEPHANT LINKS: The council has started work on a new town centre play area, which will reflect the town's historic links with elephants. The new play area will be situated in Octagon Court and includes a large multi-use play structure with climbing frames and a slide, as well as two elephant-shaped rockers.

College apprentice turns life around



LIFE AWARD: Connor at work in the music studio

A BOLTON College student has received national awards for his efforts to study and to turn his life around.

Connor Stevenson is currently completing a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Teaching and Learning Specialist Support for Schools at the college.

He was nominated for the Association of Colleges Student of the Year at the National Apprenticeship Awards after being identified by Bolton College as an

exceptional apprentice.

He works as an apprentice youth worker at the Raise the Youth Foundation.

The foundation, works with 'high risk' young people, including gang members, ex-offenders, substance abusers and looked-after children to enable them to make positive changes to their lives.

Connor, 24, said: "I used to get into trouble with the police but this apprenticeship has given my life stability, so to get national recognition from the Association of Colleges and the National Apprenticeship

Service is just amazing. This whole experience has helped me realise my goal: to help young people channel their emotions through music. I'd love to be a music teacher one day."

What sets Connor apart from other teaching support apprentices is his approach; if a learner is proving difficult to motivate, he engages them through music, which then focuses them to work on their functional skills.

Ian Hepplewhite, Co-founder of Raise the Youth Foundation, said: "Before joining us, Connor was long-term unemployed

and involved in varying levels of substance misuse, criminality, and antisocial behaviour, and was distant from the labour market. But his passion for music was his hook into learning. Connor has worked hard to overcome life challenges and academic challenges - but the greatest testimony is his ability to motivate others to learn.

He engages, encourages, motivates, listens - and uses his sense of humour, his boundless energy and his personal story to energise others. We're all incredibly proud of him."

Lighting up the streets

MORE than 1300 streets in Bolton have been switched over to new LED lighting.

The scheme won an award in the Lux Awards - a flagship lighting industry competition - to recycle the existing old style sodium street lanterns with Lumicom, a not-for-profit recycling company.

Around 5750 street lights are now using the lower energy lighting and approximately 26,000 street lamps on residential streets and main roads are being replaced with lower carbon LED lanterns during the next three years.

The street lighting programme should save the council £14m over 20 years, and reduce energy use by around 50%.

The new LEDs are also brighter and keep the streets well lit and safe for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, reducing the chance of accidents and crime. They also improve the quality of images captured at night on CCTV.

The LED lighting is controlled by a wireless Central Management System allowing the lights to be monitored from a central point, which reduces inspection costs and make it easier to repair faults. This system also enables lighting levels to be varied accordingly.

Be twice a winner with slim your bin

RESIDENTS who sign up to slim their bins before the end of March will be entered into a prize draw.

The prizes include £100 of vouchers for Bolton Market, a family day out for four people to Smithills Farm and a year's membership of Bolton Community Leisure Trust.

More than 4200 households have already signed up to switch to a slim grey bin. Any residents who are keen to slim their bins and potentially win prizes can visit www.bolton.gov.uk/lovereycling or email wasteandrecycling@bolton.gov.uk

The council will be replacing all 240 litre grey bins with slim 140 litre grey bins between June and November 2016, but there will be no other changes to collection rounds or days for residents.

The council also wants to encourage any residents who feel they need help with waste and recycling to apply for a waste audit by calling 01204 336632 or visiting www.bolton.gov.uk/lovereycling.

New online road to study

A NEW website has been launched for adults to find out about courses at Bolton College.

The website - www.boltoncommunity.org - is also designed to be used on mobile phones. As well as searching for courses visitors can look at the 'Have a go' page which has interactive content, videos and online learning games. Visitors can also find the location of their nearest Community Learning Centre.

The website has been developed by the college with Bolton Council and web-design company Designers Up North.

Susan Pearson, who got back into learning through a Community Maths and English class at New Bury

Community Learning Centre, was the first Bolton College learner to try out the new website. Susan is now studying for a Maths and English qualification at the college's Deane Road Campus, and said of the website: "It's a good resource. I find it easy to use and will be using it in the future!"

Users can browse a wide range of courses on the website - many of which aim to boost confidence and wellbeing, improve essential skills such as maths and English, and develop skills needed for employment. New courses starting in February include 'Eat Well: Cooking on a Budget', 'Motivation for Men', 'Get Active Outdoors', 'Relaxation for Women', 'Office Skills' and 'DIY'.



HI-TECH LEARNING: Learner, Susan Pearson, demonstrates the new website on her mobile phone with Jayne Tramontana, Head of Community Regeneration and Aftab Hussain, Strategic Information Learning Technology Leader from Bolton College

Carolyn tunes into success

THE Head of Bolton Music Service, Carolyn Baxendale, is to receive an MBE after being named in the New Year's Honours List.

Mrs Baxendale, who has worked for the council for 17 years, said the nomination was a complete surprise and that it "gives everyone a boost".

She said: "The work of one person alone can't be recognised. I work with so many people and this nomination reflects that. This shows that music really matters to people in Bolton and that the Music Service is a successful model."

Born in Bolton, Mrs Baxendale herself was a member of Bolton Youth Orchestra whilst growing up in the town.

She studied a Masters of Music at Manchester University before gaining her first job as a music teacher at Chorlton High School.

Mrs Baxendale then taught music at Little Lever High School and she joined Bolton Music Service in 1999 as a music curriculum

teacher and worked her way up to become the head of the service eight years ago.

She also leads the Greater Manchester Music Hub, which is a partnership of nine of the GM educational music services.

Originally a violinist, she has turned her talents to leading a number of choirs, including the successful and popular Cantamus which is based at St Thomas of Canterbury Church and has 60 members.

She also works with Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society which is currently rehearsing for a performance of Verdi's Requiem at Victoria Hall on May 14 with Bolton Symphony Orchestra.

And she directs Bolton Youth Harmonies, a senior youth choir which caters for ages up to 19. Carolyn has recently helped to set up the new charity Trust Music which supports children in challenging circumstances to access music.

Mrs Baxendale said: "Music is my work and also my hobby and I love bringing music to life and creating new opportunities for local families."



ROYAL HONOUR: Carolyn has supported music teaching in Bolton for more than 17 years, and is proud to be named in the New Year's Honours list

Together for a healthier Bolton

THERE is more pressure than ever on health and social care services in Bolton, and as this increases so does demand on our services.

More people are living longer, often with complicated health problems, so they need more help to stay well.

If no changes are made by 2020 there will be a gap of around £9m between the cost of health and care and the money available.

The health service and council can't find this money by making small savings, so we must change the way we provide health and care in Bolton.

The Health and Care Locality Plan sets out how this will happen through the devolution of health and care in Greater Manchester.

The plan is about changing health and social care so less is spent on hospital care, and more in the community. It will focus on those who have the greatest need for support, to stay healthy and independent.

Taking charge

You can get involved by sharing what you will do to take charge of your health and wellbeing and improve local services. The Bolton Taking Charge campaign is encouraging Bolton people to make a pledge to 'take charge' of their own health and wellbeing.

Bolton Taking Charge pledges can be posted:

- On social media using #BoltonTakingCharge @LMI Bolton
- On the 'Let's Make It' online forum: www.lets-make-it-bolton.co.uk/have-your-say
- By email at letsmakeit-bolton@nhs.net

- By filling in a Bolton Taking Charge pledge card - look out for the NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group out and about in Bolton

Bolton Taking Charge is part of the Greater Manchester wide, Taking Charge Together campaign. You can also share your struggles and successes in making healthy lifestyle choices by filling in a survey at www.taking-charge-together.org.uk

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Support for Horwich new businesses



TEA CAKE: Poppins Tearooms at 142 Lee Lane, offering a unique dining experience, is one of the shops that benefited from a grant

NEW businesses have sprung up in Horwich town centre with the help of grants from Bolton Council.

Grants of up to £5000 were available in Horwich to encourage new investment in empty retail units.

The new shops include:

- Sugar Lumps an arts and craft shop at 51 Winter Hey Lane where high quality, educational art, craft and creative activities are provided for all. The business owner Rachel Husband runs a range of taught workshop style sessions aimed at different groups. She also runs drop in sessions and caters for birthday parties and other special events.
- Poppins Tearooms is a Victorian styled tea room at 142 Lee Lane and offers a unique dining experience for customers, providing a range of luxury teas, herbal teas, coffee and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes and pastries. The atmosphere created is of a traditional English Tearoom

with chandeliers and wall lights, church pews, white tablecloths and an old bike outside with flowers in its front basket with small touches relating to Mary Poppins.

- The latest shop to move in is M&O fishmongers which has opened for business at 60 Lee Lane selling a variety of fresh fish, seafood and game. The business owners have wanted a shop in their home town for some time after trading in Chorley and Darwen for the last few years.
- Forever Home Interiors were awarded a grant of £5000 in early January and at the time Bolton Scene went to print the owner was refitting the shop at 64 Lee Lane before opening. The business sells solid wood furniture, accessories, upcycled shabby chic furnishings and giftware.

The grants were available during the past year, however the money has now been fully allocated.



Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June 2016

Run, cycle, swim.
Join us for this fun family event.

From exciting rides for the kids, cool live music and fantastic street entertainment, there's lots going on for everyone!

Festival programme

Saturday

Run...

- 12noon – 1.30pm Mass Fun Run (including fancy dress)
- 6.30pm Fun Swim Run (8 – 14 years)

Bike...

- 1.30pm – 5pm Mass Cycle Ride (including adapted cycles)
- 5.30pm Youth Cycle Races
- 7pm Senior Cycle Race (30 laps E/1/2/3 categories)

Watch...

Come and watch one of the most popular sporting events in the North West! See competitors from far and wide whizz around the streets of Horwich on foot and by bike. You never know, you might spot some of the future stars of the Olympics!

Sunday

- 7am Triathlon
- 10am Youth Cycle Races
- 10am Orienteering (off circuit - Queens Park/Bolton School)
- 10.45am BMAF 5km Walking UK Championships
- 10.50am BMAF 5km Running UK Championships
- 11.30am Youth Cycling Relay (7 - 11 years' teams of 4)
- 12.15pm Racing Wheelchairs
- 12.30pm Horwich Open 5 km run
- 1.15pm Unicycle Road Race
- 1.55pm Orienteering Sprint Final
- 2.25pm 1 Lap Cycling Street Race (6 - 15 years)
- 2.45pm Senior Cycle Race (16 - 39 years)
- 4pm Veterans Cycle Race (40 - 80 years)
- 5.15pm Finish

Also...

- Tuesday 14th June 2016
7.30pm Horwich Trail Race
- Wednesday 15th June 2016
7.30pm Horwich Cycling Club / HFoR Hill Climb (16 years plus)
- Friday 17th June 2016
7.30pm Horwich Fell Race

For entry details and the most up to date information get online at www.horwichfestivalofracing.co.uk

Sponsors include:



MyLifein
www.Bolton.org.uk



**“All the local info
I need is just a
click away!”**

**For the most comprehensive and up-to-date
information about Bolton get online.**

With contact details, quality reviews and prices for accredited services and information on nurseries, child minders, schools, children and adult social care providers, voluntary organisations, local help groups, activities and events, My Life In Bolton is your one stop shop to keep all the family in the know.

Don't forget this still provides free promotion and listings to local events, community and voluntary groups and service providers.



www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk

Bolton Life!

Events, sport, festivals, culture

My life in Bolton

A NEW website tells you everything you need to know about events, activities, community groups and services in the borough.

The website is kept up to date as anyone running an event, community and voluntary groups or anyone providing a service can upload their information to the site.

The www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk website provides a one stop shop of information on services, events, activities and advice for all residents in Bolton from

parents and families, teachers and schools to carers, practitioners and service providers.

There are so many events happening across the borough that they can be difficult to find. The My Life In Bolton website, updated by those providing services and running events, brings all this information together. It builds on what was provided before in the Local Directory.

A big part of the site is promoting support services to anyone aged between 0 to 25 with special education-

al needs, and their parents and carers. Everything you might need can be found on the site including information about:

- Advice and rights
- Care and support;
- Childcare
- Community groups
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing
- Jobs and careers
- Learning and skills
- Money matters
- Schools
- Safety and protection
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and transport

Celebrating the Queen's birthday

THE borough will be commemorating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday next month.

As part of the national celebrations, beacons will be lit across the country

to mark the occasion. The Bolton Beacons will be lit at Bolton Arena and at the Horrocks Hall Farm car park on Scout Road on Thursday April 21.

There will also be a fire-

work display within Queens Park.

Further details about both events will be announced in the local press, the council's website (www.bolton.gov.uk) and through social media.

Passion for Bolton



EASTER STORY: The Passion for Bolton drama in 2011 the last time it was held

THE town hall square will be the setting for a live drama about the last days of Jesus' life.

The 'Passion for Bolton' drama was last performed in the town in 2011.

It returns this Easter de-

picting the climax of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in 21st century language. There will be a choir who will perform throughout the production and two large screens, with clips filmed prior to the event.

More than 3000 people watched the performance in 2011. Organiser, Bolton Christian Community Cohesion, is hoping for similar numbers when it returns on Saturday 26 March at noon.

At your leisure in Horwich



NEW CENTRE: Initial plans for how the new Horwich Leisure Centre would look

PLANS for the new Horwich Leisure Centre have taken a step forward with the release of architects drawings.

The concepts have been produced to go with a planning application which is due to be submitted later this month.

As the council announced last year the current leisure centre is to be replaced with a brand new facility which will include:

- 25m six lane pool with a separate training pool
- 100 station fitness suite
- Spin and dance studios
- Four court sports hall
- Changing facilities
- New car parking

In addition a new health facility will be built on the site.

If approved, work to demolish the current car park would take place after the Horwich Festival of Racing in June. The new centre would then be built on the site of the car park. The current centre would remain open and temporary car parking would be put into place.

When completed the old centre would then be demolished and a new car park and GP surgery built, subject to a further planning application.

If approved the new centre will open in summer 2017 with the car park and GP surgery opening in 2018.

"The new centre will provide a range of modern facilities within a brand new purpose building," said Councillor Cliff Morris, Leader of the council.

"The current building is well used and popular but is looking tired after 40 years service. The new facilities will provide the west of the borough with a sporting centre to match that available in the town centre at Bolton One."