

ISSUE 23 AUTUMN 2024

REAL ROCHDALE

FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL
MUSIC LEGENDS ROCK TOWN CENTRE

WORLD RECORD PANCAKE
30 YEARS SINCE TOWN MADE HISTORY

INSIDE GOLDEN MOSQUE
MORE THAN A PLACE OF WORSHIP

CALDERBROOK ALPACAS
THERAPEUTIC BENEFITS OF PLAYFUL CREATURES

People - Life - Leisure - Business

Your Journey to Health

with Sayan Surgery

Mr Sayan Bhattacharya

MBBS, MD, FRCS (General Surgery)
PG Cert (Med Law), PGA (Med Education)
Consultant Upper GI & Laparoscopic Surgeon,
Manchester Foundation Trust.
Gallbladder, Hernia and Reflux Surgery Clinic,
Manchester and Blackburn.



Any patients quoting the advert and booking a consultation with me at Highfield Hospital will benefit from a **£50** discount on their first consultation fee.

Manages symptoms and offers solutions for

- Hernias
- Gallbladder surgery

Treatments offered

- Upper GI endoscopy/gastroscopy
- Removal of benign skin lesions
- Laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery for gallbladder, groin hernia and hiatus hernia
- Anti-reflux (Nissen's and Toupet's Fundoplication) surgery (laparoscopic)

Clinic Times at The Highfield Hospital
Monday Evenings • Thursday Evenings
Alternate Saturday Mornings

The Highfield Hospital, part of Circle Health Group,
Manchester Road, Rochdale, OL11 4LZ.

www.sayansurgeon.co.uk

Practice Management Email: care@sayansurgeon.co.uk
Emails answered within 48 hours



EDITOR'S WORDS

A warm welcome to Real Rochdale



Hello and welcome to the latest issue of Real Rochdale.

We were thrilled to witness the return of the Feel Good Festival this year, with headline acts Ocean Colour Scene and pop sensation Heather Small gracing the stage in the heart of the town centre. Don't miss our photos and report on this fantastic local event.

In this edition, we also revisit a historic milestone for Rochdale – the day we made history by cooking the world's largest pancake. Join us as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this remarkable event, with a nostalgic feature that brings back fond memories.

Rochdale's very own soap star, Sue Devaney, has been announced as a new patron for Springhill Hospice. You can read more about this exciting news on page 29.

We also offer an in-depth exploration of Rochdale's oldest mosque, the Golden Mosque, which not only serves the community but also stands as a significant piece of local history that many may be unaware of.

We visited Calderbrook Alpacas, who work with care homes, schools, children with additional needs and dementia patients, offering a unique form of therapy.

These are just a few of the features you'll find in this issue. Do take a moment to browse through and discover what's on in the town, recipes from Natasha Brown of Brown's Cakes, and David Hayden from The Gallows, and an enlightening health column by published women's health expert and GP, Dr Anita Sharma.

As always, our heartfelt thanks go to our advertisers and contributors, whose support makes each issue such an engaging read. We hope you enjoy this edition.

CLAIRE FLETT
EDITOR

Address

122 Yorkshire Street
Rochdale
OL16 1LA
info@realrochdale.co.uk
01706 523583

Advertising

Lois Walker
advertising@realrochdale.co.uk

Printing

Jones & Brooks Ltd, Rochdale

Cover Image

Simon Fowler of Ocean Colour Scene performing at the Feel Good Festival
Photo by John Wall

Contributors

Kirsty Olczak

CONTENTS

AUTUMN 2024

6 FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL

Thousands attend town centre music event

10 CALDERBROOK ALPACAS

Therapeutic power of cheeky creatures

13 JOLLY JOSH

Runner races across Scotland for local cause



WORLD RECORD PANCAKE
30 years since town made history

8

14 RAFC TAKEOVER

Ogden family become majority shareholders in club

16 M6 THEATRE COMPANY

Introducing children to the magic of live theatre

18 RECIPE

Toffee or chocolate dipped apples



HAIRDRESSING TREND
Grey & gorgeous

20

23 OASIS GARDEN

Opens at Rochdale Infirmary

24 GOLDEN MOSQUE

More than a place of worship

31 ROMAN COINS

Discovered in Littleborough



RECIPE
Korean sticky mushrooms

38

40 HIGH LEVEL (NORTHERN) TRUST

Supporting people on the path to recovery

45 LEGAL COLUMN

Horizon scandal part three

46 WHAT'S ON THIS AUTUMN

A guide to upcoming events



SUE DEVANEY
New patron for local hospice

29

32 CASTLETON TIMBER

Local firm with a big heart

35 HEALTH ADVICE

Top tips as temperatures drop

37 ROCHDALE SHOPMOBILITY

Long-serving manager retires

37 TOUCHSTONES

Contractor appointed for revamp



PETRUS
Community gardeners at Tatton

42



FEELING GOOD IN THE SUMMER SUN

The Rochdale Feel Good Festival returned in full swing in August, drawing thousands to the town centre under the summer sun. Headlined by indie rock icons Ocean Colour Scene, Lottery Winners, and Heather Small, the festival delivered a weekend to remember.

The festivities began early at The Empire with local artists performing, before the main stage, located back at Rochdale Town Hall Square after five years, came alive.

Sponsored by The Flying Horse Hotel and hosted by DJ Dave Sweetmore, the stage kicked off with an energetic performance by Atlas, winners of the 'Feel Good – Battle of the Bands'. Their debut on the main stage was met with enthusiastic applause.

Indie R'n'B pop star iamkyami followed with an electrifying set. Saddleworth ska band Madame Claude and soulful group Toucan kept the momentum going with lively performances that had everyone dancing.

After her performance, iamkyami commented that she was struck by the town's charm. She said: "The town hall is very grand, I'd even say it's nicer looking than the one in Manchester."

As evening fell, Heather Small took to the stage with a powerful set featuring M People classics and her solo anthem 'Proud'. Lottery Winners returned to Rochdale's main stage after a decade, delivering an engaging and humorous performance that resonated with the crowd's vibrant energy. The town centre erupted with the arrival of Ocean Colour Scene, who brought the festival to a triumphant close with a standout performance.



Photos: John Wall

ROCHDALE'S PANCAKE LEGACY 30 YEARS ON



It's been a date forever etched in the annals of local history. The 13 August 1994 was a day when the town of Rochdale did something quite extraordinary, and something that no one has managed to replicate in the three decades since.

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Rochdale Cooperative Movement, the town took on a challenge of gigantic proportions: creating the world's largest pancake. And in doing so, they cooked up not just a pancake, but a piece of history that is still a topic of discussion among locals three decades later.

On a typical summer day, over 40,000 people gathered in front of the iconic Town Hall for the record attempt organised by The Co-operative Union Ltd.

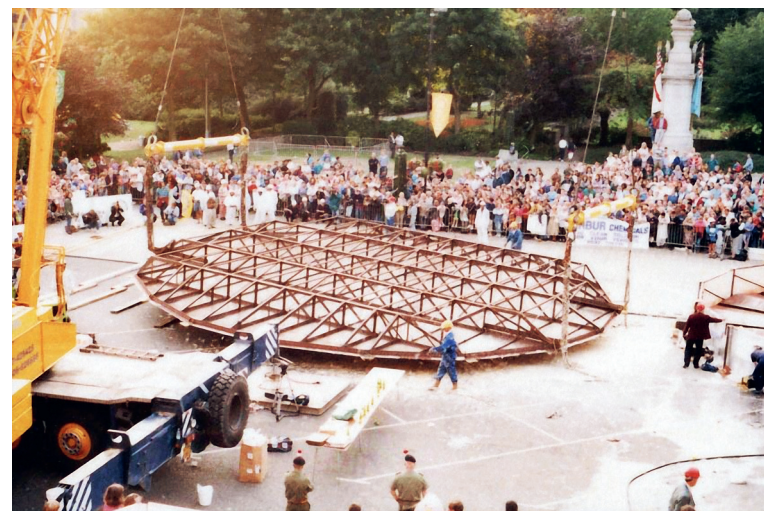
They gathered to witness an audacious feat of culinary engineering that would leave a lasting impression on both the town and the world.

Organisers Alan Gill and Graham King had masterminded this colossal endeavour, ensuring every detail was meticulously planned.

The centrepiece was a 50-foot diameter pan, a gleaming giant crafted from 25 tonnes of steel, designed by the mechanical engineers at Manchester Metropolitan University.

This mammoth pan was a triumph of engineering, and its creation was a story in itself, with a specialist team overseeing its construction at Sinton Engineering in Preston.

The mixture, a concoction of flour, eggs, and the Co-op's own-brand milk, was spread across the pan, forming a pancake that would eventually measure a staggering 49 feet three inches in diameter and weigh in at an astonishing three tonnes. To put that into perspective, the pancake was as heavy as a baby blue whale or four adult cows.



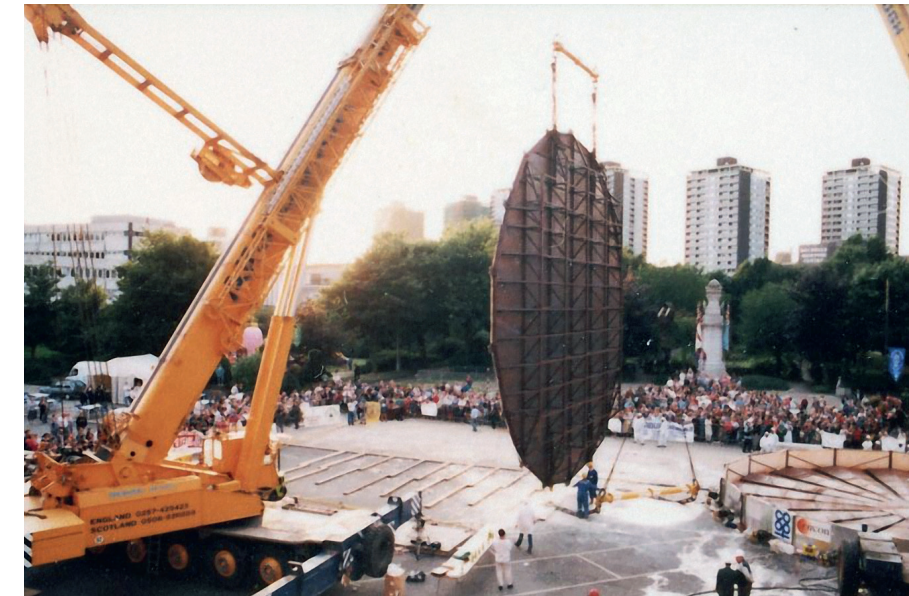
The cooking process took nearly three hours, a marathon session that had chefs turning and tossing the enormous pancake with a precision that was nothing short of impressive.

The crowd held its breath as the cranes delicately manoeuvred the pan, flipping the pancake with surprising grace.

A mechanical operation of this scale had never been attempted before, and the success of the flip was met with a roar of applause from the onlookers.

The pancake, once cooked, was sold off in pieces to raise money for local charities, ensuring that the day's efforts had a lasting impact beyond the record books.

Adding to the carnival-like atmosphere of the day was a special guest appearance by Mr Blobby, the 1990s children's TV sensation. Dressed in his trademark pink and yellow spots, Mr Blobby entertained the crowd with his antics, though he may have been a little disappointed that there wasn't a slice of pancake big enough to satisfy his infamous appetite.



Images supplied by the Co-operative Heritage Trust, copyright Co-ops UK.

As the sun set on that historic day, Rochdale had firmly secured its place in the Guinness World Records. The pancake, with a surface area of 1,905 square feet – 53 percent bigger than the internal surface area of an average detached house – became a symbol of the town's ingenuity and togetherness.

Thirty years on, Rochdale still holds the record for the world's largest pancake, despite numerous attempts by others to snatch the title.

In 2024 we can enjoy the memory of that historic achievement – and to the hope that someday, somewhere, another generation might dare to dream as big as Rochdale did on that unforgettable day in 1994.



Calderbrook Alpacas – The delightful world of fluffy misfits

They say that life's misfits are usually the most colourful characters. And that is certainly the case with this group of fluffy, sassy and mischievous alpacas, who reside in a field in Littleborough.

Tucked away in an idyllic setting close to Rochdale canal and the Summit Inn pub, Calderbrook Alpacas is a heartwarming and whimsical escape from the everyday grind. It's populated by alpacas that are sold by breeders as pet boys due to various, minor imperfections that make them unsuitable for breeding.

However, they're welcomed with open arms by owner Joanne Schembri, as she says these

quirky misfits bring their own unique charm to the farm, delighting visitors with their cheeky antics, unusual toilet stances, and distinct personalities.

Established by Joanne in March 2019, Calderbrook Alpacas is dedicated to creating lasting memories and spreading joy. As Joanne puts it, her greatest pleasure is "creating memories for the public and making people smile."

The therapeutic power of alpacas

Joanne Schembri is not just an alpaca enthusiast; she's a qualified provider of Alpaca Assisted Activities with CPD certification.

Calderbrook Alpacas work closely with care homes, schools, children with additional needs and dementia patients, offering a unique form of therapy. Alpacas, with their gentle and calming presence, are particularly effective in reducing stress, increasing trust, and fostering social interaction. Their non-judgmental nature makes them ideal for therapeutic settings, aiding in both verbal and non-verbal communication.

Interacting with alpacas has well-documented physical and mental benefits, including lowering blood pressure and reducing anxiety. Joanne explains: "Alpacas are excellent at providing stress reduction, increasing trust, and creating socialisation opportunities for people. Who can resist getting up close to a fluffy alpaca?"

These activities can combat loneliness, promote empathy, encourage nurturing traits, and boost self-esteem and independence.

Embracing imperfection

Calderbrook Alpacas began with just six alpacas and has now grown to a herd of 14, plus Lambo the sheep, who amusingly thinks he's an alpaca. Each alpaca at Calderbrook is a non-breeding male due to minor imperfections that you wouldn't want to continue in a blood line, ensuring the highest standards of alpaca conformity and fleece quality in the alpaca world.

Joanne, fully licensed with an Animal Exhibition Licence from Rochdale MBC and fully insured for on and off site visits, has meticulously selected each alpaca from registered breeders across the UK. The farm's dedication to quality and care shines through in every interaction.

Despite their imperfections, these alpacas are anything but ordinary. Their cheeky antics and unique personalities provide endless entertainment and a sense of calm. Joanne describes them as very 'zen' to be around, creating a peaceful and chilled atmosphere while also making people laugh.

A visit to Calderbrook Alpacas offers peace, tranquillity, and a chance to leave the stresses of life behind.

It's a unique and memorable experience, perfect for reuniting with long-lost family and friends amidst the beautiful surroundings of Littleborough.

Calderbrook Alpacas isn't just about spending an hour out; it's about immersing yourself in an environment that promotes well-being and happiness, whilst creating memories with these gentle, curious creatures.





Altus Education Partnership's mission is to advance education across the Borough of Rochdale, enabling children and young people to live happy, fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to their community.

We have a unique and pioneering offer for Rochdale Schools via Childrens University and REACH.

Children's University (CU) – a fun programme for Primary aged children where they can record their involvement in extra-curricular activities, building up hours in their 'Passport' and graduating at the end of the year.

REACH – a centralised online hub bringing together a local enrichment offer for secondary aged young people (11+), showcasing activities, programmes and clubs available.

Are you a Provider who wants to get involved with CU and/or REACH, showcasing your offer?
Are you a parent/carer who wants to know more about how your child/ren can be involved?

If the answer is yes, contact us at:

CU – RochdaleCU@altusep.com

REACH – contactus@rochdalereach.co.uk

Rochdale Pioneers Museum – celebrating 180 years of co-op in 2024



The Rochdale Pioneer Museum on Toad Lane is housed in the first successful consumer co-op shop opened in 1844, 180 years ago this year!

We tell the story of the co-op movement through our displays, exhibitions, films and events.

Visit us to find out more about the way co-ops formed and how they became part of the social and economic life of Britain.

It's free to visit the museum and we are open Wednesday to Friday and alternate Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

You can also book a guided tour or hire our loft space. We also offer school visits and workshops. Email: museum@heritagetrust.coop or visit: www.co-operativeheritagetrust.coop

We also have archives held at Holyoake House in Manchester which you can view by appointment. Email: archive@heritagetrust.coop



For more information, please visit: www.co-operativeheritage.coop

Rochdale "hero" completes gruelling 232-mile ultra-marathon for Jolly Josh charity

A brave Rochdale resident has conquered the gruelling 2024 Race Across Scotland, a 220-mile coast-to-coast ultra-marathon, to raise funds for local charity Jolly Josh.

Finn Newall, who undertook the incredible challenge, pushed through the Scottish landscape for 72 hours and 19 minutes, covering 232 miles in total with checkpoints.

His journey saw him burning nearly 29,000 calories, taking over 443,000 steps, and surviving on just 4.5 hours of sleep.

At the time of writing Finn had raised over £4,000 for Jolly Josh.

Liz, a representative from Jolly Josh, expressed her admiration for Finn's extraordinary achievement, saying: "We were overwhelmed before the race when Finn approached us to tell us of his unbelievable challenge."

Throughout the event, Liz and the Jolly Josh team followed Finn's progress via a live tracking system, marvelling at the physical and mental endurance required. "We sent him personalised videos from our families to share our support along his journey," she added, proudly dubbing him their "Jolly Josh superhero."

Jolly Josh provides essential support to families with children who have complex medical needs, offering services such as hydrotherapy and youth group sessions at their fully adapted centre on Queensway in Rochdale.

Since its opening in April 2022, the centre has become a lifeline for local families, offering a safe and inclusive environment where children and their carers can connect and support one another.



The funds raised by Finn's heroic effort will play a crucial role in sustaining the services Jolly Josh provides, which are offered free of charge to families in need. The charity relies on fundraising efforts like Finn's to continue its vital work in the community.

As Finn now takes time to rest, recover, and reflect on his achievement, the impact of his journey is already resonating throughout Rochdale.

His dedication to training and preparation for the race, which included several ultra-endurance events, has not only raised much-needed funds but also shone a light on the challenges faced by families caring for children with complex needs.

For more information about Jolly Josh and the services it offers, visit the website www.jollyjosh.co.uk

Ogden family takes majority control of Rochdale AFC after £2m investment

The Ogden family has become the majority shareholders of Rochdale Football Club following a £2 million takeover.

The family, with deep roots in Rochdale, aims to guide the club back to the English Football League (EFL) within three years.

The takeover was completed in May, after the family was confirmed as the preferred investors in late March.

Their investment totals £2 million, and they acquired nearly 6.9 million newly-issued Class A ordinary shares, equating to roughly 68% ownership.

In a move to protect the club's heritage, the Ogden family has committed to holding these shares for the sole benefit of the Rochdale AFC Community Trust.

Additionally, following the recommendations of the Fan Led Review, they will introduce a "golden share" to be held by the Dale Supporters Trust.

This golden share will require the Trust's consent before any changes can be made to the club's name, colours, badge, or the sale of its ground.

Sir Peter Ogden and Lady Catherine Ogden, both originally from Rochdale, are



New board members Adam Saul and Jamie Willoughby (far left and far right) with co-chairmen Cameron Ogden and Simon Gauge

behind this significant investment.

Their charitable organisation, the Ogden Trust, which focuses on supporting the teaching and learning of physics among under-represented groups, has been actively involved in initiatives within Rochdale schools.

At a meeting following the takeover, Cameron Ogden, the new co-chairman of Rochdale AFC's board of directors, expressed his honour and privilege at being part of the club.

Also joining the board of directors are Adam Saul and Jamie Willoughby who both work for the Ogden family business.

Alongside the Ogden family, co-chairman Simon Gauge and

director Richard Knight have converted their outstanding loans to the club into shares. Mr Gauge now owns 21%, Mr Knight 2%, and the Dale Supporters Trust holds 1.6%.

The remaining shares are owned by past directors and supporters. Peter Ogden's children, Cameron, Edward, and Tiffany, each hold a 23% stake in the club.

The key aspirations of the new board include:

- To make the club sustainable within five years, with or without sporting success.
- To achieve promotion to the EFL within three years.
- To significantly increase the social value the club brings to the local community, via the club and Community Trust.



Be-leaf

We can sell your house before the end of Autumn!

Call the Team now on 01706 356633 to arrange your free sales consultation.

Reside, selling the best of Rochdale!

 R E S I D E

www.reside.agency 01706 356633

The timeless magic of Rochdale's M6 Theatre



M6 Theatre Company has been enchanting audiences with its innovative and heartfelt productions for nearly half a century. Established in 1977, this pioneering touring theatre company has grown to become a cherished local institution, and 2024 promises to be another exciting year of creativity and engagement.

Managing director Laura Rodwell has a deep-rooted passion for the transformative power of theatre. "Seeing the impact we have on the children and young people we work with is incredibly rewarding," she says.

Laura's journey with M6 began as a child when she saw an M6 performance at her primary school, igniting a lifelong love for theatre. Today, she channels that inspiration into her work, as part of a dynamic team dedicated to making theatre accessible and impactful.

M6 Theatre's commitment to the community is unwavering. Over the decades, they've performed in nearly every primary and secondary school across Rochdale, often introducing children to the magic of live theatre for the first time. Laura recalls how M6's past productions have addressed important social issues, such as a show on young parenthood that coincided with a notable decrease in teenage pregnancy rates in Rochdale.

Their productions are designed to challenge minds, nurture hearts, and ignite imaginations. Last year's show, *Nest*, for example, inspired a love for and desire to nurture the natural world.

M6's Youth Theatre offers young people aged 8-18 the chance to develop not just their acting skills, but also invaluable life skills like communication, teamwork, and confidence. Participants work with professional theatre

makers, creating new plays based on their ideas. Laura notes, "So many parents and carers tell us that they've seen a positive change in their young person since joining one of our groups."

Their Youth Theatre programme includes a group for those living with disabilities, run in partnership with Barnardo's, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all young people in the community.

M6's outreach projects extend their impact beyond the stage. They have worked with diverse groups, including families accessing local food banks, young LGBTQIA+ individuals, young carers, and the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller community. These projects provide a safe, nurturing, and creative space for participants, exploring relevant themes and issues or simply offering a place for fun and creativity.

One notable initiative is the Linking Schools project, which



A Tigers Tale

fosters friendship, respect, and understanding among children from diverse backgrounds. Another, the Speech Bubbles project, supports children with speech, language, and communication needs, helping them develop essential skills for life and learning.

This year, M6 Theatre is bringing back one of their most popular plays, *A Tiger's Tale*. This enchanting show, written by Olivier Award-winning playwright Mike Kenny, tells the true story of Fenella, the Holmfirth Tiger.

With circus elements, live music, and puppetry, it's a must-see. Performances will be held at Rochdale Town Hall on 29 October and at M6 Studio Theatre on 2 November and 15 December.

Joining the M6 team is more than just a job; it's becoming part of a supportive and empathetic community. Laura, who has been with M6 for almost two years, praises the team for their kindness and respect, values that resonate through both their productions and behind the scenes.

For audiences, M6 offers a unique theatre experience. "Our shows are funny, sometimes silly, and always full of heart and warmth," Laura said. The pay-what-you-feel performances at their Studio Theatre make it accessible for everyone to enjoy, ensuring that financial constraints don't stand in the way of experiencing the magic of M6.

For more information on their shows, youth theatre, and outreach projects, visit www.m6theatre.co.uk.



Laura Rodwell

TOFFEE OR CHOCOLATE DIPPED APPLES

by Natasha Brown - owner of Brown's Cakes

These recipes for toffee apples and chocolate dipped apples are perfect for an autumn treat. Once set both types of apples will keep for a couple of days but the toffee apples will go soft by the second day. If you want the toffee crispy eat on the day that you make them. They may not last till the next day anyway!

Ingredients for toffee apples

- 4 pink apples
- 4 lollipop sticks
- 100g caster sugar
- 75ml water
- 30g golden syrup
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- Red food colouring

Ingredients for chocolate dipped apples

- 4 apples (green or pink)
- 4 lollipop sticks
- 200g chocolate (milk or white)
- Decorations such as crushed oreo biscuits, crushed Biscoff or chocolate sprinkles

Toffee apples:

Wipe your equipment down with either vinegar or lemon juice before you start to help keep the toffee clear.

Wash the apples in warm soapy water and dry them. Remove the stalks and gently hammer the lollipop sticks in to the space where the stalks were.

Prepare a bowl of cold water next to the hob for you to check the toffee in.

Melt the sugar, water and syrup in a heavy saucepan over a medium heat.

When the sugar is all dissolved bring it to the boil and simmer gently for about ten minutes (be careful as hot sugar can burn skin!).

After around ten minutes scoop out a little of the toffee and drop it in to the bowl of cold water. It should set immediately if it's ready. If it doesn't keep simmering it for longer until it does.

Carefully add the lemon juice (this may spit a bit) and stir in a small amount of red food colour (I use a paste colour). Keep adding small amounts until the toffee is a rich red colour.

Dip the apples one at a time gently swirling the apple for a minute then putting it down to set on baking parchment.



Chocolate dipped apples:

Wash the apples in warm soapy water and dry them. Remove the stalks and gently hammer the lollipop sticks into the space where the stalks were.

Melt the chocolate in short bursts of 15 seconds in the microwave. Use a glass bowl for the chocolate as a plastic bowl, even when dry, can still hold water which spoils the chocolate.

Once the chocolate is melted, dip the apples one at a time gently twirling the apple around for a couple of minutes as the excess chocolate drips off, then sprinkle with your chosen decorations.

Once set both types of apples will keep for a couple of days but the toffee apples will go soft by the second day.



Model: Yasmin Rossi
Haircut & Photo: Gregory Couzens

HAIRDRESSING TREND

by GREG COUZENS

GREY & GORGEOUS

In a powerful cultural shift towards authenticity and self-acceptance, more individuals are proudly showcasing their grey hair, this movement is a bold declaration that celebrates natural beauty, inviting everyone to embrace the unique stories that each strand of grey tells. It's time to break free from outdated beauty norms and redefine what it means to be beautiful at any age.

Gone are the days when mature women felt pressured to cover their grey with harsh dyes or resort to drastic haircuts. Instead, many are discovering that embracing their natural style can lead to a more vibrant and youthful appearance, this shift is not just about hair, it's about reclaiming one's identity and celebrating the journey of life, proving that beauty is defined by confidence and authenticity rather than age.

Subtle adjustments can significantly enhance the beauty of grey hair. Precision haircuts, like layered cuts or soft bobs, add movement and volume, while face-framing highlights can create a graceful transition to grey. These techniques empower individuals to embrace their natural beauty, transforming grey locks into a stunning statement of individuality.

Maintaining vibrant grey hair at home is crucial for showcasing its beauty. Using silver or purple shampoo neutralises unwanted yellow tones, while moisturising masks and conditioners combat dryness. Regular trims keep hair looking polished and healthy, allowing individuals to wear their stunning grey mane with pride.

Ultimately, embracing grey hair is a powerful celebration of individuality and self-acceptance. It invites everyone to step into the spotlight, inspiring others to embrace their unique beauty. As we celebrate this journey together, let's revel in our grey hair and wear it like a badge of honour, proving that true beauty shines from within!

COUZENS HAIR STUDIO

Talented hairdressers creating
beautiful hair in beautiful surroundings

Whether you are looking for a cut or a colour or both
Couzens Hair Studio offers you the very best

5 The Walk - Rochdale - OL16 1EP

Telephone: 01706 350328

Email: info@couzens-hair.co.uk

Rochdale Infirmary opens 'Oasis Garden'



Rochdale Infirmary, with support from its official charity, NorthCare, has officially opened a unique Oasis Garden, an outdoor space designed to support patients living with dementia or cognitive impairments.

The project was supported by the donation of 120 litres of paint by Darwen-based Crown Paints, including paint specially formulated in an easy to view 'dementia blue' shade – a unique hue developed by the Crown Colour Studio in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society.

Around 500 patients will use the garden, which opened in August, each year.

The Oasis Garden has been created using charitable funds, donations from local companies, and support from volunteers, to provide Rochdale Infirmary's patients, their families and colleagues with a break from the hospital environment and a safe space to spend time together.

It features custom flowerbeds and planters at the right size and height to be used by patients in wheelchairs or with limited mobility, as well as a designated area for employee wellbeing.

Russell Kitchen, operations support manager at Crown Paints, said: "As proud national charity partners of the Alzheimer's Society, it was a real honour to support the transformation of the Oasis Garden. We know the transformative power that colour and paint can have, and we're proud to be able to provide a donation that has helped make the Oasis Garden a reality.

Karen Casper, fundraising officer at NorthCare Charity, said: "The Oasis Garden has been an 18-month labour of love. To see it in use now makes it worth all of the hard work and determination of everyone involved in the project."



Inside Rochdale's oldest mosque

The Golden Mosque has been a cornerstone of the local community since its establishment in 1963. Located on Lower Sheriff Street in Spotland, this historic institution was initially acquired by members of the local Muslim community, who came together to create what is now Rochdale's oldest mosque.

Over the years, the mosque has evolved far beyond its original purpose, becoming a vital hub for education, social services, and even community outreach.

The mosque's significance was recently underscored when it was honoured with the prestigious title of 'Mosque of the Year' at the British Muslim Awards. This accolade recognises the Golden Mosque's outstanding contributions, not only to the local community but also to the broader Islamic world.

From its humble beginnings over six decades ago, the Golden Mosque has grown exponentially.

The community's increasing needs led to the construction of a new, larger mosque building in 2010, funded entirely by the local Muslim community.

The community recognised the importance for educating the next generation and nurturing them to become exceptional citizens of this country. The community came together once more to raise £1 million for a new building.

The new three-floor structure, capable of accommodating over 1,000 worshippers, has allowed the mosque to expand its services and support more people than ever before.

Now on big occasions, such as Friday and Eid prayers, the mosque welcomes over 1,000 attendees, reflecting its central role in the lives of Rochdale's Muslims.

The Golden Mosque is not just a place of worship; it is a thriving centre for community engagement.

The mosque offers a wide range of services, including counselling, marriage services, funeral services, youth clubs, health and wellbeing sessions, and Islamic classes.

This dedication to meeting the diverse needs of the community has earned the mosque several accolades over the years, including the Rochdale Borough's People's Design Award for the best-designed building in 2011. It was also selected as best mosque by Royal Horticultural Society's North West In Bloom judges in 2023.

In addition, the mosque has been recognised nationally, winning the Best Madrassah in the UK in 2020 and the Best Youth Service Award in 2021.

The mosque's facilities are a testament to its importance within





the community. The modern building features a large prayer hall, multi-purpose spaces for education and social gatherings, and all the necessary amenities, such as projectors, Wi-Fi, and wudu facilities on every floor.

The recent £1 million redevelopment project, which saw the old mosque building demolished to make way for a new educational hub called Lantern Academy, highlights the community's commitment to nurturing the next generation.

Looking to the future, the Golden Mosque continues to innovate and expand its community initiatives. Starting in September,

a new youth programme will be launched, including outdoor activities, sports, and study sessions open to all.

Additionally, the mosque will establish the Golden Social Club, providing weekly gatherings and day trips for elderly community members. The mosque has also partnered with the Sahara Alzheimer's Society to offer monthly support sessions for those affected by dementia.

The Golden Mosque's commitment to environmental stewardship is evident through its participation in the Britain in Bloom campaign, where it has proudly represented Rochdale.

The mosque plans to continue its monthly litter-picking group, with aspirations to develop a programme that other mosques in Rochdale can adopt, promoting a cleaner environment.

As the Golden Mosque celebrates its recent accolades, it remains a beacon of faith, education, and community spirit in Rochdale.

Its enduring legacy is a source of pride for the Muslim community in Rochdale and beyond - and an inspiration to Muslims and others across the country.

The Golden Mosque's continued dedication to serving the needs of its congregation and the wider community ensures it will remain a vital resource for many years to come.



GM Business
Growth Hub



Rochdale's business support organisation

Whatever you need, we are here to help.

0161 359 3050 | bgh@growthco.uk
businessgrowthhub.com



Innovation - Transforming your operations and sparking new ideas.



People - Creating a thriving environment for your people.



Funding - Helping you access the right finance and funding.



Sustainability - Supporting your journey to net zero.



Sales - Helping you sell more in the UK and overseas.

Funded by
UK Government

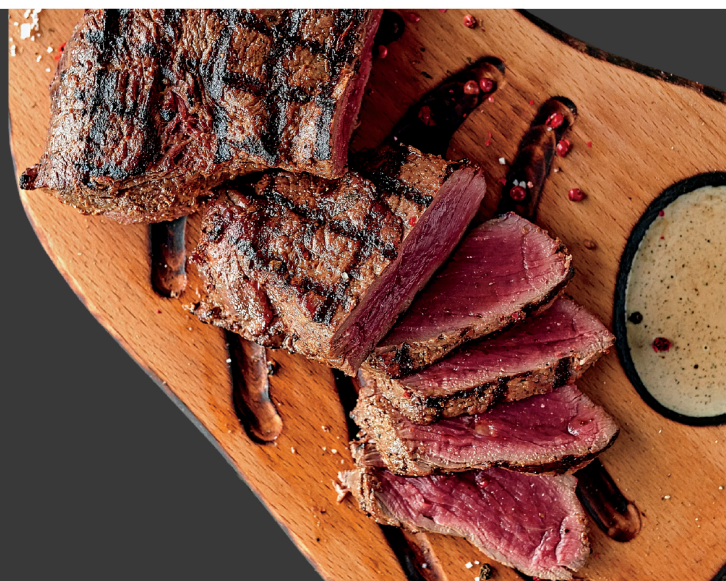
GREATER
MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
LEVELLING
UP

DECKERS BUTCHERY

Restaurant quality meat delivered to your door.

www.deckersbutchery.co.uk



The Royal Toby scoops top wedding award

Chelsea Buckley, Sales and Events Manager at The Royal Toby Hotel in Castleton, has recently been awarded 'Wedding Coordinator of the Year' at County Brides' North West Wedding Awards.

Chelsea started her journey at The Royal Toby in Castleton when she was just 16, initially working at the front-of-house before discovering her passion for weddings.

She said: "I love building relationships with the couples that get married at The Royal Toby. It's so fulfilling to see them have a happy and memorable day. I'm thrilled to have been recognised for my work."

Over the years, Chelsea has successfully managed nearly 300 weddings as part of The Royal Toby's Sales and Events team, including a unique Halloween-themed ceremony featuring a grim reaper. "Every wedding is different and each one is special. Some weddings have taken several years to plan, but we've also organised one in under three months."

"We've had couples as young as 19 getting married at The Royal Toby through to people in their 70s. We've had a bridal party of 28 walk down the aisle in front of the bride. There have been dogs as ring bearers and celebrities as guests. We've seen it all."

Describing her role in the wedding planning process, Chelsea explained, "I'm there through the whole planning process, from the first meeting when I show couples around our beautiful Rhyddings Suite to going over details such as photographer, menus, entertainment and colour schemes."

"On the morning of the wedding, I'll meet suppliers dropping off cake and flowers and then I'll be there to help calm the nerves. Watching people enjoy their special day gives me so much job satisfaction."

If you're looking to start planning your perfect day, book a relaxed appointment with the Royal Toby's team by calling 01706 861 861 (4) or by emailing royaltobyfunctions@thedeckersgroup.com



Sue Devaney announced as new patron of Springhill Hospice



Rochdale's very own soap star, singer and mental health activist Sue Devaney has become a patron of Springhill Hospice.

The team at Springhill cared for Sue's mum 20 years ago but the impact it had on them both left a lasting effect.

Sue's mum spent nine weeks in the Inpatient Unit at Springhill before spending her final hours at home with her loved ones, where she wanted to be.

Sue's memories of that time were that her mum was so well cared for, that in spite of her advancing condition, her appetite was strong enough on her final day to enjoy her favourite meal of pudding, chips and peas, something Sue had not thought possible.

Patients, staff and volunteers of Springhill Hospice were thrilled to meet Sue as she visited the Inpatient Unit in July and her infectious smile and

marvellous hugs brought a wonderful glow to the ward.

Sue, who is best known to many as Debbie Webster in Coronation Street said that it's an honour to become a patron at the Rochdale charity.

She said: "I spent a lot of time in this amazingly peaceful environment when my mum was being cared for.

"The staff and carers and all the volunteers go above and beyond and give the best end-of-life care I have ever witnessed. Everybody should have the right to live and die with dignity and respect."

Springhill CEO Sam Wells said: "It's a real joy to have someone like Sue on board. She has a genuine, warm personality and honest desire to make the world a better place."

Visit adoptionnow.org.uk now!

**adoption
now**

You are their hope for a **BRIGHTER** future!

YOUR Regional Adoption Agency

Children waiting for adoption range from babies to eight years old and come from all walks of life and backgrounds. They are all beautifully individual with different personalities, talents, abilities and needs but unfortunately, what they all have in common is a difficult start in life. Adoption Now is looking for anybody who has the space in their heart and home to get in touch to find out how they can be the difference in a child or children's life.

Katrina Williams, Head of Service at Adoption Now, said: "Now more than ever, we need people to come forward and consider adopting our wonderful children. The national database has less than 450 families currently available and Adoption Now alone works with over 100 new children every year who need a family. We have children waiting for families from all walks of life, different ages, different backgrounds, different needs and some that come in duos or trios; but what they all have in common is difficult starts to life and the need to be given the opportunity to grow and thrive to reach their full potential whatever that may be."

Adoption Now is the Regional Adoption Agency for Rochdale. If you would like to find out more visit our website using the link above or call 01204 336096.

To find out more surrounding the adoption process, book on to our Virtual Information Event!



Bolton Council

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Oldham Council

BLACKBURN DARWEN

Bury Council

Tameside Metropolitan Borough



Remarkable 2000-year-old Roman coins found in Littleborough field will stay in the borough

A rare collection of Roman coins discovered in a field in Littleborough has been acquired for Touchstone's Rochdale borough cultural heritage collection.

The remarkable coins, unearthed in 2020 by two metal detectorists, were buried just seven inches below the surface. A total of 376 coins were discovered, dating back nearly 2,000 years, spanning over 120 years of Roman history, and serves as a testament to the presence of Roman activity in the area.

Thanks to generous support from Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Pennines Township, Rochdale Borough Council, the hoard will remain in the local area. It has been acquired for Touchstone's Rochdale borough cultural heritage collection.

While the coins are a significant part of local history, highlighting the continuous changes

in Roman rule, their discovery raises more questions than answers. Historians, archaeologists, and the public are left to ponder the mystery behind their burial in Littleborough.

When the coins go on display, these intriguing questions will invite visitors to use their imaginations to fill in the blanks and piece together the story of the hoard.

Leanne Manfredi, National Programmes Lead, Victoria and Albert Museum said: "The Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund supports the purchase of a wide range of material for the permanent collections of non-nationally funded organisations in England and Wales.

"We are delighted that this Roman coin hoard has been acquired by Rochdale Arts and Heritage Service via the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. It will benefit audiences for years to come."

Proud To Be Part Of
THE Pinnacle LEARNING TRUST
OSFC
OLHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS 2024

Saturday 12th October
10am - 2pm
Monday 21st October
5pm - 8pm



Fair for All
The Only Dedicated Fairtrade Outlet within the Rochdale Borough
Fight Poverty Through Fairtrade



Fair Trade Advent Calendars Available from October

Large Range of Fairtrade Gifts and Food
Jewellery • Candles • Chocolates
Greetings Cards • etc.

5 The Walk, Rochdale OL16 1EP
01706 659453
Open Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Ranger Motorhomes



Affordable Motorhomes & Camper Hire
Based in the Northwest



Ranger Motorhomes has a selection of 2 berth & 4 berth Motorhomes available for hire.

All our Motorhomes are self contained and very easy to use. Both the 2 berth & 4 berth are based on the economical LWB Citroen Relay Van which can be driven on a normal car licence so is very easy to drive.

Tel: 07803 678 880
www.rangermotorhomes.co.uk
rangermotorhomes@hotmail.com

Albert Mill
Newhey Road
Milnrow
Rochdale
OL16 4EG

Connecting you with your customers



ROCHDALE ONLINE

Covering Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton and Rochdale

We offer a multitude of opportunities to help you grow your business.

Huge local audience 150,000 site visitors per month.

Contact us now for a no obligation discussion.

www.rochdaleonline.co.uk
01706 523583
advertising@rochdaleonline.co.uk



Castleton Timber Ltd is a family-run business with over 28 years of industry experience that has quickly become a cornerstone of the local community.

Operating independently from Castleton, they supply top-quality timber and builders' materials across the UK, reaching as far as Scotland.

Set up by local men Chris Walker and Iain Fay, Castleton Timber, based at Astra Industrial Centre on Royle Barn Road, does more than supply timber and building materials. Alongside running the business, they are also keen to support the local community.

- Fully stocked with all your daily needs
- Daily deliveries
- Bespoke joinery
- Friendly staff on hand to help



The main stand sponsor at Rochdale AFC, they also fund various essential projects, including a village defibrillator in Castleton. The company also sponsors local sports teams and a girls football team.

A charity golf day they organised in 2021 raised over £1,800 for Springhill Hospice, showcasing their dedication to giving back.

Castleton Timber is also known for its hands-on involvement in local projects, from crafting bedding boxes for the village to supporting a local autistic rally driver.

Chris said: "Of course we run a business, but it also really matters to us to give back to the community that we're a part of. That's why we do what we do."



Unit 8 Astra Industrial Centre, Royle Barn Road, Rochdale OL11 3DT
01706 524338

Suffering with Hip or Knee Pain?

Mr Kumar practices at Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust and sees private patients across Manchester. He has a specialist interest in musculoskeletal oncology in particular soft tissue sarcomas. He is the director of the Manchester Lumps Clinic which specialises in diagnosis and removing all types of lumps.

Treatments Offered

- + Hip and knee replacements (including MAKO robotic surgery)
- + Knee arthroscopy
- + Joint injections
- + Removal of lumps and soft tissue cancers
- + Management of metastatic bone disease.

Consulting Rooms

Circle Highfield Hospital,
Manchester Road, Rochdale,
OL11 4LZ

Circle Alexandra Hospital,
Mill Lane, Cheadle,
Cheshire, SK8 2PX

Spire Hospital Manchester,
170 Barlow Moor Road,
Manchester, M20 4AF

Spire Regency Hospital,
West Street,
Macclesfield, SK11 8DW



Mr Amit Kumar MANCHESTER HIP & KNEE SURGEON

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Specialist in Hip & Knee Surgery and Oncology
Honorary Senior Lecturer University of Manchester
BSc(Hons) MBBS FRCS Ed (Tr&Orth)



**For private enquiries
please call 07585 064963 or email secretary@mrkumar.co.uk
www.mrkumar.co.uk • www.manchesterlumpsclinic.co.uk**

Rochdale Masonic Hall

Weddings
Birthdays
Retirement
Anniversaries
Seminars
Conferences
Corporate Events
Special Events
Funerals
Car Boot Sales
Table Top Sales
Craft Fair
Soul Nights
You name it
WE CAN DO IT

Need a beautiful venue for your special celebration or event? Look no further than Rochdale Masonic Hall.

There are two large function rooms both with a well-stocked bar.

The elegant ballroom can accommodate 150 people and the smaller lounge seats 50.

There are also several smaller rooms for more intimate gatherings.

We have high-quality in-house catering with menus to suit all tastes.

The buildings are a registered wedding venue so couples can hold their ceremony in the Masonic Lodge Room, then celebrate in one of the function rooms.

There is a large, enclosed car park and Rochdale railway station and tram stop are a two minute walk away.



Simply contact us and arrange an informal meeting.

Telephone Buildings 01706 646188
Bookings 07724 876204
Website rochdalemasonicballroom.co.uk
Email stephenrmhb@gmail.com
Richard Street, Rochdale OL11 1DU



STIFFEN YOUR RESOLVE TO DO MORE EXERCISE

What a mixed bag of weather this summer was, and it wouldn't be at all surprising if autumn were just as inconsistent.

But there are two things in autumn that we are sure of. Temperatures will drop and the days become shorter, and both have an impact on physical and mental health.

Pointers on joints

For arthritis sufferers, joints get crankier as autumn progresses. Recent research has shown that they are responding to barometric pressure, becoming less like the fuel that keeps us supple and turning instead to sludge, provoking aching limbs, pain, and stiffness. It is important to start fighting these symptoms before the chill of winter bites. So, ensure you keep warm, eat well, walk carefully, stock up on vitamin D and stretch out and exercise.

That last tip extends to all of us, actually. With fewer daylight hours and more inclement skies, the tendency is to cut right down on the exercise. But aside from being good for the heart and avoiding strokes, aerobic exercise can fight and fend off colds, flu, and the virulent viruses on the rise at this time of year.

It doesn't have to be the same location or even sport you do during summertime. Track athletes and tennis players may begin to venture inside, while some swap the intensity of a run for a brisk walk. This is the season for soccer too, and a big shout must go out to walking football, a great way for older men and women to exercise – with plenty of teams and leagues around.

Mental health matters

The shift in season can affect the production of serotonin and melatonin in the brain, resulting in what some call SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder. Sleep patterns can go out of kilter causing exhaustion and irritability, mood can be significantly lowered due to the prevailing darkness, and even anxiety levels heighten with everything from the stresses of paying for the coming Christmas to walking home in the dark preying on our minds. Mental health organisations from CAMHS for our children to Andy's Man's Club for men, do a sterling job and it is important to reach out before issues escalate.

Feverish at the practice

Back at your local surgery, we see autumn as a time to prepare for the most difficult period for health, namely winter. Notice of Covid inoculations and flu jab clinics will be coming your way and I suggest you accept the offer and make it easier on yourself – and us at the NHS – over the closing months of the year.

Poor hygiene can help viruses spread and mutate and so catching sneezes in a handkerchief and covering your mouth when you cough is good practice. As is the frequent washing of hands.

So, make this season one where you continue summer's good practices and if you haven't as yet made a commitment to care for your health, then autumn truly is the time to turn over a new leaf!



ABOUT THE WRITER

Dr Anita Sharma is a published women's health expert, the founder of the charity Endometriosis Awareness North and the president of the Rochdale Inner Wheel club. As a GP, she previously coordinated the NHS pessary service for Greater Manchester. She also works closely with Rochdale medics to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescribing.

**Helping you
make your
next move**

RYDER & DUTTON
HELPING PEOPLE MOVE

SOLD
ryderdutton.co.uk
01706 356402

Get your
Instant Valuation Today!



Rochdale@ryderdutton.co.uk | 01706 356402

**ROCHDALE
BLINDS**
www.rochdale-blinds.co.uk

Rochdale's Number One For Blinds

All Blinds Come With A Free Measure And Fit Service.
Choose From The Comfort Of Your Own Home.

Local Family Business

Your Local Window Blinds Specialist
Conservatory Blinds Specialist • Vertical Blinds
Roller Blinds • Wooden Venetian Blinds
Velux Blinds • Perfect Fit Brands

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
Unit 10 Harp Business Centre Queensway, Rochdale OL11 2QQ
Ring 01706 355550 or
email rochdaleblindsuk@gmail.com
www.rochdale-blinds.co.uk

Rochdale Shopmobility manager retires after two decades

Rochdale Shopmobility marked the end of an era in August as long-serving manager Michelle Hollindrake retired after more than 20 years of service. On her final day, Michelle was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a good luck card as tokens of appreciation for her work for the charity.

Under Michelle's leadership, Rochdale Shopmobility has thrived, with valuable support from her colleague, Debbie Ratcliffe who is staying with the service.

Rochdale Shopmobility is now under the management of HMR Circle and Kirsty Mallinson has been appointed as the new Shopmobility Coordinator. Kirsty aims to build on the strong foundation that Michelle has established.



Michelle Hollindrake with Mark Wynn from HMR Circle

HMR Circle is keen to increase the use of the Shopmobility service and raising awareness of both Shopmobility and the HMR Circle Volunteer Drivers Service.

For more information about Rochdale Shopmobility, please call 01706 925986.

LOVICKS

Furniture - Sofas - Beds - Carpets
Opening Times | Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm
163/167 Yorkshire Street, Rochdale OL12 0DR





01706 645 344 | www.lovicks.co.uk | sales@lovicks.co.uk
FREE CUSTOMER CAR PARK AT THE REAR OF THE STORE

Contractor appointed for Touchstones transformation

The redevelopment of Touchstones, the borough's major arts and heritage venue is progressing following the appointment of construction company H.H. Smith and Sons Ltd as the main contractor. The Manchester-based firm also worked on the restoration of Rochdale Town Hall.

H.H. Smith and Sons started work in July, which will see the building transformed into a creative and cultural hub with new flexible performance and creative studio spaces, meeting rooms and improved galleries.

The work also includes a new dining space combining the theme of food with the borough's collections. 'The Dining Room' will see three artists commissioned to



work with 20 community curators to produce a new museum and dining space for when it re-opens in 2025.

Vital works to improve the building's accessibility and sustainability will also take place.

Chef David Hayden and wife Rachael run The Gallows in Milnrow.

They were winners of Come Dine with Me: The Professionals in 2022.



David, who has catered for premiership footballers, TV stars and other celebs, shares his recipe for this light vegetarian dish; Korean sticky mushrooms with kimchi greens to serve two people.

Ingredients

- 4 flat mushrooms
- untoasted sesame oil
- 2 small pinches of salt
- 150g jasmine rice
- ½ teaspoon of sesame seeds
- 1 head of pak choi roughly sliced
- 150g tenderstem broccoli
- 80g kimchi chopped
- 1 spring onion, sliced finely

For the sticky sauce

- 2cm of fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 clove of garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons of rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons of honey
- 1½ teaspoons of korean gochujang paste

- Preheat the oven to 200°C or gas mark 6, and boil the kettle.
- Toss the mushrooms with some sesame oil and pinch of salt in a roasting tray. Roast for 6-8 minutes until brown.
- Place the rice in a pan and boil until tender for 15 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- Mix the ingredients for the sticky sauce together in a bowl.

Korean sticky mushrooms with kimchi greens



- Add the sticky sauce to the mushrooms and mix well. Scatter with sesame seeds and return to the oven for a final five minutes until sticky but not burnt.
- Fry the tenderstem broccoli and pak choi until soft, then mix with the kimchi and rice.
- Serve the rice and greens in a bowl topped with the sticky mushrooms, garnish with finely sliced spring onion and eat, eat, eat.

High Level's holistic approach to addiction recovery



Since 2002 High Level has stood as a beacon of hope, offering a support system for those grappling with addiction and helping people in their recovery. Here's how they use a holistic approach for success...

Its unique space, often referred to by its members as a “second home,” is not just a place of refuge but a community where recovery, empowerment, and holistic wellbeing are at the forefront.

High Level (Northern) Trust is more than just a safe space; it's a lifeline for those navigating the often treacherous waters of recovery from addiction, be it drugs, alcohol, gambling, or even shopping.

Stopping is when it starts

The trust's philosophy is rooted in the understanding that recovery doesn't end with detox. Instead, it's an ongoing journey that requires a strong support system and the right tools to prevent relapse.

As CEO Callum Jones puts it, “Recovery is not just about abstaining from substances; it's about reclaiming your life, rediscovering your purpose, and building a future where addiction no longer holds the reins.”

The trust's approach is multifaceted, offering an array of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of its clients. From one-on-one counselling sessions to group therapy, High Level provides a personalised path to recovery.

The trust also offers holistic therapies aimed at promoting relaxation and improving sleep, which are crucial for mental health during the recovery process. These therapies, coupled with meditation sessions, help individuals find inner peace and balance, which are essential in overcoming addictive behaviours.

One of the most powerful aspects of High Level is its emphasis on community. The trust hosts various group sessions where individuals can connect, share their experiences, and support one another. “The strength of our community lies in its ability to bring people together. Here, no one is alone in their journey,” says Jones.

These sessions not only foster personal development but also help to alleviate the isolation that often accompanies addiction.

For those who cannot access the physical space, High Level extends its support remotely, ensuring that help is available to everyone, regardless of their circumstances.

The impact of High Level's work resonates far beyond the individuals who walk through its doors. The ripple effect of recovery touches families, friends, and the wider community.



Reuniting parents with their children, helping families find positive paths forward, and relieving social isolation are just some of the profound outcomes of the support provided by High Level. “When we help one person recover, we're not just changing one life - we're healing families, we're strengthening communities,” Jones passionately explains.

The benefits of High Level's services extend to society at large. Supporting individuals in becoming addiction-free reduces crime rates, lessens the burden on healthcare services, and alleviates pressures on emergency services and the police force.

It's a win-win for everyone involved, a fact that Callum Jones is keen to highlight: “Every person we support to overcome addiction is a step towards a safer, healthier, and more connected society.”

High Level's mission is clear: to empower individuals to take control of their lives, make positive choices, and break free from the chains of addiction. Through its holistic approach, the trust not only helps people recover but also equips them with the skills and strategies needed to build a meaningful, addiction-free life.

As High Level continues to grow and evolve, its impact on Rochdale and beyond is undeniable. “At High Level, we believe in the potential of every individual to overcome their challenges and thrive,” says Jones. “Our role is to provide the support, the tools, and the community that makes this possible.”

ALL EYES ON ROCHDALE AT TATTON



ABOUT THE WRITER

Silvana Devine is a social and therapeutic horticulture practitioner at Petrus Incredible Edibles Rochdale (PIER) which is a community allotment on Belfield Road in Rochdale.

PIER is a community allotment and gardens located on Belfield Road (next to the Croft Shifa Medical Centre) in Rochdale, which belongs to homelessness charity Petrus. It is a beautiful, relaxing and therapeutic oasis that grows fruit and vegetables and is a member of the wider Incredible Edibles network representing Rochdale. It is open to the public and people are welcome to visit and take a look around this award-winning garden. Petrus' vision is to create kind, confident and connected communities through the power of growing food.



Every year, Petrus staff, service users and volunteers come together to design a garden to build for the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show. This year, we were delighted to be invited by the RHS to produce the show's only feature garden, the Ginnel Garden.

Bigger than anything we had created at the show before, we looked to the Rochdale community to help and our vision for the 'Kaleidoscope Ginnel,' started to come to life.

We ran sessions with pupils at Falinge Park High School, guiding them to create colourful glass floral mosaics that were set into wooden panels.

Volunteers from youth work charity Aspire 2 Inspire shared words of friendship and community, which were etched onto metal



structures within the garden. They joined us on site to help with the build, as did volunteers from Willmott Dixon who also rallied their supply chain to provide a donation of PPE.

Our friends at J Parker's raised almost £5,000 through their sponsored 13.5 mile walk, as well as donating flowers, fruit trees, planters and more to help

the vision for the Ginnel to take shape.

Long term Petrus supporters, the Cosalea Café in Bury donated delicious lunches for the team working on site every day for three weeks.

The Kaleidoscope Ginnel Garden became a shining example how Rochdale is united through community

gardening. It also raised awareness of our charity and demonstrated the impact of the social prescribing work taking place at our community allotment PIER.

The legacy of the Kaleidoscope Ginnel will live on in Rochdale now that the show has come to an end, with four pocket gardens created for the community to enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about our time at the show, please visit our website: www.petrus.org.uk/tatton



Molesworths

Since 1840

Business Services

- Commercial
- Corporate
- Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Real Estate
- Intellectual Property

www.molesworths.com

Tel: 01706 356666

17 Yorkshire Street, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 1BH

CCM | Carter Collins & Myer

www.uk-ccm.com

Accountants and tax specialists using proven tax & business strategies for business owners. From small businesses to offshore tax planning with commercial trusts. Whatever your needs or your budget we want to help you.

"Because not all accountants are the same!"

£500 business development guide free to new clients!

- Competitive Fixed Fees
- Free Phone Support & Meetings
- Free Tax Review
- Guaranteed Work On Time
- Free Monthly Tax & Business Tips
- Special Tax Planning & Business Advice Reports Available

Our Services

- Accounts
- Independent Examinations
- Tax Returns • VAT
- Bookkeeping • Raising Finance
- Tax Disputes • Business Start Ups
- Strategic Planning • CGT
- Inheritance Tax
- & much much more.

CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION, ALL AREAS & ALWAYS HAPPY TO VISIT YOU

Rochdale: 01706 860 255 | Ashton Under Lyne: 0161 339 5689 | Bolton: 01204 497 247

enquiries@uk-ccm.com | www.uk-ccm.com

POST OFFICE HORIZON SCANDAL

This is the third article in a series where Molesworths' dispute resolution team delves into the aftermath of the Post Office Horizon scandal.

In this instalment, we will explore the broader implications of IT failures within legal and business frameworks, their challenges, and the lessons learned.

Growing dependence on IT

In today's digital age, legal and business operations heavily rely on complex IT systems for tasks like managing transactions, maintaining records, and communication. However, as the Post Office Horizon scandal shows, when these systems fail, the consequences can be severe, resulting in financial loss, legal liabilities, and reputational damage.

Legal consequences of IT failures

The legal consequences of IT failures can be significant. The Horizon case, where faulty software led to the wrongful prosecution of hundreds, is a stark example. It raises a key question: who is responsible when IT systems fail?

In such disputes, software developers, vendors, and the organisations using the technology may all be held accountable. Contractual obligations and potential negligence, particularly if safeguards were inadequate, often come under intense scrutiny.

Impact on business

IT failures can have severe consequences for businesses, beyond just legal liabilities. The reputational damage can erode customer trust, shareholder confidence, and employee morale. Internally, such failures can lead to frustration, increased workloads, and

decreased productivity, potentially resulting in higher turnover and long-term instability.

The Post Office's denial of Horizon system issues highlights the importance of transparency and swift action to mitigate damage. Additionally, businesses must consider the financial impact, including the costs of rectifying failures, compensating affected parties, and managing legal disputes, along with revenue losses due to system outages.

Proactive approach

To mitigate IT failure risks, organisations should adopt a proactive approach, including rigorous testing, continuous monitoring, and clear failure-response protocols. Legal and IT teams must collaborate to ensure vendor contracts include strong warranties and indemnities.

Additionally, fostering a culture of accountability and transparency is crucial. Employees should feel empowered to report issues without fear, and open communication with stakeholders during failures is essential.

By prioritising these practices, organisations can not only address immediate issues effectively but also build a resilient environment prepared for future challenges, maintaining trust and stability.

WHAT'S ON THIS AUTUMN

ART BATTLE CHAMPNESS HALL, ROCHDALE SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Watch painters, illustrators, tattooists and street artists go head-to-head in what has been described as Manchester's most energetic art event.

With only 30 minutes to create a masterpiece, you will decide who is crowned champion.



OKTOBERFEST ROCHDALE TOWN HALL SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

Embrace the spirit of Bavaria with lively Oompah music performed by the talented Jager Maestros Oompah band.

The event will feature a comedy frontman leading a night of games and dancing, alongside an array of bratwursts, pretzels, and German beer.



COMEDY NIGHT THE OLD COURT ROOM, ROCHDALE FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER

Talented local comedian, Brennan Reece, headlines this Prevent Breast Cancer special.

Brennan has appeared on television programs such as Live at the Apollo, Celebrity Coach Trip, and Three in a Bed.

The compere is Tom Evans, with support from Pete Selwood, Maxine Wade and Hannah Margaret. This is an adult show, over 18's only.



www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/events



PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

Your Health, Our Priority!

At Smallbridge Clinic, we prioritise your health and well-being. Our dedicated team of professionals are here to provide exceptional care tailored to your needs.

CHOOSE US FOR

- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Speech Therapy
- ✓ Acupuncture
- ✓ Microsuction of earwax
- ✓ Hearing Tests



01706 587736

21 Stevenson Square, Rochdale, OL12 9SA

smallbridgeclinic@gmail.com

www.smallbridgeclinic.co.uk



Beech House School

(2 to 16 Years)

Independent Co-education at its Best



**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
2020 2023 & 2024**

**Best Coeducational Independent School
in the North West 2024**

**Most Outstanding Independent School
in Manchester 2021 & 2023**

**Excellence Award for Holistic Education 2021
Termly Fees £2251 - £2744**

**SENIOR & UPPER PREP OPEN EVENING
MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 18.00 - 21.00**

**LOWER PREP & EARLY YEARS OPEN DAYS
TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 13.00 - 15.00
THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER 9.00 - 11.30**

Telephone **01706 646309** for a prospectus or to arrange to view the school
www.beechhouseschool.co.uk

HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY CENTRE

Let's get your future started!

OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 5th October 10am – 1.30pm

Wednesday 23rd October 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Wednesday 20th November 4.30pm – 6.30pm

- Full-time, part-time and online courses
- Access & University Courses
- Apprenticeships

hopwood.ac.uk



**Hopwood Hall College
& University Centre**



**The Queen's
Anniversary
Prizes**

2023