

► REAL ◀ ROCHDALE



AUTUMN 2025
ISSUE 26

Arts - Business - Leisure - People - Sport



Greg Couzens

A warm welcome to Real Rochdale magazine

We start this edition with a fascinating feature by Nikki Staley about the rich history of Broadfield Slopes in Rochdale town centre.

I went to Hollingworth Academy to meet Cate Calveley, Careers Leader & Specialist Leader of Education.

Liz White has written features on Rochdale Artists Group, which meets twice weekly in Castleton, and Violet Flamingo, a fashion studio in Littleborough founded by Lindsey James.

We've been out and about with our cameras photographing local events such as The Herds in Heywood, Rochdale Classic Car & Bike show at Falinge Park, the Rushbearing Festival in Littleborough, Heywood 1940s Day, and Rochdale Pride Parade.

We also feature Chantilly, the award-winning lingerie retailer, and we showcase some of the businesses at Spotland Bridge Mill - if you haven't visited I highly recommend doing so.

Greg

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FEEL GOOD FAMILY PICNIC

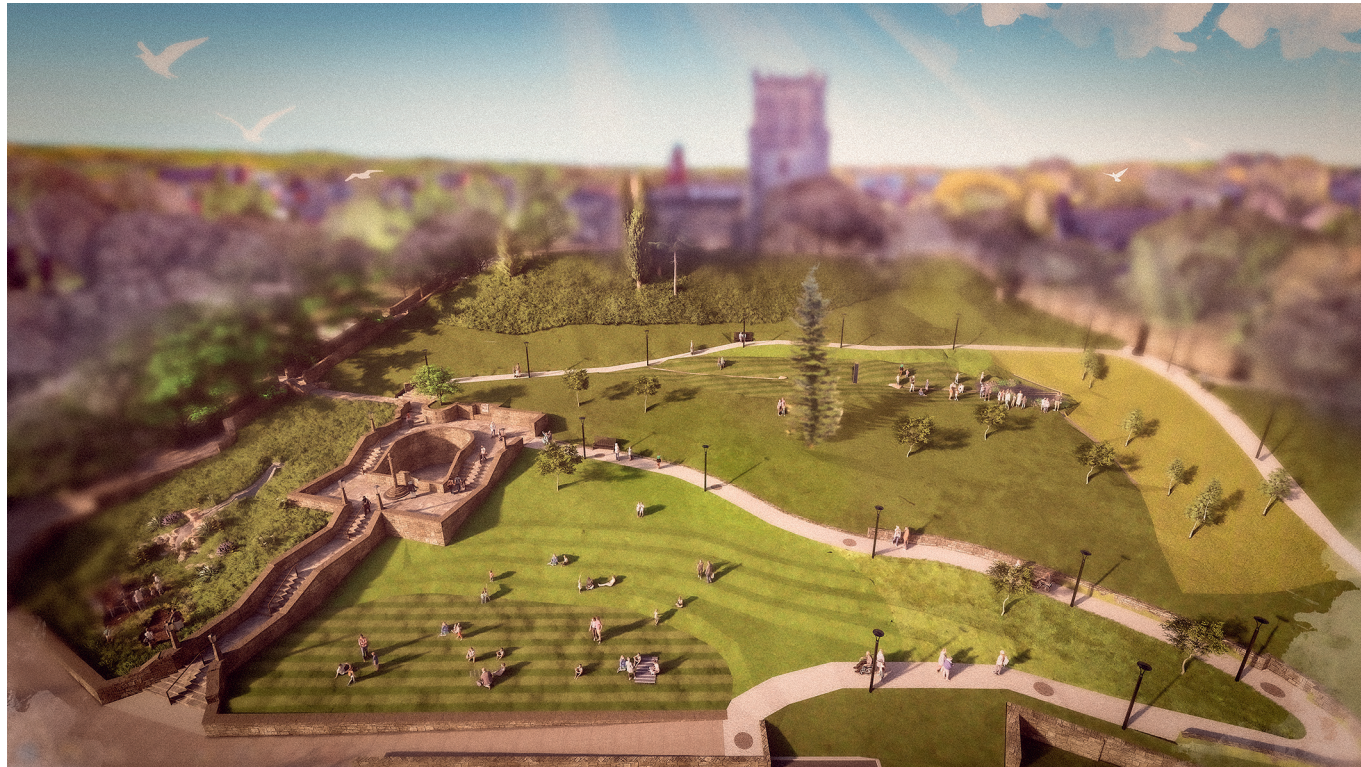
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BROADFIELD SLOPES

UNCOVERING ROCHDALE'S PAST, CREATING A GREENER FUTURE

by Nikki Staley



A well-known hillside in the heart of Rochdale is being transformed, bringing together the town's rich heritage, community spirit, and vision for a more sustainable future.

Broadfield Slopes, located between Rochdale Town Hall and St Chad's Church, is the focus of a major restoration project that celebrates local history while creating new opportunities for residents to enjoy and shape the space.

Led by Rochdale Development Agency, and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund together with Rochdale Borough Council, this project is part of the wider Town Hall Quarter regeneration. Its aim is to restore and improve the historic parkland slopes that connect the town centre to Broadfield Park, making them safer, greener, and more accessible to everyone.

Unearthing the Past Beneath Our Feet

Taking place alongside construction works, an archaeological excavation, dubbed 'The Big Dig 3.0', has uncovered remarkable evidence of Rochdale's layered history. The work so far has revealed structures and everyday objects from the 17th to 20th centuries, offering a glimpse into how people once lived and worked on the Slopes. Three trenches revealed:

- A 19th-century alleyway and the remains of Leyland House, an 18th-century home later converted into tenements.
- A 17th/18th-century stone-built dwelling alongside newer 19th-century buildings.
- A public weigh station, with an earlier underlying structure believed to be connected to the former Central Corn Mill.

Among the artefacts found were:

- An in-situ counterweight from the weigh station.
- 17th-18th century Staffordshire slipware pottery,
- Tyg cups circa 17th century, and Victorian ink bottles.
- A George III silver shilling from 1817.
- A post-medieval token.
- Local ginger beer bottles and various pieces of Victorian pottery.



19th century ginger beer bottle



George III silver shilling from 1817



Public weigh station with counter weight



17th century Metropolitan slipware pottery

These discoveries echo the town's industrial and social past while also giving strength to the belief that Rochdale was a site of strategic importance as early as the medieval period.

Some evidence even suggests a marketplace may have existed nearby by 1251, placing the Slopes at the centre of civic life for over 800 years.

Over 445 local people, including 150 school-children, took part in the dig. Five local trainees also volunteered during the Big Dig 3.0, gaining new skills and employment experience.

CONT...

A Heritage-Led Transformation

Broadfield Slopes is more than a green space, it's a vital link between the town's past and its future. The restoration will include:

- Conservation of historic features like the Grade II-listed Packer Spout and the Georgian rill.
- Safer, accessible paths and steps with new lighting and handrails.
- A new event platform and an ecological pond for outdoor learning and biodiversity.
- Drainage improvements, heritage-sensitive planting, and enhanced wayfinding.

The project is designed not just to restore, but to reconnect local people to this special place, through participation, education, and wellbeing.



A Place for Everyone

The Broadfield Slopes Activity Plan focuses on:

- Community Participation: Opportunities to volunteer, co-design features, and join creative workshops, particularly for underrepresented groups.
- Education and Skills: Schools like Broadfield Community Primary and Matthew Moss High are involved through curriculum-linked activities and real-world learning.
- Health and Wellbeing: A new Slopes division of the Green Volunteers will support physical and mental health through outdoor activities.
- Sustainable Stewardship: By involving local people now, the project aims to build long-term community pride and ownership.

A Shared Future Rooted in History

Broadfield Slopes has been part of Rochdale's story for centuries. Thanks to the leadership of Rochdale Development Agency and the involvement of local people, it's now set to become a thriving green space where nature, history, and community come together.

To find out more or get involved, visit: rochdaletownhall.co.uk/events



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CATE CALVELEY

Real Rochdale Editor Greg Couzens visited Hollingworth Academy to meet Cate Calveley

Cate was born in Rochdale and attended Wardle High School before studying International Business at Huddersfield University, a four-year course that took her to Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, and Washington, USA.

Having completed her teaching qualification at the University of Manchester, she began her career as an ICT and Business Studies teacher at Hollingworth in 2005 (then known as Hollingworth High).

In 2008, Cate was funded by Oracle to study Programming at UCLA, as part of the school's transition into a Business & Enterprise College. She went on to teach their content to Hollingworth's KS4 Computer Science pupils.

She has held various roles at Hollingworth, including Head of Vocational Education, overseeing subjects such as Business, Travel & Tourism, and Hair & Beauty. Her main role now is Careers Leader, though she still teaches some Digital Literacy.

A published author with HarperCollins (GCSE Business Revision Guide and Workbook, 2023), Cate held an additional post from 2006 with Pearson Edexcel as an Examiner, and between 2012 and 2024 held the position of Assistant Principal Examiner, responsible for standardising the GCSE mark scheme and training examiners nationally on the GCSE Business Studies paper.

Cate explained she places great importance on the relationships she builds with employers and industry partners, adding: "I want everyone who visits Hollingworth Academy, whether they are delivering a talk, running a workshop, or offering work experience to feel well-prepared, welcomed, and valued."

Cate also shares her network with other Careers Leaders in Rochdale to "ensure that every young person in the borough, no matter what school they attend, has access to meaningful opportunities. I believe strongly in equity, not exclusivity".

She added: "I'm mindful that all pupil's aspirations are different. Whether a student dreams of studying at Oxford University, entering a skilled trade, or pursuing a creative or vocational route, I want them to see and interact with their future possible selves during their time in school."

Cate Calveley
Teacher: Digital Literacy
Careers Leader: Hollingworth Academy
Specialist Leader of Education, Careers: Greater Manchester



"Rochdale is exceptionally well represented across a wide range of industries and never before has the need for employers to engage with education been so critical, so I would like to use this opportunity to reach out to any business leader reading the article to say that I would love to hear from them... to ask whether they're able to offer insight, expertise, or involvement for young people in Rochdale, and if they need help putting something together... I am here to support them."

ROCHDALE AFC



Rochdale AFC's 2025/26 National League season has got under way.

Dale finished fourth in the league table last season, losing out in extra time of their play-off eliminator to eventual finalists Southend United.

Jimmy McNulty, entering his third season as Head Coach, oversaw an improvement last season from his first full season, improving from 11th to a play-off finish.

The former defender, who made over 200 appearances as a player for Dale, says his side have prepared well for the season ahead.

Dale have added new players over the summer, with the intention to increase and improve the depth of a squad that will be competing in four different competitions.

Further to that, following the departure of McNulty's assistant Kevin Gibbins, former players Jason Taylor and Matthew Done have joined the coaching staff.

McNulty found the early arrival of those players and staff, ahead of pre-season getting under way, to be incredibly beneficial.

However, the most important part of it all for the Head Coach is the Rochdale supporters.

He said: "We greatly appreciate you (the fans), you bring every fixture to life for us.

"It's probably the most important part of all of this, the final connection between us and them is sharing it on a match day, wherever it may be, right to the final game.

"Last season, you were amazing for us as a fanbase and we want to continue in that same spot to achieve maybe something even greater this season."



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With 40 years of experience, Chantilly is an independent, multi-award-winning lingerie boutique in Rochdale town centre, providing choice and exceptional service since 1985.

Their vast selection of sizes and industry leading brands, including Empreinte, Prima Donna, Marie Jo, Chantelle, Anita, Wacoal, Fantasie and Elomi, to name a few – is one of the biggest contributing factors in the businesses success, as it ensures that everyone is sure to find a variety of options that work for them.

Chantilly's selection and service has merited national award wins with 'Stars Underlines' in multiple years for 'Excellence and Outstanding Achievement', 'Personal Touch' and the coveted 'Stars Superstar' award for longstanding service in the industry, cementing their place as a major supplier of lingerie and swimwear in the North West.

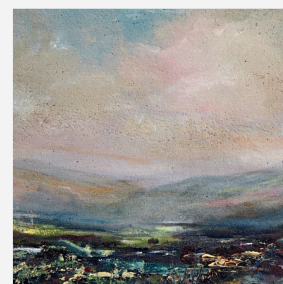
Chantilly take pride in their superb customer service and experience led product knowledge to select options from the best brands for each individual customer. Whether it's a first bra, sports bra, push up bra, t-shirt bra, maternity bra, large cup fitting, mastectomy or non-wired bra; Chantilly is there to help, both in store and online.





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CREATIVE SPARKS FLY AT ROCHDALE ARTISTS GROUP

by Liz White

Twice a week, a wave of creative energy flows through Castleton Community Centre, the home of Rochdale Artists. Founded in 1987, the group has long provided a nurturing environment for artists of all levels – from complete beginners to seasoned professionals. In recent years, this creative hub has experienced a remarkable revival, with membership on the rise and a growing buzz that's attracting people from across the region.

Regular weekly sessions now draw between 25 to 40 enthusiastic members, who gather to paint and also to share ideas, offer encouragement, and learn from each other.

Barbara Fallas, a member since 2010 and current Chair for the past two years, explains: "It's a real pleasure to come to meetings. We now have new members bringing fresh ideas."

The group is proud of its diversity – with members of all ages and from all walks of life. The youngest member is just 15, while others travel significant distances to take part. One new member, Karen Dawson, said: "I found lessons expensive and space at home is limited. This group is brilliant. Being with other people sparks ideas and everyone is very encouraging."

The affordability of Rochdale Artists is another huge draw. The first two sessions are free, after which membership costs just £12 a year and £1 per session – a real bargain for such a rich and supportive experience.



Artwork by Vicky King

Cate Wallwork, the newly appointed events officer, is keen to expand the group's activities even further. A recent trip to Saltaire was very popular, and more art-themed outings are in the works. "The group works on so many levels," she says. "It helps people improve their skills, acts as social therapy, and brings a real sense of energy."

David Bebbington, a founding member and now Vice-Chair, is proud of how far the group has come since its humble beginnings. He originally joined the evening sessions as a break from work, now retired painting is a big part of his life. He is delighted by the group's growth and community spirit. He highlighted the annual silent auction when members donate surplus art materials to raise funds for Springhill Hospice.

Whether you're a seasoned artist or picking up a brush for the first time, Rochdale Artists offers a welcoming space to explore creativity, make friends, and be inspired.



Artwork by Ron Steeles

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COLIN ROBINSON CELEBRATES 70 YEARS WITH ROCHDALE HARRIERS



Rochdale Harriers past and present joined in a celebration and acknowledgment of a remarkable milestone for Colin Robinson - the Harrier's President has been a member of the club for 70 years.

Over 100 people were present at St Vincent's Parish Centre, Norden, including Mayor Janet Emsley who congratulated Colin and presented him with a fine painting of Rochdale Town Hall, whilst also becoming an honorary member of Rochdale Harriers herself.

Colin was an outstanding athlete, representing Rochdale on an international scene in cross country racing, and is without doubt one of the finest sports people to come out of the town. Still to this day, Colin holds many club records (including a 5,000m personal best of 13 min 48.8 sec).

Highlights from Colin's peak years include winning the Under 23 National Cross Country Championship race in 1961 at London's Parliament Hill, the junior International Cross Country Championship in Nantes, France, and the prestigious Yorkshire Three Peaks Fell Race in 1969, in a time of 2 hours, 44 minutes, and 44 seconds.

Colin and his wife Brenda have given countless voluntary hours to Rochdale Harriers and the wider North West running scene, giving up their time across many roles to support the sport at track, road, fell races and cross country meets.

Colin commented: "Since my joining the Harriers, athletics has moved on from the Chariots of Fire era to a more professional approach.

"Rochdale athletes have always shown friendship, loyalty and true Northern grit."

GREEN FLAG AWARDS

Twelve parks in the borough have retained Green Flag status, with Stoney Hill Community Wildlife Area earning a community award, bringing the total to 13 recognised award-winning green spaces.

Heywood retains flags for Queen’s Park and Hopwood Park, and in Middleton you can find Middleton Memorial Gardens, Middleton Cemetery, Jubilee Park and Truffet Park.

In Rochdale, visitors can access award winning green spaces at Denehurst Park, Balderstone Park and several parks judged as one in the town centre - Broadfield Park, Rochdale Memorial Gardens, and St Chad’s Gardens. Springfield Park maintained its Green Flag status following its initial submission to the awards in 2024.

Milnrow Memorial Park and Hare Hill Park in Littleborough also retained top status in the Pennines.

This year, Spotland Tenants and Residents Association submitted Stoney Hill Community Wildlife Area and received the first Green Flag Community Award for Rochdale, meeting standards in maintenance, safety, biodiversity, and community involvement.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces in the United Kingdom and around the world.



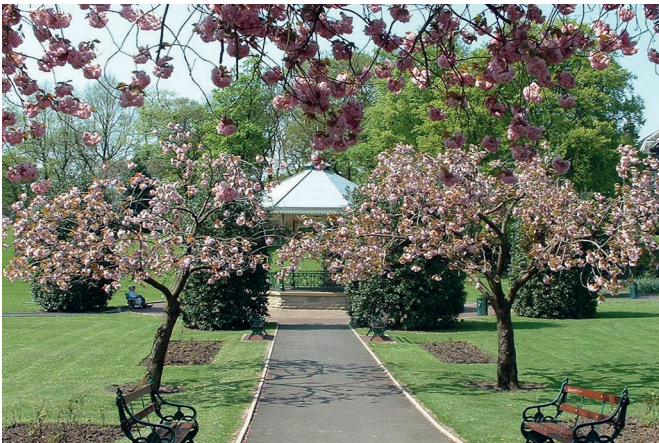
Denehurst Park



Queen's Park



Jubilee Park



Hare Hill Park



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ROCHDALE CLASSIC CAR & BIKE SHOW



Rochdale Classic Car & Bike Show in Falinge Park featured vintage, classic and collectable cars and motorcycles.



The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Rochdale, and supported by Vintage Worx Community Development Trust and Premier Automotive.



THE HERDS



A journey of epic proportions, an unusual and eye-catching feat never attempted before, so when 70 life-sized safari animals descended on Heywood it was quite a sight.

THE HERDS featured elephants, giraffes, antelope, and lions made from upscaled or recyclable cardboard and plywood. A dramatic way to put the focus on climate change, the animals began their 20,000km journey in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This very public journey was to highlight the animals travelling north to 'flee the climate disaster' said The Walk Productions, the company behind THE HERDS, a huge artwork brought to Heywood as part of Manchester International Festival.



「THE BIG PICTURE」



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DAN NIXON - ROCHDALE HORNETS
PHOTO: MALCOLM JOURNEAUX



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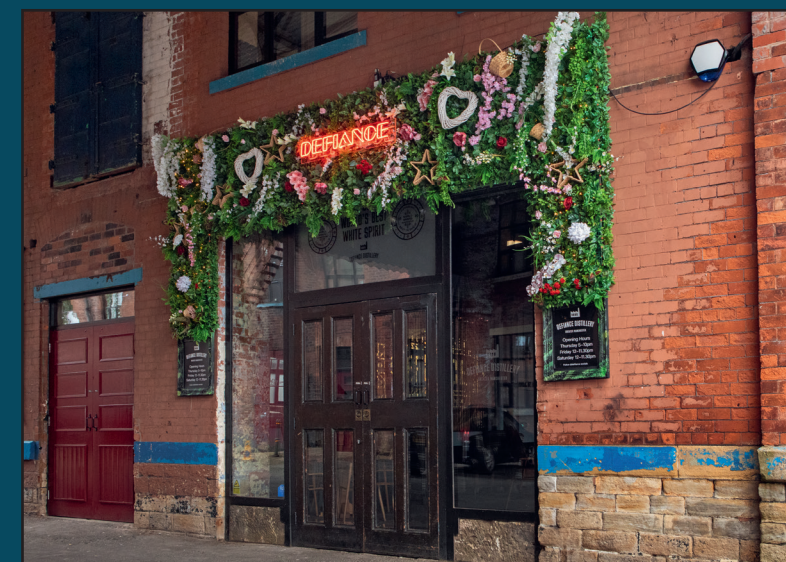
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Transformation

Rochdale town centre is home to stunning architecture, and a fascinating history, and having undergone a remarkable transformation is brimming with life, leisure and culture.

- The award-winning Number One Riverside is an impressive light, airy and modern space for council offices, the town's central library and its public information hub.
- The state-of-the art Transport Interchange connects the town to the rest of Greater Manchester. Metrolink is at the heart of the Interchange, which also includes a modern, well connected bus station.
- The River Roch reopening in the town centre has helped to re-naturalise the river and attract new wildlife into the area. Brown trout, Kingfisher and Pied Wagtails have all been spotted.
- The Rochdale Riverside retail and leisure scheme has attracted famous name tenants such as M&S, Next, H&M, Nandos and Reel Cinema.
- The Grade I-listed Rochdale Town Hall has undergone a stunning restoration and is now surrounded by a new town hall square.

Residential Living

With a 242-apartment development located next to a Hampton by Hilton hotel, and just a short walk from Rochdale Riverside, 'Duo at Upperbanks' is at the heart of town centre living in Rochdale.

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VIOLET FLAMINGO

by Liz White



In the heart of Littleborough, sits a small but powerful fashion studio with a big message: slow fashion, bold individuality, and timeless craftsmanship. Violet Flamingo, founded by Lindsey James, is more than a label, it's an extension of the designer herself: creative, resilient, and unapologetically unique.

Lindsey's journey into fashion began with a love for textiles and design, studied at Hopwood Hall College, followed by a fashion degree from the University of Huddersfield. During her studies, she immersed herself in the industry through placements in theatre costume and with a small brand. After graduating in 2005, she joined the Halifax based fashion house Kevan Jon, where she worked across departments, gaining hands-on experience that proved invaluable when she decided to go it alone.

The name Violet Flamingo was born from Lindsey's alter ego 'Violet' being her favourite name, and 'Flamingo' a nod to her striking pink hair at the time. What began as evening sewing sessions and party-ready creations for friends soon evolved into a business. Friends and strangers alike were drawn to her bold, well-fitting pieces, especially those who struggled to find stylish clothing in inclusive sizes.

Today, Lindsey works out of Ebor Studios, Littleborough where she designs, patterns, and sews each garment to order. She runs the business largely solo, with help from a freelance social media assistant. Her partner Paul Whiteley photographs the garments, while friends often step in as models, emphasising the brand's community spirit and grassroots origins.

Violet Flamingo is known for its limited-edition designs made from high-quality, often rare and unusual fabrics. Each piece is handcrafted to flatter all sizes, genders, and body types. With standard sizing ranging from UK 6 to 20, Lindsey also welcomes custom requests at no additional charge. Orders are completed within 3-6 weeks, reflecting a conscious rejection of fast fashion.

Lindsey maintains close relationships with her customers via a private Facebook group, where she hosts monthly live events to launch new collections, discuss fabrics, and share care advice. These interactive sessions have become a vital lifeline for the business and community, especially during difficult times, such as when Lindsey broke her leg just before the pandemic and spent nearly two years recovering.

Despite rising material costs, post-Brexit and pandemic-related challenges, Lindsey remains fiercely committed to sustainability. Her Lavender Magpie brand repurposes offcuts and fabric samples into new creations, sold via her Depop shop. She also offers alterations and customisation, ensuring that no garment goes to waste donating her fabric offcuts to local craft groups.

Beyond the studio, Lindsey is passionate about nurturing future talent. She collaborates with the Talent Foundry to mentor young people from underserved backgrounds and teaches one day a week at Edgar Wood Academy, advocating for the return of creative skills in education.

In her downtime, she enjoys cooking - having mastered Japanese cuisine during lockdown - and gardening, often assisted by her beloved cats, Priscilla and Elvis.

From humble beginnings to a respected name in British slow fashion, Violet Flamingo is proof that style, sustainability, and heart can go hand in hand.



HEYWOOD 1940s DAY

Heywood town centre stepped back in time for the hugely popular Heywood 1940s Day.

Highlights included re-enactors in military uniform and dress, military vehicles, full size replicas of a Hurricane and a Spitfire, an air raid re-enactment, a vintage funfair, classic cars, a street party, tea dances, and stalls offering 1940s-themed food and drinks.

Entertainment included vintage and 1940s swing big band singer Lilli De Carlo at Trinity Methodist Church, live music with Miss Marina Mae capturing the spirit of the 1940s performing at The Dressers Arms. Tilly's Tea Room hosted music with A-Train Swing vintage DJ and dancing team, plus food and drink. There was also brass bands playing sounds of the 1940s.



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LITTLEBOROUGH RUSHBEARING FESTIVAL

Rushbearing began in the 10th century when Pope Gregory decreed that rushes should be taken to church on Saints Day to cover the earth floor for warmth.

Littleborough Rushbearing was revived in 1991; the festival is a day of rushbearing joy with Morris sides and music galore processing from the King Bill to The Wheatsheaf and on to Hare Hill Park alongside the rushcart.



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FEEL GOOD FAMILY PICNIC

A record 17,000 visits were made to the Feel Good Family Picnic events at Limefield Playing Fields, Hare Hill Park, Rochdale Town Hall Square and Queen's Park as the spaces were transformed into a wonderland of theatre, puppetry, circus, dance, storytelling, music, carnival, sports and more. With a theme reflecting 'co-operation,' covering the arts, culture, communities, togetherness, and the power of shared experiences, there were over 20 free different attractions each day at the events.

Outdoor shows were staged to packed audiences including Tit for Tat Circus who presented two shows. 'Now I become D/Deaf' was a visual spectacle, featuring a clown turning his own hearing loss into something extraordinary, tackling cultural boundaries and personal identity with moments of chaos, sincerity, interconnectivity and utter nonsense. The second - 'A Knight Away' featured Sir Kuss and his loyal squire on their well-deserved time off, with games, comedy and stupidity.

'Stop Toi' was a crowd pulling concert featuring two jugglers and a drummer with a crazy playlist, mixing smooth jazz with garage rock, throwing balls, twisting rings and performing crazy stunts.

Damoclès was a performance by Cirque Inxtremiste exploring risk, trust, and collective co-operation, combining physical theatre with contemporary circus.

The storytelling tent was very busy with Rochdale's M6 Theatre presenting their play 'The Street Where I Live' - exploring the warmth and diversity of a unique community, capturing the friendships, adventures and surprises that take place there. Frolicked Outdoor Theatre performed 'The Alchemist' - a light-hearted, magical, slightly-slapstick puppet show.



Each day a stunning carnival travelled around the parks with local performers led by international carnival arts company Global Grooves.

Tea Club celebrated Britain's passion for tea and all things vintage with Trixie and Tilly serving drinks from their special musical trolley - dancing to their favourite gramophone records.

Music was provided by Flat Cap Brass, who played fun and friendly arrangements of popular nineties and noughties pop.

There was a special edition of the Teenage Market with stalls and performances at each event. The Teenage Market gives local young traders and performers aged between 13 and 25 years old a chance to showcase their creative products and talents.

Thingumajig Theatre presented two shows full of surprises, fun, music and heart-warming stories and Hope the Hedgehog, a larger-than-life puppet crafted from recycled materials, delighted and inspired all ages.

Skylight Circus Arts performed another range of spectacular feats including aerial tricks, stilt walking, juggling and clowning, with everyone invited to learn the skills led by professional circus artists.

Cartwheel Arts hosted craft workshops, inviting visitors to make bees and birds from repurposed and reused materials, reflecting the events commitment to environmental responsibility.



SMITHY BRIDGE ALLEYWAY NAMED THE BEST



Residents in Smithy Bridge, have been crowned undefeated champions for the eighth year on the run in the council's annual 'Alleyways in Bloom' competition.

Richard Simpson, with neighbours in Shaftesbury Avenue in Smithy Bridge, secured the first prize of a £50 Bowlee Garden Nursery voucher.

The alleyway provides a vibrant, attractive and tranquil area, featuring a variety of seating, a fairy garden, and an appealing archway, offering a serene retreat from the bustling streets outside.

Richard said: "We are delighted that our alleyway has once again impressed the judges, allowing us to maintain our winning record due to the collective efforts of everyone on Shaftesbury Avenue. While receiving such recognition is gratifying, the value of our protected alleyway extends beyond competitions. Since the gates were installed in 2017, our community has collaborated to establish a safe and welcoming environment for all residents, both current and future."

In Castleton, Barry Flynn joined with neighbours in Smalley Street to enter the competition for the third year, securing the runner-up prize of a £25 Bowlee Garden Nursery voucher.

The alleyway had become much more established this year, awash with vibrant green foliage and delightful planters.

Barry said: "The gates installed by the council in 2017 helped turn a once unused and problematic space into a thriving community garden, which we are continuing to develop and improve. We're delighted to have been chosen again as an example of how alleyways like these can be transformed into a safe haven and welcoming space that not only looks great but offers a place for peace and relaxation."

Over in Heywood, a new entry from Egerton Street took third place, receiving some additional plants to help them on their way. Residents were praised by judges on their contributions and encouraged to continue to develop the evolving space for everyone to enjoy.

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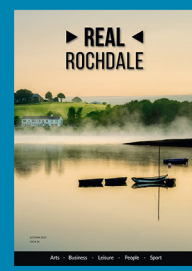


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HAIRDRESSING TREND

by GREG COUZENS

SCULPTING

Hair has always fascinated me, the way it moves, the way it catches the light, the way it can completely transform how someone feels.

Over my career I have learned that the most beautiful results come when you work with the hair's natural flow; that realisation inspired me to create a new cutting technique I call sculpting.

Sculpting is performed almost entirely freehand using a tiny blade, with minimal use of a comb, this lets me see and follow the hair exactly as it falls, shaping it curl by curl; on textured and curly hair, the effect is extraordinary, a natural 3D shape, full of volume and movement, with a softness that feels effortlessly feminine.

One of my most memorable sculpting creations was with my model, Louise. Inspired by the timeless elegance of a chignon, I crafted the illusion of long hair swept up, leaving tendrils of curls to tumble gracefully around her face and neck, it had all the refinement of an evening up-do, yet was entirely wearable for everyday life.

What I love most about sculpting is that it's as practical as it is beautiful, because each curl is cut in its natural position, the style grows out gracefully, keeping its shape and structure for weeks, clients often tell me it's the easiest hair they've ever had to look after.

For me, sculpting isn't just a haircut, it's an artistic process, my tiny blade is my chisel, the hair is my clay, and every style is an individual piece of work. With sculpting, I'm not just cutting hair, I am creating wearable art that celebrates texture, shape, and individuality.

Model: Louise Corlett
Hair & Photo: Greg Couzens

STUFFED COOKIES

by Natasha Brown - owner of Brown's Cakes

These mini egg cookies are soft, chewy cookie dough stuffed with melty chocolate centres and bursting with crunchy crushed mini eggs.

The cookie balls require time in the freezer so plan ahead and make the dough a day before you want the cookies.

If you don't want to include mini eggs, substitute them with the equivalent amount of chocolate chips or other chocolates such as chopped Mars Bars, Rolos, etc.



Ingredients (makes eight cookies)

125g butter at room temperature
175g light brown sugar
1 egg (beaten)
300g plain flour
1½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
¼ tsp salt
100g dark chocolate chips
100g crushed mini eggs
200g or approximately half a jar of chocolate spread of your choice (Nutella, Cadbury's, etc.)
Extra mini eggs to decorate
8 chunks from a bar of chocolate to decorate

Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.

Add the egg and continue to beat together.

Beat in the flour, baking powder, bicarb and salt until the ingredients form a dough.

Mix in the chocolate chips and crushed mini eggs and knead together.

Divide the mixture into 8 and roll these into balls.

You now need to freeze the balls either overnight or for an hour before cooking them.

Preheat the oven to 170 ° C and place the frozen balls on to a couple of lined baking trays (the dough will spread a little so don't have them too close together).

Bake the cookies for approximately 15 minutes, they may need a couple of extra minutes, until they are turning golden.

While the cookies are baking prepare your mini eggs and chocolate chunks for decoration.

As you are getting ready to take the cookies out of the oven, fill a piping bag with chocolate spread that's been warmed in the microwave for 30 seconds.

Once baked, pipe a generous amount of chocolate spread into the centre of each cookie then place a chunk of chocolate and a couple of mini eggs on top of each cookie. The chocolate will melt and hold the mini eggs on to the cookie.

These are best left to cool slightly and eaten while still warm. If eating them later you can warm them for a minute in the microwave to recreate the soft melted centre. Yum!



SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

For over five decades, Petrus has provided vital support to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Rochdale, Oldham, and Burnley. As rough sleeping continues to rise (more than doubling in the last ten years), Petrus remains a lifeline in the community.

The charity is transforming lives every day, and you could too.

Recovery begins at the Rochdale Hub, a one-stop shop open Monday to Friday. Here, individuals in need can access free meals, drinks, showers, clean clothes, laundry, and toiletries.

On average, the charity assists up to 800 people annually and provides over 1,000 meals and 150 food parcels each month, but they can't do it without your support.

Volunteers are an essential part of this service, helping to serve up meals and powering the various support groups that run from the hub.

By volunteering with Petrus, you could help empower vulnerable people, coaching life skills such as budgeting, cooking, and mental health support at these groups.

With winter around the corner, and demand for Petrus' services continuing to grow, their new fundraising team is busy curating a calendar of exciting community events.

Whether you're a seasoned volunteer, fearless fundraiser or just looking to try something new, there will be a place for everyone in the fight to end homelessness.

- To get involved or find out more, please check the Petrus website for the latest information.
- Together, we will end homelessness and create safe places where all people can flourish.

www.petrus.org.uk

ROCHDALE PRIDE PARADE

A diverse mix of residents, organisations, and community groups, showing their support for the LGBTQ+ community were joined for the Rochdale Pride Parade by Mayor of Rochdale, Councillor Janet Emsley, and her consort Ken Emsley, Rochdale MP Paul Waugh, Leader of Rochdale Borough Council, Councillor Neil Emmot, Councillor Sue Smith, and the Area Dean of Rochdale Revd Anne Gilbert.



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