

# About TAMESIDE MAGAZINE

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December 2025 - Local Business & Community News - Shopping & What's On guide



**TRAIN TAMESIDE 500 LAUNCH**  
- PAGE 8 -



**DENTON & AUDENSHAW ROTARY**  
- PAGE 21 -



**CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR VETERANS**  
- PAGE 23 -

**Wishing all our readers & advertisers  
a very Merry Christmas**





# Welcome...

Pick up a copy from: Aldi, CO-OP, Active Tameside, Ashton Market Hall, Stalybridge Train Station, Droylsden Post Office, Ladysmith Shopping Centre and more!



## Contributors this issue

Howard Murphy - Tameside Markets - Jan Lord - Bobby Kent - Local Studies Library - TMBC - Ashton Town Team - Tameside College - Luke Mirfin - Hyde Fundraisers - Massimino Malacrino - Denton & Audenshaw Rotary Club - Cllr Denise Ward - Tax Assist - Tameside Rotary - Cllr Phil Chadwick - Cromwell School - Cotterills Transport Services - Pamela Hitchcock

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# Highlights this issue...

GINGERBREAD TRAIL IN GEE CROSS .....	4
MARKETS CHRISTMAS EVENTS .....	7
TRAIN TAMESIDE 500 .....	8
GAME ON FOR BOBBY .....	10
FUNDRAISERS SUPPORT CROMWELL SCHOOL.....	11
COTTERILLS COME TO THE RESCUE .....	14
ASHTON MARKET HALL .....	16 & 17
DENTON & AUDENSHAW ROTARY .....	21
CHRISTMAS CHEER .....	23
CHRISTMAS QUIZ .....	26
WHAT'S ON .....	31

Deadline for our January 2026 issue is December 12th

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## Students deliver great British food

Students at Tameside College prepared the Great British Menu at the Restaurant at Tameside One back in October.

With delicious menu items including Crab Welsh Rarebit, tasty Pork Belly, melt in the mouth beef and sticky toffee pudding with whisky cream. The restaurant gives first hand experience for students in a busy kitchen environment and all the work that goes on front of house.

Images Massimino Malacrino





# Northern Lights Winter Parade brings Sparkle to Stalybridge

The magical Northern Lights Winter Parade took place on Saturday 15th November, marking the start of Tameside's festive celebrations.

The spectacular event featured a free evening of sparkling culture and celebration, combining unforgettable lantern displays and vibrant performances to create an electric atmosphere.

Tameside Council, Global Grooves, No Eyed Theatre and Cabassa collaborated with the local community groups and volunteers together to host an unforgettable evening to start the countdown to Christmas. Festive Switch On events taking place this month are:

**Hattersley** - Friday 5th December

**Mossley** - Friday 5th December

**Micklehurst** - Saturday 6th December

Images by Howard Murphy



## TAMESIDE'S AWARD WINNING GARAGE

British Independent Garage Of The Year Awards - Tameside Business Awards

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# TAMESIDE ROTARY SANTA



## Tameside Rotary Planned Santa Routes and Static Locations 2025

**Evenings Start 6:30pm until 9:00pm unless shown otherwise**

### Thurs 4th Dec:

Start OL7 9TJ Dog & Pheasant Oldham Rd (Top Dog) Anglesey Rd, Ney St, Springwood Way, Camberwell & streets off, Downshaw, Beech Mount, Store St. finish Store St.

### Tues 9th Dec:

Start 6.15 pm OL6 8DE Top of St. Albans, Lees Rd; all of the Hartshead Estate

### Wed 10th Dec:

Start OL7 9JA Newmarket Rd/ Patterdale Ave; Penrith; Furness; Hilton Drv; Ashton Moss Est; Keswick; Lakeside; Borrowdale; Bowness; Kendal; Ambleside; Ullswater; Thirlmere; Rydal; Scafell Ave, Crowhill Road (finish).

### Thurs 11th Dec:

Start OL6 8HR Rosehill Rd/Mossley Rd, Rosehill Rd, Aldergate Grove, Cravenwood, Weymouth Rd, Kings Rd, Kenworthy, Hampson, St. Christopher's, Gorsey Way, The Mere.

### Mon 15th Dec:

Start OL6 6NQ Neal Avenue, Beaufort Rd, Derby Rd, Montague Rd, Hutton, Arundel St, Darnton, Mellor, Cockbrook.

### Tues 16th Dec:

Start OL6 8BQ Hartsmead Greenhurst Road; School Ave/ Broadoak Rd, Broadbent, Coronation Rd, Smallshaw, Sycamore, Miller St, Henrietta – streets off, Firs Ave.

### Wed 17th Dec:

Start OL6 8QW Old Ball Inn, Broadoak, Timperley, Hartshead Ave, Gambrel, Waterloo, Lyndhurst, Wilshaw, Vicarage & Cranbourne.

### Static Locations!

#### Fri 5th Dec:

Aldi, Ashton 10am - 2pm  
Ditto Tesco: Droylsden 3pm - 8pm

#### Sat 6th Dec:

Ashton Town Centre Precinct 10am - 4pm

#### Sun 7th Dec:

B&M Snipe Retail Park, Ashton  
10am - 4pm

#### Fri 12th Dec:

Asda, Ashton 3pm - 8pm

#### Sat 13th Dec:

Ashton Town Centre Precinct 10am - 4pm

#### Sun 14th Dec:

Sainsburys, Ashton 11am - 4pm

This is an approximate guide and timings of the routes and locations that Santa will follow and will include adjacent streets. Santa will try to get to all the streets around these routes, but variations can occur with adverse weather, equipment & number of Santa's Helpers (volunteers) available.

*Are you able to help us with our collections?*

**Contact: [santa@tamesiderotary.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:santa@tamesiderotary.onmicrosoft.com)**

**More info: [www.tamesiderotaryclub.com](http://www.tamesiderotaryclub.com)**

## Raysed a tidy sum

Droylsden man Ray Fricker has helped raise an impressive £1,500 for the Royal British Legion following a special fundraising event held at the Salisbury Club. Ray is well-known locally for his extensive collection of wartime memorabilia.

## Bring magic to others

Tameside Toy Appeal is back to bring Christmas magic to local families. Action Together are working with Toy Appeal partners Tameside MBC, Tameside Family Hubs and Not Really Here Media. For details of how you can donate visit [www.actiontogether.org.uk/tameside-toy-appeal-2025](http://www.actiontogether.org.uk/tameside-toy-appeal-2025)

## Yanked in support

Monopoly Events have announced a new YANKS themed event to take place in Stalybridge and Ashton on August 1st and 2nd. Yanks organiser Paul Dogtags Higginson said: "We are delighted to have gained the support and backing of Monopoly Events who we believe can take the event to another level"

## Bath then Bed

The old Denton Baths site is set to become an apartment block with completion by spring 2027. After the plot sat vacant for years, planning permission to build 35 apartments was approved in October 2024.

## They all pitched in

A state-of-the-art 3G pitch and Sports Club has officially opened in Droylsden. The new facility, based at Laurus Ryecroft, was unveiled on 5th November 2025, thanks to a £748,000 grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation.

## Town Hauled into future

After essential repairs Tameside Council is now progressing with feasibility and design work to transform Ashton Town Hall into a vibrant space by 2030. This forms part of a wider regeneration strategy for Ashton Town Centre, backed by £3.4 million in Government funding allocated specifically for the town.

## Denton welcomes twins!

Denton's Twinning team gave a warm welcome on November 1st to delegations from its twin towns, Montigny-le-Bretonneux in France and Kierspe in Germany, when they arrived in Tameside for a celebration of friendship, culture and community spirit at Portland Basin.

**Send your bulletins to:**  
[tamesidecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:tamesidecommunitynews@gmail.com)

## Gingerbread Trail comes to Gee Cross

**On Sunday 21st December, you're invited to attend Gee Cross Community Centre, where the trail will begin.**

The gingerbread characters will be posted around the village, each with a special letter that will spell out the secret code.

Once the code is cracked, you will receive a special treat. There's also a raffle and bottle tombola, children's photo booth, children's colouring activities and more. Santa will also be popping along so you can tell him about those last-minute presents too!





# Christmas and New Year Recycling Arrangements

**\*There will be no brown bin collections from 25 December until 7 January inclusive\***

**Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 December** - Collections as normal

**Thursday 25 December** - No Collections

If you are due a green (general waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Monday 29 December

If you are due a black (comingled recycling waste) or a blue (paper recycling waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Wednesday 31 December

**Friday 26 December** - No Collections

If you are due a green (general waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Tuesday 30 December

If you are due a black (comingled recycling waste) or a blue (paper recycling waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Friday 2 January

**Monday 29 December** - Monday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Tuesday 30 December** - Tuesday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Wednesday 31 December** - Wednesday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Thursday 1 January** - No Collections

If you are due a green (general waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Monday 5 January

If you are due a black (comingled recycling waste) or a blue (paper recycling waste) bin collection, it will be collected on Tuesday 6 January

**Friday 2 January** - Normal Collections except no brown bin collection

**Monday 5 January** - Monday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Tuesday 6 January** - Tuesday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Wednesday 7 January** - Monday Collections as normal except no brown bin collection

**Thursday 8 January** - Collections as normal

**Friday 9 January** - Collections as normal

## Helpful hints!

- Download our bin app for 2026 collection dates and for updates and alerts for your Christmas waste and recycling collection arrangements
- Christmas trees can be left out with your brown bin for recycling **from Thursday 8 January**
- We will collect any additional recyclable waste which is left out with your black or blue recycling bin in a clear or labelled bag
- Please park considerably so that waste collection vehicles have unimpeded access to all areas and roads where bins are kept.



## Keeping in touch over Christmas

The council website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for people to access council services and information.

**tameside.gov.uk**



### Libraries

**Ashton, Hyde and Stalybridge** Libraries will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.

**Mossley** Library staffed hours will close at 1pm on Wednesday 24 December while Open+ hours will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.

**Denton** Library staffed hours will close at 5pm on Monday 22 December while Open+ hours will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.

**Droylsden** Library staffed hours will close at 1pm on Monday 22 December while Open+ hours will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.

**Dukinfield** Library staffed hours will close at 1pm on Tuesday 23 December while Open+ hours will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.

**Hattersley** Library staffed hours will close at 5pm on Tuesday 23 December while Open+ hours will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December.



### Call Centre and Customer Services

Will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24 December 2025 and re-open at **8.30am on Monday 5th January 2026**.



### Local Studies and Archives Centre

Will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24th December and re-open at **10am on Tuesday 6th January 2026**.



### Portland Basin Museum

Will close at 5pm on Wednesday 24th December and re-open at **10am on Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

## Download our free app

from **Apple Store** or **Google Play Store** where you can check the date of your collections, set reminders and report missed/lost bins. For more information please visit **tameside.gov.uk/recycling**







## Character Curry Returns

Following the huge success of their first Character Curry event back in February this year Hyde Fundraisers have announced the sequel on Tuesday February 17th.

This year the local voluntary group reached an impressive 40th anniversary milestone in supporting many good causes. They have been raising money for BBC Children in Need and other organisations since 1985, and in February groups that will be receiving donations will include The Ricky Hatton Foundation, Reuben's Retreat and Willow Wood Hospice.

Taking place at the award-winning Indian Plaza in Audenshaw on Tuesday February 17th the 'Character Curry' fundraising event is being done in association with the restaurant and Councillor Denise Ward.

Steve Haines from Hyde Fundraisers said: "We are hoping people will be joining us for second helping of the Character Curry which will



have a special visit from Wallace & Gromit, BB8, Predator, The Joker and others visiting your table for great photo opportunities. There's also live music courtesy of performer Roger De Genero with some great ballads and also a great prize raffle too!"

The evening will see ticket holders enjoy delicious poppadoms, chutneys and a tasty curry to support some really good causes. Not only that, but you will also have a unique character dining experience with. It's a great evening for all the family to enjoy and tickets are likely to get snapped up quickly.

**To book your place for adults it will be £20 and children under 10 years for £5 each - places will be limited so to book your place call 0161 371 7474**

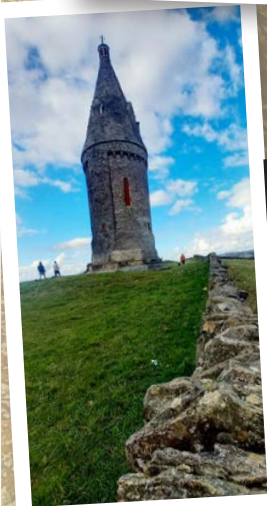


# TAKEN IN TAMESIDE

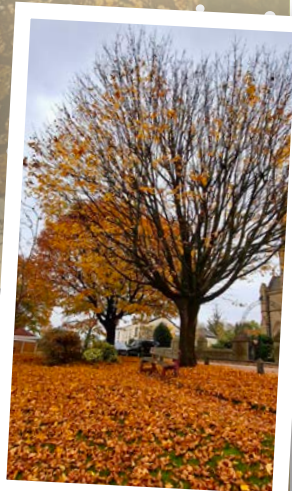
If you have a photo you would like to include, please email us at: [tamesidecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:tamesidecommunitynews@gmail.com)  
We'd love to hear from you!



**Squirrel in Stamford Park**  
Howard Murphy



**Hartshead Pike**  
Sam Shaw



**Autumn Trees in Dukinfield**  
Sam Shaw



**Ashton Market Work**  
Howard Murphy



# Christmas at the Markets

Tameside Markets have some festive treats coming this month at Hyde and Ashton.

On Saturday December 6th Ashton Market Hall hosts a special Play Your cards Right with a chance a to win prizes from market traders.

Over in Hyde on that day watch out for The Grinch at Hyde Market Hall spreading mischief.

On December 13th Ashton Town Team is bringing Mossley Ukelele Group to the Market Hall at 12.30 where they will be gladly accepting



donations for Willow Wood Hospice when they play.

*At Hyde Market that day there is also a special visit from the man himself, yes come along and meet Santa and his Elf from 11am until 2pm.*

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# Train Tameside 500 launch to boost local employment and training

Local MPs, councillors and key employers support Tameside College's

**Train Tameside 500 initiative in collaboration with Tameside Council to create new training opportunities in the borough.**

Train Tameside 500 is a two-year project to encourage employers to sign up a total of 500 apprentices and help meet growing skill demands in all sectors including high demand areas such as construction, engineering, automotive and health and social care.

The campaign was launched during an event in the college's Restaurant at Tameside One, on Friday 24th October, which was attended by prominent local politicians, including Jonathan Reynolds, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, Angela Rayner, MP for Ashton, Councillor Eleanor Wills, leader of Tameside Council and Harry Catterall, chief executive of Tameside Council.

Whitecroft Lighting, Willow Wood



Hospice, Diamond Decorators Ltd, Hyde Group and Tameside Council were also in attendance to accept their Train Tameside 500 ambassador certificate from Jonathan Reynolds, who congratulated each employer.

Alongside the employer awards, VIPs and employers delivered speeches during the event on the importance of training local young people and the success the scheme is hoping to bring.

Jonathan said: "It was great to speak at the launch event for Train Tameside 500 alongside my friend and colleague Angela Rayner. It was brilliant to see Tameside College, Tameside Council and business partners come together to kick off a programme that will support 500 local residents into training and employment. It was also a privilege to present the ambassador awards to employers. This initiative reflects the best of what we can achieve through partnership, local ambition, national policy, and a shared commitment to opportunity."

Carl Shaw, assistant principal at Tameside College, said: "The launch of Train Tameside 500 raises awareness of local employers and the importance of skills and training in industry. As the leading further education provider and number one provider of apprenticeships in Tameside, we are working alongside Tameside Council to encourage employers to consider apprenticeships and work experience placements. I'd like to

thank our employer ambassadors who are a fantastic example of how the collaboration between education and industry can thrive."

Tim Bowes, head of academy at Whitecroft Lighting, said: "We believe training is so important because it allows us as a business to deliver the right growth and skills required to drive our business for the future. We are now getting the right people in the right jobs, and they can see how they help in growing the business. It's also a clear pathway to success"

**If you're an employer that would like to get involved with the Train Tameside 500 initiative, visit the college's website [www.tameside.ac.uk](http://www.tameside.ac.uk)**



# Standing on the shoulders of giants

**>>> Last weekend, I watched a Netflix interview with Jane Goodall — the primatologist and anthropologist renowned for her groundbreaking study of chimpanzees in the wild. I have to admit, it was one of the most moving interviews I've ever seen.**

Recorded with the understanding that it would only be aired after her death, Jane had the rare freedom to say whatever she wanted, without ever facing the repercussions. What struck me most was her extraordinary ability to share her perspective through storytelling. She told these stories so beautifully that I was completely mesmerised, seeing the world through an entirely different lens.

In fact, I ended up watching the interview again a few hours later to make sure I hadn't missed anything important. I learnt a great deal from it — but most importantly, she reinforced beliefs I've held dearly for decades: the importance of having a purpose beyond oneself and the enduring value of hard work.

She also reminded me of the power of relationships and the importance of striving to leave the world just a little better than we found it. Jane had an uncanny ability to weave science with spirituality, and she created a shift inside me that's difficult to explain. People like her are rare — and perhaps that's why they are so deeply admired. They give you hope, while others remain

apathetic to the challenges of the world.

I hope you get a chance to watch the interview — it's truly worth an hour of your time.

*Join a practice and team that truly stays ahead of the curve.*

*Rahil Saggarr*



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# GAME ON FOR BOBBY



Since February 2024 About Tameside has featured a video game review every month courtesy of Ashton based Bobby Kent. We thought we'd learn more about the games guru and asked him to tell us a little about himself.

I'm a 27-year-old writer and gamer, disabled and all three of those have kind of influenced my enjoyment of both writing and playing video games. My disability is the reason I like games so much and it's good to explore the accessibility I can have in games.

## What was the first game you ever played and how has the industry changed?

The first game was Spyro the Dragon on PlayStation One and I used to play it with my sisters to the finish and then we'd go back and play it all again. There's been some really major changes to the gaming industry and of course the one affecting me has been accessibility. Games used to have no options whatsoever with the only option initially asking if you wanted subtitles. If you have a mobility condition you have requirements like



change buttons to use to change the buttons what they do or what action they perform. That is now a major feature in gaming where you have an accessibility menu to customize most things.

## What have been the surprise game hits in recent years?

Animal Crossing: New Horizons, that was released right after Covid started and prior it had been quite a niche game but it grew in popularity.

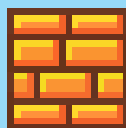
So where do you spend most time in Tameside?

Well because it's all based on transport with tram or train I am mostly around Ashton, I love going to Ashton Market and getting a coffee from Market Grounds. I also like Rewind Collectibles in the town which was one of my favorite places growing up and still is.

## How do you choose which game to recommend to readers of the magazine?

Firstly, I check out game release dates for that month and I go through them to decide what I would recommend to a broad audience. So, I'm looking for something that would appeal to everyone, not just a hardcore shooter game."

## Your own favourite game to play?



The Witcher 3, it's a really epic medieval, fantasy, magical story about two dimensions – the one we live in and the dimension magic comes from. Every thousand years the dimensions overlap and the magic seeps through into the real world and with it extensional threats to reality. So, you're on a big mission hunting monsters, in combat, taking on quests, story decisions so it's just great fun.

Thanks Bobby and check out his recommended game in this month's issue!



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# Fundraisers give boost to Cromwell appeal

Hyde Fundraisers recently paid a visit to Cromwell High School, a special education school in Dukinfield, to present a £300 donation to their minibus appeal.

The presentation was attended by Hyde Fundraisers Peter Brocklehurst who brought along Star Wars character R2D2 to meet the children.

Symon Dewsbury, Head of 6th Form & National Leader for Mental Health in Education, said: "Everyone at Cromwell High and 6th Form would like to say thank you, not only for the very kind donation of £300 from Hyde Fundraisers towards a

much needed new mini bus but our out of this world visitor!

The children and young people of Cromwell were delighted to meet R2 D2 in person, the joy and excitement of which was beyond words!

We are so grateful for the kindness

that has been shown today and for the hard work and support of Hyde Fundraisers who brought more than money but an experience that has enriched the lives of some of our amazing and very special SEN students."





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## FUNDRAISERS AT 40

# MONSTERS ON SHOW

➤➤ Apart from raising funds through collecting and donations from venues like shopping centres or libraries the group have also created and been involved in a number of displays over the years.

The biggest of these lasted a few years at the Spaceport attraction in Merseyside which gave the group a large upper floor to display their Doctor Who items. Over the period of the display the group refreshed exhibits and brought in other things apart from Doctor Who like Batman and The Joker. There were also regular appearances of their characters in costume to add interest to visitors when the volunteers were able to attend.

In 2011 Hyde Fundraisers utilized the newly created moon grotto at Ladysmith Shopping Centre for several displays through the year featuring Doctor Who and other Sci Fi characters. Lakeside Shopping Centre in Doncaster was also another host for a one day display and in Runcorn there was a Dr Who themed display at Runcorn Shopping City that took place over several months!

They also had weekend displays at the Cambridge Science Festival in 2008 and 2011 with a variety of characters on display along with live sculpting demonstrations. There has also been pop up displays at the National Space Centre in Leicester for their Science of the Timelord events since 2006, the last of which was at the end of September 2024.

The National Science and Media Museum in Bradford hosted a weekend exhibition back in 2018 and they have also occasionally displayed items at some of the events the group attends.

In 2025 group member Derek Handley invited them to be involved in the unofficial Doctor Who exhibition at Peterborough Museum. The Adventures in Time exhibition started on May 3rd and was opened by former Dr Who assistant and Blue Peter presenter Peter Purves. It proved to be a hugely successful exhibition with other contributions from Mat Irvine, Robert Allsopp and Stephen Mansfield. Sadly the display came to an end on November 2nd but the group were rightly proud of their contribution.

Currently Ladysmith Shopping Centre is hosting Dalek Sec and the groups Batman display for a limited time as things start to wind down for the groups anniversary celebrations.





# The **A** to **Z** of Income Tax

➤➤ Income tax in the UK can be complex, but understanding the basics helps you save money and stay compliant.

## A is for Allowances

Your personal allowance is the income you can earn before paying tax. It's reduced if you earn over £100,000. Other allowances include Marriage Allowance, personal savings allowance, and dividend allowance.

## B is for Bands

Income is split into basic, higher, and additional rate bands. You only pay the higher rates of tax on income above the basic threshold, not your entire earnings.



## C is for CIS

The Construction Industry Scheme affects how sub-contractors are taxed. Registered construction workers have 20% deducted; unregistered ones face 30%. Head contractors pass this to HMRC as a tax prepayment.

**Scan the QR code to read the full article.**

## How TaxAssist Can Help

TaxAssist Accountants can help you keep on top of your income tax obligations and make sure you're claiming all the allowances and reliefs to which you're entitled. Call 0161 359 6178 or visit us online.

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**Stalybridge Office: Copley Mill,**  
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# TAMESIDE TRANSPORT BUSINESS IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

➤➤ People may already be familiar with K. Cotterill Transport in Dukinfield, the family-run business has been established over 50 years offering competitive prices and friendly professionalism.

The company is well known offering national transport services, removals, warehouse and storage facilities, event management, plus crate hire. So when local group Hyde Fundraisers needed to retrieve their items that had been on display at Peterborough Museum the business was their first port of call.

At the start of November the charity display at the museum came to an end and the fundraisers reached out to Cotterills to bring their props and costumes back to Tameside. So Brad came along from the business to load up Silurian, Judoon, Sea Devil and a host of other monsters

along with a Weeping Angel ready to get them back to the groups storage unit. Ensuring the characters all got back in one piece Cotterills did an amazing job and the groups Steve Haines was first to praise them.

*"The contribution Cotterills has made in getting our characters back from Peterborough has been a huge help. Brad was the epitome of professionalism and ensured everything was well packed safely and helped unload too. We appreciate the amazing support from Cotterills and wouldn't hesitate to recommend their services to anyone!"*



So from transporting monsters to moving home or other transport requirements call K. Cotterill on 0161 337 8722 / 07352312089 or visit them online at [kcotterilltransport.co.uk](http://kcotterilltransport.co.uk).



# MARKET NEWS



**>>> We know food is especially important at Christmas and our traders offer a wide variety of quality fresh food and produce.**

Hyde Market Hall features the popular **S. Wilde & Son** for all your fresh fruit and vegetables including the festive staple sprouts of course! With a great selection of meats, cheeses and fresh meats why not check out **The Cottage Deli**. Did you know that Tripe has got more protein than steak, can repair your stomach and aid digestion too with all the enzymes it contains? **Let's Talk Tripe** also sells items including the traditional Bury Black Pudding and Cow Heel. Try the range of flavoured sausages, delicious farm fresh bacon and treat yourself to the meaty ribs.

At Ashton Market Hall, **Seaking** has a wide variety of seafood delivered fresh each day which is an important source of Omega 3 in your diet. Perfect to get your dressed salmon and other items for the holiday period. Need a refreshing drink, delicious fresh ground coffee? Then visit **Ashton**

**Market Grounds** coffee shop located in Fletcher Square. You'll see your coffee prepared from bean to cup full of delicious flavour! At unit 73 **G. E Shaw** features artificial flowers, teddies, ornaments, lights, lampshades and other giftware.

So, you can see there are lots of reasons to visit our Market Halls for all your Christmas gifts, food and clothing!

There's a few special events too with a visit by The Grinch to Hyde Market Hall on December 6th and at Ashton Market Hall on that day we have Play Your cards Right for a chance to win a prize from one of our market traders!

If you are looking to expand your growing business with a stall at one of our markets in Hyde or Ashton

for further information, please contact: [markets@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:markets@tameside.gov.uk)

Our market traders would like to thank all our customers for their loyal custom and support throughout 2025.

*On behalf of all our traders and everyone in Tameside Markets I'd like to wish all our shoppers a very Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2026*



## Christmas

HYDE  
INDOOR MARKET HALL

### Market Hall Opening Times

Monday 22 December 9am - 5pm  
 Tuesday 23 December 9am - 5pm  
 Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December 9am - 4pm  
 Christmas Day Thursday 25 December Closed  
 Boxing Day Friday 26 December Closed  
 Saturday December 9am - 5pm  
 Sunday 28 December Closed  
 Monday 29 December 9am - 5pm  
 Tuesday 30 December 9am - 5pm  
 New Years Eve Wednesday December 31 9am - 4pm  
 New Years Day Thursday 1 January Closed  
 Friday 2 January 9am - 5pm

*We wish all our traders and residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year*

[www.hyde-market.co.uk](https://www.hyde-market.co.uk)  
[www.tameside.gov.uk/markets](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/markets)  
[markets@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:markets@tameside.gov.uk) 0161 342 3268



# ASHTON MARKET



With Christmas rapidly approaching, the wide variety of traders at Ashton Market Hall are offering fantastic quality and value when it comes to your food, gifts and housewares this year.

Supporting market traders is vital this time of year for these small independent businesses and your custom is much more appreciated than the big supermarkets.

**The Off Licence** has many items cheaper than supermarkets with a huge range of Polish vodkas and over 40 different malt whiskies available along with cut-price cigarettes too. With Gin currently in trend you can satisfy your curiosity with an astonishing selection of flavours plus even more that

can be ordered in too. Looking for that specialised liqueur or spirit? See if they have it

**Pearsons Butchers** have been established since 1984 using local producers for their beef, lamb, poultry and pork - it means they can provide you with excellent quality, value and flavour. Their team of experienced butchers is dedicated to bringing you the very best quality British meat. With a wealth of knowledge in their team on hand if you need any advice on cooking particular cuts of meat then please do ask. Don't forget to place your orders early to collect at Christmas!

Mandy Yuan is based inside Ashton Market Hall at the **My Medicine** stall, and she has been working in Chinese medicine for almost 30 years. Therapies on offer include acupuncture, Chinese

**Cordwell's**  
**HOT DELI**  
*Fresh hot food served daily!*

Don't forget - make sure you order your  
**Pork, Gammon, Turkey & Beef joints for Christmas!**

**Large selection of the finest quality cooked meats. Home cooked Roast Beef, Pork and Roast Chicken's!**

## Christmas

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE**  
INDOOR MARKET HALL

### Market Hall Opening Times

Sunday 21 December 11am - 3pm  
Monday 22 December 9am - 5pm  
Tuesday 23 December 9am - 5pm  
Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Christmas Day Thursday 25 December Closed  
Boxing Day Friday 26 December Closed  
Saturday December 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 28 December Closed  
Monday 29 December 9am - 5pm  
Tuesday 30 December 9am - 5pm  
New Years Eve Wednesday December 31 8.30am - 4.30pm  
New Years Day Thursday 1 January Closed  
Friday 2 January 9am - 5pm

*We wish all our traders and residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year*

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[www.tameside.gov.uk/markets](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/markets)  
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**[pearsonsbutchers.co.uk](http://pearsonsbutchers.co.uk)**  
**[markthebutcher@hotmail.com](mailto:markthebutcher@hotmail.com)**

**Trymee Fashions**  
**Ladies quality clothing & knitwear at affordable prices**

**Units 34A/35/37, Ashton Indoor Market**





# ASHTON MARKET



acupressure massages suitable for any type of body pains such as back pain, arthritis and stress related pains. These treatments can also help any type of muscle pains, menstrual, prostate or infertility problems.

If you are looking to wrap up warm as the weather turns colder then why not visit **Trymee Fashions** who have a fabulous selection of quality clothing including great value knitwear on offer. This year the business has also expanded to Stall 37 to offer an even greater range of clothing essentials.

Established over 38 years, **Spec Tackle** is a familiar sight in Ashton Market Hall with budget to designer frames available. They have hundreds of frames to choose from and all types of lenses too coupled with a friendly and helpful service. If you know your prescription, why not pop in and see how much you can save – the focus is very much on customer service and satisfaction.

Looking for a tasty spit roast chicken? **Cordwell's Deli** has the reputation of some of the finest roast chickens and cooked meats in Ashton. With a mouth-watering selection of gammon, ham shank, ribs, chicken, turkey, beef and much more it's worth checking out – get there early to get your roast sorted! You can now order ready for Christmas too.

Treat yourself to a hot snack at **Wendy & Mandy's Café** who'll keep you nourished during the shopping adventure inside the market hall. The award winning café has also introduced a range of homemade Cheesecakes in a variety of flavours – a perfect treat when you stop for a drink!

Don't forget that all your favourite Ashton Market traders continue to be open during the period of works taking place on Ashton Market Ground. Some outside traders have now been relocated inside the Market Hall whilst others will be based in Fletcher Square.

Your local market traders would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Get the Christmas Spirit at The Off-Licence**  
 Wine & Spirits Specialist Stall 11, Ashton Market Hall  
 Range of Polish spirits - 40 different Malt Whiskies  
 Huge selection of minatures & Gift Sets  
 Over 40 Gins in stock - upto 100 available  
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 Cut Price Cigarettes - E Cigs & Liquids  
 Low prices all year round ! Tel: 07788434964  
 MANY ITEMS CHEAPER THAN SUPERMARKET PRICES!

**VISIT THE AWARD WINNING Wendy & Mandy's Stall 75, Ashton Market Hall**  
 Open 9am-5pm Mon-Sat  
 A warm welcome from Mandy and the team from one of Ashton's longest established cafes!

**Our menu includes all day breakfast, tasty cheese on toast and speciality coffees. We are proud to offer our homemade cheesecakes, soups and 'Tater Ash' so call in and try for yourself!**

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Est. 38 years



# TAMESIDE REMEMBERS

The borough fell silent at 11am on Sunday 9th November as commemorations took place to mark Remembrance Sunday. Tameside's new Chief Executive, Emma Alexander, was joined in Ashton by MP Angela Rayner and other dignitaries. Over in Stalybridge the Executive Council Leader, Councillor Eleanor Wills, MP Jonathan Reynolds, Councillors Doreen Dickinson and others paid their respects. In Mossley Councillors Taf Sharif, Stephen Homer and others attended the service of Remembrance.

*Images courtesy Howard Murphy, Massimino Malacrino and KT.*







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# Visit our libraries this winter for a warm welcome!



Enjoy free Wi-Fi, access to computers, a wide selection of books, and comfortable seating. Our friendly staff are also on hand to assist with a range of customer support services.

*Spread the word - share with friends and family!*



TO CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
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**AT THE AWARD WINNING INDIAN PLAZA**

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Presented by the volunteers of Hyde Fundraisers with kind support of Cllr Denise Ward with the management of The Indian Plaza.



# Serve your community

>> Denton and Audenshaw Rotary Club have been serving the community since 1946 supporting a wealth of good causes locally along with international appeals. The club, which generates the bulk of its funds with their Christmas activities, meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Victoria Park Community Centre

From club activities and social events to volunteer projects and networking opportunities, Rotary members strengthen communities through their professions and service. The Denton and Audenshaw Rotary Club has supported many great local charities and groups including St Mary's Houghton Green Food bank, Dane Bank Green Space, Denton Scouts, Street Treats, Sandwich Angels, Assistance Dogs and many more. The group's current international fundraising is supporting Disaster Aid UK and Ireland whose recent efforts have included relief work at the earthquake sites in Turkey.

Last month Denton and Audenshaw Rotary Club were delighted to work with three schools in Denton – St Thomas More, St Mary's primary and St Fisher



primary – to support the Million Meal Miracle with the charity Feed the Hungry. The event took place on November 5th where the children packed 5000 meals!

The group are delighted to welcome new members and would be delighted to hear from local charities and projects that may be looking for support.

*If you are looking to support your community or find out more why not come along to a meeting or you can email [rotary18989club@gmail.com](mailto:rotary18989club@gmail.com).*

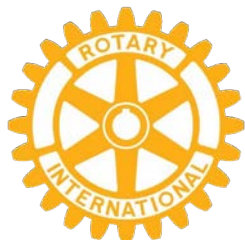


## DENTON & AUDENSHAW ROTARY

In December we will be collecting house to house week-nights. We will be at: **CROWN POINT NORTH CENTRE** on Saturday Nov 29 and Sunday 30 Nov – and – Sat 6 / Sun 7 Dec – and – Sat 13 / Sun 14 Dec – and – we will be at **SAINSBURY'S, DENTON** on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December.

We have been part of the community of Denton and Audenshaw since 1946. We have helped many groups, individuals and organisations locally to achieve their aims and ambitions.

We support international projects and disaster relief.



# Rotary

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US AND HELP DO MORE IN THE FUTURE?

For more information please contact John Forster at [rotary18989club@gmail.com](mailto:rotary18989club@gmail.com)

## Come and join us

**DENTON & AUDENSHAW ROTARY CLUB**  
Charity Commission No. 260307 - Club 18989 - District 1285



# "A LOSS NO VICTORY CAN REPLACE"

**This second part of our feature on some of the Men and Women with Connections to Dukinfield who gave their lives in W.W.2.**

104 men and 2 women, 82 of whom are listed on the main memorial in Dukinfield, on Chapel Hill, were killed in action or died of their wounds between 1939 and 1945. 1 in 3 were under the age of 22. All the Services are represented, Army, Royal Navy, RAF, as well as the Merchant Navy and the A. T. S.

Thomas Lawton Moseley, Wing Commander 228 squadron died in the Sunderland aircraft crash which killed all but 1 of the 15 men crew, which also included the then Duke of Kent. There are several theories as to why this crash occurred, but the official version is crew error. Moseley's mother's family were from Dukinfield, and he had visited many times as a boy.

Merchant Seaman, Raymond Cooper died on August 16th, 1944, when his ship, S.S. Empire Lancer, was torpedoed off Africa. He had lived on Chapel Street and attended St Mark's and Crescent Rd schools. He was an engineer at Massey's engineering in Openshaw.

Private Cora Richardson 21 was serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service when she died in 1941. The A.T.S. had a vital role in supporting the men in combat and paved the way for the future W.R.A.C. Her mother and stepfather lived on Park Road.

A civilian firewatcher, Harry Wadsworth died on duty during an air raid in May 1941 and a policeman serving abroad in Palestine, Harold Harrison, was killed in a rebel attack in October 1941.

There were 12 accidental deaths; because of duty being performed, in this country, in the preparation for active service or because of air raids.

The first Dukinfield young man to die was Private Thomas Stanley, on Oct 10th, 1939. He was the son

of Mr and Mrs George Stanley of Atkin Street. He was just 18, had joined the territorials in 1939 and was sadly killed in a lorry crash, during a training exercise, on Lees Road, Ashton.

He is buried in Dukinfield cemetery along with 12 other casualties of the 1929-45 world war.

Many more are buried near to where they fell, in other campaigns of the war, abroad. They lie in 36 different war grave cemeteries throughout Europe and Asia.

One such was husband and father of a two year old son, Robert Walsh, aged 25, of St Marks St. He was a rifleman in the first battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. and died 14th February 1945. He rests in Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy.

For 20 men there is no known grave. Their name, at least, is recorded on memorials in Britain, Europe and the Far East.

On the Singapore memorial there is the name of a regular soldier, Captain George Heathcote M.B.E. with a previous WW1 distinguished service record. He enlisted again, at the outbreak of the 2nd World War, in the Royal Army Service Corps and was last heard of at the fall of Singapore, in 1942.

All these men and women and the others recorded as having connections to this town answered their country's call and we remember them with gratitude 80 years on.

**Pamela Hitchcock**

## Credit

*This summary was produced using the super research on all the men of W.W.2. done by Mike Pavasovic. His booklet is called, 'Dukinfield 39-45 a record of the town's sacrifice in the Second World War'. It is available from Tameside archives priced £2 and has many more pen portraits.*





# Christmas Cheer

>>> As Christmas comes ever nearer many of us will also be thinking about those spending the festive season alone. Christmas Day is a moment when friends and families get together, and this year Denton Councillor Denise Ward is reaching out with something special planned.

On Christmas Day she will be providing a free traditional lunch with all the trimmings to veterans and those who will be alone this Christmas between 12noon and 3pm. The meal will be hosted at the Victoria Park Community Centre and also supported by volunteers from the Denton Luncheon Club. "I thought Christmas day there are usually people on their own, particularly veterans, and I'm doing a full Christmas Dinner on December



25th", said Councillor Ward. "I'd welcome anyone who might want to come along and provide some entertainment. We'll have the usual the activities like bingo and a raffle so it will be similar to how we do the luncheon club."

The event is being funded through

a grant received from the Greater Manchester Lieutenancy and those who wish to register to attend should email [denise.ward@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:denise.ward@tameside.gov.uk) or call 0161 336 6121. You can also call into the Victoria Park Centre Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning.



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# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

There was lots going on in Tameside for Halloween this year with over a week long celebration – Nightmare on Market Avenue – organised by Monopoly Events in Ashton.

Tameside Markets were also busy with a spooky car show and characters in Hyde, alien Predator and Death Eater in Ashton and Mossley Farmers' Market hosting Deadpool. There was also a party for pensioners at The Grafton Centre in Hyde and Hyde Market had a special event on Saturday November 1st.





# Cookery Corner

## Lancashire Hot Pot

### Ingredients

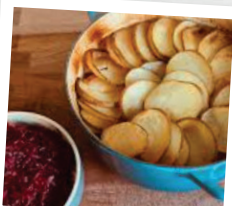
This month's recipe is courtesy of the Tameside Chef - Student chefs producing fine food @tamesidecollege as part of their education.

#### HOT POT

- 500g stewing lamb
- seasoning
- 400g sliced potatoes
- 100g diced onions
- 100g diced carrots
- 100g diced celery
- 25g butter
- 25gm flour
- 50g tomato puree
- 1 litre lamb brown stock
- 25g butter
- chopped parsley

#### Red Cabbage

- 300g shredded red cabbage
- 50g butter
- 125ml red wine or vinegar
- 100g finely diced apple
- 10g sugar



### Instructions

#### HOT POT

- Trim the meat and cut into even pieces
- Fry off the meat and until brown, remove from pan
- In the same pan brown off the vegetables
- Add the lamb back in and mix well
- Add the butter and flour and cook for 2 minutes
- Add the tomato puree and cook out for 3-4 minutes
- Add the lamb stock and cook out for 1 - 1 1/2 hours until the meat is tender. Place in an earthenware dish
- Neatly arrange a layer of potato on the top and brush with butter
- Clean edges of the dish and put in oven at 180C for about 40 minutes, pressing the potatoes down occasionally
- When cooked, clean the edge of the dish

#### Braised Red Cabbage

- Melt the butter and add the cabbage and apple, sweat off for a few minutes, season
- Add the vinegar/red wine cover with buttered paper and a tight fitting lid and place in the oven at 180 C for about 1 hour or until cooked
- Avoid aluminium or iron as this will discolour the cabbage
- Reduce any excess liquid and serve



As the temperature starts to drop and the air gets crisp, the anticipation of the festive season brings a special buzz as we make plans for the coming weeks. Christmas is an eagerly anticipated time for our children, and seeing the excitement on their faces at this time of year as they make cherished memories is really heartwarming.

But Christmastime is also a reminder that not all our young people have the same close network of family and friends to make this time of year extra special. Extending love and compassion is so important, which is why I support the fantastic efforts of the toy and gift collections taking place across the borough. If you can help these wonderful initiatives, then please take your gifts at any of our Tameside libraries or family hubs. The full list of drop-off locations can be found on Action Together's website when you search for Tameside Toy Appeal. You could be the difference to a child's Christmas this year!

Bringing magical moments



Cllr Teresa Smith

and festive cheer to families and little ones is in abundance with many free activities taking place across Tameside. There is something for all ages, from Christmas light switch-ons, a visit from Father Christmas, and winter party celebrations.

The Santa Bus will once again be visiting our family hubs on Thursday 18th December to greet under 5s so they can tell Father Christmas what they have on their wish list.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme will be hosting some winter fun with the Believe in the Magic Christmas Celebration in Hyde. Eligible children will be entertained with music, dancing, and festive characters, which will include a SEND specific celebration.

Be sure to keep an eye out for what's happening across Tameside for both Christmas and non-Christmas themed activities at [www.intameside.co.uk](http://www.intameside.co.uk)







# Christmas Quiz Challenge



1. For which organisation was the first charity Christmas card produced in 1949?
2. Which of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes novels is set during Christmas?
3. What is New Year's Eve known as in Scotland?
4. What was Michael Jackson's only Christmas number 1?
5. The series of epic novels entitled "A Song of Ice and Fire" were transformed into which record breaking TV series?
6. Always popular at Christmas, who wrote the book "The Snowman" on which the popular TV animation was based?
7. What colour is the egg of a robin?
8. What is the name for a baby turkey?
9. Milady Di Winter features as a character in which novel by Alexander Dumas?
10. In which of Shakespeare's plays does the line "Now is the winter of our discontent" appear?
11. The Beatles had three consecutive Christmas number ones in the 60s, who repeated this feat in the 90s?
12. Which English painter was famous for his scenes of the industrial north with their matchstick figures?
13. What drink is traditionally drunk at the end of the Indianapolis 500 motor race?
14. Singer Julio Iglesias was born in which Spanish city?
15. What shape are car licence plates issued in Canada's North West Territories?
16. Created by Richard Curtis, which BBC sitcom starring Dawn French made its debut in November 1994?
17. Who covered Elvis Presley's "Always on My Mind" taking it to the UK Christmas Number one in 1987?
18. The process of heating milk to kill bacteria is named after which French scientist?
19. Which animal are all the witches transformed into in Roald Dahl's "The Witches"?
20. Which movie in 1976 became the first sports movie to win the Best Film Oscar?
21. Which is the fourth planet from the Sun?
22. What number does the Roman numeral L represent?
23. In which sport would you wear an Obi?
24. In which Christmas movie does the town of Bedford Falls feature?
25. Which Nick Park creations were featured on the 2010 UK Christmas stamps?
26. What was the name of Merlin's owl in the Disney movie "The Sword in the Stone"?
27. Who is the eldest of the brothers who front up the group Oasis?
28. What Christmas present did Harry Potter receive from Dumbledore on his first year at Hogwarts?
29. If Bovine relates to cattle what animals does Caprine relate?
30. In which joint of the human body would you find the Trapezoid bone?
31. From which animal does the dried meat Pastrami originate?
32. Who was the Greek God of the Sun?
33. Lois Maxwell played which character in the early James Bond films?
34. What's the name of the carrot that features in the Aldi TV ads?
35. Which actress and comedian appears as Dr Who's companion in the 2006 Christmas special, "The Runaway Bride"?
36. Who composed the music for the Christmas ballet "The Nutcracker"?
37. Which food is the main dish of the Polish Christmas feast?
38. How many Emirates make up the United Arab Emirates?
39. What shape is an Aussie Rules football pitch?
40. The Josh Groban song "Believe" was written for which 2004 Christmas movie?

**Stuck for an answer? Check page 30**







It is that time of year when you think the garden is something to be wrapped up, put away and left until next spring, but there are lots of things that can be done now to help spring be an even better time of year.

Leaves are falling and time to start bagging them up, remember to put holes in the bottom and then find an out of the way place to leave them to break down. Next turn your thoughts to protection, frost and snow can easily kill even hardy plants, time to fleece up and ensure that when the good weather returns your favourite flowers, bushes and herbs are there to greet you. Let us not forget that any tender herbs and small potted plants should really be moved to greenhouses, even the cheaper plastic ones are better than nothing, as it will save you a small fortune in buying new ones, just remember to check them every now and then.

With all that said, there are flowers that love this cold time of year, Cilicica (Winter Aconite) bulbs,

often referred to as 'Winter Aconites' eranthis have butter cup yellow flowers. It thrives in well-drained soil and naturalises very well. Another is Iris unguicularis Despite its delicate looks, this is one tough customer, that's best sited in stony ground at the bottom of a sunny wall. Cut the flower buds and bring them inside to unfurl. It does need full sun, and a starved soil.

It's also the time to start thinking about spring too as gardens never stand still. Do not be mistaken in thinking bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, snowdrops and crocuses can be planted next year. Now is the time to plan your springtime show and this next month is when the planting should be done before the frosts hit.

Lastly, the indoors can have a splash of colour too with the good old deep reds of the Poinsettia and the Christmas cactus with stunning blooms adorning this seasonal favourite.

## Tameside unites for White Ribbon 2025 to end violence against women and girls

As Tameside's Lead for Health and Equalities, and as someone who cares deeply about the safety and dignity of every woman and girl in our borough, I am once again proud to stand with our partners in supporting White Ribbon 2025. This campaign reminds us that ending violence against women and girls begins with men. With good, supportive men who are willing to speak out, challenge harmful attitudes, and help build a community where respect and equality are the norm.

White Ribbon Day on 25 November, is followed by 16 Days of Action. This year's theme, "We Speak Up," urges men to challenge sexist comments and behaviour to reduce domestic abuse and help women and girls feel safe, equal, and respected.

A key focus for this year is supporting female runners, following research by The University of Manchester showing that over two-thirds of women runners in Greater Manchester and Merseyside have faced abuse. Local group East Cheshire Harriers are backing the campaign.

Council licensing officers have also been sharing White Ribbon posters and beer mats with local pubs and clubs during their Operation Nightsafe visits.



Cllr Taf Sharif

Curzon Ashton FC will host an information stand with Bridges Partnership, Tameside's domestic abuse support service. Additional stalls will be at Clarendon shopping centre and Tesco Hattersley, and training sessions will be run for staff and partners.

Together, we can create a Tameside where every woman and girl feels safe, valued, and free to live without fear. But that change starts with us. With men recognising our responsibility, calling out unacceptable behaviour, and standing alongside women in solidarity and action. I encourage everyone to learn more, speak up, and consider becoming a White Ribbon ambassador or champion at [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk).

**When we step forward together, our whole community is empowered to make a real difference.**

**Cllr Taf Sharif**  
Executive Member for Health and Equalities

 **Tameside**  
Metropolitan Borough  
[tameside.gov.uk](http://tameside.gov.uk)





# Ted's fun page

## Oh Christmas Tree...

It is estimated that 6 – 8 million Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.

A typical 6 to 7 feet high Christmas tree is between 10 and 12 years old. Seed is collected from trees either in the wild or in specially selected seed orchards and sown in a nursery where the seedlings then grow for three to four years. The young plants are then planted by a grower and grown on for a further seven to nine years.

About 80% of the trees sold in the UK are Nordmann Fir, around 10–15% Norway Spruce, and the remainder are made up from the other varieties.

The Carbon Trust say a real Christmas tree has a "much lower" carbon footprint than an artificial tree, particularly if it is disposed of thoughtfully. They state that a natural two-metre Christmas tree without roots, disposed of into landfill generates a carbon footprint of around 16kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Ted's Jokes

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

**Claus-trophobia!**

Why did Santa Claus get a parking ticket on Christmas Eve?

**He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.**

What did the Christmas tree do after its bank closed?

**It started its own branch.**

What athlete is warmest in winter?

**A long jumper!**

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?

**The abdominal snowman.**

Every year since 1947, the tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been a gift from the city of Oslo, Norway.

### FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



In a 2004 survey of the nation's favourite smells, real Christmas trees came eighth just behind the sea but ahead of perfume.



Even before the time of Christ, evergreen trees were seen in winter as a symbol of fertility

Manufactured Christmas tree ornaments were first sold by Woolworths in 1880.



The 16th century monk, Martin Luther, is credited with the idea of lights on Christmas trees by adding candles to his tree to look like stars in a forest.



England's first Christmas tree was brought to Windsor by Charlotte, wife of George III, in 1800... but it was the trees brought in the 1840s by Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, that led to their popularity throughout the UK.



The world's tallest Xmas tree at 221ft high was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950



The first use of the term 'Christmas tree' in English was in 1835





**Christmas is a wonderful time for us humans, but sometimes we are so caught up in the festivities we forget about the dangers to our pets. There are lots of hazards that can cause major issues for our pets.**

Keep chocolate away from dogs and pets throughout the festive season. Chocolate is extremely poisonous to dogs so don't get those chocolate tree decorations!

Tinsel is very dangerous for pets for a number of reasons. Firstly, they can get tangled up in it and even strangle themselves. Secondly, they may be tempted to eat it. Swallowing tinsel can cause major digestive issues and it can even get stuck in their stomach.

Fairy lights present the same dangers as tinsel but there is also a chance of your pet getting electrocuted. Don't let them anywhere near fairy lights and they may be tempted to chew on them.

All those fascinating decorations you put on your tree can be very intriguing to pets. They are in fun shapes and sizes and look like the perfect toys to play with, they are not. Christmas tree decorations are not made for pets and contain harmful things that your pet could swallow. Make sure your decorations are high enough and kept out of reach.

Alcohol is very toxic to dogs. It can cause nausea, vomiting, loss of coordination, disorientation, cardiac arrest, seizures and sometimes even death. Keep an eye on your pets when you are drinking alcohol to make sure they don't try and steal any.

Take care when throwing away cooked meat. Your pet could try and get into



the bins and eat the bones. Cooked bones can be very dangerous to pets as they can splinter and get stuck in their stomach.

Both grapes and raisins are toxic to dogs. Raisins are also in lots of different foods that we eat such as mince pies and Christmas pudding, so avoid giving your dog anything that might contain raisins. Raisins can cause kidney failure in some dogs.

It's so easy to overfeed pets over the festive season thinking we are spoiling them and making them happy. Don't change their diet, stick to what you normally feed them.

Mistletoe and holly are also poisonous for pets. Holly can cause severe gastrointestinal upset and mistletoe can cause mild gastrointestinal irritation. Needles from Christmas trees can also cause issues if swallowed and with natural trees pets may try and drink the water if there is a water tray.

So be alert this Christmas so you, your family and pet will have fun over the festive period



## ON THE DRIVER'S SIDE

**Motoring tips from Guide Bridge MOT & Service**

**Winter is nearly upon us and the roads are very soon about to become a hazardous place to be and as drivers need to be prepared so that our car doesn't fail us when we most need it!**

We can start now and prepare your car for the winter months ahead. A simple way of remembering what checks you should be carrying out at this time of year is the acronym WARM, it stands for 'Wipers, Antifreeze, Rubber and Maintenance. There is no substitute for regular servicing and we have many service options available but there is lots you can do yourself in preparation.

**Wipers** – These are an integral part of winter driving both in the rain and snow. Check them once a week to see if they have become worn or damaged, if they have, replace them. Always leave them in the parked position when not in use, this reduces the risk of them freezing. Top up windscreen washer fluid and treat with suitable additive, whatever you do, don't use ordinary engine antifreeze as this could damage your paintwork!

**Anti-freeze** – Check your coolant levels frequently. Is your anti-freeze the correct strength? Has it been diluted? The actual antifreeze will only cost you a few pounds but a frozen and cracked engine will cost hundreds of pounds to repair! Also check your water cooler reservoir and keep it at a maximum level, if it needs continually topping up, there could be a leak on the system somewhere.

**Rubber** – Tyres are very important in the winter, horrible wet, snow and ice could make driving a nightmare. We recommend that you have at least 3mm of tread on your tyres for

winter motoring, you can buy a simple tyre depth gauge for a few pounds, if in doubt call into the garage and we will check them for you. People often think that if you reduce the tyre pressure you will get more grip, don't bother, it doesn't work from our experience and it will reduce stability. Consider changing your tyres to winter tyres. We can store your summer one's for you and then change them back in the spring.

**And the M is for maintenance** - A well maintained car is less likely to stop you from getting to work on time or stop you from getting the children to school... As I said previously, we can service your car at a reasonable cost. Don't forget an annual MOT is a legal requirement, it's a test to ensure your car is safe on the road but it doesn't maintain your car. We can offer you an enhanced MOT, ask at reception when booking in for more details.

Finally check your lights, make sure all your bulbs are working and that your lenses are clean. During the winter the roads get really mucky and did you know that you could be fined if your number plates are dirty and unreadable? Check your battery, when was it last replaced? Batteries rarely last longer than five years. Replace it before it dies, it could save you a lot of time and inconvenience in the long run.

**As you can see a few simple checks yourself can take the headache out of winter motoring. Stay safe this winter, if you are in any doubt please phone Adam at Guide Bridge MOT & Service on 0161 339 5354 and he will guide you through the 'winter driving maze'...**



# HOWARD'S PICTURES FROM THE PAST...



Howard Murphy has had a keen interest in photography for many years and has worked

in the Ashton Town Centre Management office and as part of Tameside Markets team. Each issue he will share some gems from his collection.



Christmas is that truly magical time of year, festive music, shops bedecked in Yuletide décor, fairy lights and Christmas trees.

Over the years Ashton's three main shopping centres - Arcades, Ladysmith and Tameside Markets – have had some magical light displays, grottos and themed events.

Do you remember the innovative 'Santa on the Moon' grotto on the Ladysmith? That was a very special and uniquely different grotto where you were transported to the moon to meet Father Christmas. An area of the centre's car park was developed into a lunar landscape with other planets like earth placed within in the setting. What made it really exciting for both children and adults were the interactive sci-fi characters on the moon which provided some great photo opportunities.

Another enchanting experience was

when the Arcades created a winter wonderland frozen vista with a larger than life-sized moving Yeti, placed in a prime spot where the Black Knight used to stand. This was one of the most popular winter events. The Arcades have had several Santa's grottos over the years with wooden structures upstairs near the former Woolworths and Wilko stores. More recently, families could take a walk down the aptly named Candy Cane Lane to meet Santa in his grotto.

Tameside Markets have a great record of putting on impressive Christmas






displays, their annual tall tree, near to the family seating area, is always a great feature for visitors. Previously, they also held outdoor Christmas markets using Scandinavian style chalet grottos which were also extremely popular.

*Images and text by Howard Murphy*



## CHRISTMAS QUIZ CHALLENGE ANSWERS



1. UNICEF
2. "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" 
3. Hogmanay
4. "Earth Song" in 1995
5. "Game of Thrones"
6. Raymond Briggs
7. Blue 
8. Poult
9. The Three Musketeers
10. Richard III
11. The Spice Girls
12. LS Lowry 
13. Milk

14. Madrid
15. Polar Bear Shape 
16. The Vicar of Dibley
17. Pet Shop Boys
18. Louis Pasteur (Pasteurisation) 
19. Mice
20. Rocky 
21. Mars
22. Fifty
23. Judo
24. "It's A Wonderful Life"
25. Wallace & Gromit
26. Archimedes

27. Noel Gallagher
28. Invisibility Cloak
29. Goats
30. The Wrist
31. Cow
32. Apollo
33. Miss Money Penny 
34. Kevin 
35. Catherine Tate
36. Tchaikovsky
37. Carp
38. Seven
39. Oval
40. The Polar Express 



# WHAT'S ON

## A BRIEF ROUNDUP OF SOME ACTIVITIES THIS DECEMBER

### DECEMBER 1ST

#### Tameside Junior Chess Club

Flowery Field Primary School, Hyde, 6-8pm

Every Monday learn to play chess at this fun club which operates during term time. Admission £1 and includes refreshments. Open to all ages and abilities.

### DECEMBER 2ND- 6TH

#### Snow White

Hyde Festival Theatre, Corporation Street Hyde SK14 1AB

A traditional pantomime for all the family.

### DECEMBER 3RD

#### Time Out

King Street, Droylsden – From 10am

The first Wednesday of each month Time Out supports carers, people who feel lonely or isolated, those who may have lost a loved one or perhaps just having a difficult time. To find out more you can call Gwen Barr on 07491 880452 or email [timeout@thedreamcentre.co.uk](mailto:timeout@thedreamcentre.co.uk)

#### Droylsden Leathercraft

The Cabin on The Ash Road Allotments, Droylsden M43 6QU

The group meets every Wednesday from 1pm - 6pm, although it's a drop in and people are free to come and go as they wish. A chance to be creative with leather crafts.

### DECEMBER 5TH

#### Mossley Christmas Switch On

George Lawton Hall - Mossley

The event starts with a Christmas fair at the George Lawton Hall and moves to Mossley Market Place for the switch-on at 7:00 PM.

#### Hattersley Christmas Switch On

The Hub, Hattersley 4pm-8pm

Join the fun with Tameside Voices Choir, Christmas Market, Santa's Grotto with the lights on at 6pm.

### DECEMBER 6TH

#### The Grinch

Hyde Market Hall, 11am-2pm

Join the green monster for fun at Hyde Market Hall and if you impress him there may be a sweet treat for you from Poppy's Fudge Pantry!

#### Play Your Cards Right

Ashton Market Hall, From 11am

Try your hand at Play Your cards Right for a chance to win a prize from one of the Market Traders!

#### Micklehurst Christmas Switch On

Mossley Youth Base, Micklehurst 4.30-7pm

Join Santa as Micklehurst lights up for the festive season.

#### Festive Brass

Victoria Market Hall, Stalybridge, from 7pm

On Saturday 6th December 2025, the historic Stalybridge Civic Hall will sparkle with the sounds of The Best of Christmas Brass with Stalybridge Old Band. Doors open at 7pm, and the music begins at 7:30pm, so grab your friends, your family, and your Christmas spirit for an unforgettable evening.

### DECEMBER 13TH

#### Mossley Ukelele Group

Ashton Market Hall, From 11am

Come and enjoy the music of the Mossley Ukelele group.

#### Santa at Hyde Market Hall

11am-2pm - Hyde Market Hall

Come and meet Father Christmas with your local market traders

### DECEMBER 20TH & 21ST

#### Santa's Grotto

Sincerely Yours, Market Avenue, Ashton

Book your tickets to meet Santa before the big day.

## FILM OF THE MONTH

### AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH



Jake and Neytiri's family grapples with grief after Neteyam's death, encountering a new, aggressive Na'vi tribe, the Ash People, who are led by the fiery Varang, as the conflict on Pandora escalates and a new moral focus emerges.

## GAMING - With Bobby Kent

### METROID PRIME 4: BEYOND - DECEMBER 4TH

Samus returns in the long-awaited continuation of the Metroid Prime saga, with next-generation performance on Switch 2. On the planet of Viewros, the iconic galactic bounty hunter accidentally acquires new psychic powers that will soon prove key to her survival on a strange alien world.



## EVENT

### GEE CROSS GINGERBREAD TRAIL - DECEMBER 21ST

On Sunday 21st December, you're invited to attend Gee Cross Community Centre, where the trail will begin. The gingerbread characters will be posted around the village, each with a special letter that will spell out the secret code. Once the code is cracked, you will receive a special treat. There's also a raffle and bottle tombola, children's photo booth, children's colouring activities and more. Santa will also be popping along so you can tell him about those last minute presents too!







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