

The

# SHUTTLE

The magazine for everyone in Blackburn with Darwen

ISSUE 3 | 2022

**extra**

KING GEORGE'S HALL  
1921  
**100 YEARS**  
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS  
2021

## BLACKBURN CITY BID

#BACKINGBLACKBURN

IT'S A  
BIG DEAL  
FOR DARWEN!

KING GEORGES HALL

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
**AJ ODUDU**  
HOMETOWN GLORY



BLACKBURN  
with  
DARWEN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# LETTER FROM THE LEADER



*M Khan*  
**Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE**  
Leader of the Council

**Welcome** to the latest edition of the Shuttle. The last one came out just before COVID-19 hit our shores. Since then lockdown restrictions and constantly trying to battle the virus has taken a huge toll on us all.

We have all lost, or know someone who has lost, loved ones. Our children and young people have had their education disrupted. Our businesses, especially those in the hospitality and leisure sectors and their supply chains, have had a torrid time.

for more resources, more powers and more flexibilities under the national **levelling up agenda**. I am of course stepping down in May after the election but I hope to make sufficient progress so the new leader and their team can move forward to make sure Blackburn with Darwen gets what it deserves.

However, we can be proud of how resilient we were, how we came together to support each other and how public services such as the NHS delivered in such terrible circumstances. **The community spirit** in the face of such adversity was amazing.

We are also working on refreshing our **corporate plan** for the borough. This sets out the things the Council will prioritise over the next few years to improve Blackburn with Darwen, as well as setting out how we continue to deliver high quality services.

While we still remain vigilant, and I would still urge everyone who has not yet got vaccinated to do so, it does seem we are nearing the end of the pandemic. At the time of writing, cases remain high, but we are seeing sustained falls in our rates and are starting to get back to a semblance of normality.

It will also explain what we will do to deliver some big agendas such as recovering from COVID, tackling the **climate emergency**, building an inclusive economy, joining up health and care and supporting the most vulnerable.

But COVID has thrown into stark relief the many issues we face in this borough. So when I say we want to get back to normality I mean we need to really start to tackle those issues and change things for the better.

We are starting conversations with as many residents, partners and businesses as possible to shape the detail within the plan. Look out for one of many opportunities for you to have your say.

Kind regards,  
Mohammed

I have been working with leaders across Lancashire to make the case to Government

*M Khan*

# READERS' CITY BID PHOTO COMPETITION:

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- 3. Canal at Eanam Wharf - Mark Bolton
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- 5. King George's Hall - Gary Davies
- 6. Church Street - Steph Wolski
- 7. Cathedral Quarter - Andrea Robinson

Front Cover Photograph: KGH

# 100 YEARS OF MAGIC AT KING GEORGE'S HALL...

HERE'S TO ANOTHER 100 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC AND LAUGHTER.



Cutting the centenary cake at King George's Hall

In October 2021 Blackburn's King George's Hall celebrated its 100th birthday.

The milestone was marked with a fun-filled centenary party and an exclusive concert from the prestigious Hallé Orchestra, who opened the venue exactly 100 years before.

Hosted by loveable BBC weatherman Owain Wyn Evans, The Hall welcomed hundreds of guests for its party night. The evening featured music from chart-topping, Blackburn-raised popstar Grace Davies, laughs from Blackburn's own comedian Tez Ilyas and a performance from local dance troupe Lancashire Dance Academy.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor's, VIP guests linked to the Hall's history and our brilliant competition winners –

who bagged tickets by sharing their favourite King George's Hall memories – were amongst those in attendance.

Councillor Damian Talbot, Executive Member for Public Health & Wellbeing at Blackburn with Darwen Council, said:

"King George's Hall is such an important piece of our boroughs cultural heritage. I am honoured to be part of celebrating 100 years of the iconic venue.

"I hope when the next century rolls round, they look back on all the pictures and memories with fondness – knowing we had the most incredible time!

"Thank you so much to everyone who attended – you truly made the evening a night to never forget.

*"Thousands of people not just here, but across the world, have experiences or memories associated with King George's Hall, and I hope all our residents are as excited as I am about this very special birthday."*

These two events marked the beginning of a years worth of celebrations and events planned to celebrate King George's Hall's 100th birthday.

For all the latest information news on events, concerts and offers visit:

[www.bwdvenues.com](http://www.bwdvenues.com)



go to [bwdvenues.com](http://bwdvenues.com) for all the latest gig releases, news and offers.





*Denise Park*

**Denise Park**  
Chief Executive  
Blackburn with Darwen Council

# 2022 BUDGET EXPLAINED

## EXTRA INVESTMENT PLAN

**Efforts to keep our streets clean and other key Council services are set to get a boost as part of the Blackburn with Darwen Council's budget proposals for 2022/23.**

The extra investment of £1.5m will pay for improvements in environmental services and highways. This includes more staff to support litter picking, bin emptying, maintaining green spaces and parks. Road markings will also be repainted and signs replaced this year to improve safety and help deter anti-social behaviour.

Another priority is to fund free access to leisure activities this year to give a boost to residents' health and wellbeing. Libraries will also be opening their doors for longer.

Other plans included in the budget include working with communities to support climate change goals in the borough and support for vulnerable children.

Now in its final stages, the borough's new Local Plan sets out how development and growth requirements across the borough up until 2037 will be met.

Road markings repainted and signs replaced to improve safety/help deter anti-social behaviour	Fund extra access to free leisure services for residents (Re:refresh)	Increase in Library opening hours by an extra 2hrs per week
Additional litter bin emptying	Additional staff to support litter picking	Introduction of shrub pruning team
Introduction of park attendants to maintain green spaces and parks	Increase in Cleansing Capacity	Ward Waste Collections (2 times per year)

It includes the £250 million transformation of Blackburn Town Centre, including the former Thwaites site and proposed relocation of Morrisons, and the £90m Darwen Town Deal investment plans.

There are also proposals for a new Household Waste Recycling Centre for the borough which would significantly upgrade the borough's existing facilities.

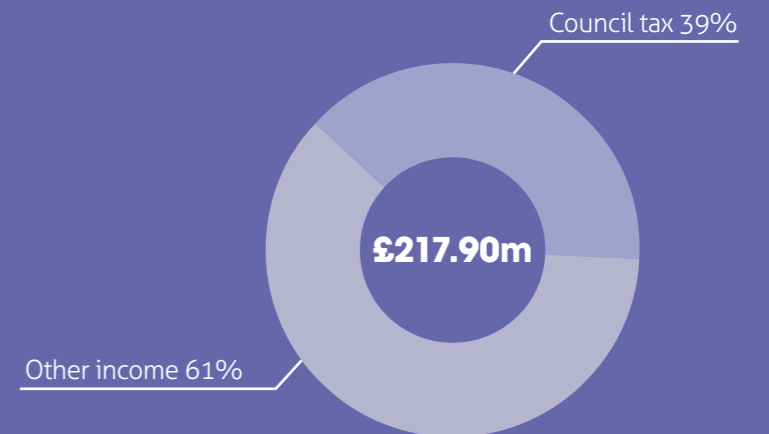
Council Tax makes up 39% of the Council's income to help fund services.

The Council relies on Government funding, local business rates and other income including grants, fees and charges to make up the remainder of its budget.

Since 2010 the Council has had to make cuts of over £140m, over 40% of its overall budget. In its funding settlement for Councils, the Government continues to assume that all Councils will increase their Council Tax by the maximum. The general increase proposed in Blackburn with Darwen is 1.99% plus 2% which is to be used solely for social care services.

## WHERE DO WE GET OUR MONEY?

Did you know that the Council Tax makes up 39% of our budget? To help fund our services, we rely on Government funding, local business rates and other income including grants, fees and charges.



## BREAKDOWN OF WHAT YOUR COUNCIL TAX IS SPENT ON...\*

<b>£1,131</b> Per Year for a band A property	<b>£3.10</b> Per Day for a band A property	<b>£196.52</b> Children's Social Care	<b>£508.95</b> Adult Social Care
<b>£67.63</b> Education & young people	<b>£34.80</b> Supporting businesses & creating jobs	<b>£42.48</b> Culture, Leisure & tourism	<b>£42.87</b> Road maintenance & street lighting
<b>£18.27</b> Public transport	<b>£7.60</b> Libraries	<b>£86.10</b> Public health	<b>£6.01</b> Neighbourhood services
<b>£5.47</b> Parks & open spaces	<b>£62.56</b> Street cleaning, waste collection & disposal	<b>£40.33</b> Environmental & building services	<b>£12.34</b> Council tax, business rates & benefits

\* Based on Band A property for the current financial year. The total figure does not include the money you pay to support the police and fire services.

### It's been another difficult year yet we want to invest back into community services when we can.

We've listened to residents and know that for many clean streets and highway services are what people want to see more investment in.

We have an army of volunteers who have created our very special Red Bag Revolution with really active litter picking groups in both Blackburn and Darwen. We see the result of their hard work every day and this extra investment will support them and lead to further improvements."

The Council provides hundreds of services and has started a conversation with people young and old, businesses and partner organisations to see what matters most to them in a post-pandemic world. This will help shape the Council's direction and future priorities.

We are also asking for the Government to commit to fair funding for our Council's services so that need is always taken into account especially given the massive impact cost of living rises will have on the communities that we serve."



*M Khan*

**Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE**  
Leader of the Council

# DARWEN SET FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL £25M TOWN DEAL AND £65M OF EXTRA INVESTMENT



## DID YOU KNOW?

SAM WADSWORTH, PROBABLY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SPORTSMAN EVER TO BE BORN IN DARWEN. HE BECAME ENGLAND'S REGULAR LEFT FULL-BACK AND CAPTAIN IN 1922 AND LATER WENT ON TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN MANAGEMENT WITH DUTCH CLUB PSV EINDHOVEN.

## CHRISTMAS REALLY DID COME EARLY FOR DARWEN THIS YEAR.

On December 17th, the Government officially signed off on £25m of funding for the town.

It was the full amount available as part of the Town Deal scheme – a real coup for the Darwen Town Deal Board.

Further boosted by funding committed by Blackburn with Darwen Council and private investors, it'll kick-start a £90m transformation of the town – the most significant investment in the area in living history.

True to the wording on the Darwen coat of arms 'Abque Labore Nihil' – 'nothing without labour,' securing the funding was just the start.

Now, business cases are being drawn up for each of the projects included within the successful bid.

Work is well underway on developing the proposals, which are set to be submitted to Government this summer - more details will be shared with residents and businesses in the coming months.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the Darwen Town Deal 'fast-track' projects including the state-of-the-art facilities at AFC Darwen and Junction 4 Skatepark – providing training facilities for our Olympic stars of the future.

The full restoration of Darwen's Jubilee Tower also will be completed ready to be enjoyed in the warmer months.

For all of the latest updates on Darwen Town Deal, visit: [www.darwentowndeal.co.uk](http://www.darwentowndeal.co.uk)

*“The Board were absolutely determined to secure as much of the £25m as possible. Chair Wayne Wild told The Shuttle.*

*We've said from the very beginning that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the town and it does feel like we're at the start of something really exciting.*

*Our bid was all about focusing on what can help make a real difference for the future of Darwen and for its residents and we're really looking forward to building on that throughout the duration of this five-year project.*

## THE FIVE KEY THEMES:



Town centre – including plans to refurbish and repurpose heritage buildings, such as the Market Hall and Darwen Library Theatre



Employment growth and business innovation – a range of important projects that will build on Darwen's proud and still strong manufacturing heritage – creating new jobs and opportunity



Destination Darwen - proposals to create new and improved connections linking the town centre, residential neighbourhoods, parks and the sprawling moors, including new trails



Connected Darwen – ultrafast broadband for more than 10,000 homes and businesses as well as free Wi-Fi in the town centre



East Lancashire Sports Village – new sporting facilities at AFC Darwen, J4 Skatepark and Darwen Cricket Club



BBC Strictly: Professional dancer, Kai Widdrington with dance partner and TV presenter, AJ Odudu

# Hometown Glory

*"Blackburn is where I got my grit and determination from, I love the whole ethics of the place."*

2021 was an incredibly busy year for AJ Odudu. The Blackburn born television presenter co-hosted a special edition of The Big Breakfast with comedian Mo Gilligan, she and good friend Emma Willis embarked on supporting small businesses in their pandemic recovery on Emma & AJ Get To Work, and, of course, she made it to the Strictly Come Dancing final – until an ankle injury forced her out of the competition.

And throughout it all, AJ always found time to declare her love for her hometown.

*"Blackburn is where I got my grit and determination from,"* says the 33 year old, who grew up in the Montague Street area.

*"I love the whole ethics of the place. It's a town filled with hard working people. I feel like people in Blackburn just work hard, get on with it and graft - and I think that's something I take with me wherever I go."*

AJ certainly has worked hard to get to where she wants to be. The young St Bede's High School pupil who had dreams of working in television wasn't really sure how to make it happen.

*"It did feel like an impossible thing, says AJ. "When I was growing up all the opportunities were in London*

*- we didn't have the BBC and ITV studios in Salford then. And back then, it was hard to get to Manchester, let alone London!"*

Now a regular on our TV screens, AJ is known for her broad Blackburn accent – and we wouldn't have her any other way! But has how she sounds ever held her back?

*"In my early career, being a Northerner seemed to hinder my career to be honest. The industry wasn't really a place that accepted black women who sounded like me!"* AJ remembers.

*"I was advised that I'd get more opportunities if I went to elocution lessons and acting classes. I remember speaking about that with my mum who's lived in this country a long time and she still sounds like she's Nigerian – because that's how she sounds! If someone's accent doesn't change naturally, it shouldn't be forced to change and that's something that my mum's always really championed."*

*"I'm so glad that I kept true to myself and my roots, because now I feel like it is something that is celebrated."*

*"So early on in my career my Blackburn accent was something that could have held me back, but I pushed through! Now it's part of my individuality."*

AJ feels it's easier now for young people from the North West to take opportunities to have careers in television. So what advice would she offer to young people in Blackburn who'd like to work in the industry?

*"Just keep at it. Know that your individuality is what makes you special. It doesn't matter where anyone's from, what they sound like, how much money they have, you can achieve whatever it is that you want to achieve."*

*"Use the grit and determination that you get from your surroundings - that's something that I do think is ingrained in us northerners, I really do."*

AJ visits her family in Blackburn whenever her busy work schedule allows. The town will always hold a special place in her heart.

*"One of my fondest memories growing up is going to Corporation Park as a little girl. I loved it and it seemed so huge. We'd walk to the park from Montague Street, and then walk up the path – it felt like it took forever to get to the playground and the conservatory at the top."*

AJ has backed our bid for city status for Blackburn. She said, *"I'd love Blackburn to get city status. I remember the last time when we missed out to Preston – and I don't want that to happen again! I love Blackburn with all my heart. Good luck to us!"*

2022 Blackburn 2022 CITY BID

You may have seen by now that Blackburn put its name in the hat to be awarded City Status as part of a national competition for the Queen's Jubilee.

At the time of publishing your Shuttle magazine, we were awaiting news of Blackburn's City Bid. The Council submitted Blackburn's bid to Government in December last year. The monarch decides which town should be granted city status on ministerial advice.

Regardless of the outcome, we think it's a pretty special place.

But, hey, please don't just take our word for it. You can see for yourself just what over 100 public figures, residents volunteers, businesses and religious leaders have to say about Blackburn and what makes it a city of our own making.

[www.theshuttle.org.uk/citybid](http://www.theshuttle.org.uk/citybid)



Deputy Leader Councillor Quesir Mahmood "City status is not only about local pride, it can deliver real levelling up benefits for businesses and the local area!"



Steve Pemberton "The people of Blackburn have the combination of humour, warmth and resilience that represents the best of Britain."



Rev. Sarah Gill "Blackburn has a rich tapestry of different languages, ethnicities, religions and multiple religious worship places and cultural expressions."



Grace Davies "Blackburn is a lively, creative place with lots to offer. It deserves to gain city status to carry on building its legacy."



Blackburn has its own distinctive history in Britain and around the world. It has a manufacturing heritage. The town also has its own distinctive, diverse make-up too. It has got a cathedral but there are 18 cities around the UK that don't. I regularly visit Blackburn for the Festival of Making and throughout the year. When you look at the other towns that have been made cities, like Stoke and Wolverhampton, then why should Blackburn not be?

WAYNE HEMINGWAY



It makes me really happy to see Blackburn punching above its weight culturally. The recent British Textile Biennial made me proud to be from Blackburn, I loved seeing it breathe new life into the old cinema. It was also wonderful to witness such a diverse range of audiences going into our museum. City status could help bring much needed profile and investment to Blackburn - and I want that for my hometown.

CHRISTINE CORT



I moved back to Blackburn from London five years ago, I love the place. Going for city status is a big deal, it would be really cool. I've toured round lots of towns and cities. For Blackburn to become a city, it would help us attract bigger and better acts in the future, whether comedians like me, musicians, drama productions and so on. Somewhere with such good eating places deserves to be a city!

TEZ ILYAS

2022 Blackburn 2022 CITY BID

This is Blackburn. A place where inventors, poets, artists, designers, social activists, place-makers, world-cup winners and entrepreneurs leave a mark on the world. Our heritage, diversity, vibrancy and civic pride are evident. We are a town steeped in history - and a city of our own making.

KEY

- Tourism
- Leisure
- Parks and recreation
- Entertainment
- Education / Other
- Green spaces
- Urban areas
- Centre
- Cycle routes
- Bus lanes
- Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Reservoirs & Waterways



#BackingBlackburn  
A city of our own making

#BackingBlackburn  
A city of our own making



# RESIDENTS UNITE TO CREATE COMMUNITY ALLEYWAYS

RECENTLY, RESIDENTS ACROSS BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN HAVE BEEN COMING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM THEIR BACK ALLEYS INTO A SAFE PLACE WHERE FAMILIES CAN SIT OUT AND CHILDREN CAN PLAY.



*"If I can do this, then anyone can. You just need a starting point!"*  
Vicky McLeish, resident

By coming together and cleaning up their back alleys, giving them a lick of paint, and putting in some new planters and extra seating, they're helping create community pride across our borough.

*'I feel completely different about where I live now. I have met and made friends with people I never would have met without the project and I feel like we are making a difference together in our own, very local community'*

Cath Ford, resident and founder of The Fettle - Alley Revolution.

Fancy getting involved and creating a new space for you, your family and your neighbours?

Visit [www.recyclebwd.org/looking-after-your-alleyway/](http://www.recyclebwd.org/looking-after-your-alleyway/) to get inspired and see our step-by-step tips!

You can also find inspiration from like-minded community groups on Facebook:

- Positive space, Darwen.
- Fettle - Alley Revolution.
- Keep Blackburn Tidy
- Keep Darwen Tidy

# Meet our Recycling Heroes and brand new Litter Patrol!

These new characters are helping teach youngsters across Blackburn with Darwen about the importance of recycling and keeping the borough tidy of litter.

And, there's a brand new education and activity area at: [www.recyclebwd.org](http://www.recyclebwd.org) bursting with fun things to do.

On there, you'll find everything from a fun quiz to a word search, colouring sheets and a section of fun facts. Be sure to take a look!

Our Environmental Education Officer, Sally Booth, has been out-and-about introducing the new characters to school-children across the area – below she is with the amazing pupils from Suddell Primary in Darwen.

The children loved helping Captain Muck and Captain Litter clean-up their local area and did a fantastic job – well done kids!

And that's not all, our Recycling Heroes also have their very own, brand new board-game - **'Bin It To Win It!'**

Perfect for schoolchildren and uniformed groups, youngsters are tasked with helping to match all the waste cards with the correct bin and explain why... they'll even be able to help out at home too.

If you'd like Captain Muck, Captain Litter or the Recycling Heroes to visit your school or group, please drop an email to: [sally.booth@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:sally.booth@blackburn.gov.uk)



**Competition Time** Help our heroes to solve the word search...

**BIN**  
BLUE  
BROWN  
BURGUNDY  
CANS  
CARDBOARD  
FOOD  
GLASS

**HEROES**  
JARS  
PAPER  
PLASTIC  
RECYCLE  
REDUCE  
REUSE  
WASTE

D R A O B D R A C B  
O G B L U E D S I R  
O U W C P A W N O O  
F P L A S T I C K W  
G A P N S S A L G N  
P R L S K T R S T W  
R E C Y C L E A I L  
B U R G U N D Y J F  
B S E O R E H Y J T  
C E C U D E R F L W



**Good luck!** Sponsored by suez

Email a picture of the completed word search to [shuttle@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:shuttle@blackburn.gov.uk) before Friday, April 29th to be entered into the prize draw!

The easy way to dispose of your garden waste

Sign-up now for your **2022** garden waste collections!



[www.blackburn.gov.uk/brown-bin](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/brown-bin)

# GLOBAL BRAND BRINGING BUZZ TO DARWEN

AS PART OF THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING LAST OCTOBER, ITALIAN SPORTSWEAR BRAND C.P. COMPANY DREW INTERNATIONAL CROWDS TO POCKET-ROCKET DARWEN TO LAUNCH THEIR EXCLUSIVE ARCHIVE EXHIBITION.

CINQUANTA was an archival celebration of 50 years of the infamous brand, showcasing styles throughout the ages.

Celebrities including DJ Goldie, British magician Dynamo, Happy Monday's Bez and Shaun Ryder were amongst those visiting Darwen to catch a glimpse of the clothes up close.

A lot of this is thanks to the vision and dedication of Adidas designer and proud Darrener, Gary Aspden.

While Darwen might initially have seemed like a strange choice for the Italian brand to host their exhibition, our heritage as the origin of professional football means we've always had a close link to sport-style - and Darreners have been donning C.P. since its beginnings five decades ago.

Funds were also raised at the exhibition for local homeless charity Nightsafe, which does amazing work across our whole borough.

The exhibition came alongside numerous other exciting events in Darwen, including the unveiling of England and Manchester United star Luke Shaw's giant mural, Britain's



Dynamo, Lorenzo Osti, Gary Aspden, and Eddie Green (photo credit: Dean Gear)

biggest free to attend music festival Darwen Live, and the announcement of an incredible £25million worth of Government funding unlocked as part of the Darwen Town Deal.

Councillor Phil Riley Executive Member for Growth and Development, and the Council's lead representative on the Town Deal Board, added: "What we have seen happen in Darwen of late has been nothing short of world-class.

"We have got to give huge thanks to people like Gary, who, instead of turning their backs on their home to favour the bigger cities, they are doing the opposite to look at the art of what's possible: putting Darwen on an international stage, bringing major investment, real change and hope.

"What has been happening here of late has created a real sense of optimism for residents, investors and future generations."

Wayne Wild, Chair of Darwen Town Deal, said: "What's different about what we are doing here is that we are able to make the most of our private sector and community partners and work really closely with our local Council to make incredible things happen that might not elsewhere.

"We have so much to look forward to. Darwen is a place that continues to buck all kinds of trends, with a buzzing night time economy and major planned investment projects, it continues to punch above its own proverbial weight in every sense to ensure it keeps growing."

"What we have seen happen in Darwen of late has been nothing short of world-class."

Councillor Phil Riley, Executive Member for Growth and Development.

40ft mural of England and Manchester United player, Luke Shaw, in Darwen, celebrating the collaboration between Adidas Spezial and C.P. Company - painted by Artist, Peter Barber (photo credit: Dean Gear)



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH IS SET TO RISE FROM THE ASHES AS THE FIRST PROJECT IN AN AMBITIOUS £250M MASTERPLAN FOR BLACKBURN'S TOWN CENTRE.

The church – the oldest in the town – suffered extensive fire damage in 2019.

Now, it's set for a £3.5 million refurbishment – transforming it into a high quality, flexible work space capable of meeting new agile working demands on the back of the pandemic.

Significantly, it'll be the first project as part of the £250m masterplan which also includes the former Thwaites site and the potential relocation of Morrisons.

Award-winning OMI Architects

has been appointed to lead the St John's scheme.

The firm's work includes complex heritage projects, similar to the church, involving some of the region's most important Grade I and Grade II listed buildings.

Notably, their All Souls project in Bolton was named RICS North West Building of the Year in 2015.

Councillor Riley added:

*"The masterplan shows that the Council is forward-thinking*

*with its place making agenda and I'm really pleased that we're already embarking on the first phase.*

*"It's incredibly important that our towns are fit for the future – supporting our local economy, and creating higher quality jobs and living spaces to help build strong communities.*

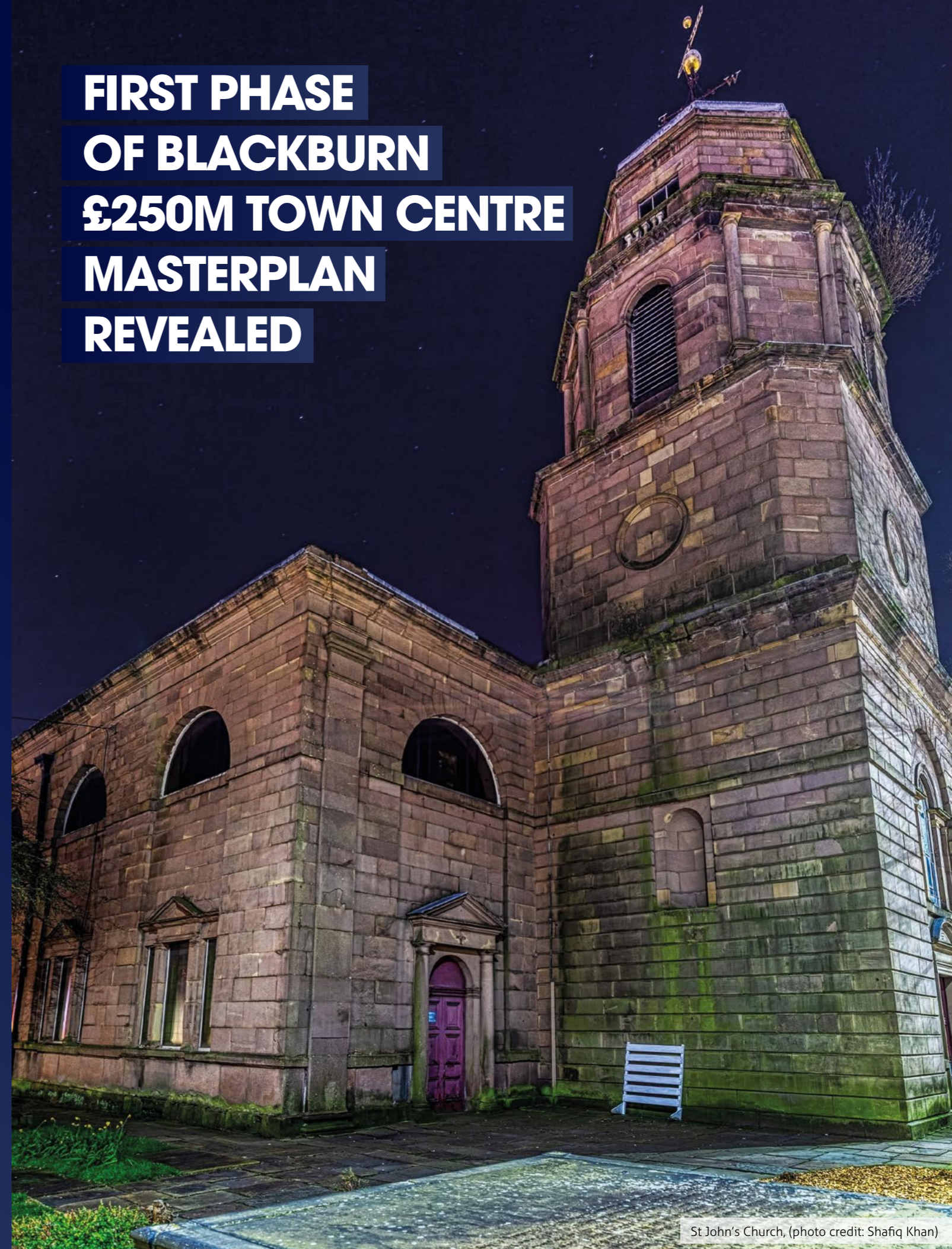
*"We have faced significant challenges as a result of the pandemic but are doing everything we can to put our borough in a strong position for the future."*

## THE MASTERPLAN WILL BE PART OF THE BOROUGH'S NEW LOCAL PLAN WHICH PROVIDES A BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

The vision for the town centre includes:

- providing purpose-built business and technology workspace for low carbon, green and renewable industries as part of a new town centre business district;
- the repurposing and refurbishment of St John's Church to create high quality flexible workspace to meet new agile working trends post-pandemic;
- potential to relocate Morrisons to a new store located on the former Thwaites brewery site with the opportunity to retain and upgrade the existing car park for public use;
- providing low carbon town centre living in close proximity to services, retail, workspace and major public transport connections;
- implementing 5G town centre roll-out creating a 'super-connected town centre';
- refurbishing and re-opening the Fleece Inn to reflect the history of the locality; and
- improving public open spaces and increasing cycle and pedestrian routes with new connectivity to our local canal infrastructure.

# FIRST PHASE OF BLACKBURN £250M TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN REVEALED



St John's Church, (photo credit: Shafiq Khan)

For all of the latest updates, please visit: [www.theshuttle.org.uk](http://www.theshuttle.org.uk)

# ENJOY THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING THIS SUMMER!

BLACKBURN IS MAKING WAY FOR THE AWARD-WINNING NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING TO RETURN FOR ITS FOURTH EDITION ON SATURDAY 11TH AND SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2022.



Councillor Damian Talbot, Executive Member for leisure and culture at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council said:

**"It's brilliant to see the dates for the 2022 National Festival of Making announced – what a great way to kick off the year.**

**"As has been the case for many events throughout the pandemic, the past couple of years has unfortunately seen the cancellation of the Festival – so to welcome it back to Blackburn for a fourth time is absolutely fantastic.**

**"National Festival of Making creates a massive buzz across our borough, attracting visitors from wide and far, boosting our town's tourism profile and supporting local businesses.**

**"Between Darwen Live, Summer Fest, Restricted Rocks, the Queen's Jubilee and this award-winning Festival, it's going to be the best summer yet for Blackburn with Darwen."**

**Visitors will be drawn to Blackburn town centre with an array of making workshops, theatre and musical performances, community projects, installations, local food producers and more.**

Festival organisers are looking forward to creating opportunities for communities to come together and enjoy shared experiences as we move forward beyond the pandemic.

Crowds of over 40,000 are expected to flock to Blackburn, bringing a fantastic buzz about the borough and boosting the economy for our local businesses.

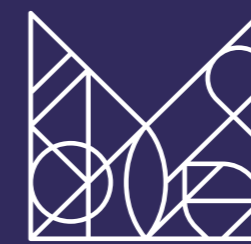


Festival of Making, 2019  
Photos credit: Robin Zahler

Put the date in your calendar and let's get ready to MAKE!

Follow the up-to-date programme and festival announcements at [www.festivalofmaking.co.uk](http://www.festivalofmaking.co.uk)

FREE FESTIVAL



THE NATIONAL  
FESTIVAL  
OF MAKING

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TO MAKE

BLACKBURN  
TOWN CENTRE

11 & 12 JUNE  
11AM—5PM



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DARWEN BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

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Maker Technologies  
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Music | Street Food



#FestivalofMaking

[FestivalofMaking.co.uk](http://FestivalofMaking.co.uk)

# LONG COVID PEER SUPPORT GROUP BREW AND CHAT

ONLINE LINK – AVAILABLE ON REQUEST  
EVERY WEDNESDAY 1PM – 2PM

If you are experiencing symptoms of Long Covid, or think you have Long Covid, drop into our online session for a brew and a chat to share your story and hear from others.

Come along and take the opportunity to meet like-minded people that are going through the journey after having Covid.

The group is free to attend and everyone is welcome.

There is a 4 week Long Covid Wellbeing course delivered by our Adult Learning Team - please ask for further details.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUPPORT GROUP, GET IN TOUCH:

 01254 588111

 communitychampions@blackburn.gov.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RE:FRESH:

 01254 682037



## SHARE YOUR VIEWS: HOW SHOULD WE MARK THE PANDEMIC IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN?



**TWO YEARS ON FROM THE START OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THE COUNCIL IS FORMING PLANS FOR A PERMANENT MEMORIAL TO THIS DEFINING PERIOD IN OUR SOCIAL HISTORY.**

Council Leader - Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE commented, *"There's no denying that the pandemic has changed our world. Our experiences over the last two years have inevitably shaped who we are now, both as individuals and as a local community."*

*"We want to create a lasting legacy in Blackburn with Darwen that recognises the impact of Covid locally, nationally and globally."*

For a long time, Blackburn with Darwen was the hardest hit borough in the whole of England, in terms of the high number of Covid cases and the length of time we lived under tighter restrictions than other areas.

Our borough has a wealth of frontline workers who put their own lives on the line to keep essential services running when the country first went into lockdown.

Many local families were personally affected, losing loved ones during a very difficult time.

Our children and young people have had their education impacted, as well as their social activities, and many people had to deal with feelings of isolation.

Denise Park, Council Chief Executive, said, *"Not everyone's experience of the pandemic was the same, so any memorial we create should reflect that."*

*"Tragically, for some people, the pandemic has taken loved ones early. For others, particularly those who work in the NHS and other frontline roles, it's been about working under extreme pressure and developing resilience."*

*"The pandemic also inspired many people to volunteer, to support people who were struggling and to show kindness to others. And, of course, one huge positive is the NHS's largest ever vaccination programme that has helped people to start to get back to normal."*

As part of the project to plan a lasting Covid memorial, the Council is gathering local people's

views through a short survey. We want to know what elements of the pandemic you feel should be commemorated, what sort of features you think would make suitable memorials, and the best locations for them, to make sure the project reflects our diverse communities.

Early thinking is that there won't be just one monument in one location, but a series of linked elements exploring a range of themes – possibly an interactive Covid memorial trail.

*"We want to create a series of memorials that genuinely reflect our residents' experiences of the Covid pandemic – and that's why we're asking local people of all ages for their views,"* Denise added.

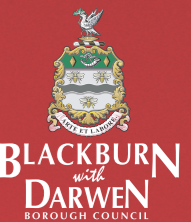
To complete our short survey visit:  
[bit.ly/covidmem](https://bit.ly/covidmem)

Anyone who doesn't have online access can get a paper copy of the survey by calling 01254 585177.

**It's never too late to have your Covid jab!**

All vaccination sites in BwD offer the first vaccine and welcome people attending for their first vaccination – make your appointment today.

[www.healthierlsc.co.uk/getmyjab](http://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/getmyjab)





# TURNING A NEW LEAF ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*"They're donning their gardening gloves, picking up their spades and answering our call for volunteers in their droves," Councillor Rawat says.*

***"It's fantastic to see people young and old come together to plant the saplings.***

***"They're enjoying the fresh air, they're meeting new people and they're all playing their own part in our fight against climate change – thank you to them all!"***

More than a dozen small woodlands are set to be planted as part of the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund.

Blackburn with Darwen Council teamed up with local authorities from across Pennine Lancashire and the Ribble Rivers Trust to secure the funding with an extra 4,000 trees to be planted at schools across the county too.

One of the first to take part was Avondale Primary School.

*"I love the idea that the children will be able to watch the trees they planted grow," Councillor Rawat adds.*

*"They'll be able to enjoy them while they're still at school, but also for decades to come – that's just fantastic."*

To find out more about the Council's Climate Emergency and Climate Change Action Plan, please visit: [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)

To keep up-to-date with the latest climate change updates and the ways you can get involved, please visit: [www.theshuttle.org.uk](http://www.theshuttle.org.uk) or follow the Council on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

## Great oaks grow from small acorns...

That's exactly the plan for thousands of saplings which are being planted right across our borough.

And it's not just oaks either, children and volunteers are busy planting Willows, Wild Cherry, Silver Birch, Crab Apple, Rowans and more.

The project is part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan which will ramp up this year as the authority bids to be carbon neutral by 2030.

One of the key priorities is to store carbon naturally by increasing tree cover, protecting soils and enhancing natural habitats.

*"We know there's huge benefits of planting trees," Councillor Zainab Rawat, the Council's Assistant Executive Member for Growth and Development tells The Shuttle.*

*"Not only do they provide a welcome boost to our green spaces and wildlife, they prevent flooding and help to combat climate change too by absorbing carbon dioxide, removing and storing carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air."*

Councillor Rawat is proudly championing the Council's climate change agenda – passionate about making a real difference here in Blackburn with Darwen.

*"We know there's a huge amount of work to do to achieve our ambitions of being carbon neutral by 2030," she adds.*

*"We also know that we can't do it alone and we really need residents and businesses to play their part too."*

And they are already doing so with residents volunteering to help plant 7,000 trees across Blackburn with Darwen in less than eight weeks.



Amelia Phillips, Eddie Maxwell, Elaine Cookson, Mason Kelly, and Alfie Phillips, tree planting at Arran Trail on Duttons Way.

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## IT'S YOUR PLACE, YOUR FUTURE...

cottontowncat

**The final touches are being made to a new blueprint for the future of Blackburn with Darwen.**

The Local Plan sets out how development and growth requirements across the borough up until 2037 will be met. This includes identifying sites for new quality homes and business developments to help support thousands of new job opportunities.

It also addresses important factors including improvements to roads and school provision, ways to consider climate change in all planning decisions and more.

Years of hard work by officers at Blackburn with Darwen Council has gone in to developing the robust plan which will be vital to aiding the area's recovery following the pandemic.

Now, the feedback from the final round of public consultation is being reviewed ahead of the plan being sent to Government for consideration this summer.

Councillor Phil Riley, Blackburn with Darwen Council's Executive Member for Growth and Development, said:

*"The Local Plan gives us a really strong foundation on which to deliver our vision for improved communities, giving everyone the very best chance in life and access to the services they need.*

*"It also determines how we will make the borough healthier and more prosperous - meeting the needs of our growing population.*

*"The plan is based on evidence and feedback, reflects the types of homes and jobs we need to improve community wellbeing, what type of high streets we*

*have and how we maximise the benefits from our parks and green spaces.*

*"I would like to thank all of our residents who took part in the extensive consultation."*

You can find out more by visiting: [www.blackburn.gov.uk/local-plan](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/local-plan)

**Have you spotted the Cotton Town Cat?**

This picture was kindly provided by the Cotton Town Cat which shares incredible images from across the borough on both Facebook and Instagram – be sure to give them a follow!

You can also see a full gallery at: [www.cottontowncat.com](http://www.cottontowncat.com)



**ELECTIONS  
THURSDAY  
5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022  
7am - 10pm**

**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**



**x Local elections  
x Parish elections**

## Important deadline dates:

- x Candidate nominations close - 5<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm**
- x Registration to vote - 14<sup>th</sup> April**
- x Application for postal votes - 19<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm**
- x Application to vote by proxy - 26<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm**

**Please remember to read your poll card carefully regarding your polling station location or visit [www.wheredoivote.co.uk](http://www.wheredoivote.co.uk)**

For further information and regular updates visit  
**[www.blackburn.gov.uk/voting](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/voting)**

Email [voting@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:voting@blackburn.gov.uk)  
Telephone (01254) 585920

 BlackburnDarwenCouncil

 blackburndarwen



# THE BRONZE LADY

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE INCREDIBLE STATUE OF BARONESS BARBARA CASTLE?

**We unveiled a bronze Barbara in October 2021, created by sculptor Sam Holland.**

The former MP for Blackburn takes pride of place striding purposefully across Jubilee Square with the Equal Pay Act in hand – a location she would have often passed on her constituency business.

Hosted by BBC Radio Lancashire presenter Sharon Hartley, the unveiling was attended by figures and residents who wanted to celebrate Barbara's inspiring work.

Barbara Castle, who served as Blackburn MP from 1945-1979, was instrumental in the Equal Pay Act and championing women's rights. She also introduced the Carer's Allowance, as well as road safety legislation that led to the introduction of seatbelts and breathalyser tests.

The statue was unveiled by the Rt Hon Jack Straw and Shadow Chancellor Angela Rayner, who both gave impassioned speeches on the influence and legacy of Barbara Castle, alongside Kate Hollern MP and Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE.

During the speeches, members of Blackburn Youth Zone and One Voice also lead a special performance walk around Blackburn Town Centre, featuring placards highlighting the achievements of Barbara.

**Councillor Maureen Bateson said:**

*"Barbara Castle was a trailblazer for women everywhere. She also represents all that's best about Blackburn, real grit and determination, succeeding often against the odds."*

*"We have such a rich history in both Blackburn and Darwen and yet we don't often hear about the role women like Barbara Castle played."*

*"The statue helps us honour all that she did and will ensure that her memory lives on – inspiring future generations."*

*"We hope it will draw visitors to the town and also address the distinct lack of statues of inspirational women in the county and right across the country while celebrating the area's rich heritage."*

To find out more about the statue and Barbara, download the Experience Blackburn app via the App Store / Play Store and follow the interactive Barbara Castle QR trail.

We're also encouraging residents to snap a selfie with the Baroness – get involved and share yours using the #BeMoreBarbara hashtag.

Young people linked with the Blackburn with Darwen Children's University were quick to take part and share their Barbara spirit!



Jack Straw and Angela Rayner with Barbara statue.



# MORE WALKING AND CYCLING FOR BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

IT'S NO SECRET THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF BENEFITS TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND GETTING OUTDOORS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR FOR ALL AGES..



Learn to ride: local residents taking part in free cycle training at Witton Park

**If you're not already making the most of what's on offer across the borough, take a closer look and find something that suits you.**

Activities include walking, cycling, sports, and gardening, with help and support available when you need it.

Benefits to taking part in group activities include social contact, as connecting with others is one of the 5 ways to wellbeing [www.blackburn.gov.uk/5wwb](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/5wwb).

Being active can also help you to prevent falls and body deconditioning. If you're over 50, being active is linked to healthy ageing, can give you better heart health and lower your blood pressure, all of which will help our NHS by reducing the need to visit your GP.

Active travel, that is walking or cycling to go from A to B instead of taking the car, is becoming an easy way to not only be active in our everyday lives, but to also help reduce congestion and air pollution in our neighbourhoods.

The Witton Park Cycle Centre is a fantastic resource for residents to get advice and training when it comes to all things bicycle related. If you've not been on your bike for a while you can sign up for a 'Try a Bike' session with the re:refresh team, and look out for regular free bicycle maintenance sessions so you know how to look after your bike. Re:refresh also offer guided bike rides [www.refreshbwd.com/active/](http://www.refreshbwd.com/active/) and other activities.

Along with more details about physical activity opportunities in the borough the new BeWellBwD website is a one stop shop for information and support on health and wellbeing for residents and professionals in Blackburn with Darwen.

The website includes information on all services and initiatives in the borough including the rebranded Recipe 4 Health healthier catering award scheme and Breastfeeding Friendly places.



Scan to learn more about BeWellBwD

# re:refresh

## EAT WELL MOVE MORE

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The refresh team are here to support you at any age or fitness level. Whether it's to manage a long term medical condition, improve your overall health and wellbeing, or to meet new people. We have a variety of options including walks, led bike rides and low level exercise classes available to start you on the right path.

### WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMME

We are working in partnership with a variety of local providers to offer a range of 12 week programmes that can help you successfully meet your short and long term goals.

### NEW MUMS AND YOUNG FAMILIES

Whether it's staying active during pregnancy, recovering after child birth or taking part in physical activity during your child's early years.

### EVERY MOVEMENT COUNTS!

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

01254 682037



[wellbeing@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@blackburn.gov.uk)



[www.refreshbwd.com](http://www.refreshbwd.com)



[refreshblackburnwithdarwen](https://www.facebook.com/refreshblackburnwithdarwen)





# COUNCILLOR KHAN WAVES GOODBYE

Leader, Councillor Mohammed Khan and MP Kate Hollern with young people from Blackburn Youth Zone at the Barbara Castle statue unveiling



Councillor Mohammed Khan receiving his CBE from Prince William at Windsor Castle

For Councillor Khan not standing for re-election has been one of the hardest decisions of his life but the time is now right for him to retire.

*"It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve this wonderful borough", he says. "My commitment remains undiminished but it's time to pass the baton on to someone else.*

*"I am enormously proud of what we have achieved over the years - the regeneration in our towns, our leisure and cultural services, our partnerships with the NHS and the quality of care in the borough. I am also proud of the social integration work the Council is leading on that is bringing people and communities together.*

*"There is power in working as a collective. I passionately believe, as you would expect, that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone. We all know what a wonderful place this is. We all want to make it even better. Of course, the last ten years of austerity have been enormously challenging and the Covid-19 pandemic has been horrific for us all. But I have always put our borough and its residents first.*

*"I will miss being a councillor but I will continue to help people in whatever capacity I can. The memories will remain with me for the rest of my life."*



*"I will miss being a councillor but I will continue to help people in whatever capacity I can. The memories will remain with me for the rest of my life."*

## A distinguished local figure and councillor with 30 years' service has announced his decision to exit public life later this year.

Blackburn with Darwen Council Leader, Councillor Mohammed Khan - twice honoured by the Queen and awarded a CBE last year - will be standing down as Leader and retiring as a councillor when his term of office finishes in May 2022.

A Blackburn councillor since 1992, Mohammed was Mayor in 2008-09 and has been leader since 2015. Born and raised in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, he came to Blackburn in June 1965 where he worked and studied Textile Technology at Blackburn College.

After time spent in the USA studying Business Management at Pennsylvania State University and LA Salle Extension University Chicago, he returned to Blackburn in 1981, working in the textile industry before opening his own business in 1985.

Mohammed is one of a small number of senior British Asian local politicians and is widely recognised for his ability to bring communities together. He has been instrumental in influencing and shaping key national agendas, while keeping Blackburn and its people at the heart of everything he does.



# WORK SET TO START AT BLAKEY MOOR

The sound of laughter filling the night sky, friends gathered around a table outside enjoying food, drinks and each other's company before heading across the road to watch the latest headline act at a packed venue.

With work now underway on transforming an integral part of Blackburn's 'cultural quarter,' this is what residents can look forward to in 2023.

For the last 100 years, Blakey Moor Terrace has stood opposite the grand King George's Hall – and for many decades before that too.

Dating back to the 1800s, and with a variety of uses over the years, the building had sadly started to show its age in recent years, lying largely empty and slowly falling into serious disrepair.

But now, as part of the council's £3m Townscape Heritage project with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, work has started that will see new life breathed into this crucial piece of the jigsaw.

Blackburn-based Forrest Joinery and Construction Contracts Ltd are leading on the impressive renovations designed by award-winning architects, Group Ginger.

It'll see the building split into two – ideal locations for new eateries in the town – one with an impressive mezzanine floor.

To the rear, there'll be a brand new courtyard too that'll make the most of its south-facing position and link to the popular new Reel Cinema.

And, with new occupiers soon to be announced for the former Baroque bar and East Z East busy serving up its quality Indian cuisine, the whole area is already seeing a revival.

*"We're all really excited to see this building brought back to its best," Councillor Phil Riley – the Council's Executive Member for Growth and Development tells the Shuttle.*

*"You only have to stand at King George's Hall and look down towards the new cinema and the Barbara Castle statue and already the area is looking really impressive.*

***"The work to Blakey Moor Terrace will add to that even further – providing a perfect location for new restaurants right in the heart of the cultural quarter in Blackburn."***

The plans for the Terrace building delicately balance the need for modern facilities to secure its long-term future with a focus on preserving historical quality - refurbishing features where possible.

"It'll be no easy task and we expect the refurbishment to take at least a year," Councillor Riley adds, "but we know it'll absolutely be worth the effort.

"As we start to recover from the pandemic, we know that

a strong cultural offer will be more important than ever before and so this project is even more important.

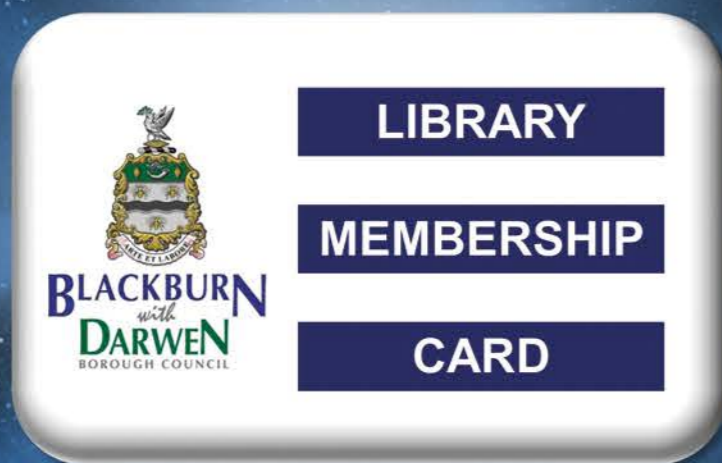
"We want to ensure successful futures for our town centres and with the work here at Northgate and the £250m masterplan for the former Thwaites site, we're in a really good position to do something fantastic for Blackburn."

As part of the Townscape Heritage project, up to 16 historic buildings in the Northgate Conservation area will also be restored, with work already completed on five.

For more information about the two units that will be available to let in 2023 at Blakey Moor Terrace, please email: [Julia.simpson@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.simpson@blackburn.gov.uk)



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SPACES  
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@BwDLibraries

# BLACKBURN'S GREEN SPACES CULTIVATE NEW UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS

GREEN SPACES ACROSS BLACKBURN HAVE CONNECTED LOCAL MEN FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, CULTURES AND COUNTRIES, THROUGH MONTHLY WELLBEING WALKS.



Sowing the seeds of friendship in the great outdoors: the Outside Side By Side group with Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Andy Mather

**The 'Outside Side By Side' project**, delivered by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, aims to encourage people to get to know each other whilst discovering the benefits of being outside in the borough's beautiful green spaces.

Andy Mather from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust leads the groups. He said: "It's been great to connect new people, introduce new green spaces on their doorstep and see new friendships being forged.

"We've welcomed men that have lived in Blackburn all their life, refugees who have settled in Blackburn after having to flee their home country, and those dealing with anxiety and depression.

"Despite all our differences, we are just a bunch of blokes going for a walk."

Among the participants who regularly meet up for walks is Issa, 41, from Blackburn – a refugee from Myanmar.

Issa, who moved to Blackburn eight years ago, said: "Walking has been a good way of meeting new people who live nearby and hearing more about the area from people who have lived here all their lives.

"I've discovered local parks and green spaces that I hadn't been to before, and talking with the group has helped to improve my English."

56 year old Paul from Darwen said he had been humbled by hearing refugees' heart-wrenching stories and learning about different cultures.

"It's been interesting to hear the difficulties people have faced and understand why refugees

have come to live in Blackburn. It's been a very valuable experience and I'm also learning new things about the place I've lived in all my life."

Nigel, aged 60, from Darwen added:

"It's been very humbling meeting refugees and hearing what they have faced. If I can play a small part in making Blackburn a more welcoming place, then I'm proud to do so."

'Outside Side By Side' is just one community project funded through the Council's 'Our Community, Our Future' social integration programme.

Find out more at

[www.blackburn.gov.uk/social-integration](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/social-integration).

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**BwD LEISURE**





Group picture with all the winners from the Community Volunteer Awards 2021

# LOCAL HEROES CELEBRATED AT GLITTERING AWARDS CEREMONY

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS FROM ACROSS BLACKBURN & DARWEN WERE CROWNED IN A CEREMONY AT THE 2021 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS HELD AT KING GEORGE'S HALL.

20 awards were presented to people and groups who go the extra mile to support others and help make their neighbourhoods better places to live.

The awards were hosted by BBC Radio Lancashire breakfast show star Graham Liver.

A record-breaking 416 nominations were received, which is the highest number ever for the awards, showing the gratitude that people feel for all the work put in by the borough's volunteers and helpers over the past year.

In the last year our borough's community champions rose to the challenge more than ever in response to the pandemic and were a lifeline for so many people who needed extra help.

The Community Volunteer Awards celebrate the wonderful and dedicated people and groups who make a difference in Blackburn and Darwen year in, year out, and help to make it a better place.

The awards were not held last year due to the pandemic, making this year even more special for the volunteers and the countless people they have helped in the last two years.

The Community Volunteer Awards were jointly arranged and hosted by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Community CVS, with support from local businesses and community organisations.

Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE, said in his speech: *"These have been, and still are, uncertain and strange times and we need our local heroes and helpers more than we ever have. Over the past year we have seen so many people going above and beyond for others and making a huge difference and it is more important than ever that we celebrate them."*



Culture, Leisure and Sporting Life Award, Individual winner – Craig Walsh



Lindsay Dunn Award, Individual winner – Aisha Mehboob



Good Neighbour Award, Individual winner – Brian Tull



Mayor Councillor Derek Hardman with his wife Mayoress Mrs Coleffe Hardman and Leader Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE

*"So many people have struggled over the last year with the huge changes in their lives and in our borough and the world, and all the wonderful volunteers here tonight were a real lifeline to so many, keeping them going, helping them in their day to day lives and showing the absolute best of Blackburn with Darwen."*

*"I can say with complete honesty that it was extremely difficult to narrow down these incredible nominations. Every volunteer and community champion here tonight deserves recognition for their dedication. You are all truly the best of us, devoting yourselves to other people in a way that is absolutely inspiring."*

*"We should be really proud that we have so many people in Blackburn with Darwen who work hard every day to help make it a better place."*

Garth Hodgkinson, Chief Executive of Community CVS, said: *"The event showcases what a fabulous contribution that volunteers make to our daily lives and we would all be the poorer without the work they do. As a borough and as a country, we need to invest in volunteering in every walk of life and invest in our communities. I would like to thank our sponsors from across the commercial, public and voluntary sectors, without whose support, this event would not have taken place."*

Denise Park, Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, added: *"This was a fantastic evening and it was wonderful to see so many of our amazing volunteers commended for the tireless work they do."*

*"It was even more special to see everyone come together after a longer break than usual and to see so many people who are dedicated to giving their time to support others and make the borough a better place. Well done to everyone!"*

Sponsors of the 2021 Community Volunteer Awards included: Star Tissue, Blackburn Rovers, Care Station, ELHT, CCG, Interfaith Forum, BwD Healthwatch, The Wish Centre, Age UK, BwD Carers, CGL, The Hive, Suez, Blackburn College, Trueman Change, Voice, McDonalds, Nightsafe, Herbert Parkinson and PCC – Our Lancashire.

Many local organisations and businesses also contributed time, effort and resources to make the Community Volunteer Awards presentation evening happen. They all wanted to give something back and celebrate the valuable contribution that volunteers make within Blackburn with Darwen.

# 27-29 MAY SUMMER FEST '22

SATURDAY

BOY GEORGE &  
**CULTURE CLUB**

FRIDAY  
**THE HUMAN LEAGUE**

**TONY HADLEY**  
HEATHER SMALL  
LEE JOHN OF IMAGINATION

**MIDGE URE**

KIM WILDE  
NIK KERSHAW  
LOTTERY WINNERS  
YESTERYEARS

SECOND STAGE

JOE ASTLEY & THE WALLGATE BAND  
THE FACADES  
JOE STANLEY  
PSPPP  
GARDEN PARTY

IBIZA TENT HOSTED ACROSS  
THE WEEKEND BY MARTIN OFFIAH

JAMES HASKELL  
JORDAN KHOKHAR  
JEN HARRISON  
PLUS MORE

SUNDAY

**UB40**  
FEATURING ALI CAMPBELL

**SOUL II SOUL**

MAXI PRIEST  
ASWAD  
THE MARLEY EXPERIENCE  
THE BAREFOOT BANDIT  
DUB DEFENDERS

SECOND STAGE

MAMMA MANIA  
RIVVER  
JEN DIXON  
TOM BYROM / REFLECTIONZ  
ZHA OLU

HOSTED BY DJ MIKE READ IN ASSOCIATION WITH 365 RADIO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [SUMMER-FEST.CO.UK](http://SUMMER-FEST.CO.UK)

365 Radio

PLAY IT GREEN



BREWDOG ticketmaster

BLACKBURN ROVERS FC, EWOOD PARK, BB2 4JF

SAT 30TH APRIL 2022

**THE CLONE ROSES**

**noasis**

**COURTBETWEENERS**

**HAPPY MONDAZE**

**THE SMITHS UTD**

True Order

# RESTRICTED ROCKS

TRIBUTE FESTIVAL 2022

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL & SUNDAY 1ST MAY

TICKETS FROM  
[SKIDDLE.COM](http://SKIDDLE.COM)

SUN 1ST MAY 2022



**MeatLoaf**

**FOO FIGHTERZ**

**Status Quo**

**NIRVANA TRIBUTE**

**GREEN HAZE**

ALL PERFORMING AT WITTON COUNTRY PARK BLACKBURN BB2 2TP

# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN SET TO ROCK 2022

The tribute festival will take place between Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1. The high voltage indie and rock music is set to delight families and music lovers of all ages with a stellar line up of tribute acts and performers.

Last year the festival, now in its third year, attracted 9,000 spectators and this year is expected to be no different with organisers excited to give the ultimate rock and roll experience for the whole family to enjoy.

Zander Lawrenson, CEO of Restricted Events, said: "I'm just amazed at how this festival has took off right from the beginning, each year we keep getting bigger and bigger, the line up gets stronger & stronger and we have

so many new plans and ideas for this brand in the future.

"I want to thank all my team involved and to all the supporters that have joined us over the years."

For 2022, the festival will feature 12 tribute bands, a fairground for adults and children, beer tents, food stalls, merchandise stalls and other performers.

Artists already book for the Saturday include The Clone Roses, Noasis, Happy Mondaze, Courtbetweeners, The Smiths UTD, and True Order. The Sunday line-up includes Not The Rolling Stones, Meatloaf, Counterfeit Quo, Foo Fighterz, Nirvana Tribute and Green Haze.

## WIN FREE TICKETS!

FANCY GETTING YOUR HANDS ON WEEKEND TICKETS FOR BOTH DAYS AT THIS YEAR'S RESTRICTED ROCKS FESTIVAL?

SIMPLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Q: WHICH BAND LISTED ABOVE PLAYS MUSIC BY THE RECENTLY DECEASED ROCK LEGEND WHOSE REAL NAME IS MARVIN LEE ADAY?

EMAIL YOUR ANSWER TO US AT [SHUTTLE@BLACKBURN.GOV.UK](mailto:SHUTTLE@BLACKBURN.GOV.UK) BY MONDAY 25TH APRIL.

For full Terms and Conditions, visit: [www.theshuttle.org.uk](http://www.theshuttle.org.uk)

For ticket details visit [www.facebook.com/Restrictedrocks](http://www.facebook.com/Restrictedrocks)



# WIN £100 SHOP DARWEN VOUCHERS!

NAME\*

ADDRESS

POSTCODE\*

TELEPHONE\*

EMAIL ADDRESS

SHOP DARWEN BUSINESS

TODAY'S DATE\*

## THE SHUTTLE SHOP DARWEN PRIZE DRAW

To be in with a chance of winning £100 of Shop Darwen vouchers, simply complete the application form adjacent, carefully tear out the page and post in the Shop Darwen post-box in the Annexe at Darwen Market. The deadline for entries is Saturday 4th June 2022. The winner will be announced within 7 days of the draw taking place.

GDPR\* I consent to my data being used to inform me if I am the winner of the competition.

 YES

 NO

All fields marked with a \* must be completed for the entry to be valid.

## MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

Whilst you are in Darwen, why not visit a Shop Darwen business? Not only does it feel good to shop local, if you spend £5 or more you will receive an entry to the regular monthly prize draw, with a chance to win £50 of Shop Darwen vouchers. The more you shop the more chances you get to win, as you can enter as many times as you get entry forms!

For full T&C's and a list of participating Shop Darwen businesses please visit:

[darwentowncentre.co.uk/shopdarwen](http://darwentowncentre.co.uk/shopdarwen)



Keep up to date and follow us @shopdarwen



# MARKET IS AT THE HEART OF DARWEN

FOR ONE BRAND NEW DARWEN BUSINESS, THE TOWN'S MARKET IS LIVING UP TO ITS MOTTO OF BEING AT THE VERY 'HEART OF THE TOWN.'



Tom Turner, Louise Hargreaves and Peter Whelan

"We have a big history of markets in the family,' Tom Turner proudly tells The Shuttle. "Much of the meat we produce for the stall is reared on our farm in Tockholes and the eggs too.

"Local butchers can offer customer service that isn't available elsewhere, including tips on how to prepare the meat and cook it to perfection."

At Harriet's Kitchen, Tom's lamb is a firm favourite on the menu which also boasts luxury fish pies, traditional Sunday roasts, rag puddings, pasta dishes, curries and more.

The duo prepare thousands of meals each week that are then hand delivered or stocked on Gilly's.

"It was a no brainer for us," Peter Whelan who owns Gilly's Sandwich and Salad Bar said.

"We'd heard so many good reports about the Harriet's Kitchen meals and they literally sell themselves!

"We've been on the market now for more than 30 years and we've always been really keen to support local businesses."

To try one of the meals prepared by Harriet's Kitchen – head down to Gilly's in the Market Annexe.

You can also find out more about all three businesses on Facebook.

[www.darwentowncentre.co.uk/market](http://www.darwentowncentre.co.uk/market)

Mum and daughter, Louise and Angela Hargreaves, both proud Darreners, found that they very quickly needed to adapt when the pandemic struck.

Having successfully run the kitchen and restaurants for many years, most recently at the Greenfield Inn, like many others, Covid-19 sadly forced them to shut their doors to customers.

Not ones to be sat at home, however, they quickly launched Harriet's Kitchen – preparing fresh, home cooked meals that could be delivered right across the borough.

Looking to use the very best ingredients, the pair buy their meat from Turners Butchers in the town.

And now, having proven so popular, the Harriet's Kitchen meals are being sold from the market too on Gilly's Salad and Sandwich Bar.

"It's like a full circle," Louise said standing in the Market Hall which is now 140 years old.

"I buy my meats from Tom at Turner's Butchers, prepare the meals in the kitchen up the road at the Greenfield Inn and then deliver some back to the market to be sold on Gilly's too."

Like others, Louise likes the personal service that a local butchers like Turners can provide. And with more than 70 years of experience on markets for the Turner family, she's in safe hands.



# YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

## FREE PRIZE DRAW

### WIN £100 GIFT VOUCHERS FOR BLACKBURN MARKET

To enter the prize draw, simply complete this application form, carefully cut out the page, and post in the post-box at the Visitor Centre in Blackburn Market by Saturday 4th June 2022. The winner will be announced on Blackburn Market's Facebook page by the 7th day after the draw takes place.

NAME*	
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE*	TELEPHONE*
EMAIL ADDRESS	
TODAY'S DATE*	

All fields marked with a \* must be completed for the entry to be valid.

There are many ways you could spend £100 of **BLACKBURN MARKET GIFT VOUCHERS** such as;

- Getting beauty treatments and your nails done
- Buying fresh produce for home cooking
- Treating yourself to a new outfit or shoes
- Enjoying coffee & cake with friends
- Taking the family out for lunch at their favourite market food stall
- Purchasing an item of jewellery or a watch
- Stress free dinners: pies, take-aways and ready-made meals
- Adding new items to your home
- Fresh flowers for your home or a friend

...how would you spend yours?

For full terms and conditions visit our website:  
[www.blackburnmarket.com](http://www.blackburnmarket.com)

Follow us for all the latest news:    /blackburnmarket



## LESLEY'S MAKING THE HEADLINES WITH STALL EXPANSION

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS LESLEY SIMPSON HAS BEEN SELLING NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES FROM HER BLACKBURN MARKET STALL.

Now, she's making the headlines herself after expanding her business for the first time.

She first bought the books and stationery business on the 'old market' back in the late 80s, going on to add newspapers, magazines and the National Lottery to the mix too.

Now, after building up a reputation for their games, toys and jigsaws, the family has decided to expand and take on a second stall adding stationary, more books and early years' toys and children's workbooks.

"We have customers travelling from out of town to buy the

jigsaws," Lesley tells *The Shuttle*.

"Over the years we've built a good reputation for the selection we have and we have loyal customers waiting for the latest ones to come out.

"We've thought about expanding over the years and when the stall next door became available, we decided to go for it.

Lesley's seen many changes over the years, more so with the impact of the pandemic. "There's always been a real sense of camaraderie on the market – a special atmosphere," she adds.

"There's absolutely no doubt that it's been tough in recent

years with the pandemic – like many businesses, it's been a real struggle.

Lesley is now encouraging shoppers to head back to the market to see what's on offer. "We really need people to shop local to support the businesses," she says.

"We have a fantastic selection of stalls on the market, come and have a wander around and see what we have to offer."

To find out more about the market, including a full rundown of the stalls and opening times, please visit:

[www.blackburnmarket.com](http://www.blackburnmarket.com)



# Could you be a carer for adults?

Could you spare room in your home and your heart to help support an adult with additional needs?

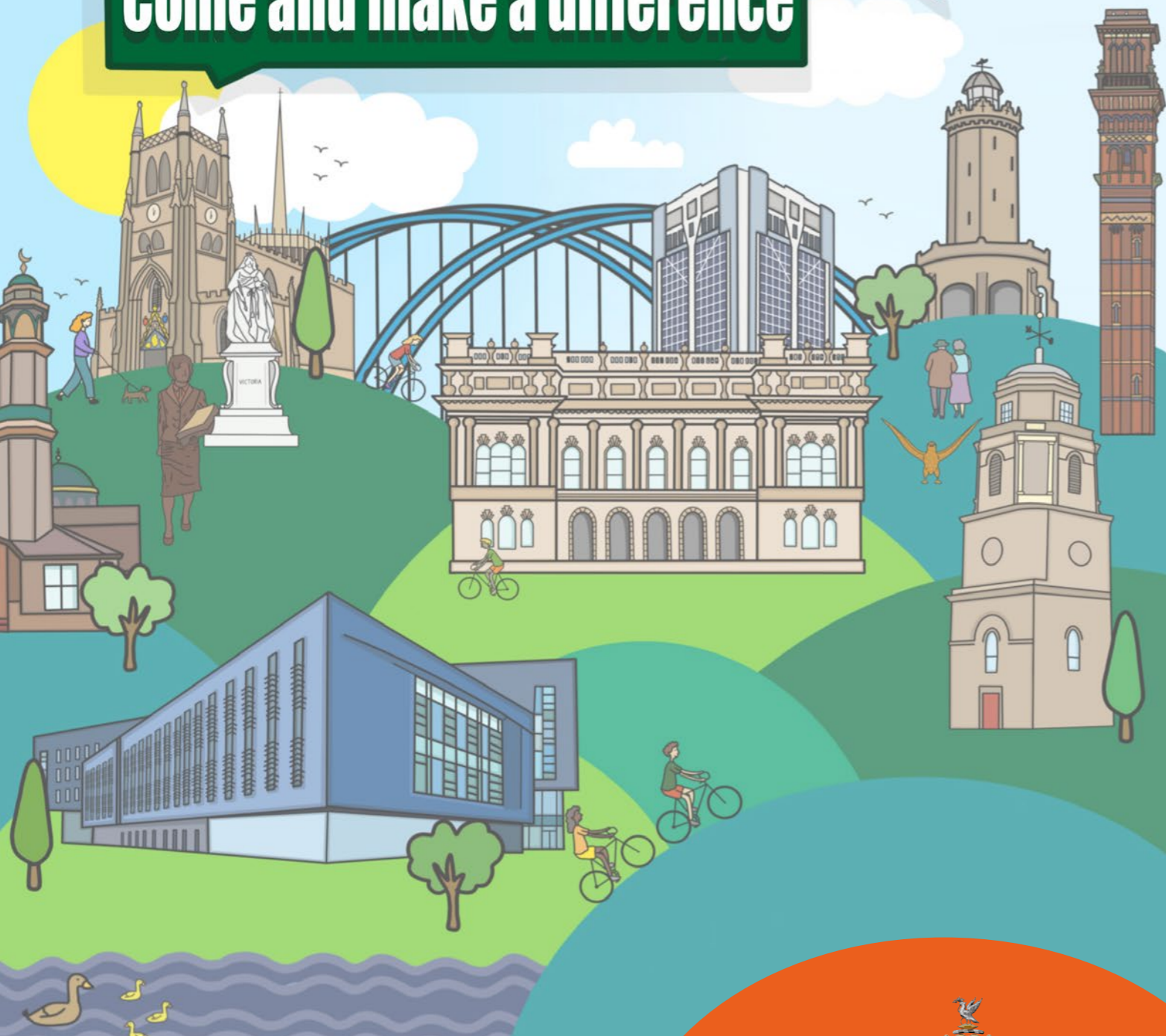
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In return you get training, dedicated support, payment and lots of happy memories.

[www.blackburn.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/sharedlives)  
sharedlives@blackburn.gov.uk | 01254 585899

Have you ever thought  
about joining your local  
Council? **Join our team**

**Come and make a difference**

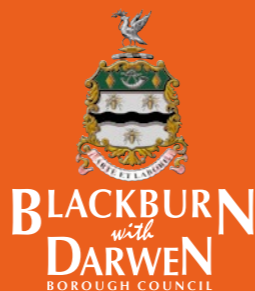


Visit our Jobs Page at: [jobs.blackburn.gov.uk](http://jobs.blackburn.gov.uk)

See the opportunities we have on our social pages:

 [Blackburnwithdarwencounciljobspage/](https://www.facebook.com/Blackburnwithdarwencounciljobspage/)

 [Blackburn-with-darwen-borough-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/blackburn-with-darwen-borough-council)



# START YOUR CAREER WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP...

Did you know the Council runs over 800 different services?

A recruitment poster for apprenticeships. It features a yellow and orange color scheme with silhouettes of people celebrating. The text includes "THE START OF YOUR CAREER", "Recruiting 2022", "BLACKBURN with DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL", "APPRENTICE CAREERS", "WHAT WE NEED:", "WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU:", "INTERESTED?", "To apply visit: www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs", "facebook.com/BlackburnDarwenCouncil", and "OPPORTUNITIES STARTING SEPT 2022".

**THE START OF YOUR CAREER**

Recruiting 2022

BLACKBURN with DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**APPRENTICE CAREERS**

**WHAT WE NEED:**

- TEAM PLAYER - HARD WORKING
- WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED
- FLEXIBILITY - ENTHUSIASM

**WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU:**

- KICK START YOUR CAREER WITH AN ENTRY LEVEL ROLE
- EARN AS YOU LEARN
- OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY A RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION

**INTERESTED?**

To apply visit:  
[www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/jobs)  
 [facebook.com/BlackburnDarwenCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/BlackburnDarwenCouncil)

**OPPORTUNITIES STARTING SEPT 2022**

From legal, finance, social work, IT, environment services to trades such as building, joinery – the career opportunities are vast and varied.

Apprenticeships are a great way to start your career. Get paid to do a real job, gain experience and work towards a nationally recognised qualification.

The Council offers a high quality apprenticeship programme that combines work experience, training and a competitive Living Wage salary.

Our new programme launches in March.

Visit [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk) for information.

# FREE HELP AND SUPPORT TO IMPROVE YOUR **HEALTH**



## CONTACT US

You can ask your GP to refer you or contact us directly:

**CALL** 01254 682 037 **VISIT** [www.refreshbwd.com](http://www.refreshbwd.com) **EMAIL** [wellbeing@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@blackburn.gov.uk)

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY  
**ONE YOU**

**re:refresh**  
your health and wellbeing

## £250K APPEAL FOR STATE OF THE ART YOUTH ZONE IN DARWEN



A fundraising drive is underway in Darwen for a brand new Youth Zone facility.

Business and community leaders are backing a bid to raise £250,000 a year for **'Youth Zone Darwen.'**

The scheme would see Meeting Places in the town centre transformed into a state-of-the-art facility.

A variety of sessions would also be held at AFC Darwen, DACA's Sport Centre, Darwen Library Theatre and Junction 4 Skatepark.

Now, Blackburn Youth Zone needs business leaders and influential members of the community to become patrons and help raise the vital funds needed.

Leading the appeal, supported by Blackburn with Darwen Council, is Youth Zone Trustee and Darwen Town Deal Chair, Wayne Wild.

Chief Executive of Blackburn Youth Zone, Hannah Allen added: **"Darwen's young people need somewhere safe and exciting to spend their spare time."**

**"Our current youth club in Darwen is so busy we're having to turn some young people away and funding constraints mean we can't open every day."**

**"Our new plans will create a dedicated and fun space with affordable activities available seven nights a week. It will be a centre we can all be proud of."**

A temporary Youth Zone Darwen launched in response to Covid-19 with more than 350 young people using it each week.

To be able to make the service permanent and upgrade the facilities – the project needs individuals and business leaders to help raise the £250,000 it will cost to run each year.

To find out more about Youth Zone Darwen, how to become a Patron or donate, please email: [julia.wright@blackburnyz.org](mailto:julia.wright@blackburnyz.org)

Find out more about current activities at: [www.blackburnyz.org](http://www.blackburnyz.org)



Councillor Julie Gunn with the outstanding staff and students at Apple Trees in Blackburn.

# APPLE TREES' STAFF PRAISED FOR THEIR 'OUTSTANDING' SERVICE

**Caring staff at a Council-run short break centre for disabled children have been praised for their 'outstanding' work by Ofsted.**

Apple Trees in Blackburn, which is run by Blackburn with Darwen Council, was judged to be outstanding by Ofsted inspectors in all areas – the sixth year in a row.

It is recognised as being one of the best services of its type in the country.

It provides short breaks for up to five children with complex needs at a time, up to the age of 18. The team provide a range of 'home from home' support and activity depending on the needs of the child, young person and carer.

Recent investment in the centre has supported the creation of a self-contained suite to further improve the service on offer.

During the inspection, parents

described the setting as a 'life saver' - providing children with care and support when they need it most. The report states:

**"The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of 'good'. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care.**

**"Children have enriching and life-enhancing experiences when they access this short-break service. They thrive and benefit from the exceptional care and opportunities that are offered by dedicated staff.**

**"Staff offer care that is highly sensitive to children's individual, and often complex, needs. Relationships that develop between staff and children are sustained over many years."**

Apple Trees allows young people to have social experiences outside of their immediate families in a purpose-built environment.

Councillor Julie Gunn, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, said:

**"I am so proud that we provide this superb service which is making a huge difference to children and families. The inspection judgement is a real testament to the hard work and dedication of the caring and highly-skilled team."**

Jayne Ivory, Strategic Director of Children & Education at Blackburn with Darwen Council, said:

**"This service really is one of the best of its kind in the country. We are able to help children and young people who have additional needs have opportunities to learn and grow whilst their families have time to re-charge."**



# Exciting new developments at Blackburn College

## Motor Vehicle

**Blackburn College is the driving force behind new £1.3m renewable energy project**



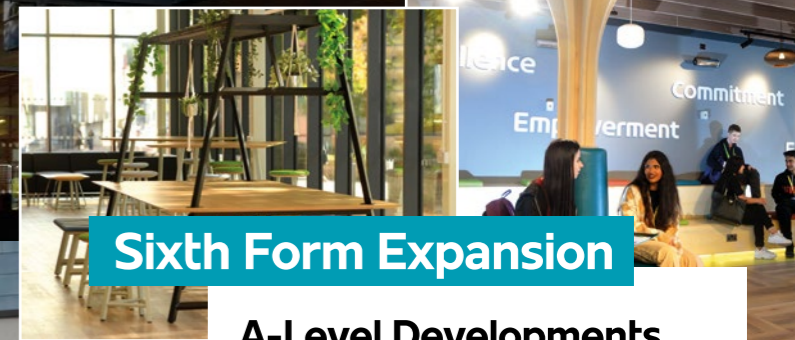
Blackburn College is leading the Lancashire Automotive Skills Accelerator Project funded by the Department for Education, as part of The Skills Accelerator Strategic Development Fund.

The project, which was officially launched at Blackburn College, will create low-carbon skills centres across Lancashire, providing

significant investment in cutting-edge technologies and upskilling teachers to ensure that courses meet the needs of employers and the industry.

The skills centres will support the Government's commitment to withdrawing the sale of new petrol or diesel cars in 2030 as part of the UK's net-zero targets.

## Sixth Form Expansion



## A-Level Developments

Blackburn Sixth Form has undergone a £1m redevelopment and opened to students in September 2021.

We have created new social spaces including - The Pavilion, drop-off facilities, study areas and an expansion of the number of purpose-built classrooms. It is home to scientific laboratories, a student hub, computing suites and a café.

New subjects of Spanish, Music and Geography are also set to be introduced.

## Upcoming Events

**Open Event**  
Thursday  
16th June 2022  
4.30pm - 8pm

**Enrolment for 16-18s starts**  
Thursday  
25th August 2022

## Historic Redevelopment Plans for redeveloped Victoria Building



Blackburn College's historic Victoria Building will undergo a redevelopment starting in 2022 using a Government grant.

The College's exciting plans include the complete refurbishment of the listed building and the redevelopment of the current creative arts studios.

The redeveloped building will also include a training suite for adults and spaces for employers and community education including dedicated facilities for ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students.

# PITCH COURT AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

BwD LEISURE HAS A NUMBER OF 3G AND GRASS PITCHES, COURTS AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES FOR HIRE

FOR CASUAL HIRE AND BLOCK BOOKINGS ACROSS BLACKBURN AND DARWEN

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[bwdleisure@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:bwdleisure@blackburn.gov.uk)



## BLACKBURN HAWKS HIT THE ICE

Hawks Vs Scimitars In 2021 Spring Cup

IT'S BEEN TWO AND HALF YEARS SINCE CO-OWNERS GRAHAM LOMAX AND CARL EVERITT TOOK OVER OPERATIONS OF BLACKBURN'S ICE HOCKEY CLUB AT PLANET ICE AND ATTENDANCE HAS NEARLY TRIPLED.

Graham says he feels the pair have been able to breathe new life into the club with their business and hockey acumen and with his son and former Hawks legend Oli Lomax as interim head coach by their side, they've transformed the game for residents, showcasing the love for the sport and now welcome on average 700 fans every week.

When asked about the impact of growing support from fans, Graham Lomax, co-owner of Blackburn Hawks, said:

*"The beauty about Blackburn Hawks is it's always had a very, very good fan base. They would turn up week in and week out, hail, rain or shine, and they still*

*do and we wanted to build on that, we wanted to get new fans in and get a lot of the old fans back and we've certainly done that. A lot of recommendations and referrals are now coming in with people encouraging their family, friends and neighbours to come down to the game on a Sunday night."*

Graham continued: *"The people of Blackburn are a very passionate bunch of people who like a team that gives 110%, it doesn't really matter about ability, it's about the experience and our ethos at Blackburn Hawks is to give fans a team to be proud of, win, lose or draw – we make sure to showcase our identity at every game and play a certain*

*style of hockey that ensures our supporters go home happy."*

Captain for Blackburn Hawks, Reece Cairney Witter, said: *'I love the new set up at Blackburn and how it's changed since Graham and Carl have taken over the professionalism is second to none and also the fans are amazing and it really helps myself and the boys when you hear them chanting for you when you're out on the ice, it's like having a 6th man out there with you."*

Blackburn Hawks face off at six o'clock every Sunday night at Planet Ice Arena, for more information on match times visit: [www.blackburnhawks.com/](http://www.blackburnhawks.com/)

### WIN 4 FREE TICKETS!

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO WATCH BLACKBURN HAWKS IN ACTION!

To win, answer this question:

Q: What year was the first Blackburn Hawks' ice hockey team founded?

Email your answers to: [shuttle@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:shuttle@blackburn.gov.uk)

Winners will be announced on Saturday 26th March

# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

From casual to haute cuisine you can taste culinary delights from all over the world here.

Day and night visitors flock to Blackburn's renowned Whalley Range for some of the best curries and spiced dishes around, whilst neighbouring Darwen's eateries regularly top the Trip Advisor ratings. A foodie's heaven awaits in our brilliant borough – with establishments telling us why they are a hit with their customers. So for starters, here's seven to feast your eyes on...



**Ranken Arms, Queen Street, Hoddlesden, Darwen, BB3 3LY**

"We pledge to give a quality experience to our customers every time they visit, whether they be a party of two or forty. Enjoy us in all weathers, be it the sun garden or by the roaring log fire - we are open 365 days of the year".



**Marjory's Catering, 65 Blackburn Road, Darwen, BB3 1EJ**

Lisa Whalley said: "I do everything from cakes and afternoon tea to savoury buffets. I provide food to suit all budgets and dietary requirements. It is important to me to use local suppliers and I try to avoid minimum orders, so that I can be accessible to everyone."



**Bean Veggie & Vegan café, Penny Street, Blackburn, BB1 6HQ**

Annie Hewitt said: "I'm completely passionate about creating food that's fresh, delicious, nutritious and as colourful as can be. I only work with local suppliers and I make everything from scratch, so there are no nasties or hidden additives. Good food isn't fast and fast food isn't good!"



**The Dog Inn, 61 Belthorn Road, Blackburn, BB1 2NN**

"I am passionate about this pub and the community. We are Lancashire's first Community-owned pub in 2015, over 100 members of the community clubbed together to buy the pub. We have a restaurant and a coffee shop. With no other amenities in Belthorn, The Dog Inn fulfils many roles."



**Nemat Bakery, 47 Warrington Street, Blackburn, BB1 5PN**

"It was always a passion of mine to start a bakery that holds meaning to the community. The delicious savouries we make are from scratch with all of our artisan homemade spices. If you love Indian food, a must visit!"



**Sandwich Emporium, 166 Redlam, Blackburn BB2 1XQ**

Alison Bennett said: "My business is a traditional sandwich shop with a twist. We have a delicatessen counter and aim to serve the local and wider communities with quality produce at an affordable cost. We are very proud of our 5 rating for hygiene foods standards."



**Artisan Cafe and Wine Bar, 15 Bridge street, Darwen, BB3 2AA**

"We pride ourselves on exceptional customer service and currently hold a 5 star rating from our customers. Our team have been expertly trained by the industry leaders and our chefs boast some of the best experience around."



## Like to eat out?

Find local businesses that offer healthier food options at: [www.bewellbwd.com/award-holders/](http://www.bewellbwd.com/award-holders/)

Are you a business who would like to know more about the Recipe 4 Health Scheme?

Contact: [publichealthadmin@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthadmin@blackburn.gov.uk) for more information.

# adoption now

Love, time, commitment and a safe home are some of the most basic but important things that everyone needs to thrive; but for around 60 children in your local area these are just what they are looking for, from a family who can adopt them.



Adopters can come from all walks of life, can be any age, marital status or ethnicity, but there is a real need for more people to come forward and provide loving and stable homes for children who need them, especially in the Blackburn and Darwen areas.

Heather and Emma are a lovely couple who did such that and adopted two brothers in December 2018,

Read their story here

Children in Blackburn, Darwen and across the region are looking for adoptive families now. So if you can offer them a much needed, safe and loving home contact Adoption Now, your local adoption agency on 01204 336096 or visit [www.adoptionnow.org.uk](http://www.adoptionnow.org.uk)





Blackburn and Darwen remembers: Mayor Councillor Derek Hardman alongside Leader Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE and MP Kate Hollern attend Remembrance Sunday Service.



Darwen's Heritage weekend, and the Brickosaurs brick model launch.

He continued: *"I have been a ward councillor for over 20 years and you get to know your area really well, but being Mayor has allowed me to meet and listen to people from different communities, different backgrounds, businesses, and communities. I found that people are more willing to talk to you as Mayor."*

Councillor Hardman has also enjoyed mingling with other Mayors across Lancashire, gaining fundraising tips, seeing new places and meeting new people. He has also attended events with the High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

He added: *"Despite the chain and the robes, I'm just a Blackburn lad who has tried to ensure I have made time for everybody during my time as Mayor."*

As restrictions ease, Councillor Hardman has a number of events pencilled in the diary to raise vital funds for his four chosen charities which are East Lancashire Scouts, Girlguiding Lancashire East, Derian House and East Lancashire Hospice. His year as Mayor will hopefully culminate with the Mayor's Ball at King George's Hall in March.

He added: *"All the charities we have chosen are based around helping people. We know the Scouting and Girlguiding charities help children to grow into strong and caring adults and these movements teach children lots of skills and will raise their self-esteem. Derian House and East Lancashire Hospice care for loved ones and support their families throughout a difficult period of time."*

Councillor Hardman is expected to be succeeded as Mayor in May by his deputy, Councillor Suleman Khonat.

# MAYOR ENJOYED BEING A 'MAN OF THE PEOPLE'



*"Despite the chain and the robes, I'm just a Blackburn lad who has tried to ensure I have made time for everybody during my time as Mayor."*

Former football referee Councillor Derek Hardman described his year as Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen as...

## "A GREAT HONOUR"

Councillor Hardman, who represents Livesey with Pleasington ward, was joined by wife Colette as Mayoress, and supported by triplets Ella, Abigail and Owen, who proudly undertook consort duties.

The former Scout Leader said the highlight of his term in office has been meeting people from all walks of life within the Borough.

The Mayor said: *"When I became Mayor, we were unsure how many engagements we would be allowed to attend due to Coronavirus – but we have made over 300 visits with months still to go."*

Councillor Hardman, a former engineer who now works in procurement at Brammer, located at BAE Systems, was inaugurated at a low-key Mayor Making ceremony at King George's Hall due to Coronavirus.

He said some of the highlights of his year have included attending the centenary of King George's Hall, the HIVE business awards, the One Voice Awards, meeting choirmaster Gareth Malone and the NHS choir,



Holocaust Memorial: The Mayor, Council and faith leaders gathered at Blackburn Cathedral.



The Mayor, Jack Straw and Angela Rayner with the Leader at the Barbara Castle statue unveiling.



The Mayor and Mayoress visit brickosaurs trail in Blackburn.



The Mayor and Mayoress escape to Blackburn's Fun Island fairground.

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## LASTING LEGACY FOR KNIFE ANGEL SCULPTURE

A 27FT TALL SCULPTURE MADE FROM OVER 100,000 SEIZED BLADES WILL HAVE A LONG-LASTING LEGACY THROUGHOUT LANCASHIRE.

In November, the Knife Angel proudly stood outside Blackburn Cathedral as the town hosted the imposing artwork on behalf of Lancashire.

Representing the nation's intolerance and rejection of violence, communities have embraced the Angel and all it stands for.

People gathered to see the Knife Angel's installation in the grounds of Blackburn Cathedral and the many events held during its stay including a peace vigil, music concert, photography competition, and workshops.

A social media photography competition which ran alongside the tour attracted over 660 entries from across the county, and 107 knives were surrendered.



Alfie Bradley, the talented artist who created the sculpture said: "The Knife Angel was created to engage the public, ignite important conversation and catalyse an essential shift in our social ideologies surrounding violent behaviour."

Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE, Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council, said: "I feel incredibly proud that Blackburn was able to host the Knife Angel for the whole of Lancashire. It became a real talking point for anyone passing by and I hope that it helped to trigger some meaningful discussions around the dangers of carrying weapons."

## WIN £250K HOME ON AWARD-WINNING BLACKBURN DEVELOPMENT



A brand new Blackburn home shaped by designer Wayne Hemingway's team is being given away in a prize draw to raise vital funds for Derian House Children's Hospice.

The detached property on the Green Hills development in Feniscowles has kindly been donated by Kingswood Homes as part of its commitment to the local community.

And one lucky winner will bag themselves the new-build for just the price of a £5 ticket.

The property – which is under construction – will be located on one of the new phases of the development - recently granted planning permission in a land deal which will see the developer invest more than £4million in the Blackburn community.

The developer is also providing land valued at more than £3million for a new primary school, has pledged £850,000 towards new primary school places and will make a £150,000 contribution towards provision of affordable housing.

To find out more, visit: [www.derianhouse.co.uk](http://www.derianhouse.co.uk)

[www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)





# HOMELESS PODS HELP KEEP VULNERABLE PEOPLE SAFE



**Potentially life-saving provision has been delivered this winter – thanks to a scheme aimed at rough sleepers.**

Following on from last year's pilot scheme, the 10 'homeless pods' on the grounds of the former Shadworth Leisure Centre have offered the most vulnerable people in the borough somewhere safe and warm to stay – as well as a range of wrap-around support services.

One of the residents to benefit from the initiative is Colin, 58, who was made redundant from his driving job. After struggling with his mental health and a break down in his relationship, he was made homeless.

Colin was referred to the mental health team who put him in touch with Blackburn with Darwen Council's Emergency Housing Team. Later the same day, Colin was offered one of the pods.

*"I didn't realise there was this kind of help out there,"* said Colin, who has now been offered accommodation with support from the Council's Housing Needs Team.



The pods, which will be in situ until April, were trialed last year to deliver against the Government's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) – which aims to prevent deaths of people sleeping rough during winter.

So far this year, the pods have accommodated 14 residents. Six have successfully moved

on to new accommodation or rehabilitation.

Last year, 14 residents went on to secure permanent accommodation with support services in place to help them adjust.

Councillor Mustafa Desai, Executive Member for Adults and Health, said: *"We have had several nights of sub-zero temperatures, so the pods offer potentially life-saving provision for those sleeping rough."*

Another resident to benefit is a 39-year-old woman who had been sleeping rough in Blackburn for two years and begging to feed her drug habit.

*She said: "The pods were a turning point for me. I have been clean for 12 months now. Being offered one of the pods made me determined to change my life and turn it around."*

Neil Otley, Housing Needs Team Leader within Adult Services and Prevention at Blackburn with Darwen Council, is looking at possibly extending the scheme beyond April.

*He said: "There is no 'one scheme fits all' approach. We have to look at what provision is best for each individual we support."*

**If you are struggling or know anyone who is at risk of homelessness, contact 01254 585 444.**

# "WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU" COUNCIL AND PARTNERS TO HELP RESIDENTS WITH RISING COSTS OF LIVING

## Help with food, energy bills and boilers



**BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AS MANY RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE IN RESPONSE TO THE RISE IN FOOD AND ENERGY BILLS.**

The campaign will point residents to local and national services and areas of support on a range of topics including money and debt, homes and housing, fuel costs, food, gambling and work and employment.

It is in response to the recent national rises in food costs and gas, electric and water bills which are hitting many people and families across the community.

Help includes the ongoing Household Support Scheme for families and children and other vulnerable adults through the winter period to get support with utility bills, food and other essentials to help keep people who may be struggling to stay warm and fed.

The scheme is run by the Council and partners and will run until 31st March. It is aimed at families with children and other vulnerable people who may or may not meet the threshold for benefits but may be affected by increased fuel prices, job losses and isolation.

**Funding may be available for:**

**Blackburn with Darwen children, families and vulnerable adults who have an annual household income below £21,152 for single claimants and below £31,731 for couples.**

Council Leader Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE said he is *'absolutely committed' to helping the borough's residents. He added: "This cost of living crisis is hitting people all across the borough and the country. We know how tough it is for our residents and we are pledging to do whatever we can to help ease this pressure."*

Councillor Vicky McGurk, Executive Member for Finance and Governance, added: *"This help is not just available to households in receipt of benefits, and I would urge anyone who is struggling this winter to check out the criteria on the Council website. We're here to help."*

For more details on the scheme and what it can offer, and to see if you qualify for support, you need to complete the online referral form:

[www.blackburn.gov.uk/WinterHSS](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/WinterHSS)



Royal Visit: Her Majesty, The Queen outside Blackburn Cathedral on Maundy Thursday in 2014 (photo credit: Lancashire Telegraph)

## STREET PARTIES TO BE CROWNING GLORY OF JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

### THE BOROUGH'S GEARING UP FOR A ROYAL WEEKEND OF CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO JOIN IN!

Last year it was announced that the June Bank Holiday weekend would be extended nationally from Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th to pave the way for events to mark Her Majesty the Queen becoming the first British Monarch ever to reign for 70 years.

And we're encouraging you to come together with your friends, family and neighbours to arrange a 'Big Jubilee Lunch' and street parties to celebrate the occasion.

In the run-up to the weekend, we'll be sharing handy planning guides, including details on road closures and more. Be sure to keep up-to-date with the latest news on our Shuttle website – [www.theshuttle.org.uk](http://www.theshuttle.org.uk) and by following the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Cherry Tree Cricket Club is planning 'Blackburn's biggest jubilee garden party' at their ground.

The 'Last Night of the Proms' celebration will take place on Sunday, June 5th, with

the Blackburn Symphony Orchestra and The Starlight Swing Orchestra performing on a special outdoor stage. For more info, please visit: [www.cherrytreecricketclub.co.uk/jubilee](http://www.cherrytreecricketclub.co.uk/jubilee)

Talented Blackburn artist Jamie Holman has also been commissioned to create a new masterpiece marking the Jubilee.

As a Council, we're supporting Darwen Scouts to arrange a lighting of a beacon, fittingly at Darwen's Jubilee Tower too.

It's long been a tradition to light the beacons right across the country to mark jubilees, weddings and coronations and it'll take place on the evening of June 2nd.

And, both Blackburn and Darwen town centre will receive the royal treatment with brand new jubilee planting displays.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Khan CBE, said: "What an achievement for the Queen to have reigned for 70 years – just incredible."

*"She has long been a loyal servant to our country and I'm looking forward to the communities of Blackburn with Darwen coming together to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee."*

*"We are proud to have community spirit in abundance here in the borough and, after the difficulties of the last years due to the pandemic, it'll be fantastic to see neighbours once again out on the streets enjoying parties and each other's company."*

Keeping with community spirit, the Friends of Roe Lee Park are already off to a 'tree-mendous' start to marking the jubilee after planting more than 400 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Of course, Blackburn is also bidding for City Status as part of the Jubilee honours – read more about that on page 14.

As part of the celebrations, the National Lottery has made more than £22m available to help communities come together to mark the Platinum anniversary.

For more information, please visit: [www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk](http://www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk)

# PAINTING THE TOWN BLUE AND WHITE



Councillor Phil Riley, Middle - Aleczaender from Avondale Primary School

### We're 'Rover' the moon with the transformation of Wainwright Bridge!

As part of planned routine maintenance, the bridge was painted in Blackburn Rovers' famous blue and white halves.

And what fantastic timing it was too with the club enjoying one of its most successful seasons.

Thanks to the performance of player Ben Brereton Diaz, Blackburn could also soon be making closer links with a city in Chile.

The Embassy of Chile got in touch with town leaders after being prompted by a local resident, Anthony Shaw, who thought it would be a fantastic idea. Ben, whose mother is from Chile, has become a national icon in the country since joining the Chilean football team.

Now talks have begun between with officials in Chile to establish mutually beneficial ways to create a friendship agreement with the city of Concepción - the third largest city in Chile.



Concepción has been described as the "Chilean capital of rock" since numerous rock bands started in the city, such as Los Tres, Los Bunkers, Emociones Clandestinas, Santos Dumont, De Saloon, Machuca and Julius Popper, among others.



**Blackburn with Darwen's** commitment to promoting **breastfeeding** was recently recognised as **Highly Commended** in the Public Health category of the LGC Awards. Judges noted the passion and commitment of those involved in achieving a 'significant change in uptake in breast feeding' and 'in the culture of the council and area'. A celebration of this success is now being planned for **National Breastfeeding Week in June**.

To find out more [www.blackburn.gov.uk/health/breastfeeding-support](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/health/breastfeeding-support)

# JOAN FOSTERS TEENAGERS

In January 2020 Joan got an emergency placement. The first couple of days are always a little strange, like being a comedian telling the first few jokes to test the water to find the level in your audience. The young lady was quite traumatised and had quite a few panic attacks. When she wanted to talk, we chatted if she seemed happy to be quiet, we were quiet. She was emotionally drained so we relaxed and watched films in silent companionship and ate good food.

"One of her biggest issues was her sexuality, and that caused an increase in tensions at home. We discussed it at length and I told her often that she owed nobody an explanation it was her life. She was almost 17 yet had not been allowed to cut her hair.

I made an appointment and she had a dramatic asymmetric bob which really suited her. It gave her lots of confidence too."

- Joan - BwD Foster Carer



If you think you could help a teenager by being there to offer support and care, get in touch with the Blackburn with Darwen fostering team. We offer competitive fees and allowances for birthdays, holidays and Christmas. We also have exclusive local discounts and offers.

## WHEN YOU FOSTER FOR BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

You will get

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

PAID MILEAGE

COMPETITIVE PAYMENTS

FOSTER CARER SUPPORT GROUPS

LOCAL SOCIAL WORKERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.LETSFOSTER.CO.UK/SHUTTLE](http://WWW.LETSFOSTER.CO.UK/SHUTTLE)



## BLACKBURN'S MULTI-MILLION POUND ALBION MILL CARE FACILITY NOW OPEN

**A new development at Albion Mill is the first of its kind in the country, offering independent living, a community atmosphere and opportunities to lead a fuller life.**

The Intermediate Care service provides wrap-around care helping residents become more independent through therapy-led rehabilitation services, with staff and carers working together with residents to help aid their recovery.

This service at Albion Mill is a ground-breaking partnership arrangement between Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Local Primary Care GP Federation and Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

The Extra Care scheme at the care facility provides modern apartments for BwD residents aged over 18 that require access to support to stay well whilst living independently.

36 people are currently settling into their new apartments and are enjoying their new independence, and the opportunity to take part in activities.

The Extra Care scheme is managed in partnership with Inclusion Housing as the landlord, Willowbrook Homecare as the on-site care provider, and the Council.

Executive Member for Adults and Health, Councillor Mustafa Desai said:

**"These services will provide vital support to residents across the borough".**

The Concierge Service staff are there to welcome residents, families or visitors with open arms to Albion Mill and is the first point of call for residents to ensure they are kept safe and secure.

Residents can also get involved in the Mill's Community Hub which provides a wide variety of activities including: coffee mornings, dance classes, quizzes and bingo.



Staff and carers at the new Albion Mill care facility.

Referrals for apartments are made through Adult Social Care following a social care assessment, for enquiries call: 01254 587547.

If you would like to join the Friends of Albion Mill volunteers, or you would like to join the team as a Casual Concierge, please contact the Concierge Service on: 01254 920111.

# 6G internet CONNECTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

**A community minded Internet provider has dedicated 20% of its network to those in need as part of their 'Internet for Everyone' scheme.**

6G Internet have been working with Blackburn with Darwen Council to give free broadband to low-income households in the borough so they could access free broadband during the coronavirus pandemic.

The internet provider has assisted with the delivery of home schooling through the referral scheme - and families have also been provided with refurbished

laptops by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, and Secret Santa as part of the partnership.

Bangor street Community Centre said: *"The free broadband connection we received from 6G Internet has allowed us to expand and improve on the services we already provide. Our diverse Community Centre hosts a wide range of groups and social events for young people, seniors and mixed generations."*

Community centres, churches and mosques have tackled social isolation through new media channels during lockdown, using live stream to ensure those at home can still participate.

St Silas Church in Blackburn shared the impact it has had on their Sunday services, saying:

*"Being able to live stream services helped to create an inclusive bond between those who are in church and those at home, helping to break down the feelings of loneliness."*

And local charities such as Age UK Blackburn have helped older residents become more digital savvy and connect with essential services such as online banking, healthcare appointments and social activities.

Groups wishing to take part in the free internet referral scheme can contact 6G on 01282 214 000.

## BLACKBURN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 2021



**OVER 2 MILLION VISITORS**  
to Blackburn town centre in 2021

**360**  
BID MEMBER  
BUSINESSES

**£936k**  
total investment  
in Blackburn town centre  
so far this BID term

**7** TOWN  
CENTRE  
EVENTS  
inc. **BRICKOSAURS**

**£402k**  
investment  
in Year 3 of  
2019-23 BID term



BLACKBURN BID'S  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
CHANNELS  
HAD A REACH OF  
**677,935**



[blackburnbid.co.uk](http://blackburnbid.co.uk)

Save time... Contact us online

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Access our services 24 hours a day at: [www.blackburn.gov.uk](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk)



# 6G internet

## A brand-new network built for your town

### Bringing you faster broadband speeds at lower prices

Swift	Rapid	Ultrafast
<b>£15.99</b> Per month 24 month contract	<b>£18.99</b> Per month 24 month contract	<b>£21.99</b> Per month 24 month contract
<b>40</b> Mbps downloads	<b>65</b> Mbps downloads	<b>100</b> Mbps downloads

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