

Together in Batley

Jan / Feb 2026 Issue #23 FREE



**Pg. 6 Out and
About**



**Pg. 9 Poppy
Project**



Pg. 17 Daz Hunter

Editorial

23rd edition Jan / Feb

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

For the 24th edition, we need your contributions by Feb 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 26th Jan 1-3pm
Tues 27th Jan 10-12pm planning meeting
Thurs 29th Jan 10-11am+ book box
Fri 30th Jan 11-1pm

We hope copies will be available in the first week of Jan at Batley Food Bank, Batley Community Centre, 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

The paper will 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: Batley lights switch on

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Disclaimer:

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Christmas Tree. Batley Library

This is the third year the Super Tuesdays, one of the Mencap in Kirklees Groups for adults with Learning Disabilities, have decorated the Christmas Tree in Batley Library. It is super to see everyone getting involved with the festive spirit and celebrating their creative side. Lorraine, the manager, is delighted with the enjoyment it gives the group : it's something they look forward to and it gets them into the idea that Christmas has arrived in Batley!!! The library staff delight in the happiness and joy that the session brings and the visitors to the library enjoy the tree throughout the festive session!!!
Enjoyed by all!!!



Batley Groups

Batley History Group Speakers for 2026

Council Chamber. Town Hall Batley 7-7.30

26th January Mary Twentyman Low Moor 1916

23rd February David Hardcastle Police Horse History.

23rd March Simon Roadnight Project update.

27th April Susan White Memories of Commercial Street

18th May To be arranged

27th July AGM Members evening.

Project GLOW

We have 3 new exciting projects to offer SEND and Neurodiverse young people, adults and their families.

Our main project aims are:

- * To provide a safe place to socialise, meet new people and make friends
- * To improve mental and emotional well-being
- * To provide new opportunities and activities with a focus on physical fitness and nutrition

We will provide regular sessions for the following groups:

- * Glow Youth- Club 1- 8-12 year olds
Club 2- 13-17 year olds
- * Glow Adults- 18+
- * Glow Families- Parents, Carers and Families

Contact Jon or Jade for details!

Jon@batleysportingfoundation.org

Jade@batleysportingfoundation.org

07808055022

11:22

5G 70%

ATTEND A BIKE SESSION



Where to find us

Spenborough Athletics Track, Bradford Road Liversedge WF15 6LW

Bike sessions take place on Tuesdays between 10:30 and 2:30 pm and Saturdays between 12:30 and 3:00.

Call us

Landline: 01484654530

Mobile: 07873773417

Email: info@streetbikes.org.uk



Give as you Live
Donate



Welcoming New Members Now!

Come along and sing with
our friendly choir.

FREE TASTER SESSION



We have fun singing:

- Celtic ballads
- Traditional hearty folk songs
- Rousing sea shanties
- And much more...


No experience needed.
No audition required.
All over 18s welcome!

- Rehearsals on Thursday evenings 7:15 - 8:45pm
- Dewsbury Fire Station community room
- Doors open 6:45pm for coffee and a chat
- £6.50/week or £22/month

For more information, please visit our website:
<https://www.yorkshirefolkchoir.co.uk/>



Batley Groups

 The Fields Community Spaces	What's on at The Fields – January – February 2026			
	Events	Providers	Location	When
Monday	Beginners Maths	Kirklees College	Manorfield School	Weekly 9:00-11:30 am
	Measure & Make Sewing course	Kirklees Success Centre	Manorfield School	Weekly 1:00-3:00 pm
Tuesday	Tiny Readers	The Fields Team	Manorfield School	Weekly 9:00-10:00 am
	Knit & Crochet			Weekly 10:30-12:00 pm
Wednesday	Fields Creative Walks	S2R/ Fields Team	Manorfield School	Continues from 4 February 9:30-11:30 am
	Fields Creative Walks	S2R/ Fields Team	Field Lane School	Continues from 4 February 12:45 - 2:45 pm
Thursday	Craft Club	Fields Team	Field Lane School	Weekly 9:00-10:00 am
				weekly 9:00-11:30 am
	ESOL	Kirklees College	Manorfield School	weekly 12:30-3:00 pm
				ESOL
For further information, you can reach us at 07497 512801 or fieldscoordinator@batleymat.co.uk				Field Lane School
				Manorfield School

Sad News

It's with great sadness that we report on the closure of the Trinity Centre.

The centre offered an amazingly wide range of super activities for the community which will be sadly missed. Every effort is being made to re-site the activities locally and we will be able to give these details in the next paper.

We thank the whole group for all their hard work mentioning particularly Bill Thompson and Denise Hodge.

A super centre lost to the community.

Out and About in Batley



Festival of Angels parish church

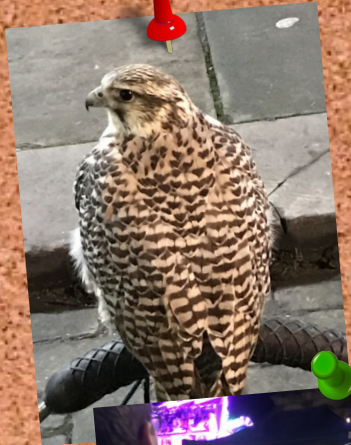


Remembrance Sunday



Out and About in Batley

Xmas dinner Wards Hill



Lights Switch On



BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR. Do you want to celebrate the good news stories and amazing people in Batley? Email togetherinbatley@gmail.com to find out the details

Celebrating the People of Batley who make a difference:

Mary Day: Batley Poppy Organiser.

Mary has been organiser for 23 years. She is in charge of making sure all poppy boxes and tins get to all the shops that want them.

She spends 2 weeks every year sitting in Tesco selling poppies, always with a smile.

She is a big part of Batley Community Poppy Project as well as other community activities including the Monday coffee and chat at St Thomas Church on Grosvenor Road 2.00-3.30pm, a member of Batley Royal British Legion and many church activities.

Before retirement Mary was a lollipop lady for many years as well as a school dinner lady and Brown Owl for a local Brownie group.

Every community needs a Mary.



Batley Community Poppy Project

Many thanks to everyone for making this year's poppy project a huge success.

The 1,500 poppies on netting in the memorial Garden represented the soldiers who died in WW1 and WW11 and there were post box toppers outside the post office, the library, and inside Tesco.

The aim now is to increase and expand the displays. We will still be collecting knitted and crocheted poppies at Batley Library and St Thomas' Church.

Donations of double-knit wool in red, black and green can be donated to the Friday crochet group at the library c/o Asmaa or Lorraine, or at St Thomas church, Grosvenor Road.

Hope fully 2026 can be even better.



What's On!

Each Week Jan / Feb

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

Wilton Park Conservatory

Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm

Bleak House, Wilton Estate

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

Digital support 10.00-12.00

Singing Group 1.45-2.45pm

Chess Club 5th of Jan then every 2
weeks 5-6:30pm

Batley Library

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.

Community Café. Coffee, tea, pies
peas and cakes. 10am-1.30pm (hot food
served until 1.00pm)

Friendship and Fellowship afternoon

1.30pm-3.00pm includes speakers,

quizzes activities and occasional outings

Salvation Army

Beginner's Maths 9.00-11.30am

Measure and make sewing course

1.00-3.00pm

Manorfield School

Trinity Over Sixty's class at

St Pauls Church Hall Hanging Heaton

Contact 07950368831

Line Dancing 2.00-4.00pm

Staincliffe Cricket Club

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.

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00pm Manorfield

I&N School (term time only)

group 2-3.45pm Manorfield I&N School

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

Lunch and Bingo 11.00-2.00pm at

Church Ablaze, Wellington Street

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00

Knit and crochet 10.30-12.00pm

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

Every Wednesday:

Little Lambs Toddler group 9.15am-

11.00am £1.50 per child

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

Crafty Ladies 1.00-3.00pm

Church Ablaze, Wellington St.

Peer Talk 11.00-12.30pm

For those living with depression and
anxiety.

Brimer Hall, Central Methodist Church

What's On! *Each Week Jan / Feb*

Fields creative walks 9.30-12.30
Manorfield school from Feb 4thpm
And Field Lane School 12.45- 2.45

Line Dancing 8.00-10.00pm
Staincliffe Cricket Club.

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 Light bites +
10.00am-12.00md café for cakes coffee
and sandwiches
12.15pm-1.30pm for activities with
something different each week of the
month.
Salvation Army.

Community archive with support 10.00 -
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

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

Craft Club 9.00-10.00am
Field Lane school
ESOL 9.00-11.30am Manorfields
And Field Head School 12.30-3.00pm

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

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

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
richardmartin01@btinternet.com

Singing For Wellbeing 1.00-2.00pm
sINGspiration Rosewood Centre
Dewsbury District Hospital

What's On!

Each Week Jan / Feb

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

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

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 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](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 Jan / Feb*

Batley Library Events:

Mondays:

Digital Support 10-12pm

This Way For English 1-4pm

Singing Group 1.45-3.45pm

Chess Club 5th of Jan and every 2 weeks 5-630pm

Andy's Man Club 7-9pm

Tuesday:

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

Friday:

Sporting Memories 10am

Crochet 10am

Bingo 2pm Jan and Feb

Saturday:

Lego - 12-2pm

Trading Cards 2.15-3.45pm

Craft club - 31st Jan

- 28th Feb

Carers Count:

Monday 19th Jan

Monday 16th Feb 10:30-12pm

More Dates for your diary:

*** Help the Homeless**

Free 3 course dinner 6-8pm

PKWA, Manor Rd, Batley.

07498914736

*** Kirklees Town Halls**

The Three Degrees

Fri 13 March HTH

Night with Harry Redknapp

Thurs 15 Jan HTH

Tribute to Frankie Valli &

the Four Seasons

Sat 24 Jan HTH

Queen of the Night

tribute to Whitney Houston

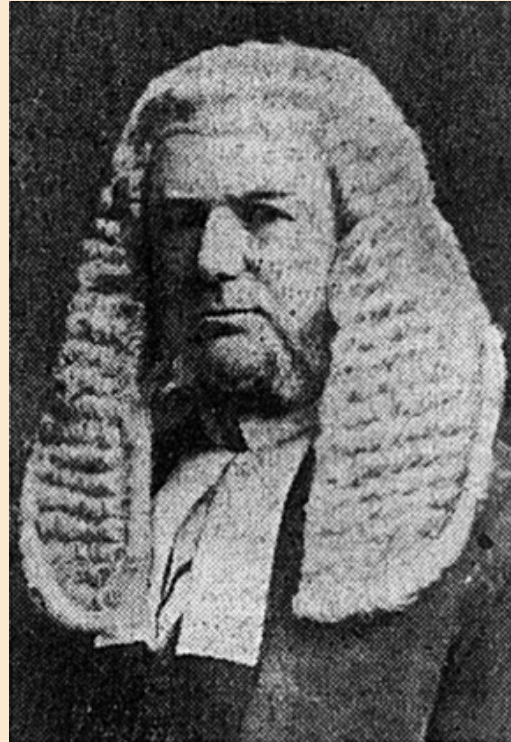
Thurs 5Feb HTH

Hue and Cry

Electric Aoustic Show

Fri 27 Feb HTH

Sir John Simon



John was a native of Jamaica, having been born in Montego on 9 December 1818, the only son of Isaac, a Jewish merchant, and Rebecca Simon of Luss Mount Pigah and of Montego Bay. Rebecca was descended from Balthasar Orobio, who because of his Jewish faith, spent three years (1655-1658) in the prison of the Spanish inquisition, and whose father, Caesar, was burnt at the stake.

He was brought up in the Jewish faith, which was that of his father and forefathers. He received part of his education at University College, London and graduated LL.B. in 1841. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple the following year, and for many years went on the Northern circuit, of which he was leader when he retired in the election year of 1868 in order to devote himself more fully to the House of Commons. In 1864 he was created a serjeant-at-law and was one of the last to bear legal title of serjeant.

Sir John Simon or Sergeant Simon as he was known, was the first Member of Parliament for Dewsbury Parliamentary Borough, which included the townships of Dewsbury and Batley and the semi-townships of Ravensthorpe, Thornhill Lees and Savile Town, which was constituted under the Act of 1867. Sergeant Simon was the popular M.P for twenty years from 17 November 1868 until November 1888.

The famous Chartist leader Ernest Jones and Handel Cossham of Bristol were to be the candidates but Ernest Jones retired and Sergeant Simon was asked to contest the seat against Handel Cossham, and this split the Liberal party in the division which was not healed for many years. On many issues such as the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the ballot and electoral reform, the reform of universities and public schools, Sergeant Simon was a sound Liberal. He was elected in November 1868 and the results were Simon, 3,392, Cossham 2, 923. Simon was a very active Member of Parliament and was never wanting where the interests of Dewsbury and Batley were concerned. He was a great favourite with the Chambers of Commerce in his constituency, and his admirable speeches on commercial law were greatly appreciated. He was opposed in 1874 by James Charles Cox of Belper, a strong Liberal, but defeated him by 434 votes—in this election William Henry Colbeck, a native of Batley, who was a member of the New Zealand Legislature was approached to stand as a Tory, but retired. In 1880 Mr. Simon was opposed by William Hoyle, a Lancashire Radical and temperance advocate and Alfred Austin, who became Poet Laureate, but he defeated both. After this election the Liberals closed their ranks. John's views and actions in Parliament having been so consistently Liberal that even his strongest opponent was won over to his side. His immediate supporters felt

that some tangible recognition of his services ought to be made and on September 22nd 1880, under the presidency of Mr. Samuel Jubb J.P. of Batley, a committee was formed to make Mr Simon a testimonial. Samuel Jubb J.P. was Chairman, William Thackrah J.P. vice-chairman, Frederick Firth J.P. treasurer, and Messrs, Edward Poppleton, Thomas Macdonagh and Walter Bagshaw honorary secretaries. Sergeant Simon was presented with a handsome service of plate and an address. He defeated Joe Fox, a prominent local Conservative in 1885 and Mr J. S. Colefax, a Bradford man in 1886. Illness prevented him taking up his political activities with his usual energy in the Parliamentary Sessions of 1887 and 1888 and in the October of that year he resigned his seat. Mark Oldroyd J.P. became his successor. Serjeant Simon was knighted in 1886 by Mr. Gladstone for his very valuable service to the country and to the Liberal party, this being one of the last acts of the great Liberal leader before he left office later that year.

Serjeant Simon was always very popular in Batley, which he made his headquarters when he visited the district, staying at the Station Hotel.

He died at Tavistock Square, London on 24 June 1897



Wheel Chair Rugby



Batley Bulldogs Wheelchair Rugby: A Landmark Debut Season

Batley Sporting Foundation inspiring the next generation and building bigger and better for the future

This year marked the first ever season for the Batley Bulldogs Wheelchair Rugby League team! Planning began in April, when I was appointed commercial manager to secure sponsors for shirts, players, and the wheelchair team.

Training started in July at Hyrstmount Junior School with six players. The team played their first ever friendly away at Salford Red Devils in October and later competed in the Championship East League, finishing third in their debut season.

I was proud to be the main sponsor, and honoured to receive the Club Person of the Year award for supporting the wheelchair team, both on and off the court,

And helping through the Glow-Reach project with Jade and Jon for young adults with special needs and disabilities.

I also coach in schools with Josh Hodson and Paul Wood, teaching children new rugby skills, and run Batley Sporting Foundation camps at Batley Bulldogs Stadium—Easter, Summer, and Christmas. Work in the fan zone on match days for the Batley Bulldogs, with the foundation Next season, I'll play for the reserve development team and continue helping the wheelchair team wherever needed.

The Foundation and trustees are committed to growing bigger and better, reaching more schools and inspiring the next generation of players.

Daz Hunter,
Voluntary Commercial Manager
Batley Bulldogs WhRL Team,

Batley Sporting Foundation, community-team



Daz Hunter

12

Sponsored
by

WalkServ

Be Part of the Yorkshire Calico Dress



WOVEN launches the Yorkshire Calico Dress and is calling on community groups across Kirklees to get involved

Following the extraordinary success of the Red Dress this year, West Yorkshire textiles festival WOVEN has launched the Yorkshire Calico Dress - its own version of the Calico Garment Initiative and a new opportunity for creative community participation. The completed dress will be displayed at the WOVEN Festival 2027. The Red Dress, a collaborative embroidery project, worked on by 367 women/girls, 11 men/boys and two non-binary artists from 51 countries, was conceived by British artist Kirstie Macleod and this summer spent a month on display at Oakwell Hall, as part of the WOVEN 2025 festival, attracting more than 3,600 visitors from around the UK.

Kirstie's Calico Garment Initiative is Inspired by exhibitions and events featuring the Red Dress and invites people from all backgrounds to collaborate on a sister dress made from affordable, medium-weight calico. WOVEN will host a dress in Kirklees working alongside Ravensthorpe Community Centre to invite organisations to contribute their stitching to the dress. Organisations already on board to take part include Khooshi Group Heckmondwike, PKWA Women's Group and RCC Sewing Groups. Initial funding to support the project comes from Kirklees Council's Community Plus fund, part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

"Following the success of The Red Dress exhibition, I'm delighted that the Kirklees community will be taking part in the Calico Dress Initiative. I look forward to seeing the unique dress and hearing about the community collaborations and meaningful connections that result," said artist Kirstie Macleod.

By inviting groups from across the district to stitch their stories into the calico dress, we hope to celebrate the diversity and shared experiences of our region. It's a really great opportunity for people to connect, collaborate and carry on the spirit of the Red Dress, creating something that really belongs to all of us."

Councillor Carole Pattison, Leader of Kirklees Council said: "The Yorkshire Calico Dress is a wonderful example of how creativity can bring communities together. It builds on the incredible impact of the Red Dress and gives people across Kirklees a chance to share their stories through textiles. I'm proud that our district is leading the way in this regional celebration of heritage, identity,

Answers to Page 9 in 22nd Edition:

What is it?

It is an air rooter to create rooted cuttings for tree branches. The branch is slashed, moss is added to the rooter which is fastened to the branch. The moss is kept damp and roots grow into the moss. The branch is then removed and planted up.

Where is it?

In Batley Health Centre

Memories of Brian Whitaker: Skiffle Music



Skiffle music is a type of music made popular by an entertainer called Lonnie Donegan some 60-70 years ago, it was very popular and had many groups as the instruments needed to play the music were relatively inexpensive.

I was in a group called the Easy Street Five, the instruments consisted of 3 x spanish style guitars a wash-board as drums and a T chest to which we fixed a broom handle and a piece of string attached to it to form a base, which was the only difficult thing to transport around when we were playing, we later doubt a banjo which we used in lieu of one of the guitars..

I played a spanish style guitar which we turned into an electric guitar by fitting a sound unit into the round area in the main body of the guitar and then attached it to an amplifier it was very amateurish but was pretty effective.

We played in pubs, clubs working mens clubs etc and were very popular, we even made a record for a company called Pye record company however we only sold a few records which were mostly bought by our families., by now I had managed to buy a 250cc Royal Enfield motor cycle and two of the other guys in the group had bought motor cycles so we managed to get to gigs in most areas of Leeds and district, we used to pay a friend of ours. who had a car, to take the tea chest (bass) when we had somewhere to play.

One of our favourite places to play was as a fill-in group to give a break to a jazz band who played at Leeds University on a friday night. The reason we enjoyed it so much was because once we had played our session there was no shortage of girls.

I don't remember the reason we formed the group apart from the fact that we enjoyed the music and were hoping to make some money, we did make some money and were very popular wherever we played, this was probably due to the fact that we played in places that sold alcohol and that contributed to our popularity.

I don't remember how long the style of music remained popular and the only name I remember as a major entertainer in this type of music was Lonnie Donegan.

Training for child care

Skills Bootcamp in Early Years by Kirklees Success Centre

We are continuing to take applications for our Skills Bootcamps that are starting in January. These are fantastic opportunities to get 60 hours of learning, completely free for any Kirklees resident aged over 19+ , to work either in early years or as a playworker. We have excellent links with local employers and everyone is guaranteed an interview at the end of the course, with up to 6 months support to get into employment.

Skills Bootcamp in Early Years

Where: Dewsbury Town Hall

When: Mondays and Thursdays for 10 weeks starting in January 2026

Apply here: Skills Bootcamp in Early Years Application Form 2025-26 Kirklees Success Centre – Fill in form

<https://forms.office.com/e/9nDz14bQ4P>

Skills Bootcamp in Playwork

Where: Newsome Childrens Centre, HD4

When: Mondays and Tuesdays starting in January 2026

Apply here: Skills Bootcamp in Playwork - Application Form -

<https://forms.office.com/e/XsQqujUzHj>

White Roses for Peace

NORTH KIRKLEES INTERFAITH



During Interfaith Week this November North Kirklees Interfaith (NKI) joined by volunteers freely gave away 1250 white roses with messages for peace & calm in a troubled world. For the seventh year Muslims & Christians joined together to share this message of hope to individuals in Batley & five other towns in North Kirklees. At the end of the week an interesting study day led by Chris Hewer was held at the Batley Central Methodist Church to consider Christian & Muslim perspectives on building a just society.

NKI is a group that meets five times a year to hear from a speaker and to discuss how to improve relations and understanding between people of different faiths and none. We work towards racial & religious equality in all areas of life. We promote the positive role of religious faith in daily living. Let us know of any local projects that are improving mutual understanding & the quality of life of people in the community. We are keen to offer our support to such projects in the hopes of bringing peoples from different backgrounds closer and help them to recognise their similarities and begin to celebrate their diversity.

The Enrichment team at Kirklees College Springfield Sixth Form Centre invited us to take part in their Welcome event in September. The Centre offers education for those aged 16 to 18 years old with a wide range of courses as well as specialist vocational courses for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The wide range of abilities of the ninety students who came to chat set the NKI team a major challenge. The team learnt so much from the session in particular the benefit of appropriate support for students, the importance of not prejudging the limits posed by disabilities, and seeking out hidden abilities.

If you would like to join North Kirklees Interfaith or simply find out more about the group, please email nkinterfaith@gmail.com

David Currie, Chair of NKI

Lego in the Library: Saturday 12-2.00pm. Join us for Lego fun!!



Yorkshire Video Discos

I do videos discos which you see the artist on a screen and music through the speakers with Disco lights which i have a 1200 watt system.

I am music from the 50s to the charts

I have been a dj for 20 years.

I am available for all types of events weddings Birthday parties engagements and i do pub disco theme nights.

Also i can do galas and garden fetes.

**I do last minute bookings.
On bookings a deposit is required.**

**For more details contact Russell on 07516251205
or 07761309556 or**

I am on instagram Yorkshire video discos.



A LOVELY NEW BEGINNING

I'm Iyadh Salook. I live in Batley. My family and I are from Sri Lanka. We moved to England in April 2023. It is a new environment with new people and new smiles. I'm studying at Carlton and Junior Infant School in Dewsbury. It has been a lovely experience. I love sharing some pages of my journal with 'Together in Batley.'

"If you want to go somewhere, don't worry too much about the weather or the ride — just have a happy heart and be ready."



MY FIRST PLANE RIDE

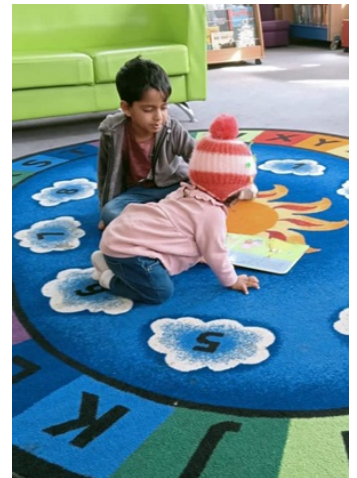
It was my first time flying to London. I felt nervous at first, but soon calmed down by playing with my sister Izza.

We were welcomed by Zafry uncle and Asmath aunty.

It was a lovely ride!

MY WONDERFUL DAY AT BATLEY LIBRARY

Today I went to Batley Library for the first time. It was a nice place with many facilities and lots of books. I enjoyed looking around and seeing everything. My favourite part was colouring my Spider-Man picture. I had a really good time at the library



A WONDERFUL DAY AT WILTON PARK

Our first time at Wilton Park – such a beautiful place! Lovely gardens, a fun children's play area, and a peaceful lake with ducks, geese, and swans all around. A perfect day out for the family.