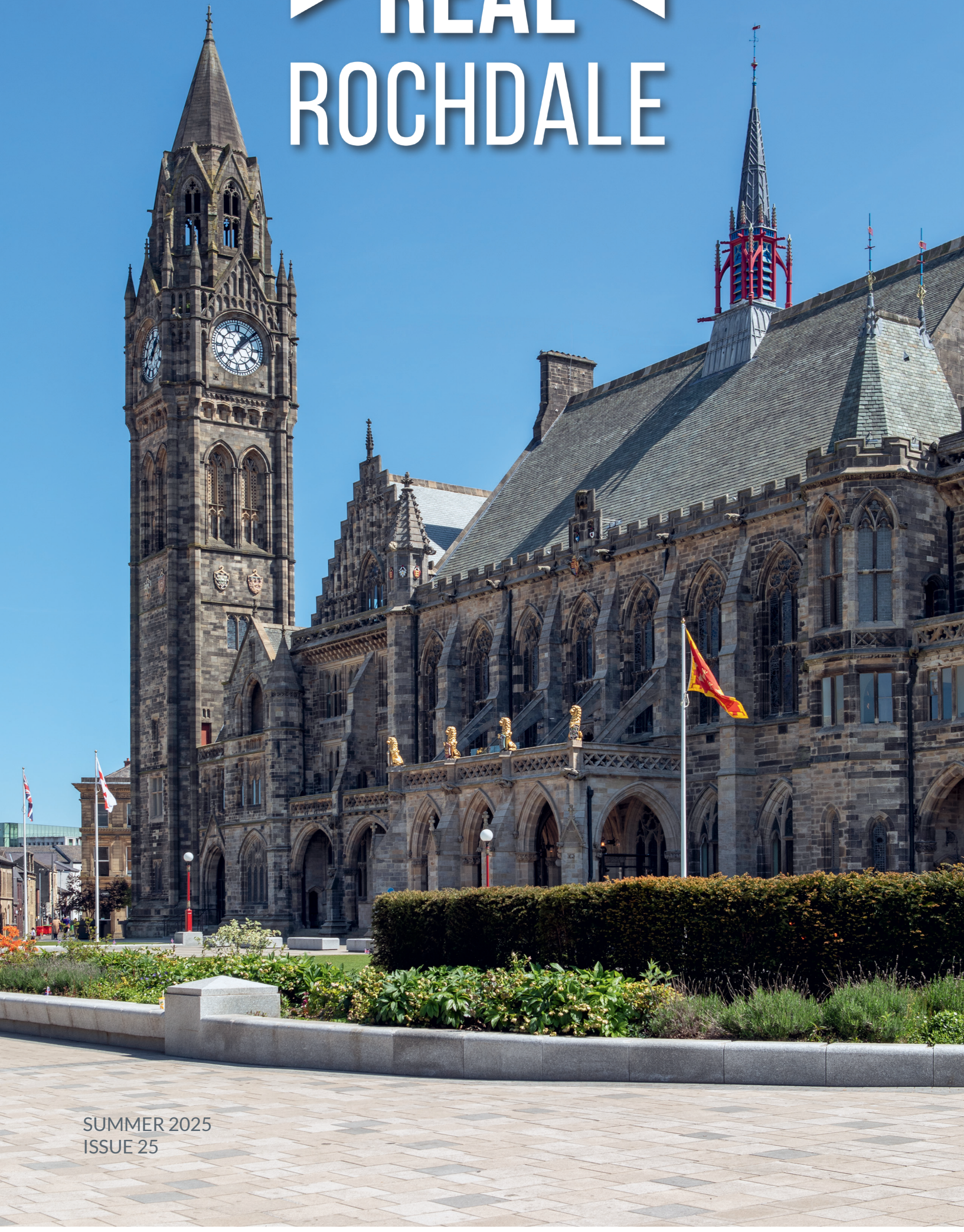


► REAL ◀ ROCHDALE



SUMMER 2025
ISSUE 25



Greg Couzens

A warm welcome to Real Rochdale magazine

Hello, I am Greg Couzens, co-owner of the local company that recently bought Real Rochdale, and the new editor.

The magazine is so well regarded that when we heard that Real Rochdale was to cease publication we immediately moved to buy it.

With a wealth of knowledge and experience of the Borough of Rochdale we intend to ensure the magazine continues to be a high quality publication.

If you are a business looking to promote your goods and services, we offer a package of print and online advertising.

I hope you enjoy this, our first edition of the magazine.

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WOMAN OF ROCHDALE 2025

CORA MARGERISON-WILLIAMS



For almost 35 years, Springhill Hospice has hosted its annual Woman of Rochdale event, celebrating those women in our borough who go above and beyond for others.

The rule has always been that current staff members of the Springhill team were not eligible but this year, after dedicating 30 years of her life to Springhill Hospice, Cora Margerison-Williams finally retired. Almost instantly, nominations for her came flooding in from friends, ex-colleagues and the loved ones of patients Cora has looked after over the decades.

In spite of some hefty competition from other shortlisted nominees, Cora was indeed crowned Woman of Rochdale 2025.

Only agreeing to attend after some gentle badgering from friends and only on the caveat she could wear her signature yellow smiley face t-shirt, and “no fancy hat!”, Cora was uncharacteristically stuck for words at the win and humble and gracious in her speech of thanks.

Cora was nominated for her years of work with palliative care patients at Springhill, and also her years of constant fundraising which has seen her travel the world raising money through hundreds of events. Amongst others she has completed the Manchester 10k while pushing a patient in a wheelchair, has cycled from Land’s End to John O’Groats and pedalled 3,500-miles from Florida to Los Angeles, raising thousands along the way for charity.

Cora was presented the prestigious award by last year’s winner, Lorenza Pye of Eliza Says who won for her work with hearing impaired young people, and there was a lot of love in the room for both ladies. Other shortlisted nominees included Khalda Manzoor of Rochdale Women’s Welfare Association, Liz Mytton of Theatre in Flow and Asma Begum of Soul Sisters.

After the announcement of Cora’s win, hundreds of people took to Springhill’s social media accounts to comment with their joy at her win and to share their personal stories of Cora over the years.

Vicki Barnett, Springhill’s corporate and partnerships fundraiser and event organiser, said of Cora: “So few people have Cora’s blend of fearlessness and selflessness, and she is always 100% her true self. She would do anything for anybody and never ask for praise or recognition. Even now that she has retired, she still comes in to volunteer at the hospice almost every day saying that this way she can spend even more time with patients. There is no one like Cora, which is a shame because if we were all a bit more Cora, the world would be a better place.”

This year’s Woman of Rochdale event raised just under £17,000 for Springhill, which will fund the hospice for two days and give care to even more Rochdale residents.

Rochdale's year as Greater Manchester's cultural hot spot

Rochdale is set for a spectacular year of festivals, performances, exhibitions and art, entertaining residents and attracting thousands of visitors from across the region. Its year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture began in April with a Flight of Fancy parade drawing a crowd of over 2,500 to Rochdale Town Hall Square and an outdoor gallery featuring 23 new pieces of public art opened on Drake Street.

The title, awarded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) celebrates the town's rich history, creativity, talent and diverse arts scene. Rochdale is building on the town's cultural capital and international reputation as the home of the co-operative movement with more than 35 arts organisations delivering an ambitious programme that runs until the end of March 2026. 'People power' will be centre stage throughout the year, with residents helping to plan, develop and deliver much of the line-up of creative activity alongside a number of big events.

On Friday 4 July, 'The Herds', a major new work of public art and climate action by the team behind Little Amal and led by artistic director Amir Nizar Zuabi, comes to Heywood, with more than 70 life-sized animal puppets taking over the streets to bring the worlds of culture and climate together as part of Manchester International Festival.

As part of the festival in July, Rochdale hosts an exciting new work by world renowned Shilpa Gupta. The Mumbai-based artist is working with local residents to create a thought-provoking sound installation taking in different perspectives in a thought-provoking piece about waiting, persistence and hope.

Nationally acclaimed Rochdale organisation Breaking Barriers has been commissioned to develop a new interactive sound and

projection installation that brings to life the stories of Rochdale residents.

Work is well under way restoring Touchstones Rochdale, the team is working with residents on a new event and in August will be staging 'Side by Side', a seven day festival on Rochdale Town Hall Square.

In September, a new urban arts festival, curated by The Butterfly Effect, will take place in Rochdale town centre, providing the chance to see new murals being created up close over a weekend by some of the UK's most exciting urban artists.

Popular free days out for families: the Feel Good Family Picnic returns in July and August, along with exhibitions, the Street Eat food and drink festival, live music, the Merhaba Halal food festival, Pride parade, a regular Teenage Market, Ignite Fire Festival and much more over the coming months.

A Poet Laureate and Young Poet Laureate have been commissioned to capture the spirit of Rochdale and celebrate the year. There will be plenty of opportunities for children and teenagers, with a young producer's scheme, staging a Youth Arts Festival in spring 2026.

Councillor Sue Smith, cabinet member for communities and co-operation at Rochdale Borough Council, said: "There's so much to be excited about and a real buzz around Rochdale since we announced this town of culture award. We've already got a diverse programme with lots more to come, and I'm looking forward to working with residents, artists and community organisations to deliver a really fun and creative year. Although Town of Culture focuses on Rochdale we're shining a light on culture across our other towns, where there is a real appetite for more creative activity, making sure the valuable work and experience over the year is used to further develop the cultural offer in the rest of the borough."



Flight of Fancy Parade





Peter Smith's 1992 Jaguar XJS and 2003 Jaguar X Type



GREATER MANCHESTER JAGUAR ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB

The Greater Manchester Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club (JEC) is more than just a gathering of car enthusiasts; it's a growing community that celebrates a shared appreciation for one of Britain's most iconic automotive brands.

With 80 regions worldwide, including 54 in the UK, the club is a part of a global network that spans generations of Jaguar enthusiasts.

Founded in 2008, the Greater Manchester region has grown into a thriving group, united by their love for Jaguars, whether modern, classic, or vintage.

Peter Smith, the current chair of the Greater Manchester region, based in Middleton, highlighted how the club welcomes anyone with an interest in Jaguar, whether they are owners or simply admirers.

Membership provides access to an invaluable network of knowledge, resources, and hands-on support for maintaining and restoring Jaguars, especially for those seeking guidance on sourcing affordable services and parts.

The Jaguar brand has always been about more than just driving. Peter explained: "Sir William Lyons, who founded the company in the 1930s, said that a Jaguar should have 'grace, space, and pace.'"

The club's activities go beyond showing their beautiful cars; it's about maintaining a rich history and preserving the experience for future generations.

Club members take part in regional runs, car shows, charity events, and occasionally see their beloved cars make appearances in films and TV shows.

For enthusiasts, classic Jaguars are not just showpieces, they are meant to be driven and enjoyed, representing a rare period of motoring history that is quickly being lost.

However, it hasn't always been smooth sailing. The pandemic led to a dramatic drop in membership. At one point, the future of the club seemed uncertain. Peter explained they were down to eight members, and that there was a risk the club "may have had to disband".

Thanks to the dedication of former chairman Tony Dockerty, and the current leadership, the club now boasts 58 regular members, with new members joining throughout the year.

Looking to the future, the second Northern Jaguar Show, set for 17 August 2025, promises to be even bigger, with over 200 Jaguars on display.

As Jaguar moves towards an all-electric future, the Greater Manchester Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club remains focused on preserving the brand's heritage.

Peter concluded: "It is essential that regions such as Greater Manchester do all they can to ensure the long-term survival of the iconic Jaguar brand."

www.jec.org.uk/greatermanchester

ROCHDALE HORNETS

As rugby league has returned to the Crown Oil Arena, there's a palpable sense of excitement in the air at Rochdale Hornets.

One of the game's most historic clubs, Hornets have approached the 2025 season with fresh energy, bold ambitions, and a deeper connection to the local community than ever before.

The 2024 season laid solid foundations, and chairman Andy Mazey believes the team is ready to build on that momentum.

He said: "The atmosphere has never been better in my five-year tenure. There's a real feel-good factor around the club, with our men's, women's and wheelchair teams all making progress."

Much of this positivity stems from smart recruitment and a strong, united squad. Hornets don't have the largest budget in League 1, but they do have something arguably more valuable: cohesion and character.

After a good 2024 season, the club moved swiftly to retain key players and staff, ensuring stability and continuity ahead of a crucial season. The result? A team that Andy Mazey calls "the best I've worked with in the sport". Off the pitch, Hornets are just as ambitious. The club's headline initiative for 2025 is 'Project 1500', an ambitious drive to boost average home attendances above 1,500. It's more than a numbers game, it's about embedding the club deeper into the fabric of Rochdale life.

The strategy is wide-ranging: community outreach, family-friendly match days, digital engagement, and targeted inclusivity efforts to make rugby league a sport for everyone. From



Andy Mazey - Rochdale Hornets Chairman

walking rugby to the thriving women's, wheelchair, and learning disability teams.

The new community hub, The Hive at Balderstone Park, is the centrepiece of this approach - a space where people of all backgrounds can come together through sport.

On the field, the target is clear: a top four finish in League 1. With a new middle eights play-off system in place, it's a competitive league, but Hornets are confident. Backed by a hard-working coaching team and a squad full of belief, they're aiming not just to compete, but to progress and grow.

They're calling on Rochdale to be part of the journey. Fans, new and old, are encouraged to follow the club online, visit The Hive, and show their support on match days. As Andy puts it: "There's something for everyone, it's inclusive, not exclusive."

With strong leadership, a clear vision, and a community-first ethos, Rochdale Hornets are buzzing with potential. All that's missing now is you.

www.hornetsrugbyleague.co.uk



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Oliver Hope with the Drapers Award

HOPE

OVER 65 YEARS IN FASHION

Family business founded in Rochdale by Denis Hope

Oliver Hope, Denis' grandson, the third-generation manager, continues to uphold the values that have defined the business since its inception: quality, style, and personalised service.

These principles have fostered a loyal customer base, with HOPE Menswear and Womenswear now operating four stores, two in Norden along with stores in Uppermill and Clitheroe.

HOPE is well known for its high quality, and for introducing new brands and accessories while maintaining its core focus on style and quality.

Decades of hard work, adaptability, and dedication to excellence was recognised at the 2024 Drapers Independents Awards with HOPE Menswear winning 'Menswear Independent of the Year'.

Drapers Independents Awards celebrate the best in independent fashion retailing in the UK and Ireland. The awards recognise those who are innovating to survive, supporting their local communities, and building stronger businesses under the toughest of circumstances.

Oliver attributes this success to the family-run ethos and dedication to old-fashioned values. "It's not only what you sell but how you sell it," he remarked, emphasising the importance of creating a welcoming shopping experience for customers.

He said he is committed to continuing building strong relationships with customers and ensuring that HOPE remains a destination not just a store.

The family business has thrived in an era dominated by high-street chains and online retailers. Its success is a testament to the enduring appeal of HOPE's personalised service and community-focused values.

www.hopestores.co.uk

HY SOLICITORS

DYNAMIC DUO BEHIND UNIQUE LAW FIRM

Rochdale born and bred friends Dean Hulse and David Yazdi established commercial law firm HY Solicitors (HYS) in the town in 2015, but their journey to its creation is one that could be considered unconventional.

In the late noughties they both played in punk rock band Bye Bye Johnny, and were set for an incredible music career with highlights including playing at V-Festival and winning Puma's 'Most promising music alternative music act 2009'. Playing alongside bands like The Courteeners, The Magic Numbers and the Ting Tings, they were very much part of the Manchester music scene at that time. Global domination in the music industry wasn't meant to be, but the working-class duo, who were both students at Oulder Hill, had a plan B.

Dean and David have been friends since they were young, way before they were old enough (or sensible enough!) to be thinking about careers at all, and it was their passion for music that was the foundation of their friendship, Dean is a guitarist and David plays the drums and piano.

Alongside their pursuit of a music career, they both continued their studies at university. When music took a back seat, they both went on to acquire extensive professional experience at a young age. Dean originally trained and worked as a solicitor before becoming a barrister, and gained experience in public law, working for local and central government organisations, including being part of the Independent Office of Public Conduct's legal team advising on the criminal investigation and inquest into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster. While David, after becoming a chartered member of the CIPD, worked in the private sector for UK Plc and other international businesses before going on to also become a solicitor. The experience that they had collectively meant that they became authorised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to open the doors to HYS in their early 30s, an achievement that is rare at such a young age.

HYS started in Dean's spare bedroom before relocating to offices on Hunters Lane in the town centre, and more recently to Sandbrook House, where they now co-locate with Zen Internet; another fantastic example of the entrepreneurship that Rochdale has to offer.

HYS is a full-service commercial law firm, working with businesses in areas that include commercial property, data protection, litigation, commercial and corporate, and employment law. Whilst the firm works with clients nationally, supporting local Rochdale businesses is something the team are proud of, including working on a £6m lease for a unit on Kingsway Business Park and helping Rochdale Football Club navigate their High Court defence against a hostile takeover bid.

Dean went on to say: "We are proud to say we are from the town. It is an exciting place to be and the right place to be as a law firm for business. Rochdale is a pioneering town, enhanced by everything that is happening from the redevelopment of the town centre to Atom Valley. We want businesses in Rochdale to know they have the support of a specialist legal provider on their doorstep."

What makes HYS different to other law firms is that neither Dean nor David worked in private practice before starting HYS. Whilst some may consider this a challenge or even a risk, the pair believe this is an important element to the foundation and ethos of the firm. With their



David Yazdi & Dean Hulse

creative edge they wanted to build a law firm that drew inspiration from the wider commercial world rather a typical law firm model.

Dean said: "I guess that part of our life helped to shape us. We have both had that Rochdale working class upbringing and those values instilled within us. It's that type of hard working spirit and personable charm that local people can identify with that underpins how we provide our services."

David went on to say: "The commercial world is dynamic, fast paced and ever changing but the legal sector can often be rooted in tradition which, putting aside the top city firms, can make it slow to embrace change. That's one thing that sets us apart, because our background has led to us to breaking the traditional law firm mould without really knowing it. By this I mean that we developed and ran the business on what you would consider to be a non-law firm footing; we align more to our clients which means that we grow and develop in the same way as our commercial partners do."

This model affords stronger personal connections and engages clients by speaking their language and having an in depth understanding of commercial challenges, rather than someone who has only ever known being a lawyer or working in the legal world.

The growing team currently consists of 11 employees, five of whom are from Rochdale, with only one team member that lives beyond Greater Manchester. Passionate about recruiting locally, HYS has forged excellent relationships with local education providers and takes great pride in making opportunities for local talent and creating jobs for the future.



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FEAST OF FLAVOURS - STREET EAT RETURNS



A firm favourite in the calendar, Street Eat, the food and drink festival that attracts thousands of visitors every year, is returning to Rochdale Town Hall Square for another serving of food, drink, free entertainment and live music on Saturday 28 June.

Organised by Rochdale Business Improvement District (BID) during Rochdale's year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture, Street Eat brings together local food and drink establishments.

Visitors will have their taste buds tickled and thirsts quenched as well as enjoying lots of free live music.

Tasty food from local restaurant chefs will be on the menu, with dozens of mouth-watering dishes served up including, Italian, Indian, English, American and more.

There will be free activities and rides for children, bars for the adults, and a music stage serving up hours of fun for all ages.

BID manager Paul Ambrose, who organises the event, said Street Eat showcases the vibrant and high-quality food and drink the town has to offer as well as being a great day out: "It's a fantastic event, giving us the opportunity to champion the very best local food and drink. Street Eat is always a great day, bringing friends and families together, celebrating our vibrant town centre eateries and showing what a foodie hotspot the town is. We do all we can to make the event as affordable as possible too and entry is free."

The line-up of traders for this summer will include Bombay Away, Vicolo Del Vino, The Flying Horse Hotel, The Baum, Masons Creations, Bank Top Farm, Treehouse Bar and many more.

Councillor Sue Smith, cabinet member for culture and co-operation at Rochdale Borough Council, said: "It's great to see Street Eat returning during our year as town of culture and it will be fantastic to see the square come alive again with food, fun and community spirit."

Ben Boothman, consultant to The Flying Horse Hotel, added: "Our team loves this event and are looking forward to it returning. With traders serving up smaller portions it means you can sample dishes from different venues and experience amazing food on the menu served up here in the town centre. We're pleased to be working alongside Rochdale BID again to celebrate the area's great food and drink offer."

Admission is free and Street Eat will run from 11am to 7pm.

FRESH & LIGHT BEEF WONTON SOUP

Prep Time: 15 minutes - Cook Time: 15 minutes - Total Time: 30 minutes

Feeds: five people

by Chef Austin Hopley



If you're in a recipe rut - same pasta, same traybakes, same beige dinners - this one's for you.

Beef Wonton Soup sounds like something you'd only order at your favourite restaurant, but here's the surprise, it's easy to make at home, cheap, and it comes together in just 30 minutes.

This dish delivers all the comfort of a homemade soup with a fresh, vibrant twist. Think soft, delicate wontons filled with juicy, flavour-packed beef, gently simmered in a clear, aromatic broth that's light but full of depth.

We build the broth from scratch - don't panic, it's simple - by toasting warm spices like star anise and cinnamon, then adding caramelised onion, fennel, ginger, and spring onion for that sweet-savoury backbone. It's a trick that gives you big flavour in very little time.

The real magic happens at the end. Once the wontons are nestled into that hot, fragrant broth, we top the bowl with a generous handful of fresh herbs - chives, coriander, spring onion - and a little tangle of paper-thin fennel slices. That final flourish lifts everything. It adds a crisp freshness that cuts through the warmth and gives the dish a proper spring energy - heartwarming, but still light and clean.

Whether you're making it for a laid-back date night, a family cooking session, or just a solo treat for one (that turns into leftovers for tomorrow), this is the kind of dish that feels like you've made an effort - without breaking the bank or the clock. It's fun to build, satisfying to eat, and wildly moreish.

Best part? Everything (except the cooking wine) was picked up from Asda Rochdale, and the total cost came in at £12.91 - that's about £2.58 per portion.

INGREDIENTS

For the Wontons:

1 pack wonton wrappers (freezer section)
1 pack Just Essentials 25% beef mince
2 cloves garlic – grated
1 thumb fresh ginger – grated
1 tbsp oyster sauce
1 tbsp Xiaoxing wine (Amazon or Asian grocery)
½ pack fresh chives – finely chopped
½ pack fresh coriander – finely chopped
1 tbsp light soy sauce
1 tsp salt

For the Broth:

1 box Just Essentials beef stock pots
500ml water
½ bulb fennel
2 cinnamon sticks
6 star anise
10 whole black peppercorns
1 white onion – halved
3 spring onions
1 thumb ginger – sliced

For Garnish:

Leftover fresh coriander, chives, and spring onion
Extra fennel, very thinly sliced (ideally with a mandolin)



Make Your Wonton Filling

In a mixing bowl, combine the following:

250g beef mince
Grated garlic and ginger
Oyster sauce
Xiaoxing wine
Light soy sauce
Salt
Chopped chives and coriander

Mix everything thoroughly - clean hands do this best. The goal is a sticky, well-seasoned filling that holds its shape when scooped.

Pro Tip: Stick the bowl in the fridge while you prep your broth. It firms the mixture slightly and makes folding neater.

Build the Light Beef Broth

You don't need a slow cooker or bone broth magic here - just a hot pan and 10 minutes.

1. Heat a large frying pan dry (no oil). Add the cinnamon sticks, star anise, and peppercorns. Toast for 1–2 minutes until fragrant.
2. Push the spices to one side and add a little oil. Toss in the halved onion, sliced ginger, chopped fennel, and spring onions.
3. Let everything colour and caramelize for a few minutes. This is where the broth depth comes from.
4. Transfer it all to a saucepan with 500ml water and 1–2 beef stock pots, depending on how rich you like it.
5. Simmer gently for 10–15 minutes while you make your wontons.

Fold the Wontons

Let's keep it simple. Here's the beginner fold:

1. Lay a wonton wrapper down like a diamond.
2. Place a teaspoon of filling in the centre.
3. Wet the top edges lightly with water.
4. Fold the bottom corner up to make a triangle. Press to seal out any air.
5. Wet the two side corners, then bring them together under the triangle tip - press to stick.

Done. Messy? Who cares. They'll be delicious regardless. Lay them on a lightly floured tray as you go.

Strain & Finish the Broth

Once your broth has simmered and picked up all that spice and sweetness, strain it into a clean pot or bowl to remove the solids. Return the clear liquid to the heat and adjust seasoning if needed - a little soy or a pinch of salt might sharpen it.

Cook the Wontons

Boil a large pan of water. Drop in 5–6 wontons at a time. They'll sink, then float once cooked - this takes about 3–4 minutes. Scoop them out with a slotted spoon. You can hold them in a bowl or they go straight into your finished broth.

Garnish & Serve

Ladle your fragrant broth into bowls. Add your cooked wontons. Now make it gorgeous:

- Scatter over fresh coriander, chives, and spring onion
- Add a few curls of thinly sliced fennel
- Optional: a drizzle of chilli oil or a squeeze of lime

Eat immediately. Slurp encouraged.

ROCHDALE'S MODEL RAILWAY

The Rochdale Society of Model and Experimental Engineers (RSMEE) has been bringing the magic of traditional railways with its charming model railway in Springfield Park since 1960.

Offering train rides to the public, this dedicated group also allows enthusiasts to put their engineering skills into practice.

For the society's members, this railway is more than just a hobby, it's a labour of love. Whether meticulously maintaining the track, perfecting their locomotives, or ensuring that passengers enjoy a smooth ride, the team take great pride in their work.

The core aim of the society is clear: to provide a space where members can practise their engineering skills while bringing pleasure to the public, young and old alike.

As well as maintaining the railway and improving the trains, members play an active role in welcoming visitors, ensuring each ride is an enjoyable experience.

Recently, the society has seen a boost to its membership with six younger members joining. These new members are passionate about trains and eager to help in all aspects of the operation.

From track maintenance to manning the station, they are fully immersed in the workings of the miniature railway. Once they turn 16 and pass the necessary training, they will be able to drive the trains themselves.

Trustee Mike Foster said: "We are delighted to have our first female member who has joined recently."

He also highlighted no engineering experience is necessary saying: "Our members do not need a background in engineering, and many join us to just help to run the railway."

The society keeps membership fees affordable to ensure it is accessible to a wide range of people. The first year of membership costs just £10, rising to £25 for seniors (over 16).

This affordability extends to the public rides, with tickets priced at only £1 per person. This small charge helps cover running costs and supports the annual Mayor's Charity Appeal.

For those interested in model railways, whether as visitors or volunteers, a trip to Springfield Park is an adventure worth taking.

The trains run on Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm.



Junior members with their Certificates of Achievement prior to a Halloween event in 2024

MAYOR OF ROCHDALE 2025-2026

COUNCILLOR JANET EMSLEY

The borough of Rochdale welcomed its new mayor as Councillor Janet Emsley was sworn in to office during a ceremony in Rochdale in May.

The event was attended by former mayors, deputy lieutenants, as well as other distinguished guests and community leaders as the departing mayor, Councillor Shakil Ahmed, mayoress Robina Bi, and consort Councillor Rachel Massey handed over their chains of office.

The event was held at Rochdale Town Hall and began with a rousing fanfare played by Wardle Academy Intermediate Brass Band.

Councillor Tricia Ayrton spoke to support the appointment of Janet Emsley and said she has served the council well for many years: “Janet is such a much loved and popular councillor which is so clear to see when out and about in Littleborough, and I know she, along with her husband Ken as consort, will be an excellent mayor.”

Councillor Ashley Dearnley praised Janet’s unique style and straight talking approach to getting things done: “I know her late father would be so proud of what she has achieved and that Janet will fulfil her mayoral duties with enthusiasm, vigour and enjoyment. She is considerate, caring, hard-working and diligent and our borough will be all the better for having her as mayor.”

A short blessing was read by the Reverend Anne Gilbert after Councillor Emsley made a declaration accepting mayoral office.

After receiving her chain, the new mayor said words of thanks to a packed audience of over 300: “I am honoured and so proud to be with you at our fabulous town hall – built as a symbol of civic pride, which is what Ken and I want to share during the year ahead.

“I’m very proud to become the eleventh female mayor of my hometown, during our year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture.

“Thank you to my husband Ken and to all my family for their support, along with my colleagues on the council.

“We are looking forward to promoting the borough at every opportunity, meeting as many people as we can.”

Outgoing mayor Councillor Ahmed said it had been the honour of his life to be mayor, thanking his mayoress and consort before paying an emotional tribute to former Rochdale football hero Joe Thompson who sadly passed away recently. Joe’s charity ‘Team Thompson Against Cancer’ had been one of the charities the mayor had been raising money for during his year.

The Mayor’s Charity Appeal for 2025/26 will be raising funds for Springhill Hospice, Jolly Josh, Awakening Minds, Papyrus, Women’s Housing Action Group and the Johnny Alfrey Music Memorial.



Mayor Councillor Janet Emsley with her consort Ken Emsley

Councillor Emsley, a councillor since 2014, was born in Littleborough and brought up in Hull and Rochdale. She attended Redbrook Middle School and Oulder Hill Community School. She began her teaching career at Balderstone Community School, also teaching at Oulder Hill, Redbrook and Buckley Hall Detention Centre before beginning work at Wardle High School in 1989. Here she taught until 2015, finishing her career as director of performing arts before retiring.

Ken was born in Southport and has lived in Miles Platting, Langley, Whitworth and Littleborough. On leaving school he became an apprentice joiner in Middleton having trained at Oldham College. He then worked at various local businesses in textiles and also as a taxi driver, finally he worked as a production manager for Ferguson Polycom until retirement in 2015.

During the ceremony a past mayor’s medallion was presented to Councillor Ahmed.

Deputy mayor for the new year will be Councillor Faisal Rana, deputy mayoress will be Councillor Iram Faisal, and their consort will be Basharat Umer. They were presented with their chains during the ceremony.

Musical entertainment included local singer Rebecca Fitzgibbon who performed a version of the Amy Winehouse and Zutons classic ‘Valerie.’ Oakenhoof folk arts group performed a special dance for Councillor Emsley, appropriately named after the new mayor. The evening was closed with a finale by a quartet from Manchester’s Hallé Orchestra.

MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY



ROCHDALE TOWN HALL



POET LAUREATE APPOINTED FOR ROCHDALE



Multi award-winning poet Sammy Weaver has been appointed as Rochdale's first ever poet laureate. The multi-talented creative writer has been commissioned to capture the spirit of Rochdale in words, raising awareness and helping encourage people to engage with poetry during the town's year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture.

Sammy, who lives on a narrow boat along Rochdale Canal, said she is excited about the opportunity: "This seemed like a great chance to be a public poet in a place that has become my home, encouraging others, especially young people, to get involved and telling Rochdale's fascinating stories through poetry. In the spirit of the co-operative movement that began in Rochdale I really like how the role has room for creative ideas to grow and for locals to have a say in the project. Anyone can be a creative writer if given the right support and I hope that through my work I am able to share the joy that poems can spark."

Between now and March 2026 Sammy will be leading workshops in schools boroughwide, mentoring Rochdale's two new young poet laureates as well as reflecting with her own words during the town's big year in the Greater Manchester cultural spotlight.

After completing her creative writing master's degree at Manchester Metropolitan University, Sammy bought a boat and moved from the city to the tranquillity of the Pennine waterways, using the moors and the post-industrial spaces as her inspiration: "I really love it here, the wonderful communities we have, the canals, reservoirs and rivers, I love water and all the scenery we're surrounded by, as well as the new developments in the town centre and of course the majestic town hall."

Her debut poetry collection 'Angola, America' won the Mslexia Poetry Pamphlet Prize in 2021 and was shortlisted for the Michael Marks Award. Sammy has over ten years' experience leading creative writing sessions across the UK. Earlier this year she was made a Yaddo Fellow and was writer in residence at the organisation's artists' community in New York.

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GEOFF BUTTERWORTH

FROM WELDING TO WATERCOLOURS



Local artist Geoff Butterworth has become a well-known name in watercolour painting, with a career born not out of formal training or planned ambition, but from a life-changing accident and a deep passion for creativity.

He started painting in the late 70s after a serious motorcycle accident, and turned from oil paints to watercolour as “a means of starting afresh”.

His early career was a world away from the quiet focus of his studio. Leaving school and stepping into engineering, Geoff’s first job was in a local crane-making factory.

Geoff said: “The foreman asked me what I would like to do. The first thing I saw was a man welding, so I pointed at him and said ‘that’, and so that’s what I did. Later I moved to a larger firm and bought a motorbike.”

However, fate intervened when Geoff was injured in a serious crash. He continued: “I had a bad motorbike smash on the way to work. I went off motorbikes after that.”

Painting became therapy, discipline and eventually a career. With a severely broken leg and limited mobility, Geoff initially worked from photographs he had taken before the accident.

Geoff added: “I went to the local park and sat in a cold wind trying to paint a scene with a water wheel amongst the trees, and my mate had to carry my painting gear and a chair. The picture was just about there but pretty much rubbish in my opinion.



“I had some colour slide photos that I had taken of a castle in Wales and projected it onto my bedroom wall and I thought yes, I will draw around that and then paint it.”

With support from his family and persistence, Geoff began to refine his technique.

He continued: “My mum bought me some proper artists watercolours and a pad, and I set about working out how watercolours worked. I did it all wrong a few times until I figured out how to work from light to dark.”

His first exhibition took place in Littleborough, and from there his reputation grew. Inspired by local scenes and everyday buildings, Geoff’s work resonated far beyond Rochdale.

He concluded: “From my first exhibition I gained a good insight of subject matter which was all around, street scenes and buildings were prominent. I did loads of exhibitions winning awards around the country and travelling to galleries as far down as Kent.

“I have won awards worldwide, several in London and internationally, but it all comes back to my roots.

Geoff continues to teach and exhibit, including a permanent presence in Rochdale’s Exchange Shopping Centre and a dedicated gallery in Todmorden.

VINTAGE WORX

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Vintage Worx Community Development Trust has been removing barriers and increasing potential for 18 years, providing workshops, training and support that give local people the belief and power to take control of their lives and achieve their goals.

Based in Falinge Park, Vintage Worx develop genuine relationships with people that give them the confidence and self-belief they need to bring about positive change in their lives.

The organisation is run by a team of locals and guided by neighbourhood voices through surveys, suggestion boards and open forums.

It's not just for the community; it's by the community. From directors to volunteers, everyone pitches in. There are no hierarchies, and the door is always open, usually with a slice of cake to welcome you in.

Activities include creative crafts for over 55s, creative writing and poetry, upcycling sessions, stitch and chat, women in business networking, junior park rangers, and litter picking and gardening.

The group focuses on three core goals:

- Community development.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Heritage restoration.

With no access to core funding, Vintage Worx relies on project grants and events.

Despite these challenges, the impact is undeniable; through Vintage Worx, local people have someone on their side, someone that empowers them to start making change.

By working together with local people, Vintage Worx is tackling social isolation, giving people the skills and training they need, running events that bring the community together, and working to restore the local park to create a community-owned and managed asset of which local people can be proud.

They still need help, especially skilled volunteers, so next weekend, if you fancy a stroll with a purpose, pop into Falinge Park between 10am and 3pm. You might just find more than fresh air; you might find a community worth joining.



JAMES BINKS ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LOOKING TO BUILD ON ROCHDALE'S RECORD OF SUCCESS

James Binks is the new chief executive of Rochdale Borough Council.

James, previously assistant chief executive at Manchester City Council, replaced Steve Rumbelow, who stepped down after 10 years in the role. He has also assumed the role of NHS Greater Manchester (GM) place lead for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

James said: "It's a fantastic honour and privilege to be given this opportunity.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the place, getting out and about in the borough, visiting different townships and wards, talking to people on the ground, getting under the skin of things.

"I want to be a collaborative leader but also get to the next level of detail; working out where I can help to move things forward."

James's work at Manchester City Council included policy, public service reform and devolution.

Prior to that he worked in government at the Treasury and this experience has given him a strong interest in working across different service areas to deliver improved outcomes.

He added: "In my previous roles I have been able to look at all parts of the system and work in different areas with a real focus on reform and transformation of services.

"What I find really fulfilling and exciting is the cross-cutting element; how all the different parts can come together and support each other."



The married father of two previously played a key role in Greater Manchester's devolution programme, helping the region to become one of the UK's leaders in this area as more powers and resources have been gradually shifted away from London.

Councillor Neil Emmott, the leader of the council, said: "James was a very strong candidate with a fantastic record of achievement, and I am excited to be working with him as we continue improving all areas of our borough. We have achieved a lot over the past few years, but we still have work to do, and I'm sure James will help us realise even more of our ambitions."

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HAIRDRESSING TREND

by GREG COUZENS

CARVING

If you're craving a haircut that's anything but ordinary, the carving technique might just be your new best friend. Unlike traditional cutting methods, carving uses a blade in a freehand, sweeping motion to sculpt the hair, creating layers that don't blend seamlessly but instead boast a beautifully textured look.

This innovative approach results in disconnected layers - think of them as deliberate breaks in the hair's flow - that add movement and dimension without sacrificing length. The outcome? A modern, edgy style that feels fresh, dynamic, and effortlessly cool.

What sets carving apart is its artistic freedom. Stylists throw out the rule book, working intuitively to tailor each cut to the individual's hair type and personality. Whether your hair is straight, wavy, curly, or thick, carving can be adapted to enhance your natural texture and bring out your best features.

Perfect for those who want to inject a little creativity and individuality in to their look, carving is transforming the way we think about layered haircuts, not just a routine but a true expression of style.

Model: Lily Riches-Kay
Hair & Photo: Gregory Couzens





SUMMER FRUITS TRIFLE

by Natasha Brown - owner of Brown's Cakes

I don't particularly like cold custard or jelly in a trifle, but I absolutely love sponge soaked in dark summer berries, a large glug of sherry and lashings of fresh cream!

This recipe is incredibly easy to make, and I use frozen mixed berries to keep it really simple. I always have lots of offcuts of sponge cake so I'm very happy to use these up on a trifle, but you can use any sponge cake cut in to pieces or use sponge fingers which are specially made for trifles.

Serves 8 - 10

Ingredients

- 1kg frozen mixed berries
- 175g caster sugar
- 500g sponge cake (or 250g sponge fingers)
- 150ml sherry (this is optional, you can leave it out all together or add a bit more or a bit less)
- 300ml double cream
- Fresh raspberries and icing sugar to decorate

Gently warm the frozen fruits and sugar in a pan until the sugar has dissolved and the fruits have released a rich juice. It doesn't matter if the fruit is fully defrosted or not. Stir in the sherry.

Layer half the sponge in the bottom of a decorative bowl. Pour half the fruit and syrup mixture over the sponge then add another layer of sponge and the remaining fruits and syrup over the top.

Cover with clingfilm and leave in the fridge until you want to eat it, preferably overnight.

When you are ready to serve the trifle whip the double cream to very soft peaks (don't over whip the cream as it will be hard to spread).

Smooth the cream over the top of the trifle, sprinkle on the fresh raspberries and sprinkle with a dusting of icing sugar.

This recipe makes a large trifle for a party or gathering, if you just want a small trifle for a dinner just half all the ingredients and use a smaller bowl or dish.

It's not a true trifle, but it's delicious nonetheless!

TOWN OF CULTURE OUTDOOR GALLERY

The Town of Culture Outdoor Gallery is a vibrant new public art display located around the Station Gardens redevelopment on Drake Street. This striking open-air exhibition features 24 artworks selected following an open callout by Culture Co-Op earlier this year, alongside two specially commissioned poems celebrating creativity, and a showcase of students' work from Rochdale Sixth Form College and Hopwood Hall College.



Artist Ben Twentyman from Heywood with his artwork titled 'A Delicate Balance'

Transforming construction hoardings near Rochdale railway station, the gallery brings bold, inspiring visuals to a key gateway into the town centre. It's one of several eye-catching creative improvements to public space across Rochdale, with future highlights including 'Common Walls' an urban arts festival in September, other large-scale murals, and pop-up exhibitions in Rochdale Town Hall Square.



Fin Horsey with his eye-catching submission 'Jeremiah Avenby'



Artist Hannah Mortimer poses next to her piece titled 'Head in the Clouds'



Photographer Ellie Waters with her image titled 'Notes from College Bank'



Rory Birch, musician and songwriter, with his 'To Be Creative' poem



Farah Nisa next to her poem 'Creatively Me'

COLLEGE'S COMMUNITY FUN DAY TO RETURN THIS SUMMER

Hopwood Hall College's annual Community Fun Day is back and the whole family is invited

The college will once again throw open its doors when it holds this much-loved free event at its Middleton Campus between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 21 June.

Visitors of all ages are encouraged to attend, with a host of activities and games to enjoy.



This includes popular animal interaction sessions where people can experience some of the weird and wonderful wildlife that's homed at the college.

In addition, there are lots of action-packed activities for visitors to take part in or simply watch from the sidelines.

Visitors can get stuck into challenges such as jiu-jitsu, crazy golf, penalty shootouts and other sports activities.

There are also some quirkier activities such as hula hooping, calligraphy, virtual reality demos and a radio controlled F1 track.

This is in addition to many favourites such as face painting, quizzes, competitions and live music.

There will be free parking offered on the day, but it will be limited so anyone looking to drive is encouraged to arrive early. However, there are also numerous public transport links that make the campus easy to get to.

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BEE SOBER CREATES DIFFERENT TYPE OF BUZZ IN ROCHDALE

When childhood best friends Lisa Elsworth and Alexandria Walker launched Bee Sober in 2018, their vision was clear: to create a supportive space where people could connect, have fun, and support each other on their sobriety journey, without judgment or pressure.

Seven years later, their creation has blossomed into a vibrant nationwide movement, with its heart firmly planted in Rochdale.

Lisa, from Smithy Bridge, reflects on Bee Sober's evolution with pride. She told Real Rochdale magazine: "It's all about celebrating what we can do instead of what we can't."

Sobriety has been a transformative journey for both Lisa and Alex, she said: "We've shared so many of the same experiences, from nights out to the grief of losing loved ones to alcohol."

Despite their different interests, Lisa is a fan of cold water dips and hiking, while Alex enjoys personal training sessions and brunches, both founders share a common bond of sobriety that transcends their differences.

This open, inclusive ethos lies at the core of Bee Sober's activities, which focus not just on quitting drinking, but on rediscovering life without it.

Lisa runs monthly sound baths in Littleborough through Reiki Sound Sanctuary and organises local walks around Hollingworth Lake and Watergrove Reservoir.

She recently held a cold dip and sauna event in Hebden Bridge, explaining that such activities "aren't just fun, they're about feeling good, supporting each other, and building friendships in the fresh air."

Bee Sober extends its reach through online Zoom sessions and the Bee Wild retreat weekends.

These weekends, filled with activities like axe throwing, yoga, forest bathing, and even bamboo weaving, offer attendees a chance to reconnect with themselves and others in a non-judgmental, fun environment.

The retreats also include more unconventional activities, such as bug eating, encouraging attendees to step out of their comfort zones and experience life in new, exciting ways.

Lisa is also a passionate advocate for breaking down the stigma surrounding sobriety. She added: "People thought I was pregnant or ill when I stopped drinking, but I'd just had enough of hangovers, I wanted a better life. That should be celebrated."

Lisa is unapologetically loud and proud about her sobriety, hoping to inspire others to embrace their own sober journeys.

Looking to the future, both founders envision even more opportunities for the community to come together - and believe that Rochdale is the perfect location for Bee Sober to thrive.

Lisa smiled when adding: "We've got lakes, trails, and a community that genuinely cares. This area is made for connection and wellbeing. It's the ideal home for what we're building."

Bee Sober continues to be a beacon of support, friendship, and fun for those embracing a sober lifestyle.

www.beesoberofficial.com



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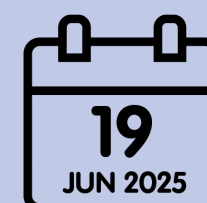
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REFLECTING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE NO FAULT DIGITAL DIVORCE PROCEDURE

Lesley Rhodes, legal executive at Molesworths, reflects on the biggest change to divorce law in England and Wales since 1973 – and whether it's achieving its intended goals.

Has the divorce procedure become less acrimonious?

In April 2022, the UK introduced a no-fault divorce system under the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020. The change marked a significant shift in family law, allowing couples to divorce without apportioning blame and instead simply stating that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

The central aim of the new system is to reduce conflict. Under the previous fault-based regime, many divorces began with accusations that set a hostile tone, often spilling over into financial and child arrangements disputes. By removing the need to blame each other, the reform is intended to promote a more constructive, forward-looking process, especially where children are involved.

In my experience the changes to the divorce system and the introduction of the digital process have been largely positive, and I have noticed within my own cases improvements have included:

- **Reduced acrimony:** Removing the requirement to assign blame reduces hostility between spouses, helps preserve an amicable relationship which is important for negotiations, especially when trying to co-parent.
- **Simplified process:** The new digital application is more straightforward and user-friendly. There is 24/7 access for users, which is especially beneficial for those who have work or childcare commitments.
- **Joint applications:** For the first time, couples can jointly apply for a divorce, reinforcing the cooperative aspect.
- **Administration Efficiency:** The digital case management system has reduced the workload for court staff and judges which has reduced backlogs.

However, although many users report greater satisfaction with the current divorce process, some feel the change may oversimplify the reality of emotionally complex separations and that the process is now too administrative, lacking the acknowledgment of harm.

While streamlining is a positive step, some users may decide not to seek legal advice, be unaware of what a fair settlement would be in relation to financial matters and

child arrangements, and in some cases may not realise without having a financial order financial claims can still be made following a divorce.

There is a digital divide, access to technology and digital literacy remains a barrier for some. There is also a concern by removing the requirement for blame and simplifying the process encourages people to divorce who may have previously attempted to resolve their differences.

Mediation

One of the most significant developments since the reform has been the growing role of mediation in family disputes. Mediation is now playing a central part in helping families reach agreements on finances and childcare, often more quickly and cost-effectively than through court proceedings.

Out of court dispute resolutions must now be considered before either party can issue a court application for a financial order or an order relating to arrangements for a child of the family. Family mediation provides a confidential, neutral setting where couples can resolve financial and parenting issues collaboratively. It is particularly encouraged in disputes involving children, where ongoing cooperation between parents is essential to promote the welfare of children. There is funding available for mediation services in some cases to encourage uptake.

Courts continue to urge couples to consider mediation before litigation. Not only do the courts consider whether mediation is appropriate the first time the parties appear before the court, it is now a consideration at each court appointment.

Conclusion

The no fault digital procedure represents a major step forward in modernising family law and appears to be achieving its goal of reducing bitterness following separations. Mediation complements this by offering a non-adversarial space for resolving disputes, helping families transition more smoothly into post-divorce life. As cultural attitudes and legal frameworks continue to evolve, the emphasis is clearly shifting from blame to resolution.

IT'S OKAY TO TALK

How Rochdale men are rewriting mental health

A quiet revolution is happening in Rochdale every Monday evening. Across the town, men are choosing conversation over silence, support over struggle. They're not meeting to watch football or have a pint, they're showing up to talk, openly and without judgment. This is Andy's Man Club.

Each week, groups meet at the Crown Oil Arena, Mayfield ARLFC in Castleton, and Milnrow Cricket Club.

Men of all ages and backgrounds come through the doors, welcomed with no pressure, no judgment, and no need to book. They sit in circles, guided by facilitators, and work through five structured questions, from how their week has been to what they need to get off their chest.

The format is simple, but the impact is profound: a space where showing emotion isn't a weakness, it is a strength, and where speaking up can mean survival.

Vincent Yates, lead facilitator at the Crown Oil Arena, knows first-hand the transformative power of these meetings. He said: "I have now been attending for over three years. I don't know where I would be without being at the club.

"The impact it has had on me has made me realise it's okay to talk about issues and show emotion. I have regained my confidence in speaking to a group of strangers where I wasn't confident at all."

The Rochdale groups are run from the guidelines that each group has, meaning each group has the same format throughout the UK.

Vincent added: "A typical Monday night, we welcome everyone whether they are new or are returning.

"At 7pm, we sit in a circle. The lead facilitator goes through the rules because we have guidelines; it's confidential, we don't allow any recording devices, what is said in the room stays in the room."

Vincent concluded, "I would say give it a try, as you never know if it can help unless you try. We are a friendly bunch, there is free tea, coffee, and biscuits."

Local meeting details

Every Monday from 7pm to 9pm (except Bank Holidays) at the following locations:

- Spotland Community Hub, Crown Oil Arena, Willbutts Lane, Rochdale OL11 5DS.
- Mayfield ARLFC, Keswick Street, Castleton, Rochdale OL11 3AG.
- Milnrow Cricket Club, The Pavilion, Harbour Lane, Milnrow, Rochdale OL16 4HF.

Online support groups are available for people who have social anxiety or mobility issues who would struggle to go to the group sessions.

For more information visit: www.andysmanclub.co.uk

HEALTH ADVICE

Some hay fever and even asthma sufferers will tell you of the perils of grass in the summertime. but did you know that cutting the lawn can be one of the biggest health risks we face.

For all that heatstroke and exhaustion are at the back of our minds, injuries outside and especially when using sharp tools are one of the biggest problems A&Es encounter each summer.

A staggering 110,000 children visit emergency units each year with gardening injuries – with 6,500 caused by lawn mowers.

It is probably down to the relaxed mindset we have when we're pruning, cutting and weeding – which is one of the great mental health benefits of the gardening, too – but being attentive is absolutely essential.

Careless gardening isn't the only unusual outside summer health blight. The glorious British barbecue if not managed safely, can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and fires. Cross-contamination, food past the sell-by date, and meat not defrosted properly can worry stomachs. Making sure you wash utensils and follow cooking instructions should prevent you from sickness.

More familiar summer ailments include burns, bee stings, and the effects of dehydration. All demand a fully stocked medicine cabinet and plenty of intake of water. And aside from avoiding the grass, hay fever sufferers should have antihistamine at hand, limit exposure to pollen by keeping windows closed, showering and changing clothes after being outside, and using air purifiers.

Speaking of the water, it breaks my heart to hear how many younger people lose their lives each year to drowning. It seems the merest hint of a warm snap means some simply cannot resist taking a dip in dangerous situations. We need to guard against this, by talking to our children.

The heat might also exacerbate heart and lung conditions.

To counter this, summer also brings us light and warmth in which to exercise – carefully. Make sure you are protected in the sun, by slipping on a t-shirt, slapping on a hat and slopping on sun cream (and I make no apology there for using the famous Australian slogan, they know about sun protection!).

Let me not blow cold about health in the summer. It is the season for activity and with its brightness it improves our mental health and wellbeing after what might feel like a long winter. Just take those few precautions – including, when you are in the garden.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dr Anita Sharma is a local women's health campaigner and the founder of Endometriosis Awareness North. Learn more about that condition and her charity by going to: <https://endometriosisawarenessnorth.com>



WHAT'S ON

End of Year Art Show

Monday 16 June - Friday 20 June
Venues: Hopwood Hall College & Reel Cinema

Throughout the academic year learners of all ages are encouraged to unleash their imaginations and tap into their creativity. This event showcases the outcome of this.

It's a brilliant opportunity to see so many eye-catching pieces from people at different levels of their studies. This includes budding 16-18 year olds, as well as university-level students completing the HND in Art & Design.

Street Eat

Saturday 28 June - 11:00am - 7:00pm
Rochdale Town Hall Square

Amazing street food from Rochdale's best vendors, drinks, music and more as this popular food festival returns.

Street Eat is family-friendly - with free activities and rides for the children, bars for the adults and live entertainment for everyone.

Free admission, no tickets or booking required.

A Summer Organ Spectacular

Wednesday 23 July - 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Rochdale Town Hall

Jonathan Scott presents a special summer organ concert in the Victorian splendour of Rochdale Town Hall, showcasing the 'King of Instruments' in a scintillating programme of spectacular summer music.

Jonathan Scott is organist at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall where he regularly performs to audiences of thousands.

Please book by 5:00pm on Monday 21 July 2025. Call 01706 924797 between 10:00am - 4:00pm.

Tickets from £12

Summer Garden Celebration

Sunday 3 August - 11:00am
Springhill Hospice

Springhill Hospice welcomes you into their award winning gardens for a Summer Garden Celebration.

You and your loved ones are welcome for a family friendly day out; explore the beautiful gardens, browse the many food, seasonal and decorative stalls the hospice has to offer, and enjoy the live music and entertainment.

Free entry for children, suggested donation of £2 for adults.

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Enthusiasts!**



www.rochdaleclassiccarshow.org.uk

Organised by the Rotary Club of Rochdale and all profits will go to the President's charities.

**FREE FUN FOR
ALL THE FAMILY!**

**SATURDAY
21 JUNE 2025
11AM - 3PM**



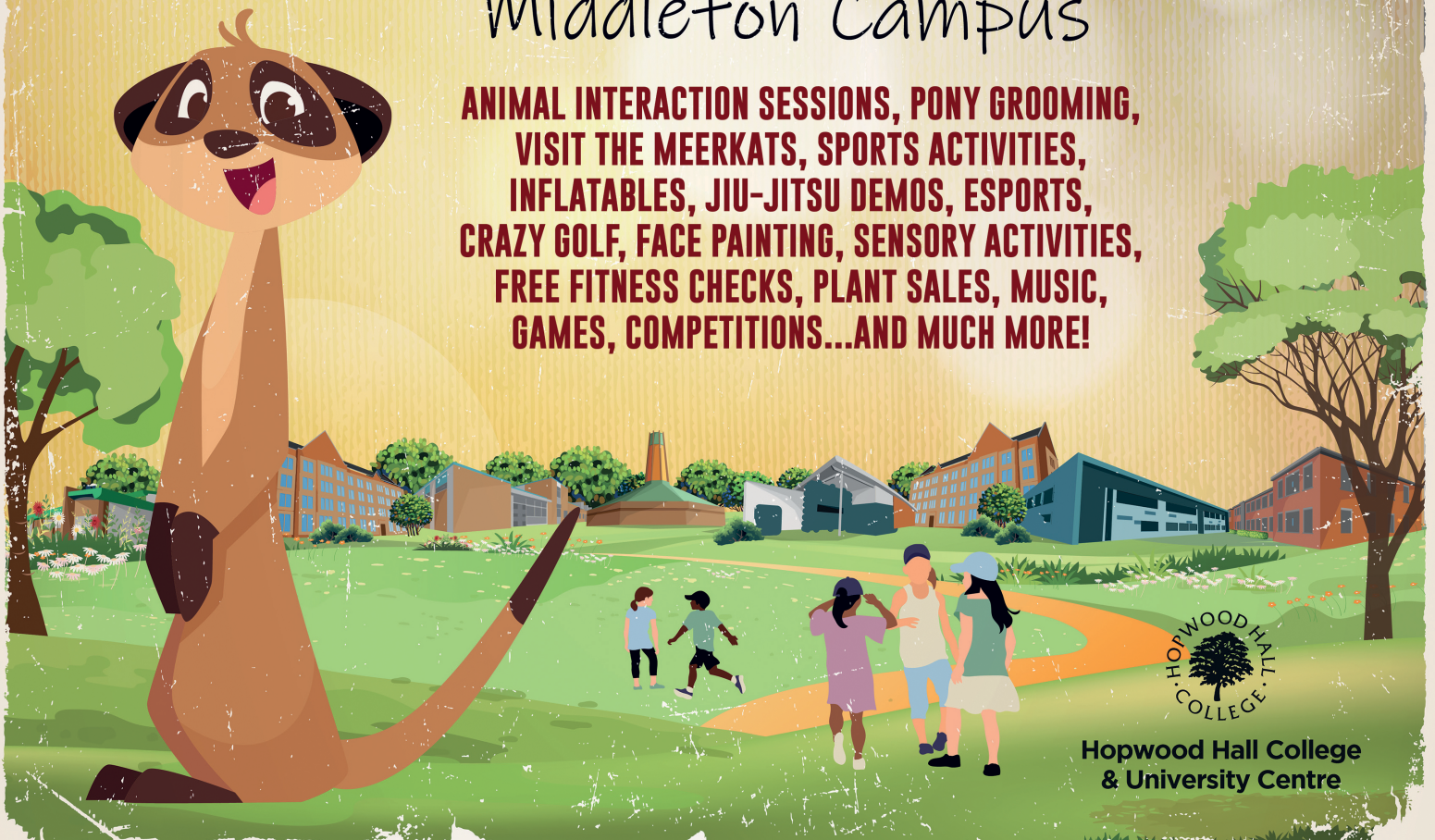
Hopwood Hall College
COMMUNITY

FUN DAY



Middleton Campus

**ANIMAL INTERACTION SESSIONS, PONY GROOMING,
VISIT THE MEERKATS, SPORTS ACTIVITIES,
INFLATABLES, JIU-JITSU DEMOS, ESPORTS,
CRAZY GOLF, FACE PAINTING, SENSORY ACTIVITIES,
FREE FITNESS CHECKS, PLANT SALES, MUSIC,
GAMES, COMPETITIONS...AND MUCH MORE!**



**Hopwood Hall College
& University Centre**