

Thank you Heeleys Batley for sponsoring us £1000 for the year. We have used this money to have this issue printed. Our readers please support Heeleys Batley in the brilliant work they are doing for Batley!



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Editorial 20th edition July/August

Please carry on sending all the wonderful things you are doing in Batley.

For our 21st edition, we need your contributions by August 1st. Please send your articles, notes, photographs, recipes, puzzles as attachments to the email togetherinbatley@gmail.com or come to one of our content workshops:-

Content workshops in the library; Mon 28th July 1-3pm Tues 29th July 10-12pm planning meeting Thurs 31st July 10-11am+ book box Fri 1st August 2-4pm

We hope copies will be available in the first week of Sept at Batley Food Bank, Batley Community Centre, Jo Cox House, The Park Café, The Salvation Army and Churches. If you would like to take copies somewhere so we can increase our reach to every community, please let us know: togetherinbatley@gmail.com

If we fail to get the money for the paper it will still be online at https://togetherinbatley.co.uk with links from

https://www.facebook.com/togetherinbatley/

Please send your contributions as attachments with photographs attached to the email separately. Articles 350 words with 2 photos 8x8 centimetres. Group Reports 60 words with 1 photograph. Book Review 150 words with 1 photograph. What's on 12-20 words. Thank you all for your super contributions!!

Cover: Heeleys



Disclaimer:

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When we put this issue together we didn't have enough money to have it printed

Our crowd funding had only raised £351 and we only had 18 contributors

but HEELEYS BATLEY have sponsored us and enabled us to print this issue. Thank you Heeleys Batley this is brilliant

We have tried to raise money by crowd funding on Space Hive finishing 10th July!!!!

https://www.spacehive.com/togetherinbatley We need £6,000 for a year.

If we raise £3,000 Kirklees would match the funding, or if we have 20 donors Kirklees will help us.

It costs £6 for 1 person for 1 year: a £6 donation to our crowd funding from our readers would be wonderful.

We are applying for more grants and trying to secure more sponsors. We will try to continue to produce the paper copies for free and post it online.

Spread the word



Batley Groups



ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

Criminals steal private photos from hacked accounts and use them to extort victims

Passwords

Email and social media account passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords.

2-Step Verification

Enable 2-step verification (2SV), it will keep criminals out of your account even if your password is stolen.

For more information, visit: www.gov.uk/stopthinkfraud





"Music acts like a magic key that heals wounds no medicine can reach"

Elizabeth Lycett

Musician Singer and Classical flautist

Email: Elizalycett@gmail.com

Phone: 07340858186



JUNE 2:30 - 4:00 Sat 28th : - From Seed Up!

JULY 2-4 pm Thur: 24^{th:} Sprout and Shout!

Thur: 31st Bugs, Bounces and Books!





August 2-4 pm

Thurs 7th Games by You!

Thur 14th: Boxes & Bolts!

Thur 21st: SHABANG!!

Book your space at the Library

SHABANG!

Bud & Blossom

@



Batley Library

21 August 2025

TWO SHOWS!!

10.45 - 11.45

1.15 - 2.15

Join our wonderfully eccentric gardening duo, Bud & Blossom, as they take you on a magical journey through their garden

An inclusive, family-friendly musical show!

Free - Booking Required!





Batley Art Gallery. Part 1

1907 19th October box C. The official opening of Batley Town Free Library. Box C no 4 On the Architectural plans by Hanstock the 2 large rooms on the first floor are called "Reference Library" and "Reference Library 2".

1909 in the Borough of Batley Public Library Second Annual Report of the librarian (Alfred Errington) box C no 25, it states that "A photographic exhibition was attended by 5,300 people in the library".

1939 Borough of Batley Public Libraries' Regulations box C no 32 makes no mention of an Art Gallery.

1945 Alfred Errington retired and Mr Alfred Henry Rust became the Librarian. Source- Batley Reporter October 26th 1957. Box C no12

1945 On 20th October the Reference Library was converted to open access and The Art Gallery Room was available for exhibitions. Source- Batley Library 75year Anniversary 1907-1981 box C no21

1971 In Rules and Regulations of Borough of Batley Public Libraries (box C no27) there is no mention of the Art Gallery.

1952 "The Art Gallery received its prize exhibit, The Magdalene, a painting by Frances Bacon in 1952 as a gift fr4om the Contemporary Arts Society of which Batley was a member. The choice was made by Batley Art Curator Mr RW Gelsthorpe and in 1970 the painting had appreciated to an insurance valuation of £30.000" source The History of Batley 1800-1974, Malcolm Haigh

1982 in Batley Library 75 year Anniversary 1907-1982 Box C no 21 we read "Through the year exhibitions will be held in the first floor Art Gallery. These will include local art shows, items from Kirklees Collection of Art Works and exhibitions and displays organised by the Arts Council of Great Britian. Local societies and organisations are encouraged to make use of the Library Exhibition Area on the ground floor". No mention is made of a specific role in the library staff list to organise the Art Gallery.

1982 Batley News October 14th reports on the 75th year anniversary (box C no 22)

Mrs Judith Hodge was the Librarian when series of films were shown in the Art Gallery running all day so people can go in and out as they pleased. The films were:

- 1 Batley Borough's Centenary.
- 2 About Batley in general by the former Bagshaw Museum Curator John Lidster.
- 3 About the library in 1966.
- 4 "Waste" by the BBC 1968 about the decline of Batley industry.
- 5 King George V's Silver Jubilee Celebration in Batley.

1985/86 Annual Report Kirklees Metropolitan Council, Leisure Services Libraries, Museums and Arts Division. (box C no 33) records the Art Galleries staff as RJ Hall BA with attendance at the gallery

84/5 as 6,471 and in 85/6 as 4,431.

1984/5 Annual Report Kirklees Metropolitan Council Leisure Services Directorate box C no 33 lists the exhibitions in Batley Art Gallery that year:

April/May Batley Camera Club

June DABTAC

July/Aug Contemporary ceramics

Sept Children's peace exhibition

Batley and Birstall Civic Society

1988-89 Kirklees Libraries Museums and Arts Annual Report (box C no 33) mentions that Huddersfield Art Gallery held a series of temporary exhibitions together with the branch galleries at Batley and Dewsbury. A series of sculpture workshops with Special Needs Groups and schools were held in September, These were based on an exhibition by Michelle Leon and Emma Bolland entitled "Fishwives and Angels"

1989-90 32 exhibitions were staged by Kirklees Art Galleries in Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury involving a large range of artistic practice (with special emphasis on local artists) and an excellent supporting programme of events and activities. Source- Kirklees Libraries Museums and Arts Annual Report 1989-90 box C no 33

1989 Box r no 31 contains the brief of the exhibition in Batley Art Gallery opened April 1989.

1994 In the Batley Library and Art Gallery Newsletter (box C no 37) under the management of Area Librarian Catherine Morris, there was a winter Open Exhibition in the run up to Christmas in the Art Gallery. In January on the 21st, Batley Art Gallery hosted an exhibition by landscape artist Clare Wiltsher.

Box C refers to the Green box file C in the Reference Library.

Please share with us your memories of the Art Gallery for part 2 in the next issue. The email is togetherinbatley@gmail.com.

Kirklees has a collection of digitised screen stories available from the library laptops.



BFIGREPLAY

60 YEARS OF SCREEN STORIES, DIGITISED AND PRESERVED FOR YOU BFI Replay is a free video on demand service with thousands of digitised videos and television programmes from the collections of the BFI National Archive and partner UK Regions and Nations Film Archives.

Available exclusively at your local library, come down and delve into the recorded past for fun, discovery, nostalgia or research.

Ask one of your library team for more information.

bfi.org.uk/replay

What's On! Each Week July / Aug

Every Monday:

Gym. 9.30-10.30am.

Batley Sporting Foundation.

Breakfast, dinner and pudding

10.00-12.00pm Batley Care and

Drop in at Central Methodist Church

Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm

Batley Butterfly House

Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm
Bleak House, Wilton Estate

Keep Fit 12.00-1.00pm

Over 50's Group 1.00-4.00pm

Mature Movers12.00-1,00pm

Line Dancing 7.15-9.15p

Trinity Centre Batley Carr

Community Café. Coffee, tea, pies peas and cakes. 9.30-1.30pm Salvation Army

Movement and Games. Chair based exercise 10.30-12.00pm Batley Community Centre RVS

St Mary's Theatre Group. 7.00pm Social Club and Parochial Hall.

This Way For English. 1.00-4.00pm Andy's Man Club. Join the Conversation 7.00pm Batley Library

Henry 9.00-11.00am Manorfield I&N School Gardening 2.00-3.00pm Manorfield I&N School (term time only) Batley Mencap. Social evening 6.00-9.00pm at Chickenly Community Centre

Community Choir 7.15-8.45pm

Term time only

Community Room, Batley Parish Church.

MASC Batley Karate Club
4.00-5.00pm and 5.00-6.00pm
£5 Michelle 07932650854
Bingo from 8.00pm £3 a book
Social Club and Parochial Hall

Fitness for Ladies 5.00-6.00pm Al Hikmah Centre IMWS

Baby Clinic 9.30-11.30am Carlinghow Academy 01924 326371

Open Gym 9.00-10am Ladies only
Gym 5.15-6.15pm Learn Together
Craft Club 12.00-2.00pm
M.E.N. Men Only Gym 6.30-7.30pm
Over 55's Gym 6.30-7.30pm
Open Circuit 7.30-8.30pm
Batley Sporting Foundation

Pilates 12.30-1.30pm Batley Community Centre RVS

Stay and Play 1.5-3yrs 1.00-3.00pm 50p Warwick Rd School Fri 01924 455593

Batley and District Camera Club
7.30-9.30pm
North Kirklees Family History Group
10.00-12.00pm
Batley Community Centre

Lunch and Bingo 11.00-2.00pm at Church Ablaze, Wellington Street

Yoga 1.00-2.00pm at Trinity Centre Contact Alida at 07401 964218

Every Tuesday:

RAFA Coffee Morning with singing every other week 10.30-12.00pm Rhyme Time 1.00-1.30pm Batley Library Term time only.

Over 50s Luncheon Club 12.00 2.00pm Two course meal £5.50 Yoga Class 1.00-2.00pm Trinity Centre

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00pm Manorfield I&N School (term time only)

What's On! each Week July / Aug

Every Wednesday:

Stay and Play £1.50 9.30-11.30am Salvation Army

Singing for Fun 2.00-4.00pm £5 with Anthony 07876267267 Fit Steps with Karen 5.45-6.45pm dance fitness £5 07973242684 St Mary's Rock and Roll Club 8.00pm £3

> Pool in the lounge 8.00pm 50p St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall

Social Dancing Space 2.00-4.00pm with Trevor

Trinity Centre, Batley Carr

Crafty Ladies 1.00-3.00pm Church Ablaze, Wellington St.

Project empowerment 10-1.00pm Manorfield I&N School (term time only)

Peer Talk 11.00-12.30pm For those living with depression and anxiety.

Brimer Hall, Central Methodist Church

Community Archive with support 10.00-12.00pm Batley Library.

North Kirklees Family History drop in 10.00-12.00pm Batley Community centre.

Every Thursday:

Open Gym 9.00-10.30am Ladies Only Gym 5.15-6.15pm M.E.N. Men Only Gym 6.30-7.30pm Wellbeing Walking 10.00-11.00am Over 55's Gym 7.00-9.00pm Open Circuit 7.30-8.30pm Batley Sporting Foundation.

Luncheon Club, 2 course meal 11.30-1.00pm. Please book. Batley Community Centre RVS

Community Café. Coffee, tea, pies Peas and cake. 9.30-1.30pm Salvation Army.

Cummunity archive with support 10.00 -12.00pm Long Covid Support Group 11.00-12.00pm Story Time 10.30-11.15am term time

Step by Step Job Club 10.00am Stop smoking 1.00-2.30 Batley Library

Slimming World with Lynn 9am/11am/5pm/7pm 07988662052 St Maty's social club and Parochial Hall

Batley Youth Hub survival skills, sport, food, music, games 6.30-8.00pm Fearless People Yorkshire. Sensory Play for children afternoon Bleak House, Wilton Estate

North Kirklees Family History Group. 10.00-12.30pm tel 917414 Batley Community Centre

Wellbeing walks 2.00-3.00pm Wilton Park Batley adults 18+ Kirklees Wellness service 01484 234095

Stay and Play free 9.00-10.00am Or 12.15-1.15pm Al Noor Nursery, Community Centre, Hyrstlands Rd 07661735370

ESOL 9.00-11.30am Manorfield I&N Macrame 9.00-11.30am Field Lane J IEN School (term time only)

Every Friday:

Crochet Group 10.00-12.00pm Sporting Memories 10.00-11.00am Free Bingo 2.00-3.30pm Monthly Batley Library

Walking Rugby 12.30 Batley Community Centre Batley Sporting Foundation

Get Active Owls for over 50s. 10.00-3.00pm 014844766131 Batley Sports and Tennis Centre

Rock and Roll Band nights. monthly 7.30pm Mick Ingram Tribute Nights Monthly 7.30pm Tickets £8 and £10 St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall

The Craft Club 5.00-7.00pm Under 8s only with parents Bleak House, Wilton Estate

What's On! Each Week July / Aug

Ladies Rounders Team Batley Ninjas 8.00pm Batley Tennis Club 07514372582, 07961449236

Gardening Group 9.30-12.00pm Meets in Town Car Park Apr-Oct Batley Community Alliance richardmartin012btinternet.com

Singing For Wellbeing 1.00-2.00pm SINGSPIRATION ROSEWOOD CENTRE Dewsbury District Hospital

Art Group 10.00-12.00pm

Trinity Centre, Batley Carr

North Kirklees Family History Group 9.30-12.00pm Batley Community Centre

Drop in Breakfast and Lunch 9.30-12.30pm

Church Ablaze, Wellington st.

Coffee Morning 10am-11.30am - Brimer Hall Entrance side red door Batley Central Methodist Church

Every Saturday:

Lego Club 12.00-2.00pm Trading card Club 2.15-3.45pm Crafts 2.00-4.00pm (last Sat of every month Batley Library

Butterfly House open 10.00-4.00pm Top of the park, Free. Butterfly House Bug Club 10.00-2.00pm

Every Sunday:

Ballroom Dancing with Trevor 7.45pm £3. St Mary's Social Club. and Parochial Hall.

Lego at the Museum 12.00-4.00Pm 1st weekend every month

Butterfly House open 10.00-4.00pm Top of the park Free

Junior Park Run 9.00am 4-14yrs Wilton Park Friends of Wilton Park.

Ladies Rounders Team Batley Ninjas 10.00am Heckmondwike Grammar School Junior Team 11.00am 07514372582, 07961449236

List of Providers:

- * Batley Butterfly House: facebook or email batleybutterflyhouse@gmail.com
- * Batley Community Centre 07726 771936
- * Batley Library ring 01484221000 and ask for Batley Library
- * Batley Sporting Foundation ring 07808 055022 or email info@batleysportingfoundation.org
- * Bleak House, 200a Ealand Road, Wilton. WF17 8JL
- * Carers Count https://carerscount.org.uk
- * Friends of Wilton Park fowp2015@gmail.com
- * IMWS https://www.imws.org.uk/contact us
- * For Manorfield I&N School 07497 512801
- * RVS ring 07884 114853
- * Salvation Army ring 01924 443716
- * St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall, Melton St. www.stmarysocialclubbatley.uk ring 07896 974492
- * Trinity Centre ring 01924 437331
- * Bagshaw Museum, Wilton Park, Batley.
- * Batley Community Alliance Volunteers, richardmartin01@btinternet.com
- * For Field Lane J I&N School 07497 512801
- * North Kirklees Family History Group. Tel 01924 917414

What's On! Special Events July / Aug

Batley Library Events:

More Dates for your diary:

Mondays: :

Police drop in 10-11am

This Way for English 1-4pm

Meet Try Learn 1-3pm

Singing Group 1.45-4.15pm

Chess Club 6th July and then every 2 weeks 5-

6.30pm

Andy's Man Club 7-9pm

21st July Carers count coffee and chat 10.30-

12pm

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Inesday: Ex RAFA tea and cake 10.30-12pm

Rhymetime - term time only 1-1.30pm

Thursday: Step by Step 10-12pm

Storytime - term time only 10.30-11.15am

Stop smoking 1.30 -2.30pm

24th July Plant Activities 12-2pm* for children

7th Aug. Make a game to play 12-2pm* for

children

14th August Building with Boxes and Bolts *

for children

21st August Shabang 2 shows 10-12 and 1-3pm*

Friday: Sporting Memories 10am

Crocket 10am

18th July and 22nd Aug - Bingo 2pm

Saturday: Lego - 12-2pm

Trading Cards 2.15-3.45pm

Craft club - 26th July and 30th August 2-4pm

28th June Planting Plants for children 2-4pm*

Decorate a duck 5th July and 26th July 2.15-

1 4pm

Living Knowledge Network:

Unearthed - The Power of Gardening exhib

Mon, 2 Jun at 18:14

Please book in at the library.

* 5th July Kirkwood Starlight Walk at John Smith Stadium.

* Grease Drive-in Movie Night, Heeleys.

* 26th July Arts and Crafts Market Heeleys.

* 3rd August Woggle Hopping Festival, Wilton Park

* 30th August Vintage Market, Heeleys

* Bollywood Night drive-in Movie Night

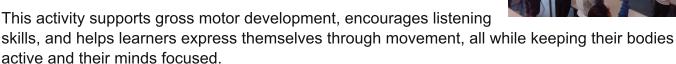
Schools' Pages: Batley Multi Academy Trust Schools' Pages: Batley Multi Academy Trust



Manorfield Infant and Nursery School: Cardio desk drumming

Learners in Year 2 were introduced to cardio desk drumming using pool noodles as an engaging way to build rhythm, coordination, and physical fitness.

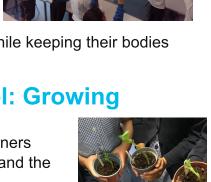
Using tables as drums, learners tap, bounce and move to the beat with colourful pool noodles, turning exercise into a fun musical experience.





Gardening Club is in full swing with over 30 'green fingered' young learners attending every week. They are keen to understand the growing cycle and the different conditions plants need to survive and thrive.

Year 2 learners have been tasked with growing and caring for their own tomato plant, which is daunting and exciting in equal measure!



Batley Grammar School - Primary Phase: Local author visits

Learners were excited to meet local author Mo Bhana in a recent visit. Mr Bhana is best known for his book Five, a science fiction adventure that was inspired by his two sons. Learners from Year 5

through to Year 7 gathered in the library to listen to Mr Bhana share extracts from his book and speak about what it's like to be an author. Mr Bhana also gave learners the opportunity to ask questions about his career and the writing process. They had been so excited to read the book that all of the library's copies were checked out, and he lent his own copy to several learners!



Healey Junior, Infant and Nursery School: : 'Stay and Play' parent/carer engagement

Nursery and Reception classes had a wonderful day of 'stay and play', with parents/carers working with their children on all sorts of activities.

The focus for this half term was Mathematical development and there were smiles all around with the learning activities and parent/carer engagement. The support from parents/carers has been brilliant and we continue to build these relationships to be Stronger Together!



Batley Girls' High School: Year 9 visit HSL in Batley

Batley Girls' High School has been selected by C+K Careers for our Year 9 learners to be part of a pilot programme Equalax (Modern Work Experience) launched by The Careers & Enterprise Company.

We visited a local employer, HSL Chairs, in Batley where learners found out about the many careers associated with the company and the skills they will need for future career choices. Overall, our learners were very inspired by their visit and had a practical opportunity on what the job entailed as a Quality Controller. Thank you to HSL Chairs for giving our learners this opportunity.



Batley Grammar School - RAF Gliding

The better spring weather saw cadets from the RAF Section of CCF (Combined Cadet Force) given the opportunity to visit RAF Topcliffe in North Yorkshire, to carry out aviation training in a glider aircraft. Cadets were taken through a thorough safety briefing and were required to demonstrate they understood the safety protocols prior to their flight. Each cadet got the opportunity to fly with a gliding instructor, and they were lucky enough to take the controls of the aircraft. All the





Upper Batley High School: Learners involved in parliamentary debate

A small group of our Year 9 learners took part in a parliamentary debate on 'the loss of the love of learning' along with their peers from schools across the UK, although they were some of the youngest involved.

They talked about the importance of oracy, social interaction, wellbeing benefits of extracurricular activities and their wish to see more diversity within

the Curriculum, which was echoed by others in the session. The learners have enthusiastically shared their feedback on the event; they really enjoyed the experience, although they were very nervous! This was such a wonderful opportunity for them and certainly one they won't forget.



BG6 College: Work placement at Johnson & Johnson

One Year 12 learner had a brilliant four day placement at Johnson & Johnson MedTech, where diverse healthcare expertise, and purposeful technology combine to transform the future of medical intervention so that the solutions enable people to live their best lives possible. The placement was intensive and packed a lot into a short space of time, to provide insight and inform young

people about their career journeys.

The experience included; tours of the labs, discussions with graduates about what they studied and how this relates to what sector they now work in. There was also a VR (Virtual Reality) experience where they had to perform surgery by implanting a knee

implant in a character! The culmination of the placement was a presentation, which involved extensive research on trauma plates, as well as presenting why it was chosen and the advantages of a trauma plate.

Purlwell Infant and Nursery School: Beautiful Blossom

The tree in the Early Years outdoor area is full of beautiful blossom and the learners have painted

some wonderful pictures of the tree in full bloom.

They have been getting lots of exercise raking and sweeping up the blossom and transporting around in wheelbarrows. They also enjoyed a breezy morning chasing the blossom and trying to catch it as it blew off the tree!



Hyrstmount Junior School: Outdoor Learning

Here, we love learning outdoors and are incredibly fortunate to have stunning grounds, including our very own small woodland. This half term, our lessons have been full of creativity, history, and hands-on exploration.

Year 6 took inspiration from environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy, creating stunning natural art limited to three springtime colours: pink, yellow, and green. Year 5 stepped back

into the past to learn about World War II. On VE Day, they reflected on the theme of peace by designing thoughtful posters using only natural materials found in the woodland. Year 4 travelled even further back in time, as they built and decorated Viking longboats in preparation for a dramatic Viking warrior funeral later this term. Meanwhile, Year 3 explored the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt by mummifying tomatoes. Outdoor learning at Hyrstmount brings art, history and science to life in unforgettable ways!





Headlines from Kirkwood

Make a dedication to our Sunflower Memories Campaign.

Become a volunteer at the Kirkwood Starlight Walk.

Take on the challenge of a lifetime and help The Kirkwood Support Life

Brian Robinson Challenge Ride Returns Pedalling for The Kirkwood.

The Big K lottery

Join us on Social Media

Facebook: X:

Kirkwood fund raising team: 01484 557911

The History of the Neighbourhood Watch

In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed in New York. 37 witnesses saw or heard the attack, but none of them called the police or came to her aid. This prompted inquiries into what became known as the bystander effect, and the murder motivated a community response and the very first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up.

In 1982 the first scheme in the UK, known as Home Watch, was set up in Mollington,

Cheshire.

The first West Yorkshire Police scheme was set up in 1985 in Bradford by the Neighbourhood

Sergeant and a small handful of residents.

Now there are 1,932 Neighbourhood watch in West Yorkshire reaching 63,609 residents.

Bev Wilson: Force Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Kirklees) West Yorkshire Police.

To report a crime, please ring 102. Always dial 999 in an emergency or report to Crime

Stoppers 0800 555 111

Product Safety Notice

Fire Risk Alert - Tumble Dryers

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has issued an urgent safety warning about integrated (built-in) heat pump tumble dryers from 8 brands, including Haier, Hoover, Candy, Lamona, Caple, Baumatic, Montpellier, and Iberna.

These appliances pose a risk of fire due to a fault that can cause them to ignite during normal use.

Do not use your tumble dryer if it is one of the affected models until it has been checked and fixed by the manufacturer.

Here in West Yorkshire, we've already attended several fires involving these machines and are urging everyone to check if they're at risk.

Full details and model lists available via > GOV.UK > Product Safety Notices - linked in comments.





Helping local parents, children and young people to thrive.

Our single gateway gives you access to a wide range of services, information, advice and support for you and your family, including:

- One-to-one support
- Guidance around being a parent or carer
- Support with young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health

We support families with children or young people aged 0-19, or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Scan the QR code to get in contact through the Kirklees Families Together Gateway:

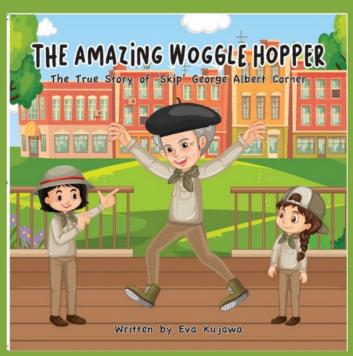


Or telephone: 01484 456823 www.kirklees.gov.uk/families-together



Ever heard of Woggle Hopping? Discover the quirky tale that's captured Batley's imagination!

Only £5.00



All profits go directly to Together in Batley, helping us keep our free community magazine alive!

This fun-filled story celebrates local heritage, silliness, and community spirit — perfect for readers young and old.

- Support a good cause. Share a smile. Own a piece of Batley magic.
- Message us to grab your copy or visit Batley Library

#WoggleHopping #BatleyStories #TogetherInBatley #SupportLocal #CommunityMagic #BuyABookChangeABatley



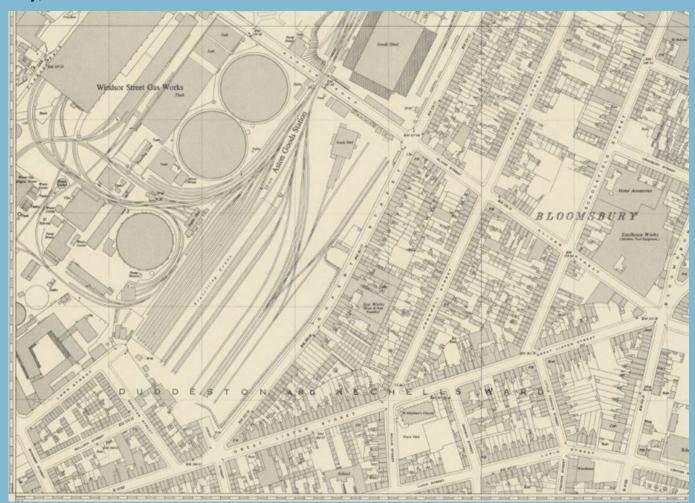


Sayyed Iqbal Hussain Shah: A Foundation Stone of Batley's South Asian Community

22 January 1909 – 11 August 1978

A Man of Firsts. A Man of Faith. A Man of Community.

Sayyed Iqbal Hussain Shah arrived in the UK around 1935, long before migration from South Asia became common. Born in India, he first worked as a painter and later opened a coffee shop in Birmingham. It was there he met Bridget Larvin, who was working in a wartime munitions factory. They married in 1947, listing their address as 50 Great Lister Street, Nechells, and soon moved to Batley, West Yorkshire.



Iqbal Shah spoke 13 Asian dialects fluently and had a strong command of English, making him a trusted interpreter in the local courts and a go-to advisor for new arrivals from India and Pakistan. His deep respect for the British judicial system and belief in integration set him apart—he encouraged his family and community to build a future rooted in both cultural pride and civic engagement.

A Local Trailblazer

He became the first Asian committee member of the Batley Working Men's Club, marking a pivotal moment in the town's journey towards multicultural inclusion.

A Lasting Legacy

Mr Shah peacefully passed away on 11 August 1978, during the sacred month of Ramadan. Just before his passing, e sold his home on Taylor Street to the Muslim community. That house now serves as a madrasah, and the Taylor Street Mosque was built right next door.



SHAH, Sayyed Iqbal Hussain of 78 Taylor St Batley died 11 August 1978 Probate Leeds 5 April £7117 791301095J

"May we remember him as a kind-hearted, active, and beloved man—truly a foundation stone for Batley's South Asian community."
Written by Eva Kujawa ©

Sources:

Batley Characters – Malcolm Haig History of Batley – 1954 – 1990 – Moulana Abubakr Diwan Family Search UK Maps.nls.uk

