

ourBolton

Issue 14 Winter 2023

Christmas
in Bolton

**Put Big Light
On Festival**

Knife Angel
Iconic monument
visits Bolton

**Rugby League
World Cup**
Sport's lasting legacy
one year on

Cost of Living
Bolton is joining forces to help
local residents cope better with
rising cost of living this winter

**Bolton
Council**



Make a difference

JOIN THE BOLTON FAMILY!

Welcome to Bolton, a town with a proud history and a bright future. And we want you to be a part of it by joining the Bolton Family.

Did you know that there are over 500 different job roles at the Council? Or that you can develop a career with us no matter what your background? We have roles to suit everyone from cleaner to school catering, to HR, marketing, legal, finance, youth work, social care, IT system support, library assistant and everything in between!

It's all about you!

When you join us, we want you to stay so we support you with your financial wellbeing by offering a host of money-saving discounts, the opportunity to purchase a bicycle or car through your salary and have lots of discount offers, including offers with national and local gyms. Your wellbeing is important, so we have on-site mental health first aiders and a free 24-7 confidential counselling helpline for support when its needed.

Annual leave is generous starting at 25 days plus bank holidays and because we know that you might want to give something back to your community, you can take an additional three days' volunteering leave.

Personal development is encouraged, so employees benefit from regular 1-1 supervision sessions and can access a large range of online training courses. We also offer the chance to undertake a more in-depth course of study linked to your job role including apprenticeship courses at all levels.

Help with your application

If you need advice on applying with us, there are loads of tips on the Bolton page of greater.jobs or you can get in touch at recruitment@bolton.gov.uk

We also offer work experience placements so please email details of what you would like to do to recruitment@bolton.gov.uk and we'll try to match you with the relevant team.

So, ready to join us?

Visit greater.jobs for all our roles or come and say hello to the team at our stall in the indoor section at **Bolton Market on Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2pm.**

For more information about a whole range of jobs, careers and apprenticeships at Bolton Council, visit the website at **greater.jobs**

- ✓ Excellent Staff Benefits
- ✓ Local Government Pension Scheme
- ✓ Career Development
- ✓ Health and Wellbeing Support



Bolton Council

Welcome



Welcome to the Winter edition of Our Bolton.

At this time of year, families, friends and neighbours often come together to reflect on the last 12 months and look forward to the year ahead.

This sense of community is the fabric that binds the diverse communities of Bolton together, and we certainly will have lots to celebrate in 2024.

Bolton town centre will soon resemble the streets of Norway as the Put Big Light On festival comes to town.

We wanted to offer something different this winter, and our residents will get to experience the mysterious Northern Lights over Victoria Square, see the moon up close and immerse themselves in a world of colourful and interactive light artwork.

Big cultural events like this are something Bolton does better than anyone else and I am sure our light festival will attract visitors from miles around.

I look forward to seeing the town centre buzzing with happy, smiling people, supporting our many outstanding local businesses and giving our local economy a festive boost.

I'd also like to thank the amazing people and organisations that are pulling together to help our local communities cope better with the higher cost of living this winter.

Higher prices have impacted us all, and I urge anyone struggling to cope with the cost of living to find out more about the support available.

All the information is available in this magazine or on the council website.

As I said, this time of year is a great opportunity for reflection. As council leader, I know I will look back fondly on the many outstanding Bolton people, charities and businesses I have worked with during 2023.

I hope that all our residents have a safe Christmas, and a very happy and healthy new year.

Nick Peel,
Bolton Council Leader

Artisan Christmas Markets at Heaton Fold

The artisan Christmas markets are back (17 Dec, 10am-3pm) and the annual Christmas night market takes place Thursday 7 Dec from 5-8pm.

Garden Centre
Mon – Fri 9am – 4pm
Sat and Sun 10am – 4pm
Café
Wed – Sun 10am – 3pm

The stalls will be packed full of festive crafts, gift ideas, decadent food and more.

Visitors will get a chance to see all the lights and displays at night, while also enjoying a pop-up market, Santa's Grotto, live music, and a seasonal menu in the café. Premium-grade Christmas trees will be on sale starting from just £28.

Find out more visit www.heatonfold.co.uk



heaton fold
GARDEN CENTRE

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Christmas in Bolton



We're bringing some sparkle to Bolton with a fun packed programme to raise everybody's Christmas spirit.

See our mesmerising festival of light, Put Big Light On, in Bolton town centre from 30 November to 21 December. See page 5 for more info.

Santa's Grotto returns to Crompton Place Shopping Centre, where younger residents can meet him and enjoy lots of magical, festive activities in the Elf Workshop. Tickets are on sale now at £5 per child.

Jump on board the Jingle Bell Bus and take a ride around the town centre. Take in the sparkling lights and Christmas atmosphere – you might even spot some fantastic street entertainment or hear the joyful sounds of a brass band or choir.

There's always the family favourite with the magical Cinderella pantomime from 1 – 30 December at Bolton Albert Halls. Plus, a relaxed performance is available adapted to be accessible to a wide range of audiences such as those with autism, a learning disability or sensory predisposition.

The Mayor's Christmas Fair is on the 2 December with stalls run by local charities and community groups.

Bolton Market has everything you need for Christmas with special family activities on the 2, 9 and 16 December. Keep an eye on @BoltonMarkets socials for more updates.

Join the Lightbulb Princess fun-filled musical show at Bolton Library Theatre where you will help the princess and her friends solve an unexpected problem and illuminate the world again.

Bolton Library and Museum has plenty of free Christmas themed children's craft activities every weekend in December.

The Father Christmas Experience at Smithills Hall also includes sessions for children with additional needs and teen and adult believers.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Culture, Cllr Nadeem Ayub, said:

“Christmas has always been a fantastic time of year in Bolton with plenty to see and do in the Winter months.

“It's great to see such a wide range of cultural activity taking place, especially the sessions that make such wonderful events accessible to all.

“I'm looking forward to seeing Bolton town centre and the district centres full of people enjoying what's on offer, boosting the local economy and supporting our local businesses.”



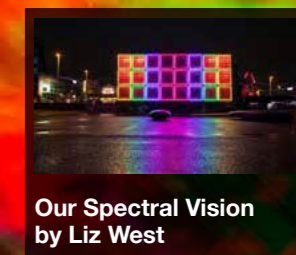
Borealis
by Dan Acher



Museum of the Moon
by Luke Jerram



Evanescent
by Atelier Sisu



Our Spectral Vision
by Liz West

Experience the mysterious Northern Lights over Victoria Square, see the moon up close and immerse yourself in a world of colourful and interactive artwork created by world leading artists.

Thursday 30 Nov – Saturday 2 Dec

Chilled, calm and uplifting experience

| Installations | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Borealis, Victoria Square | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Museum of the Moon, Central Library & Museum | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Our Spectral Vision, Market Place Shopping Centre | | 4pm - 10pm |

| Street entertainment | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Ebublio | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| Ghost Caribou | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| Snow globe | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| Mystic Mirror Globe | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |

| Activities | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Lantern making, Museum | | 4pm - 8pm |

Thursday 7 Dec – Saturday 9 Dec

Vibrant and celebratory vibe

| Installations | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Evanescent, Victoria Square | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Museum of the Moon, Central Library & Museum | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Our Spectral Vision, Market Place Shopping Centre | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Peep Hole Wall, Deansgate | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Projector Bikes, Roaming | | 4pm - 10pm |
| Aqualux, Newport Street | | 4pm - 10pm |

| Street entertainment | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Ebublio | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| The Lumens | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| Jacks of Frost | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| Spark | Roaming | 6pm - 9pm |
| King Brass Band | Roaming | Friday |

| Activities | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| Light up balloons, Museum | | 4pm - 8pm |
| Disco Dave, Museum | | 4pm - 8pm |

Find out more at www.visitbolton.com/christmas
Follow socials @ChristmasinBolton to keep up to date with announcements.



Find out more at www.visitbolton.com/lightfestival

Put Big Light On is curated by Things That Go On Things. This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Iconic monument visits Bolton

The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression, commonly known as the Knife Angel, brought together partners across Bolton, representing the Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, to call for social change.

The 27-foot-tall statue, made from over 100,000 nationally seized blades, weighs over three tonnes and made an appearance on Wednesday 1 November and stayed in Bolton for 30 days.

Created by artist Alfie Bradley, the sculpture was designed to highlight the negative effects all forms of violent behaviour has on communities and to raise awareness about better ways to solve disputes.

The poignant monument is also a memorial designed to remember those lives that have been lost through violent and thoughtless actions.

The arrival of the monument wasn't just about the 30 days it was in Bolton, it was about the legacy that it has left behind and the positive changes it will bring for the future in Bolton and its local communities.

Bolton Council's Chief Executive, Sue Johnson, said:

"I am extremely proud that we have managed to secure the National Monument Against Violence and



Aggression for Bolton and I am pleased we got to showcase such an outstanding piece of artwork.

"The council works continuously to reduce all forms of violent crime across the borough, and this additional work can only look to enhance the existing effort from the council and its partners to make our town safer."

Find out more at

www.bolton.gov.uk/knifeangelbolton 🔍

Remembering our military heroes

In November we paid our respects to those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts across the world and those that are still affected.

This included the Concert of Remembrance, Armistice Day Civic Service, and Remembrance Sunday Civic Service with the Mayor of Bolton, Cllr Ayub, leading the wreath laying ceremony on behalf of the citizens of Bolton.

We are grateful to those who contributed to the events, particularly the Lancashire Artillery Military Band, the Standards, Veterans and Cadets on parade, plus the Reverend Ian Hepburn and all those in attendance that stood together to remember our fallen heroes.



The Mayor of Bolton

In May each year, we welcome a new mayor into office. The longest serving Bolton Councillor is invited to be the First Citizen of the Borough. The Mayor of Bolton is a ceremonial role, and they choose three local charities to raise money for during their term of office.



The Mayor of Bolton for 2023 - 2024 is Councillor Mohammed Ayub.

The Mayor and Mayoress are available to represent Bolton at a wide range of functions and events organised by:

- firms and businesses in the borough
- schools, youth centres and other organisations
- voluntary, charitable, and cultural organisations

The Mayor and Mayoress are also pleased to:

- receive guests in the mayor's parlour.
- greet overseas visitors.
- visit the homes of residents on special occasions e.g., diamond wedding anniversaries.

Future events

Key civic events for 2024 are as follows:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Mayor's Charity Ball | 8 March |
| Mayor's Inauguration | 15 May |
| Civic Sunday | 19 May |
| Raise the Armed Forces Day Flag Service and Veterans Lunch | 24 June |
| Armed Forces Day | 29 June |
| Remembrance Concert | 7 Nov |
| Remembrance Sunday | 10 Nov |
| Armistice Day | 11 Nov |
| Mayor's Charity Christmas Fair | 7 Dec |

Town Hall Tours

To celebrate 150 years of Bolton Town Hall we have been offering groups the opportunity to have a tour of the building and to hear about its history.

Requests...

To book the Mayor to attend your event or request a group visit to the town hall, please contact the Mayor's Office:

✉ mayorsoffice@bolton.gov.uk

☎ 01204 331090

🔍 bolton.gov.uk/councillors-mayor/mayor



Bolton Family Hubs

The first Bolton Family Hubs have opened their doors to provide valuable support to parents, carers, and young people.

In October, a series of special opening events marked the first wave of what will be a network of eight hubs opening by March 2025.

The hubs provide joined up services supporting families with children up to the age of 19 years old, and up to 25 years for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

They give families the knowledge, skills, and support to best care for their children, as well as looking after their own health and wellbeing.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cllr Martin Donaghy, said:

"Bolton's Family Hub network is redefining how all organisations work with children and families in

Bolton to ensure better outcomes throughout life.

"The new offer is family-centric, linked to existing community services and is accessible in person or online.

"The focus is on quality continuity of care, better connected services, and outcomes for everyone as it will help people feel more empowered to take control of their own lives."

Find out more at bolton.gov.uk/bolton-start-well-family-hubs



New pledge of support for our foster carers

Bolton Council has signed the new Fostering Promise, pledging to support foster carers and recognise their vital contribution.

Council leaders joined representatives of the nine other Greater Manchester boroughs at Manchester Central Library to sign up to the promise.

The launch was part of Greater Manchester's fostering fortnight which highlighted the real-life experiences of local foster carers.

Our fostering team runs a monthly online information evening so people can learn more about the many benefits of fostering for their local council.

Anyone who is interested in fostering should visit Bolton.gov.uk/fostering or contact our fostering team on **0800 107 1564**.

For foster carer stories, visit fostering-unfiltered.org



Free childcare

Some parents of 2 year old children may be entitled to 15 hours a week of free early years education and childcare if they receive some additional forms of government support.

This is a great way for children to learn, play and have fun with others their age. It also gives you time back for yourself, to access work or training, or to spend with others.

For the latest information about all preschool funded places visit bolton.gov.uk/freechildcare, visit your local Family Hub or ask your Public Health Nurse or Start Well Locality Practitioner.



Living Well at Home Vision

Bolton Council's Adult Social Care teams and partners are working together to help Bolton residents live independently in their community as long as possible.

The service provides personal care, practical assistance and support to help people live life as comfortably and independently as possible, because of age, illness or disability.

We help people identify their strengths and what they are able to do, and help connect them with support in their community to live more independently.

We provide and commission services to give access to; information, advice and guidance; adaptive equipment; care and carer assessments; short-term reablement; and care and nursing home beds.

Individuals' needs are at the heart of everything we do, building on their strengths and areas that could be helped with a bit of support.

While care or nursing homes may be the safest place for some, others care needs are best served in their own home with extra support.

Our vision is that we all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing things that matter to us, and these are our priorities to make it happen:

1. Living well at home
2. Making best use of our resources
3. Working Together in partnership

We will also; modernise our services; make the best use of the data and resources; take early action to identify support requirements to reduce the need for specialist services at a later stage; promote conversations to talk about how we can better meet care needs.

Cllr Linda Thomas, Bolton's Executive Member Adult Social Care/Health & Wellbeing said:

"We are working hard to deliver this vision, but it is important that we still demand the Social Care Reform and the funding that accompanies it as a matter of urgency."



Helpful House makes life a little easier

Locals with care needs can now access the best assistive technology, equipment and products that can make their life easier at the Helpful House shop, 53-55 Victoria Square, Bolton.

There's a wide range of equipment which can substantially improve the quality of life for vulnerable people so they can live safely in their own home for longer.

Everyone is welcome to try the wide range of specialist furniture and gadgets which is specifically aimed at adults living with dementia and other long-term medical conditions.

So if you know someone who needs a little extra help drop in and visit us or book an appointment on 01204 382411.



Rugby League World Cup

Sport's lasting legacy one year on

Twelve months on from the final whistle of the England v France game at the Rugby League World Cup, the sport in Bolton continues to go from strength to strength.

The game saw the fourth highest attendance across the entire world cup as England beat the visitors 42-18 in the group stage.

But for local fans of rugby league, the real success has come away from the pitch.

Our aim was always to build a legacy for the sport in Bolton following the tournament, encouraging residents to get active, and inspiring young people to try something new and that legacy is no more evident than at The Den, the home of Westhoughton Lions.

The team's new clubhouse was built with a £300,000 grant from the tournament's social impact programme and Tony Grindley, chairman of Westhoughton Lions, said: "The tournament was fantastic for us and the level of financial investment we received will secure the club for generations to come."

To increase participation in the sport, Bolton provided taster sessions and activity days with the support of Wigan Warriors.

As a result a full time Rugby League Development Officer works in Bolton schools and community clubs, which is funded by Bolton Council and Wigan Warriors Community Foundation.

The head of the Community Foundation, Danny Fullerton, said:

"The interest and enthusiasm amongst young people who attended the taster sessions was so encouraging it seemed like a natural progression to build on that with our Development Officer.

"For many young people this provides the opportunity to try a sport that they've maybe never had the chance to play before."

Our Executive Cabinet Member for Culture, Cllr Nadeem Ayub, said:

"Bolton was proud to be a part of the biggest, best, and most inclusive Rugby League World Cup ever."

"The tournament showcased the very best of Bolton to a global audience building our growing reputation as a host of world-class sporting events.

"We are working to bring more events to Bolton, attracting more visitors to boost our local economy and create exciting new opportunities.

"I am delighted that the legacy of the tournament continues to inspire people to get active, meet new people, and try something new."



Full steam ahead

Bolton Steam Museum will host two special events over the Christmas period, showcasing some of the machines that once powered our towns famous factories and mills. It will be a rare opportunity to see these marvels of Victorian engineering fully restored and running on steam.

Taking place from 10am-4pm on December 28th and 29th, entry will be free and parking is available at the nearby Morrisons on Mornington Road.

The museum is run by volunteers and donations are always welcome so the team can continue to maintain and celebrate Bolton's industrial heritage.



CGI of Farnworth Green

A big year ahead

for borough's regeneration

2024 will be a major milestone in the ongoing regeneration of Bolton, with vibrant urban neighbourhoods, a technology innovation hub and a £40m skills training centre among the many projects to be completed over the coming year.

Residential developments, creating new places for people to live in the town centre, are key to our regeneration plans and two major sites will reach significant milestones over the next 12 months.

Along St George's Road and Bark Street, work to create 58 three and four-bedroom modern townhouses is due to be completed early in the year.

A major phase of the Moor Lane development is also due for completion in 2024.

The site will ultimately provide 218 apartments and townhouses, including 82 affordable homes, as well as commercial units and green spaces.

New town centre residents will have plenty to do thanks to the official openings of Elizabeth Park, a renovated Central Library, an expanded market, and the transformed Wellsprings building, all scheduled for next year,

Due to open its doors in early 2024, the new-look Bolton Central Library will boast a new café, an expanded

children's area, improved social spaces, updated digital facilities and a new mezzanine floor.

Over the road, a food hall and expanded outdoor area will open at Bolton Market, making the award-winning venue an even more desirable retail and leisure destination.

Also opening early in the year, visitors to the newly created Elizabeth Park on the former Odeon cinema site will be able to enjoy seating areas, picnic tables and a performance space.

The Wellsprings office building, next to the Octagon, and close to the Town Hall, is being converted into a £11.18m modern, flexible workspace for digital and creative start-ups.

All four projects have been supported by the government's Towns Fund.

Away from the town centre, significant investment has also been made in our district centres with a number of projects designed to meet the needs and priorities of the local communities.

It will be a particularly busy 2024 in Farnworth where two major developments are set to open their doors.

The Bolton Institute of Medical Sciences will welcome its first

students in September and will train 3,000 learners a year for careers in the health service.

The £40m project, backed by the government's Levelling Up fund, is collaborative project between the University of Bolton, Bolton College, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and the council.

Another major project is also taking shape at Farnworth Green on the site of the former precinct, with work scheduled to be completed towards the end of the year. Created by renowned developers CAPITAL&CENTRIC, the £24m neighbourhood will feature 97 homes, independent retailers, cafés, and green outdoor spaces.

Bolton Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Akhtar Zaman, said:



"We have been discussing the redevelopment of Bolton Town Centre and across the borough for a long time, but 2024 will be the year that residents will finally see and experience the tangible benefits of regeneration.

"With that will come further interest and even more private investment, helping to make Bolton an even more vibrant and attractive place to live, work and study."



Ready, set, go!

More children and adults than ever before are expected to take part in Bolton town centre's biggest and best sporting weekend by signing up for next year's IRONKIDS and Night Run.

With increased places for both events, they are likely to be bigger than ever.

Join thousands of people enjoying the atmosphere around the town centre route before finishing along the red carpet in Victoria Square.

Night Run takes place on Friday 28 June, with IRONKIDS on Saturday 29 June, as part of Bolton's brilliant IRONMAN 70.3 weekend.

Half the places for IRONKIDS sold out in 24 hours, so don't miss out.

IRONKIDS

IRONKIDS is already the biggest in the world and organisers have announced 50% more places to accommodate demand.

That's up to 6,000 children and teens aged 3 – 15.

Keeping children entertained will be food stalls, face painting and a climbing wall among other highlights.

NIGHT RUN BOLTON UK Presented by IRONMAN

Night Run offers something for all ages and abilities and this year's event saw almost 1,200 people take to the start line.

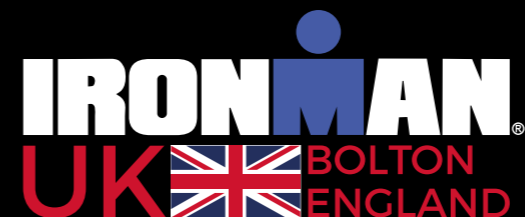
There's fantastic support around the route, a choice of a 5k or 10k route to run or walk and a chance to be part of IRONMAN 70.3 weekend.

Bolton Council's Chief Executive, Sue Johnson, said: "From people walking the 5k route or jogging it in fancy dress, to local running clubs going for gold in the 10k, it's about doing whatever feels right for you, getting active and enjoying the evening."



Register now...

<https://go.ironman.com/bolton>



IRONMANUK

IRONMAN England

VisitBolton

visitbolton

Get winter strong

Protect yourself and those around you this winter!

As the festive season approaches it's time to protect yourself, your loved ones, and friends by making sure you are up to date with all your vaccinations.

There are more than 20 vaccines to protect against life-threatening diseases and immunizations prevents up to 5 million deaths every year.

Vaccines work by teaching your immune system how to create antibodies that protect you, which is far safer than directly catching the diseases.

Vaccines protect us through life from serious illness, some lasting a lifetime while others require topping up each year as viruses can change.

Those most at risk from flu are the over-50s, pregnant women, children and people with existing health conditions such as diabetes or COPD, who along with carers and health and care workers can get vaccinated for free.

Contact your GP or pharmacies and get protected ahead of the festive season and stop any nasty bugs ruining your celebrations.



For more tips on seasonal vaccinations and keeping generally well this winter please scan QR code.



For a stronger mind and healthier you...

We've eleven free courses covering mental health advice and guidance, which helps better equip us to cope with stress, anxiety, and challenges that life throws our way.

Join us and learn how to look after yourself and others' mental health and wellbeing.

It could make all the difference to you or a loved one's happiness and positive state of mind.

Available specifically for people living, working or volunteering in Bolton.



Free mental health training

Variety of courses

Don't miss out!



Book now...

Find course details and book your place.
www.bolton.gov.uk/mentalhealthtraining



Bans aim to prevent moorland fires

Activities likely to spark devastating moorland fires have been banned as Bolton, Chorley and Blackburn with Darwen councils work with local fire and rescue services to safeguard the environment.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are now in force covering a large area of moorland including Winter Hill and could result in fines of up to £1,000.

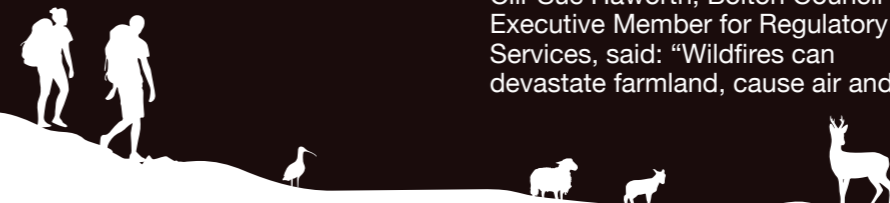
The new legal powers ban activities that carry a significant risk of causing wildfires - such as barbeques, campfires or camping stoves, fireworks and paper sky lanterns.

The PSPO applies to public open space but does not prevent residents living in the PSPO restricted area from, for example, enjoying a barbeque in their own garden.

Cllr Sue Haworth, Bolton Council Executive Member for Regulatory Services, said: "Wildfires can devastate farmland, cause air and

water pollution, release large amounts of greenhouse gases and have a huge impact on residents, communities, businesses and tourism.

"Bolton Council formally consulted on implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order to reduce fire risk on our moorlands, and I am pleased that over 90% of responders strongly support taking this action."



See a fire - call 999 and ask for FIRE

Crackdown on littering

Three Bolton residents have been ordered to pay a total of £3,431 for dumping their household waste.

All three were convicted in their absence at Bolton magistrates court after failing to pay Fixed Penalty Notices.

One person was fined £200 and ordered to pay an £80 victim surcharge and £862 in costs after dumping a mattress outside his home in Lawn Street.

A resident on Earnshaw Street was convicted of dumping bin bags of waste in a back street and was fined £200 and ordered to pay an £80 victim surcharge and £836 in costs.

A Farnworth man was fined £200 and ordered to pay an £80 victim surcharge and £893 in costs after being identified from letters in bags of waste he dumped by the side of a public bin.

Garry Parker, Bolton Council's Assistant Director for Environment and Regulatory Services, said: "All residents have a legal duty to dispose of their waste responsibly.

"So far this year 135 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for flytipping and littering offences and we urge residents to report incidents and provide information that will help us identify those responsible."

See an issue then reported it online
www.bolton.gov.uk/flytipping

Need help with the Cost of living

Bolton's helping locals cope better with rising cost of living this winter.



Many people still do not claim all they are entitled to, yet the cost of living support is also available to those not on benefits or previously in receipt of support and you can find out more at www.bolton.gov.uk/cost-living/debt-money-benefits

The help that is available this winter includes:

- Supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 for each child in households of families eligible for free school meals
- Emergency support with food parcels, gas and electric payments, travel costs and accessing household essentials such as cookers, fridge freezers and washing machines
- Opening up of Warm Spaces in the winter, providing comfortable places for residents to escape the cold and meet, chat and get specialist help
- An extra £400k for Bolton's Fund, which enables more local organisations to provide cost of living essentials in the local community

- A £200K investment in the Money Skills and Care & Repair Service to support Bolton residents with the provision of free debt advice and help with energy costs
- £150K to provide support to Care Leavers, Foster Carers and Carers
- £60k emergency funding to help those in genuine need with housing costs

Electricity North West Extra Care Register

During a power cut, Electricity North West's free register provides extra support to keep you safe and comfortable until the power's back on.

Register now at
www.enwl.co.uk/extracare
or call **01204 33 1968**.

Food, energy, and safety

Electricity North West
0800 195 4141
extracare@enwl.co.uk

Free School Meals
www.bolton.gov.uk

Healthy Start Scheme
0300 330 7010
Help to buy healthy food and milk for those with children aged 10 weeks to 4yrs.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
0800 555 815
In an emergency always call **999**

Health and wellbeing

Bolton's HAF Programme
01204 332323
www.bolton.gov.uk/haf
Free food, fun, creative sessions over Easter, Summer, and Christmas for children and families on benefits related Free School meals.

Silverwellbeing Therapy Service
01204 917745
silverwellbeing@1pointbolton.org.uk
Free counselling and talking therapies for bereavement, loss, and relationship counselling.

Warm Spaces
Bolton's libraries are open to the public as warm spaces throughout winter. Drop in during normal library opening times for free activities, group events or use the free Wi-Fi and computer access.

Housing support

Do you rent your home? Contact your housing provider to see how they can help with cost of living.

Bolton Care and Repair Service
01204 328177 / 01204 328178
Helping those aged 60+ or with a disability to make home repairs or adaptations

Housing Options Service
01204 335900
Helping the homeless or those at risk of becoming homelessness.

Jobs and skills

Bolton Council's Workshop
01204 338981
the.workshop@bolton.gov.uk
Upskilling, training and helping people find better jobs.

Bolton Jobcentre Plus
0800 169 0190 52

Support for businesses

Business Bolton
01204 336222
businessbolton@bolton.gov.uk

More help...

Get Online at Bolton Council libraries
01204 332853

Bolton Community and Voluntary Service
01204 546010

Find out more at
www.bolton.gov.uk/costofliving

Where you can get help...

Debt, money, and benefits:

Age UK Bolton
01204 382411

Discretionary Hardship Payment
01204 331590

Money Skills Service
01204 332916

Bolton Families Information Service
01204 332170

Hoot Credit Union
01204 365024

Pension Credit
0800 99 1234

Bolton Jobcentre Plus
0800 169 0190 52

Housing Benefit
01204 331590

Royal British Legion
0808 802 8080

Citizens Advice Bury & Bolton
0808 278 7804 (freephone)

Housing Benefit
01204 331901

Welfare Rights Service
01204 333820

Council Tax Support
01204 331590

Household Support Fund
01204 331590 / 332272

Universal Credit Helpline
0800 328 5644

Discretionary Council Tax Reduction
01204 331590

Local Welfare Provision
01204 332772

United Utilities
0800 072 6765

Big boost for Bolton

Bolton's benefiting from its share of almost £100 million that Greater Manchester has been allocated from the government's £2.6 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which is part of the national Levelling Up agenda.

The UKSPF supports investment in projects which help local areas to build community cohesion and pride, create better life chances for residents, and provide new jobs, skills and opportunities which drives economic growth.

The funding is being used in Bolton for:

- Improving the borough's town centres and high streets
- Creating new green spaces and improving existing areas, incorporating natural features into wider public spaces
- Supporting local arts, cultural, heritage, creative industries and activities and skills
- Developing exciting new partnerships within the voluntary and community sector



One key UKSPF project is well under way to help Bolton better support its creative and community based talent, helping deliver more events for everyone to enjoy across the borough.

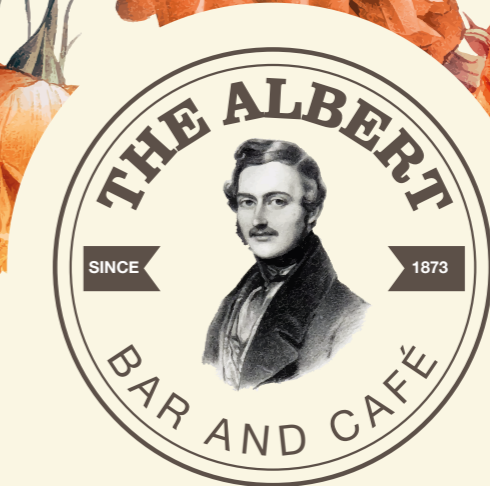
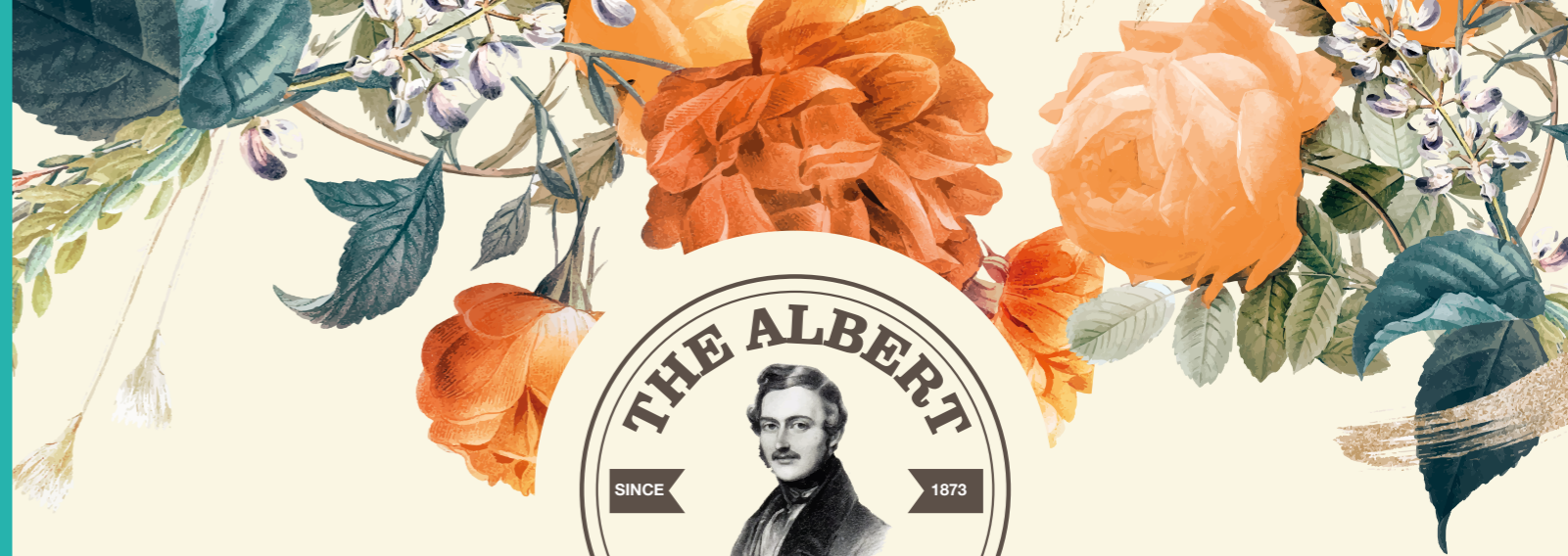
Great events are made here in Bolton, from our award-winning Food & Drink Festival to IRONMAN UK, yet often the best new event ideas start as small projects in the community and evolve into much bigger events.

Often, the cost of hiring equipment to host an event can be a barrier for many local voluntary and community sector organisations, so we're investing in a wide range of equipment that is free to use when hosting local events and community activities.

These include items for both outdoor and indoor events, from tables and chairs to audio and public announcement systems, and stage lighting kits.

These items are all free for community groups and local businesses to use, so if you're planning an event and need equipment then find out more and get details on how to book items at

www.bolton.gov.uk/yourevent



NOW OPEN

Wednesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

Visit us at our exclusive bar to enjoy your favourite drinks and taste our brand new food menu, including a range of jacket potatoes, sandwiches, toasties and cakes.

Meal deals available for just £5.

You can also get your tickets at our box office too!

**Albert Halls,
Victoria Square, Bolton**



alberthalls-bolton.co.uk

**Albert
Halls
Bolton**

POLKA DOT
PANTOMIMES

THE NATION'S FAVOURITE PANTO COMES TO BOLTON

Albert
Halls
Bolton

CORONATION STREET FAVOURITE

VICKY ENTWISTLE

as Fairy Superior

PANTO
LEGEND
ROLLO
as Buttons

THE
PANTOMIME
AWARDS 2023
NOMINEE
**GARNON
DAVIES**
as Elsa

THE
PANTOMIME
AWARDS 2023
NOMINEE
**GARETH
MITCHELL**
as Anna

BOLTON'S OWN
**KELLY
AARON**
as Cinderella



Cinderella
The Family Pantomime
Where Dreams Come True

1 - 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Albert Halls, Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RU

Box Office: 0343 208 0500 | www.quaytickets.com/boltonalberthalls

What's on at the Albert Halls



**Christmas Party Night
with Vogue Duo plus DJ**
16th December 2023



The American Four Tops
27th January 2024



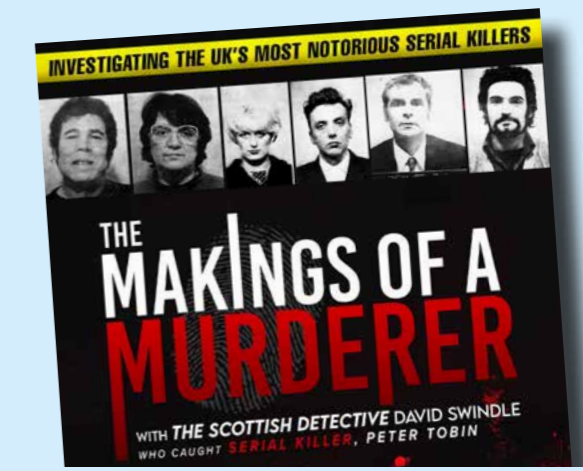
Women In Rock
2nd February 2024



Coleen Nolan One Woman Show
16th February 2024



**The Glenn Miller &
Big Band Spectacular**
28th February 2024



The Makings of a Murderer
1st March 2024

Tel 0343 208 0500

www.quaytickets.com/boltonalberthalls

**Albert
Halls
Bolton**

Changes to Christmas bin collections

Over Christmas and New Year, bin collection dates will temporarily change so that our waste and recycling elves can enjoy the festive season.

Use our handy guide to find your revised bin collection dates.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | Usual collection day Monday 25 December Tuesday 26 December Monday 1 January | Revised collection day 18, 19 or 20 December 20, 21 or 22 December 3, 4 or 5 January |
|  | Monday 25 December Tuesday 26 December Monday 1 January | 18, 19 or 20 December 20, 21 or 22 December 3, 4 or 5 January |
|  | Monday 25 December Tuesday 26 December Monday 1 January | 27 or 28 December 28 or 29 December 2 or 3 January |
|  | No collections from 18 December to 7 January | |



Leave your bins out for the days listed or look up your exact collection date at www.bolton.gov.uk/next-bin-collection.

Keep up to date with the latest bin collection information by following us on Twitter or Facebook.



Bolton Council

Useful contact details

Rubbish and recycling

For general enquiries and how to report a missed bin collection or order a new bin go to www.bolton.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling
01204 336632

Council tax

To register for council tax or report a change of address or circumstances. To access your account online, view council tax charges and check your bill go to www.bolton.gov.uk/council-tax
01204 331599

Housing and finding a home

To register for council rented accommodation, information and advice on sheltered accommodation, adapting your home and preventing homelessness go to www.bolton.gov.uk/housing-options-advice
01204 335811 Homes for Bolton
01204 335900 Housing Advice

Benefits

For council tax support, housing benefits, apply for food parcels, furniture or help with gas and electric go to www.bolton.gov.uk/benefits
01204 331590

Blue badges

To apply for, renew or report your Blue Badge lost or stolen, go to www.bolton.gov.uk/parking-permits/blue-badges

Licensing

To apply for or renew a license for taxis and private hire, alcohol and gambling, street licenses and charity collection go to www.bolton.gov.uk/business-licensing
01204 336584

Business rates

To pay your business rates, report a change in circumstances or find out about business rates reductions go to www.bolton.gov.uk/business-rates
01204 331730

Births, deaths and marriages (Registrar's Office)

To register a birth or death please go to www.bolton.gov.uk/registering-birth-death
01204 331185

We've listed these useful telephone numbers, but all applications and most services will require you to go online to make an enquiry. If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can come to the One Stop Shop in the Town Hall, your local library or community hub.

Before you go...

Ofsted praise for Children's Services

Ofsted has published a report on our Children's Services team, confirming that the council has retained its overall "Good" rating.

It stated:

"Since the last inspection in 2018, Bolton...has continued to provide good-quality services for children in care and care leavers.

"This progress has been made against a backdrop of increasing need, significant financial pressures and an unprecedented national pandemic."

Our Director of Children's Services, Bernie Brown, said:

"This report reflects the continuous improvement of Bolton Council's Children's Services and our ongoing commitment to keeping children at the heart of everything we do.

"The outcome is a direct result of the contributions of our incredible staff, foster carers, young people, families, and our partners. This report follows other recent successful inspections of our Youth Justice team and our Connexions service."

Budget cuts

Bolton Council are undertaking a consultation on budgets cuts for the next financial year. Further details will be shared on our website or visit our active consultation webpage: https://bit.ly/Bolton_Consultation.

Tell us what you think...

We want to hear your views. Please let us know your thoughts on ourbolton@bolton.gov.uk

Meet your councillors...

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Dr John Walsh
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