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May 2026 - Local Business & Community News - Shopping & What's On guide



STEP INSIDE ASHTON TOWN HALL - SEE PAGES 16 & 17



SPRING FESTIVAL
- PAGE 4 -



MEET NATALIE
- PAGE 10 -



A NEW SHERIFF
- PAGE 24 -

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 - Tameside College - Luke Mirfin - Hyde Fundraisers - Massimino Malacrino - Ashton Town Team - Eileen Smith - Gabriels Guys - Steve Crompton - Natalie Cuifo - Make Ashton Great Again - Grafton Centre Hyde - Mark Llewelin dl - Ashton St Peters Youth Partnership - BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - Ian Cochrane - Civic Mayor Of Tameside Shibley Alam - Anthony Seddon Fund - Emma Alexander

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Highlights this issue...

BLOOMING GREAT FUNDRAISER	3
SPRING FESTIVAL	4
STALYBRIDGE STREET FEST RETURN	6
MEET HYDE VOCALIST NATALIE	10
JOIN GABRIELS GUYS	12
SPRING FAIR AT GRAFTON CENTRE.....	13
INSIDE ASHTON TOWN HALL	16 & 17
HERITAGE	18
STALYBRIDGE SPRING SHOW	23
NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN	24
QUIZ	25
WHAT'S ON	31

Deadline for our June 2026 issue is May 21st

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ASHTON SCI FI DAY MAY 2ND

THE VOLUNTEERS OF HYDE FUNDRAISERS INVITE YOU TO THE FINALE OF OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. WE ALSO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF SCI FI EVENTS IN ASHTON

SEE CHEWBACCA AND R2D2 AT LADYSMITH SHOPPING CENTRE WHICH HOSTS THIS YEARS COSPLAY COMPETITION AT 12.30

JOIN US AS WE ALSO MAKE DONATIONS TO CHARITIES INCLUDING RSPCA ANTHONY SEDDON FUND BEECHWOOD CANCER CARE TAMESIDE LITTLE GEMS



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Bloomin great show

➤➤ The much-anticipated Flower Festival returns to Willow Wood Hospice in 2026 for its 10th edition, taking place on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May.

Guided by a wonderfully dedicated committee, this cherished annual event is set to bloom more beautifully than ever.

This year's festival will be inspired by the enchanting world of Beatrix Potter, where beloved tales spring to life in petals and posies.

Visitors can wander through delightful floral displays inspired by Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle-Duck, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle and friends, each arrangement lovingly crafted by talented individuals and community groups. Expect plenty of hare-raising creativity, utterly quacking designs, and hedgehog-worthy masterpieces nestled among the blooms.

As you meander through the stunning exhibits, you can soak up the tranquility of the Hospice's picturesque gardens – the perfect setting for a springtime celebration where every flower tells a story and compassion continues to blossom.

Many of the showcased



displays will be available to purchase, giving you the opportunity to take home a little piece of the magic, while helping vital funds grow for patients in our care.

Opening times:

- Saturday 9th May: 10am – 4pm
- Sunday 10th May: 11am – 4pm

Entry is £3.50, with all proceeds supporting Willow Wood Hospice. Admission is free for children aged 12 and under.

Light refreshments will be available – perfect for enjoying a cup of tea and a sweet treat as you let the afternoon drift by.

Please note that parking at Willow Wood Hospice is restricted to patients, families, Blue Badge holders and our workforce. Willow Wood Close is a residents' permit parking area. Alternative parking is available



nearby at the Darnton Road Pay & Display car park (postcode OL6 6RL).

To take part in the event or for more information about the Flower Festival, please contact Eileen Smith on 07799 172 313.

Come along and watch kindness, community and creativity blossom at this very special tenth celebration.

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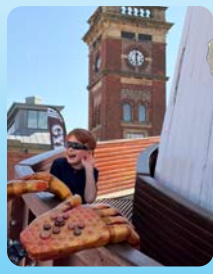
ASHTON SPRINGS WITH LIFE WITH FESTIVAL

Families enjoy Spring
events in Ashton

Tameside's spectacular Spring Family Festival featured three days of free activities and performances in Ashton town centre with part of the market ground opened up to host the events.

Ashton Market Square will open its doors this July following a £10.8M transformation programme, funded by UK Government Levelling Up money. The two-day Ashton Spring Preview in Ashton Market Square included free vintage fairground rides, carnival, theatre, dance and music performances, free face painting, balloon modelling and arts and crafts, and street food stalls.

Day four of the Spring Family Festival was back in Ashton Market Square for a Super Saturday taster event on 11th April. This foodie family event will give a food and drink themed preview of the Super Saturday events planned for Ashton once the market square is fully back open in the summer.



DON'T MISS SCI-FI DAY

On May 2nd Ashton town centre will once again be home to characters from the world of fantasy, superheroes and science fiction when Hyde Fundraisers return with the annual event.

For 2026 the events cosplay competition is being organised at Ladysmith Shopping Centre by The Anthony Seddon Fund and is open to all ages taking place from 12.30. Also making their home at the centre for the event will be lovable droid R2D2 along with a display featuring Wookiee Chewbacca to provide some great photo opportunities for visitors.

To mark 25 years of Ashton's Sci-Fi events there is also a photo display celebrating previous events and the memory of Peter Hawley.

At the library see if you can spot Batman and there's free colouring activities available.

Ashton Market Hall is also hosting a demonstration by Sitsiam Martial arts taking place to showcase their 'out of this world'



skills and there's live music performance from young Jack Doyle.

Hyde Fundraisers is a voluntary group which have raised money for good causes since 1985 using characters from Dr Who, Star Wars and many other out of this world franchises. Charities to benefit from this year's Sci-Fi Day will include Tameside Little Gems, The Anthony Seddon Fund, RSPCA, Beechwood Cancer Care and Door 84.

Ashton Sci-Fi Day is organised by Hyde Fundraisers and sponsored by Ladysmith Shopping Centre, Tameside Markets along with Ashton Town Team through their UK Government Pride in Place funding.

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TAKEN IN TAMESIDE

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We'd love to hear from you!



STREET FEST SUCCESS

Joining Tameside Council's Spring Festival was the launch of this year's Stalybridge Street Fest on Friday April 10th.

With work still being undertaken on town centre improvements around Armentieres Square I'm



sure many were curious how the first event would go. The fears were allayed with the organiser's planning working well to deliver the usual mix of food traders and entertainment. Once again the Victoria Market Hall hosted a pop-up market organised by Little Owl.



Canal and Riverboat Trust planter at Stalybridge canal
Howard Murphy



View on the way towards Greenfield – Sam Shaw



Stalybridge train station - Sam Shaw



St Gabriel's Church - KT



Comedy duo return to farmers' market

On Sunday May 31st the second Mossley Farmers Market will welcome back a couple of friends who appeared at the first event in July last year!

Veteran comedy heroes Laurel & Hardy are making a welcome return to the award-winning market courtesy of Sailors Beware in Hyde. The group, part of the Sons of the Desert

fanclub, meet on the last Thursday of the month at the Cheshire Ring in Hyde where they screen vintage comedies featuring the duo.



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Aspirations students' creative artwork wins top prize

Tameside College students take first prize in regional skills competition after collaboration with local artist.



Students from the college's Aspirations department have been recognised for their creativity after taking part in the Greater Manchester Skills Competitions.

The competition, which took place on Tuesday 17th March 2026, challenged students from colleges across Greater Manchester to celebrate their local heritage by developing a product inspired by research.

As part of the project, students worked in teams to develop their ideas, create their products and then present to a panel of judges.

Tameside College's students based their project on the borough's tulip heritage, linking their work to the tulip trail initiative, which has been organised by Tameside Council. As

part of this, they collaborated with local artist Simon Mound to design the 'unity tulip', which is now installed outside the college's Tameside One campus.

To develop the tulip, students explored works by Turner prize winning artist Nnena Kalu and Antoni Gaudi and also took part in a visit to Tameside Archives and Local Studies to learn about the historical connection between the borough and tulip flowers.

Karen Czernuszka, SEND teacher at Tameside College, said: "We are incredibly proud of our students for the creativity and teamwork they have shown throughout this project. From researching local heritage to developing their own ideas and presenting them with confidence, they have gained

valuable real world skills. Seeing their work contribute to the tulip trail and be recognised at the GM Skills competition is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and dedication."

Simon Mound, said: "I'd like to thank the Aspirations department for bringing me into this project and congratulate them on their success in the GM Skills Competitions, it is incredibly well deserved and they have worked hard to achieve this."

The piece will now be on display throughout the summer for young people and children to explore as part of the tulip trail, alongside others created by various local community groups.

To find out more about courses at Tameside College, visit the college website or call 0161 908 6600.



STALYBRIDGE STREET FEST

FRIDAY 8 MAY | 5PM - 9PM
ARMENTIERES SQUARE



MEET VOCALIST NATALIE

➤➤ Natalie Ciufu from Hyde is a full-time professional event singer that specialises in jazz and vintage. Apart from professional engagements she is also well known for performing at care homes and charitable events in Tameside and beyond. We asked Natalie how she got into singing.

Oh well, there's a story here. When I was younger and I wanted to be a singer, my mum and dad both thought I was tone deaf because I couldn't pitch a note. I found my voice when I was in year six in primary school, we did a production of Snow White and the Seven Jockeys which is a Roald Dahl's version. I found my voice then and I did a lot of amateur dramatics with Tameside Youth Drama Group and I went on to study musical theatre in Blackpool.

So, what was your influence in those early days and the type of sound you were into growing up?

I'm very lucky to have been exposed to so many different musical influences.

I used to emulate the sound of people's voices so for example I'd listen to Shania Twain, and I'd try and emulate the way she sounded. I also loved musical

theatre so that was a heavy influence but really it's a bit of everything. I've got a rich repertoire.

When I was at University I trained and had singing lessons so I learned more about what was actually going on and what I was actually doing already. Naturally we had different exams that we had to take and one of those exams was in the jazz style and I just fell in love.

Has that become your favourite medium now?

Yes, I absolutely love that style. I love the sound and I love the aesthetic and I've really tapped into that visual style as well. I just think it marries together well and it suits my voice. Earlier on I did a lot of different genres and I was trying to stretch myself too much and do what everybody wanted. I thought what do I really enjoy doing? What's a little bit niche, what's marketable and what is it that I absolutely love. I landed upon the vintage sound and those songs because I just think music is so nostalgic as well and it can really bring people together in a way that other things can't.

So, it must be quite a difference going from doing it for fun to going professional, so what kind of challenges did that throw up?

I mean I absolutely love what I do. But when you decide to take something that is a hobby and make it into your career, inevitably there is the pressure that comes with it and all the admin. So much goes on behind the scenes, you don't just sing. You have to learn to do many different roles, which is wonderful because it develops me as a person, but it also means that you're juggling so much. The opportunities when I actually do get to sing, that's the best bit.

In March you performed in Ashton and you've recently had a, a very intimate gig in Hyde?

Yes, it was a trial for a new venue, and I've confirmed now that I'm going to be running a speakeasy at Elevation 13. It's



the first Friday of every month. So that is super exciting. It's a lovely, intimate venue and I'm going to be running that and inviting other artists as well, which I'm really excited about because it always means so much when you can provide opportunities for others as well. I'm passionate about it being in Hyde because this is my home and there's nothing really like it in the Tameside area that I know of.

So, if people want to find out more about you when you're going to be performing, how they can book you to perform, how would they get in touch?

Well, I'm on all the socials so if you type in Natalie Ciufu I am on Facebook, Instagram and online www.natalieciufu.com and you can email me at: info@natalieciufu.com.

Images Massimino Malacrino/KT



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Join Gabriel's Guys

Gabriel's Guys is a social support group for men based at St Gabriel's Church in Ashton-under-Lyne. Meeting weekly on Thursdays, the group offers a welcoming space for conversation, camaraderie, and activities like Scalextric racing and indoor seated cycling. We chatted to Steve Crompton to find out all it began.

I'm from the area originally and have a good relationship with the church in terms of through separate work I carried out coming in with talks and things on community engagement. I used to run a men's group for another organisation and the church asked me if I could sort of get involved and form a gentleman's group.

We spent six months planning in terms of obtaining funding, getting the numbers, getting the planning sorted out, looking at activities we carry out as well. So, one week we're based here at St. Gabriel's Church and the following week we'll be having an activity.

So, is it self-generated funds then?

Some of it is, but some of it is obtained through the church Diocese, Action Together and Tameside Council.

What kind of age groups do you have involved

Our youngest member is



mid-30s and our eldest is mid-80s. The group is for any type of man, you know, there's no particular criteria. We've got some men who are divorced, bereaved, some have got some health problems or mobility problems, some maybe early signs of dementia.

The benefit of them getting involved and coming here is to build confidence, try new experiences, new activities. We had a trip into Manchester some months ago, went visited John Rylands Library and one of the gentlemen had not been into Manchester for 30 years.

If someone wants to come and attend, what's the criteria?

We've got a Facebook page so you can follow our page on Facebook which is called Gabriel's Guys.

Within there we've got a WhatsApp facility where you can press a button that will link you straight to me. We've also got an email address which is gabrielsguysgroup@outlook.com or just pop in the church, and pick up a leaflet, and take it from there.

Thanks to Steve for taking to About Tameside.

ASPYA Fun Day

Ashton St Peters Youth Alliance held their event on Friday March 27th at Active Oxford Park.

There were lots of activities for families to try from cooking to podcasting plus stalls from LEAP Children's Centre, Community Fire Safety, Greater Manchester Police and others. There was a bouncy castle and free ice creams too for visitors to enjoy.



Spring Fair at Grafton

Hyde's Grafton Centre welcomed a mix of traders to its Spring Fair on Saturday April 11th.

From delicious cakes to 3d printed designs the event also featured a Tombola and refreshments. The centre now has a membership of over 500 and growing, they have also added some new groups and classes recently, including 'Indoor Kurling' and 'Tai Chi for Arthritis'. The Grafton Centre offers a wide and varied

range of activities each day such as Zumba, Line Dancing, Bingo, Art Workshops, Indoor Bowling and much more.

The volunteers at The Grafton Centre have also been recognised by the Kings Award for Voluntary Service.





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Mayor's Charity Ball

➤➤ The Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Shibley Alam, held the annual Fundraising Ball to help raise funds for the mayor's nominated charities.

Guests included Executive Leader of Tameside Council, Cllr Eleanor Wills and Stalybridge and Hyde MP Jonathan Reynolds.

Many other local Mayor's also appeared at the event at Dukinfield Town Hall on March 28th.

Proceeds will go to the mayor's chosen charities: Willow Wood Hospice, Hyde Bangladesh Welfare Association & the Women's Trust Fund for The Christie
Images by Massimino Malacrino/KT



Festival on the Green

Friends of Hollingworth will hold a Festival on the Green at Wednesough Green on Saturday, May 23rd. Running from 11am to 4.30pm, including artisan stalls, balloon modeller, climbing wall, axe throwing, an RSPCA dog show and more.

Fancy Half a Hero?

This year's Tour of Tameside - the iconic four-day running event - is back from June 18th with Thursday's X-Trail 10k and concludes on June 21st with Sunday's Dr Ron Hill Hyde 7. Although the full tour is now booked up you can still enter individual races for Hyde 7 and the Hero Half Marathon - visit <https://www.thetourevents.co.uk/> for info.

Finding Rainbows

A Tameside-based charity supporting families through the devastating loss of a baby or child has received a significant funding boost to expand its vital services. Finding Rainbows, located in Ashton-under-Lyne, has been awarded £50,500 from Global's Make Some Noise.

Passed GO!

Andy Kleek and Monopoly events have secured full ownership of Clarence Arcade in Ashton after a year of negotiations. They had already purchased part of the property last year, but the full Clarence Arcade site will now be developed as a unique shopping destination.

Event 4RICKY

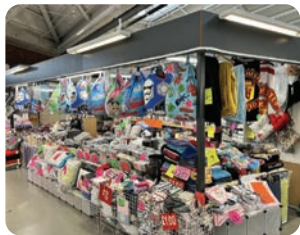
It's been announced that on June 7th a special event will be taking place at the AO arena raising funds for the Ricky Hatton Foundation. 4RICKY will see music stars, celebrities and sporting heroes come together to celebrate the legacy of Ricky Hatton.

Generous Donation

A special themed night at The Chutney Masala in Mossley has raised £1100 for The Christie. Funds from the event will go towards a new PET-CT full body scanner at The Christie, set to be the first of its kind in the North of England, helping to enhance cancer diagnosis and treatment.

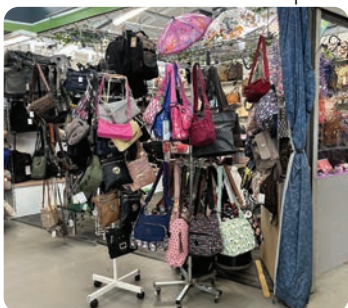
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MARKET NEWS



➤➤ **There's lots happening at your local markets this month with our award winning Farmers Market in Mossley on May 31st, Real Deal Record Fair in Ashton on May 16th and before those we have Stalybridge Street Fest on May 8th!**

There's some great pieces of jewellery on offer at **Joe & Sons Jewellers!** Located on the upper sales floor of Hyde Market Hall, you'll find watches, clocks, bracelets, rings and necklaces at great prices as well as an expert repair service with a personal friendly service from Joe and Elvis! When facing a bereavement one of the important considerations is choosing the right floral tribute. Located on the upper floor **Twisted Lily** offers flowers for all occasions specialising in bespoke beautiful designs in memory of a family member or friend. The stall is open 9.30am-4pm Tuesday to Saturday and you can find them online at www.twistedlily.uk. If you need a trim, why not visit **Carl's Barbers**. You can grab a haircut from Carl during the week Mon-Tues 9am-4.30pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am -2.30pm and



Saturday 9am until 4pm.

Meanwhile at Ashton Market Hall, **Len Brown Textiles** opposite Pearsons Family Butcher in the Market Hall. The stall offers a range of home textiles from bath towels and pillowcases to bedding and other home essentials. A few months ago Magpie's haberdashery has now become **Ben's Haberdashery** with everything you need from buttons and ribbons to fabrics and needles and lots more to satisfy your creative needs. The staff are happy to offer their expertise to aid you on your next arts and crafts adventure. Have you visited our new stall selling beautiful unique gifts for all occasions called **Its.2.say?** The stall is open

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9am until 4pm, find them on Facebook too!

For those looking for an amazing selection of purses, bags and cases then check out the **Bags Boutique** (formerly Sweet Station) which offers a great range to choose from.

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



Ashton Market Presents

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INSIDE ASHTON TOWN HALL

As engagement begins on plans to bring Ashton Town Hall back into use by 2030, we feature some of the latest photographs showing the current state of the civic building.

Ashton Town Hall is an important historic building. The aim is to protect its heritage while creating modern, welcoming spaces for culture, learning, community use, and businesses.

Work done so far (Since 2023)

- Repairs to the outside stonework and parapet.
- Detailed surveys to understand the building's needs.
- Design work for improved steps and better access.
- Council approval in October 2025 to move forward with detailed plans.
- Early design ideas prepared in early 2026 for public feedback.

What ideas are being planned (subject to permissions)

- A new entrance with lifts and a

staircase for better access to the rear of the building.

- Restoring the ballroom and creating new events space.
- A café or coffee shop facing Market Square.
- A restaurant.
- New community and commercial spaces, including possible co-working areas.
- A new home for the Museum of the Manchester Regiment.

Indicative Timeline

- 2025 - Approval to develop the next stage of designs and continue repair work.
- Early 2026 - Public engagement on design options and further technical surveys.
- 2026 - 2027 - Detailed design, listed building consent and planning work.
- 2028 - Target start for construction (phased).
- 2030 - Target completion (subject to

funding and permissions).

Funding and Governance

Decisions on the plans are made by Tameside Council Executive Cabinet with feedback from local people, stakeholders, and businesses. The project is part of broader improvements in Ashton town centre. Earlier repairs used Levelling Up funding. The council will apply for more funding after listed building consent is approved.

Community Engagement

A public drop-in event took place on Tuesday 24th March at Ashton Library, Tameside One. People were able to view the design ideas and share their thoughts. More engagement opportunities will follow as design work progresses.

With thanks to TMBC, Cllr Eleanor Wills, Cllr Andrew McLaren and Chief Executive Emma Alexander.





DENTON MEMORIES

Crown Point in Denton has changed enormously through the years not only structurally but also with its businesses. We can remember those days gone by through photographs which are available on the Tameside Local Studies & Archive website www.tameside.go.uk/history and searching the archive images.

Crown Point gets its name from a place situated in northern New York, near the border with Vermont where a battle took place between the English and French during the American Revolutionary War. George Clarke who owned land locally was awarded the title of Lieutenant-Governor of New York and in commemoration of the English victory he named the new town centre Crown Point.

Some businesses that have gone can still be remembered, Sally's once a haberdashery now sells school uniforms and Henry Collins chemist became Collins and Butterworth. William Deacon's Bank is now run by the Royal Bank of Scotland, The Red

Lion pub has stayed the same and its history can be dated back to 1790, but the Kings Head across the road is now known as The George Kirkpatrick. In 1867 the pub was rebuilt and George Kirkpatrick was the first landlord, he also ran the Denton Omnibus company. His son Robert became the landlord of the pub from 1880's to 1900.

The interesting building on the opposite corner in a 1930 trade directory is noted as being John Hulme & Son, Tripe Dressers, this is a vanishing trade but there have been many such businesses in Denton – Samuel Buckley and Harry Brooks on Market Street were next door but one to one another.

On Hyde Road behind the bank used to be The British Felt Hatting Manufactures, which is no longer standing but the grand building next door now a tile shop used to be Crawshaw & Beardshaw stockbrokers. The Public Telephone Office, confectioners - Knowles and Edward Fitchett, Mary Burgess - Draper and Levaggi's - ice cream makers all stood where Morrison's is now.



MOSSLEY Farmers MARKET

Sunday 31 May
10am until 2.30pm

Last Sunday of the Month
Market Street Car Park, Mossley, OL5 0HE



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Market Award



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BAPS Hindu temple in Ashton-under-Lyne leads volunteer initiative to clean local neighbourhood

Volunteers from BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, the Hindu temple on Lees Road in Ashton-under-Lyne, took to the streets on Sunday 12th April 2026 to clean up and rejuvenate the local neighbourhood.

The initiative was part of the recent Great British Spring Clean initiative, the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign during which thousands of bags of litter are filled around the country.

The annual event is organised by Keep Britain Tidy, a leading independent environmental charity that works to inspire, educate and enable everyone in the country to value the environment on their doorstep.

Mayur Patel, a lead

community outreach volunteer at the temple, added, "His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the global spiritual leader of the BAPS Hindu fellowship and the inspirer of the Mandir, teaches us to respect and care for the environment and to serve our local communities as a part of our social responsibility. Seeing so many volunteers come together for such a worthy cause is a testimony of the community spirit between the temple and its neighbours and demonstrates the transformative power and impact of collective action. "We would also like to thank Keep Britain Tidy for its tremendous work in helping keep our country cleaner and greener for more than 70 years. We look forward to continuing to support their valuable community work."



HUNDREDS OF TAMESIDE RESIDENTS ACCESS NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT SPRING JOBS FAIR

Spring Jobs Fair saw over 700 residents attend Tameside's Spring Jobs Fair to meet employers face-to-face and discover new careers.

Organised by Tameside Council's Employment and Skills team, the Jobs Fair was held at Dukinfield Town Hall on Wednesday 1st April and showcased a wide range of employers, training providers, and support services across three halls.

Attendees of all ages were able to chat with and learn more about employers from a variety of sectors across the borough, apply for jobs live on the day, and find new opportunities they may not have known about previously.

There was also training, support, and skills providers on hand to help people with their employment journey. Residents could access CV advice, job application guidance, and interview support.

The free drop-in event provided benefits for both attendees and employers. Those running stalls included Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue

Service, Tameside Music Service, Hyde Group, Smart Works, The Job Gym, local colleges, and many of Tameside Council's teams.

Visitors to the fair shared plenty of positive feedback, including that it had "lots of variety", was "very well organised" and had "kind and informative" staff.

Tameside Council's Strategic Director of Children's Services, Jill Colbert said: "It's fantastic to see so many residents engaging with the opportunities available across Tameside.

"Our jobs fairs help people take real steps towards their future - whether that's securing a new job, accessing training, or building confidence.

"We're proud to support our community in finding pathways that help them thrive."

The Jobs Fair is held twice a year and will return in Autumn, offering more chances for employers and jobseekers to connect.

For support in the meantime, email employmentandskills@tameside.gov.uk or call 0161 342 3111.



ASHTON'S SCI-FI FUN



FUNDRAISERS AT 40

Back in 2001 Ashton Town Centre Manager Peter Hawley got together with Hyde Fundraisers to develop a new regular event for the town centre.

The fruits of the collaboration were the Ashton Sci-Fi Weekend, bringing together the town centre to host an invasion of out of this world characters. It was also an opportunity to support good causes and through the years it raised funds for Willow Wood Hospice, Whizz Kids, Child

Victim Support and Children in Need. In recent years the event has focused on one day of activities, but charities have still played an important part. Recent beneficiaries have featured The Anthony Seddon Fund, Our Kids Eyes, LEAP Children's Centre, Denton Autistic Families Support, Tameside Little Gems, Andy's Manclub, Mentell, St Anne's Hospice and the RSPCA.

Images by Howard Murphy – Hyde Fundraisers – Massimino Malacrino





BACK FOR 2026

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

We're looking for volunteers to be part of The Tour's support team - come along and show your support.

Whether you'd like to take part on one race day or all four; come and join the team!

From helping with the set up of each event to being a street marshal cheering on runners, photography or even manning a water station, it's a great opportunity to get involved with one of Tameside, Oldham and Glossop's major annual events of 2026.



We need dedicated and motivated individuals or business and community groups to help make this year's event a huge success on the following event dates:

Thursday 18th June - Daisy Nook (evening)

Friday 19th June - Copley (evening)

Saturday 20th June - Longdendale / Hadfield (morning/early afternoon)

Sunday 21st June - Hyde (morning/early afternoon)



It wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers

Contact Us Today About Volunteering

Email: community@notreallyheremedia.com

Visit our website

www.thetourevents.co.uk

The Tour is sponsored by



GET READY FOR STREET LIFE



Hot on the heels of Ashton's Sci-Fi Day another

blockbuster event is coming to the town on June 6th with the latest instalment of Street Life.

The event, organised by Andy Kleek and Monopoly Events, takes place on Market Avenue with a

range of activities happening. Standing proud at the heart of the fun will be the giant Staypuft marshmallow man that will provide some awesome photos!

Visitors can expect celebrity guests, movie props, Live music performances and a DJ plus street entertainment and costume characters. Last year's



events were a huge success in the town centre and this first Street Life for 2026 is expected to attract huge numbers to the town centre once again. Last year's amazing attractions including a life-sized Scout Walker, Darth Vader's Tie Fighter, movie vehicles and celebrity guests such as Jimmy Vee, Spencer Wilding and Ricky Tomlinson.

The event on June 6th will also include traders alongside food and drink vendors to add to activities taking place.

To get involved as a performer, trader, volunteer, or support the event in other ways contact the organisers on Facebook or email info@tamesideofficial.co.uk.

STALYBRIDGE SPRING SHOW



Spring is in the Air as members of Stalybridge Festival Committee are putting the finishing touches to the arrangements for their annual Stalybridge Spring Show in Cheetham Park on Sunday 3 May.

Organising Secretary (Ian Cochrane) advises that we have a bumper filled day of activities for all the family starting at 11.00am and includes live entertainment from 12 noon. We will also be having a large family fun fair, hot food stalls and many trader and community stalls. We will once again have our 5-metre-high Maypole taking centre stage in the Performance Arena in the Park.

Members of Sarah England School of Dance will be performing 2 choreographed dances around the Maypole in their spectacular outfits. There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to also show off their talents in a "community demonstration dance" around the Maypole.

For animal lovers there will also be

a Fun Dog Show starting at 1.45pm. Anyone wanting to enter their dogs will just need to turn up and register on the day. The entry fee is £2 per category.

The categories will be:

- Dog with the Loveliest Eyes
- Dog with the Waggiest Tail
- The Cutest Puppy
- Best Presented Dog
- Best Rescue Dog

The winner of each category will also be competing for the title of Best Dog in Show. There will also be Dog Agility demonstrations throughout the day in its own performance area.

Ian added that "There will be lots of activities for all the family to have a great day in the Park and help us raise



extra funds towards this year's 50th anniversary Carnival to be held on Sunday 28 June."

Ian Cochrane (Organising Secretary) On behalf of Stalybridge Festival Committee.

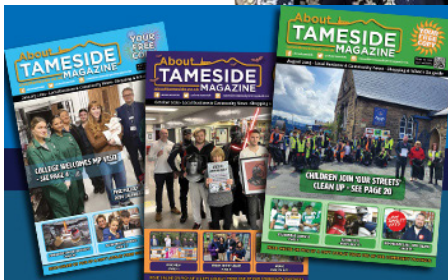
A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN



On Saturday April 11th Dukinfield Town Hall welcomed a plethora of distinguished guests for the installation of the new High Sheriff of Greater Manchester.

Mark Llewellyn DL was appointed in the role until April 2027 and at the event attendees included mayors, councillors, community representatives and celebrities that featured Coronation Street royalty, Barbara Knox! The ceremonial role is normally awarded to people of stature in Greater Manchester who have significantly and positively contributed in some way to the county's community either through voluntary work or through commerce or industry. In early April it was also announced that Mark would become the new Patron at Guide Bridge Theatre too.

Images by Massimino Malacrino



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For details about advertising please email us at tamesidecommunitynews@gmail.com

Quiz Challenge

1. Poland, China and Pietrain are breeds of what farmyard animal?
2. Which London store claims to have invented the Scotch Egg?
3. In 1991, who became the first FIFA Women's World Cup winners?
4. What birds were used as messengers in TV's "Game of Thrones"?
5. Which are the only TWO books in the Bible named after women?
6. The Golden Lion is the highest award at which International film festival?
7. David Brierly and John Leeson provided the voice of which Dr Who character?
8. What nationality was the inventor of Morse Code, Samuel Morse?
9. Which three colours feature on the flag of Italy?
10. What is the most abundant gas in the Earth's atmosphere?
11. Globe and Jerusalem are varieties of which vegetable?
12. In which 1968 film was Truly Scrumptious a character?
13. What sign of the zodiac is represented by a lion?
14. What record gave Take That their first UK no.1 single?
15. How many players make up a hockey team?
16. What was the name of the NASA mission last month to fly around the moon?
17. In the "Harry Potter" movies which actor played Professor Severus Snape?
18. In 2023 Taylor Swift became the woman with the most number one albums in Billboard's history, whose record did she beat?
19. What is the minimum number of games that can be played in a set in tennis?
20. What type of energy is associated with the motion of an object?
21. What type of lens is used in a magnifying glass?
22. Who wrote the novel "Billy Liar"?
23. James Bond famously drove an Aston Martin DB5 in "Goldfinger", what do the initials DB stand for?
24. What type of medical condition is Christmas disease an example?
25. Which song from the Disney movie "Mary Poppins" won the Oscar for Best Song in 1964?
26. Who in 2011 became the first group to win the UK X-Factor?
27. If you were a Turophile of what foodstuff would you be a lover?
28. In which year was British Summer Time introduced?
29. Which is the most visited zoo in the UK?
30. In what year did the Woolworths store close at the Arcades Ashton-under-Lyne?
31. What type of creature is an alewife?
32. In American Football how many points are awarded for a touchdown?
33. Roy Skelton was the primary voice actor for both Zippy and George in the children's television series Rainbow but what Dr Who villain did he also provide the voice for?
34. Which pop group sang the 2007 UK Eurovision entry "Flying the Flag (For You)"?
35. In what films do the characters Dave Lizewski, Mindy Macready and Chris D'Amico appear?
36. On which Shakespeare play was the musical "Kiss Me Kate" based?
37. Which blood group is known as the universal donor?
38. What is the second book of the Lord of the Rings trilogy?
39. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
40. Who was US President at the time of the first moon landing?

Stuck for an answer? Check page 30



What can we be doing in May? It's still not too late to fertilize your trees and shrubs

Use a Rhododendron or Evergreen type of plant food to feed evergreens and other acid loving plants like Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Camellias and Junipers. Also use an all-purpose garden fertilizer to feed roses, deciduous shrubs and trees, but be sure to water the fertilizer in thoroughly after it is applied. While talking of roses keep a vigilante eye on the roses, do keep them sprayed for aphids and other pests and diseases such as black spot.

It's also time to think about our lawns, after such a waterlogged winter there will be damage to repair, get those weeds out that are killing the grass, feed the lawn, then scatter the fresh seeds promptly after cutting, so as to use the cut grass as mulch which also keeps the birds away too. While setting your mower for a higher cut during the spring months will help the grass to grow in fuller and help choke out any remaining weeds.

Let's turn our thoughts to our veg patch, have you got your seeds ready too? Yes you can buy expensive garden centre seeds, but I get just as good a result from bargain priced stores. Carrots, Lettuce, Potatoes, Corn, Beans, Peas and most popular vegetables, with the exception of the warmer weather crops, can be seeded or planted into the vegetable garden at any time now. But do wait until mid to late May before planting the warmer weather crops

like tomatoes, squash, cucumber, pumpkins and peppers. It's ok to cheat and buy plugs, garden centres and even B & Q do them too, look out for deals though and remember to feed and pot on straight away with a good compost.

Looking towards the flowers, May does have a lot to offer: Pansies, Snapdragons, Dianthus, Petunias, Geraniums, Fuchsias and Impatiens should be ready to plant by mid-month. Toward the end of the month, it should be warm enough to plant out the more tender annuals like Salvia, Zinnias, Marigolds and Cardinal Flowers. Let's not forget the bulbs Dahlias, Gladiolas, Lilies, Cannas and other summer flowering bulbs can be planted this month. Gladiolas bulbs may be planted at 2 week increments until the first of July to provide you with cut flowers until the first frost or add that extra excitement to patio pots through the summer.

Lastly, the gardener's worst enemy, slugs and snails will be out in full force right now and they are ravenous! Be sure to take steps to control them now, before they have a chance to reproduce and devastate your garden. And let's not forget some of the first flowers you'll see will be weeds, you need to work to eliminate them, roots and all, before they have a chance to go to seed, or you will be fighting them for years to come.

Pets

This month there are a few plants and flowers you should be careful with around your pets but it's certainly worth researching the full range of plants that are harmful to your dog or cat.

Pet owners need to be aware that some common garden plants and flowers could be toxic to their pets, causing sickness and diarrhoea with severe cases of poisoning leading to coma and death.

If you are unsure about the toxicity of plants and flowers in your garden, talk to your garden centre, and consult relevant specialist publications and web pages.

As a quick guide, we have listed below some of the more common plants and flowers that can be toxic to dogs.

- Daffodil (especially the bulbs)
- Castor oil bush (dogs love the seeds)
- Cherry Laurel (common hedging plant)
- Laburnum (and related species)
- Lilies / Lily of the Valley (especially toxic to cats)
- Philodendron (popular ornamental house plant)



- Azalea
- Foxgloves
- Ivy (some species)
- Rhubarb
- Yew

Pets can be poisoned by plants if they eat or even just chew part of the plant, the flower, the bulb or the plant leaves. Flowers heavy in pollen can also drop pollen onto the pet's coat, which could then be licked off and ingested by your pet. If your pet has ingested something poisonous the signs are usually pretty obvious such as oral or skin irritation, upset stomach/vomiting / diarrhoea/weakness, rapid breathing to name but a few. In these circumstances seek vet advice immediately.



ON THE DRIVER'S SIDE

Motoring tips from Guide Bridge MOT & Service

These days peering under the bonnet can be a daunting task – especially for those used to seeing older engines.

The number of over 50s carrying out basic car maintenance, such as changing the battery, has almost halved over the last five years (17% compared to 10%); instead they are using garages to carry out these basic tasks according to a report from Saga Car Insurance.

Technology is the heart of the modern car which means we are now able to enjoy a smoother ride with added luxury. However, a more advanced level of expertise is needed when something needs altering or repairing. As cars have become more complex, over 50s have become less confident about car maintenance.

Old vs New

A history lesson in brief... Back in the 1970s car manufacturers started using electronic equipment to control vehicle functions and systematically regulate vehicle emissions. This subsequently increased the complexity of the vehicle functions, which improved performance, safety, reliability and fuel efficiency. These

increasingly complex systems needed to be controlled and gradually the number of “computers” (or ECUs) in the vehicle grew until we have the modern motor car with its own network of interconnected systems. Although the car can even store and report faults, access to this information is unlikely to be available to the home mechanic.

These ‘on board diagnostics’, are coded, which means you require the technical expertise of a trained mechanic – who has access to technical data as well as sophisticated and expensive equipment to generate an accurate diagnosis of the car’s problem.

A different report from Saga found that over a third of drivers over 50 are also trying to reduce their motoring spend. When it comes to taking your car for a service or repair, using an independent garage such as Guide Bridge MOT & Service is the most cost-efficient way to do it.

If you would like to talk to us about the maintenance – call us on 0161 339 5354 and we’ll advise you on the best course of action to take.

Family festival fun previews exciting times for our towns

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Tameside’s Spring Family festival last month, which gave a tantalising taste of what’s to come for Ashton and Stalybridge town centres.

The four day family event – with free vintage fairground rides, carnival, theatre, dance and music performances, free face painting, balloon modelling and arts and crafts, and street food stalls - aimed to give families free entertainment during the school Easter holidays while also showcasing ongoing transformational work in the towns and giving a preview of the upcoming cultural programme. It was a fabulous success, drawing in huge crowds and lots of positive feedback from residents, visitors and traders.

Ashton Market Square is nearly ready to reopen its doors following a £10.8M transformation programme, funded by UK Government Levelling Up money, while the newly refurbished Stalybridge Victoria Market Hall is poised to build on its already blossoming programme of events and activities. Further events

planned for Stalybridge Victoria Market Hall this coming year include music concerts, a circus weekend, school holiday take-over weeks, specialist markets and a day time disco event. While Ashton Market Square will host regular Super Saturday foodie family events, the Winter Lantern Parade and more. Further details of these events will be shared soon. If the wonderful community atmosphere and sense of pride in the town over the duration of the festival is anything to go by, then the future is looking very bright for our towns.

This is only the start of our transformational plans for all of our town centres to help them meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses and move with current shopping, leisure and cultural trends. There’s free parking for up to two hours in all Tameside Council run car parks before 6pm Monday to Saturday, making it even easier for people to visit our town centres, support local businesses and enjoy local events and amenities. For further details on upcoming events and cultural activities see www.intameside.co.uk



Ted's fun page

Ted's Jokes

What is a horse's favourite sport?
Stable tennis.

Where do you learn to make ice cream?
Sundae school.

Where did the boat go when it got sick?
Straight to the Dock

Where do sharks go on holiday?
Finland

What does Cinderella wear at the beach?
Glass flippers

Who carries out operations in water?
A sturgeon

The birth flowers for May are the lily of the valley and the hawthorn.

The empire state building in New York first opened on May 1, 1931.

May is a peak time for ducks to hatch.

A maypole was built in 1543 that was 100 feet high. Isaac Newton later purchased the pole in 1713 and used it to prop up a telescope.

In the United Kingdom, May is celebrated as National Smile Month.

While May is a spring month in the Northern Hemisphere, it is an autumn month in the Southern Hemisphere.

In the town of Stilton, May Day is celebrated with a cheese-rolling contest.

The Eurovision song contest is always held in May. The United Kingdom has won the event five times

Fun Facts about May



May is the only month that never starts or ends on the same day of the week as any other month.

May is named for the Greek goddess of fertility, Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.

The Anglo-Saxons called May Tri-milchi (three-milk month), as cows could be milked three times daily due to lush grass.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 6 changes in the pictures below ?





Join the Fostering Family in Tameside

This month Tameside Council will be celebrating Foster Care Fortnight – a national campaign that recognises and thanks local foster carers for the kindness, dedication and commitment they show every day to children and young people who need a safe, secure, and loving home.

Foster Care Fortnight is also an opportunity to raise awareness of fostering: who can foster, the different types of fostering available, and why people choose to do it.

Tameside Council is looking for more people to come forward to become foster carers to provide stable and loving homes for local children.

The fostering team and local foster carers host regular drop-in sessions, in-person and

online, to give residents the chance to ask any questions they may have. Their information events for this month are on Friday 8 May, 5-7pm, at Stalybridge Street Fest and an online session on Tuesday 19 May, 6-7pm.

The council provides full training - with online opportunities to increase flexibility - as well as ongoing support and an allowance. Anyone can foster so long as applicants are 21 years or older, have a spare room (unless you're fostering a child under the age of two) and can offer a safe and loving home.

If you'd like to learn more about fostering, find out where you can meet the team, or sign up for the online sessions visit www.fosterforgm.com/tameside, call 0300 303 0321, or email enquire@fosterforgm.com.

Cookery Corner

Spanish Stew

Ingredients

- 350g lean pork mince
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 2 peppers sliced, any colour will do
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tbsp sweet smoked paprika
- 2 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes
- 400g can butter beans, drained
- 2 tsp golden caster sugar
- small bunch parsley, chopped
- crusty bread, to serve (optional)

Instructions

Season the pork, working the seasoning in with your hands, then shape into small meatballs. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the meatballs and cook for 5 mins, until golden brown all over. Push to one side of the pan and add the onion and peppers. Cook for a further 5 mins, stirring now and then, until the veg has softened, then stir in the garlic and paprika. Stir everything around in the pan for 1 min, then add the tomatoes. Cover with a lid and simmer for 10 mins.

Uncover, stir in the beans, the sugar and some seasoning, then simmer for a further 10 mins, uncovered. Just before serving, stir in the parsley. Serve with crusty bread for dunking, if you like.



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.



Tulip Sunday has been held in Stamford Park for many years now and is always a very popular and well supported event in Tameside.

Recently branded as the Family Fun Day this free fun packed event has seen families flock to the lovely victorian park in Stalybridge to see the colourful and neatly planted flower beds in the centre of the park in all their glory.

Over the years there has also been many attractions for the family to see and take part in, these included Samba Bands, Brass Bands, face painting, a climbing wall and even reptile displays.

Numerous local charities have also attended the event, offering help and advice, from their organisation's gazebos, promoting free draws and

tombola's. Two very well attended events were the dog show with several categories offering rosettes and prizes for sections including a puppy award and best behaved. The birds of prey section offered close up experiences with owls, kestrels and eagles plus the keepers demonstrating the bird's flying and hunting skills.

Just out of interest, have you seen the nine tulip sculptures which have recently been placed around Ashton town centre? The 6ft models have been created and ornately decorated by artists, students and community groups local to Tameside. They are inspired by Ashton's history in trading tulips.

Words and photos
Howard Murphy



QUIZ CHALLENGE ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pig | 15. 11 | 27. Cheese |
| 2. Fortnum and Mason | 16. Artemis II (2) | 28. 1916 |
| 3. USA | 17. Alan Rickman | 29. Chester Zoo |
| 4. Ravens | 18. Barbra Streisand | 30. 2009 |
| 5. Ruth and Esther | 19. Six | 31. A fish |
| 6. Venice | 20. Kinetic | 32. Six points |
| 7. Robot dog K-9 | 21. Convex | 33. The Daleks |
| 8. American | 22. Keith Waterhouse | 34. Scooch |
| 9. Red, White and Green | 23. David Brown, the one-time owner of the company | 35. Kick Ass |
| 10. Nitrogen | 24. Haemophilia (specifically Haemophilia B) | 36. The Taming of the Shrew |
| 11. Artichoke | 25. "Chim Chim Cher-ee" | 37. Group O |
| 12. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang | 26. Little Mix | 38. The Two Towers |
| 13. Leo | | 39. Michelangelo |
| 14. Pray | | 40. Nixon |

MAY 2ND

Ashton Sci-Fi Day

Market Hall/Ladysmith Shopping Centre – From 11am-2pm
Hyde Fundraisers are back supported by Ashton Town Team, Ladysmith Shopping Centre, Ashton Markets and Ashton Library with this year's event. Don't miss the cosplay competition at 12.30 taking place at the Ladysmith Centre and free colouring at Ashton Library! Characters this year include The Mandalorian and Grogu who make their feature film debut this month!

MAY 6TH

Time Out

The Dream Centre Church, King St, Droylsden – From 10am-12noon

Every Wednesday 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

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.

MAY 8TH

Stalybridge Street Fest

Armentieres Square, Stalybridge

The popular food event returns to Stalybridge with all types of food and entertainment from 4pm. There's also an Artisan food market inside the Civic Hall.

MAY 14TH-16TH

Trigger Code (Murder mystery)

Hyde Festival Theatre, Corporation Street, Hyde, SK14 1AB

Set in late-1980s Greater Manchester, Trigger Code centres on a murder at a neon-lit nightclub where music, gun crime, and desperation collide. When small-time criminal Kieran Blake is shot dead behind the club, almost everyone connected to Trigger Code has a motive — from abused partners and broken families to those trapped in the cycle of gangs and drugs. As two rookie police officers unravel the case, the investigation exposes a web of violence, moral collapse, and a system that repeatedly fails its victims, leading to a devastating truth about who finally decided enough was enough.

MAY 15TH

The Houghton Weavers

Guide Bridge Theatre, Audenshaw Road, M34 5HJ

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS, The Northwest's Premiere Comedy / Folk Group, Stars of Radio and Television, have been entertaining folk for over 50 years! with their unique blend of popular folk music, humour and audience participation.

MAY 28TH

Sailors Beware

Cheshire Ring, 72 Manchester Road, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 2BJ.

From 8pm

Son's Of The Desert – the Laurel & Hardy fan club - meet the last Thursday of the month making new friends and sharing the laughter with some of the duo's classic comedies screened.

Denton Luncheon Club

Victoria Park Centre, Denton from 12noon

Denton East Councillors and volunteers provide an affordable 3 course lunch offering a chance to socialise and stay warm.

MAY 31ST

Mossley Farmers' Market

Market Street car park, Mossley, OL5 0HE From 10am

The new Mossley Farmers' Market features lots of artisan market traders and fresh foods.

FILM OF THE MONTH

THE MANDALORIAN & GROGU

The evil Empire has fallen, and Imperial warlords remain scattered throughout the galaxy. As the fledgling New Republic works to protect everything the



© Credit: Lucasfilm

Rebellion fought for, they have enlisted the help of legendary Mandalorian bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) and his young apprentice Grogu. Directed by Jon Favreau, "The Mandalorian and Grogu" also stars Sigourney Weaver and is produced by Jon Favreau, Kathleen Kennedy, Dave Filoni, and Ian Bryce, with music composed by Ludwig Göransson.

GAMING

FIRST LIGHT – MAY 27TH

We may not have a big screen return for James Bond at the cinema, but gamers will get their own feature to be part of with the release of First Light. Teased at the BAFTA games awards the game will be available on the PlayStation 5, Windows and Xbox Series X/S okatfiorms



at the end of the month. Follow James Bond as a young, resourceful and sometimes reckless recruit in MI6's training programme. After a heroic act, young naval air crewman Bond is offered the opportunity to join the newly revived double 0 programme.

But when a mission to stop a rogue agent ends in tragedy, he must join forces with his reluctant mentor Greenway to expose a deep conspiracy and stop a looming coup at the heart of the state. Highlighted as an origin story this will surely appease all those impatient Bond fans

EVENT

PARTY IN THE PARK

The event takes place over the weekend of May 23rd to the 25th at Victoria Park in Denton from 12noon each day. There's the Kids Adventure Kingdom featuring great inflatable fun, character fun plus the competition Denton's



Got Talent on the Monday with prizes to be won. Watch out for live music from Stars in Their Eyes favourite Vince Hughes plus stalls and refreshments too!

The logo consists of a green hexagonal shape with a white border. Inside the hexagon, the words "TRAIN TAMESIDE" are written in white, bold, uppercase letters, and the number "500" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters below it.

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