

# InspiredLiving

WINTER 2025

THE MAGAZINE FOR OLDHAM PFI RESIDENTS



**Building resilience  
in our communities**

Care, help and  
inspire with the  
Women's CHAI  
Project



# Here's how you can get in touch with us

## Call

Call Great Places or Wates on **0300 123 2003**

A full range of services is available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. An extra out-of-hours service, provided by Wates, can be reached using the same number.

Press 1 – for Wates Living Space, for help with repairs, refurbishment and new-build enquiries.

Press 2 – for Great Places Housing Group, for help you with housing management and information on sales units.

## Email

Need to email us? Drop the Great Places team a line on **oldhampfi@greatplaces.org.uk** or contact the Wates team on **infooldhampfi@wates.co.uk**.

## Come and see us

You can also pop into the Crossley Centre, 323 Denton Lane, Chadderton, OL9 9GA or call on **0161 652 1419**. Alternatively, you can visit the Primrose Centre, 9 Magnolia Gardens, OL8 1HX which you can call on **0161 624 7202**.



Welcome to

# Inspired Living!

## Welcome to your latest edition of Inspired Living!

### Welcome from Gemma McGiffen, PFI Manager

Hello everyone, and welcome to the latest edition of Inspired Living. It's been a busy few months since our last issue, and I'd like to share some highlights with you.

One of my standout moments was attending the EMS Foundation Fundraising event on behalf of the Primrose Community Association, where we showcased the great work we do at the centre. After tough competition, we were thrilled to be selected as one of the beneficiaries and awarded an incredible £32,000 to help achieve our community goals.

Another highlight was running the air fryer course at the Crossley Centre, which attracted 25 families eager to improve their culinary skills and get creative in the kitchen.

I am also very proud of the Early Help Drop-in sessions provided by Positive Steps. So far, we have supported over 50 individuals and families in our community with form filling, contacting other services, making referrals to specialist services (such as mental health and addiction support), and providing general advice and guidance.

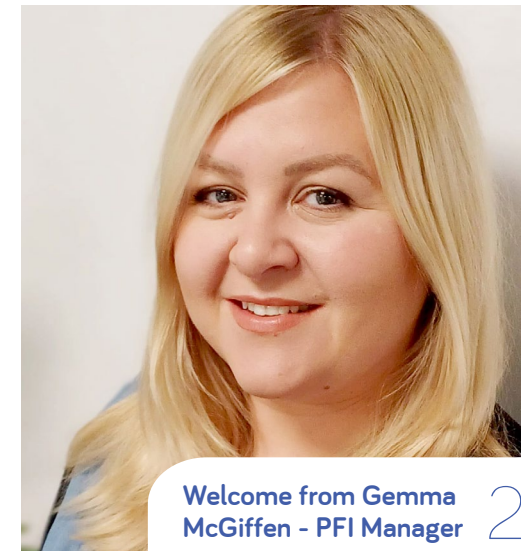
This valuable service is accessible to everyone, so please reach out to the centres if you feel you could benefit from this support.

We always welcome customer feedback. Your neighbourhood walkabout dates are included in this edition, so please feel free to join us and share your thoughts about your neighbourhoods. I hope you enjoy reading our updates, and I look forward to seeing you soon.



**Gemma McGiffen**  
Housing Management  
PFI Manager

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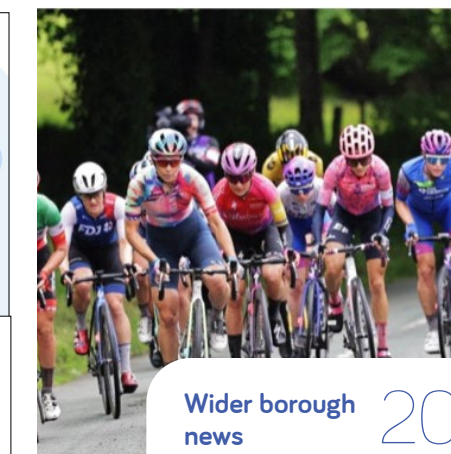
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# 5 minutes with Tony Campion, Community Caretaker

*We caught up with Tony, our Community Caretaker, to learn more about his role and how he is finding it.*

## What is your role as Community Caretaker?

Working as a community caretaker is a very varied role, with no two days ever being the same. One day, I might be cleaning in my tower blocks, which typically takes an average of two days for each block. On another day, I could be working with my fellow caretakers, Jason and Dom, to clear away fly-tipping. I also keep an eye on tenants I know are facing challenges in their lives, ensuring they feel safe. Additionally, I look out for anything unusual in their behaviour to make sure they are doing well.

## Have you always worked in the housing sector?

I have a diverse background that includes roles such as a supervisor at Kipling Cakes and the General Manager of a security company. Additionally, I worked as a facilities manager for a men's fashion company that was part of JD Sports.

## What are your aims and objectives as a Community Caretaker?

My goal is to provide the best service possible to ensure everything runs smoothly.

## What do you most enjoy about your role?

As a people person, I enjoy collaborating with the caretaking team and engaging with the general public.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

That's an interesting question! I am an amateur boxing coach at Jimmy Egan's Boxing Academy and also hold a professional boxing license. Additionally, I spend time as a supervisor, judge, and referee for England Boxing. In my free time, I enjoy walking my playful dog, Arthur, who is a Spanish Water Dog, and going on date nights with my wife.



## Tenants Satisfaction Measures (TSM's) survey

Oldham Council recently ran a survey to find out customers' views on their homes and the services they receive from Great Places and Wates on behalf of Oldham Council. We'd like to thank all the customers who have responded to the survey sent out by Oldham Council.

Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) introduced by the Regulator of Social Housing were included in the survey, and cover repair, building safety and complaint handling. We encouraged customers to give their feedback to provide the Regulator, and Oldham Council with valuable information which will be used to assess our performance.

We will publish key findings and how we plan to act on the results in the next edition of our magazine.

## Come along to one of our High-rise block inspections!

### Do you live in Lansdowne Court or Stockfield Mount?

Your monthly block inspections where you can come and inspect the communal parts of the building with your Caretaker and Neighbourhood Coordinator. This will allow you to raise any concerns you have about the cleanliness or safety of the block.

The next inspections are due to take place on the following dates:

**Tuesday 18 February – 10am - 12pm**

**Tuesday 18 March – 10am - 12pm**

**Tuesday 15 April – 10am - 12pm**

**Tuesday 20 May – 10am - 12pm**

**Tuesday 17 June – 10am - 12pm**

Everyone is welcome; if you would like to attend, please meet your Neighbourhood Coordinator in the foyer at the starting time and location listed above. The inspections will take around two hours to complete.

## Neighbourhood Walkabout Dates: February & March

### Primrose Bank

Thursday 13 March at 2pm  
Tuesday 1 April at 10am  
Thursday 15 May at 2pm  
Tuesday 3 June at 10am  
Thursday 10 July at 2pm

### Fitton Hill and Dew Way

Thursday 13 February at 2pm  
Tuesday 4 March at 10am  
Thursday 10 April at 2pm  
Tuesday 6 May at 10am  
Thursday 12 June at 2pm  
Tuesday 1 July at 10am

### Crossley

Thursday 27 February at 2pm  
Thursday 27 March at 10am  
Thursday 24 April at 10am  
Thursday 29 May at 10am  
Thursday 26 June at 10am  
Thursday 31 July at 10am

**If you would like to join us for any of our neighbourhood walkabouts, you are welcome to come along.**

**The meeting point will be at your local community centre.**



## Sewing Magic

Join us for our free sewing sessions at The Crossley Centre!

All skill levels are welcome. Learn how to repair items and create new things using both machine and hand sewing techniques.

**Mondays from 10am to 12pm** (excluding bank holidays). No booking is necessary.

**For more information, please call 0161 652 1419**



## Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team is a group of local police officers and staff dedicated to serving your community. The team is made up of police officers and a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). These are supported by additional officers and staff from the wider area.

They work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide the policing priorities for your area. This helps them to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining their wider focus on the basics: to fight, prevent and reduce crime, whilst keeping people safe and caring for victims.

If you want to receive regular updates about what they're doing in your area, want to contact them easily with your feedback, or receive alerts about incidents, you can sign up to the community alerts system. You'll receive emails or text messages about the issues you tell them you want to know about.



## Building resilience in our communities

Last year Peaceful Minds Charity in Oldham received funding from our Community Resilience Fund.

Peaceful Mind's aim is to improve the negative mindset of individuals, groups and families which cause poor mental health such as depression and anxiety through one-to-one counselling sessions, family therapy, group therapy and awareness training workshops.

Over at The Primrose Centre in Oldham, they've delivered a six-month awareness training programme in Urdu to raise awareness of the cost-of-living crisis and develop coping strategies for building financial, mental and physical resilience.

Throughout the six months, the programme covered many different topics including budgeting, chronic illnesses, healthy eating, fitness, mental health awareness, anxiety management, stress management and motivational skills.

Individuals were encouraged to participate in the full programme to obtain maximum benefit. Overall, 40 people attended the sessions.

The final workshop was a celebration where participants were rewarded with a certificate and supermarket voucher.

Leanne Keane, our Community Partnership Manager, said:

*"I had the pleasure of attending the final session which was a celebration event. I was able to hear first hand of the impact this has had on those who took part and it really does show how important this kind of work is to support members of our community who are facing very difficult life challenges. Taking part in group sessions like this also offers that very important peer support and the knowledge that they are not alone."*

Peaceful Minds, said:

*"The Greater Together project has been a rewarding initiative to implement, providing Peaceful Minds CIC with the chance to showcase our varied expertise. Additionally, following this training, participants expressed a desire for personalised coaching on effective budgeting and the development of financial resilience amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. In response, we initiated a coaching project that is currently supported by funding from The National Lottery Awards for All. This achievement has been a significant success for our organisation."*



## Join us at FoodCycle Oldham

In 2024, Oldham FoodCycle had a successful year, they:

- Provided 50 weekly services without any cancellations.
- Served 1,308 guests.
- Offered 275 takeaway meals.
- Engaged 250 volunteers.
- Supplied a total of 1,558 community meals.

FoodCycle Oldham invites everyone to join as a guest and enjoy a FREE hot meal. No reservation is necessary.

Everyone is welcome at FoodCycle. Whatever your reason for needing a meal, you are welcome to join us. Some people come for the food. Some people come for the company. No matter your background, you'll be greeted warmly by our friendly volunteers.

Just turn up on the day to The Primrose Centre, 9 Magnolia Gardens, Primrose Bank, Oldham, OL8 1HX, every Tuesday from 6pm.

If you want to find out more, you can contact [oldham@foodcycle.org.uk](mailto:oldham@foodcycle.org.uk) or visit <https://foodcycle.org.uk/location/foodcycle-oldham/>



## Full Circle - The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award

As part of our community resilience project, we're working with Full Circle, they are dedicated to empowering young people and strengthening communities. They strive to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free.

By joining the Fullcircle ONLINE TEAM and completing online challenges, you can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised Awards that help you stand out from the crowd.

Use any device - Play and learn with iDEA digital badges for free, on any modern device, anywhere you can get online.

You can find out more and sign up here - <https://fullcirclenwcic.co.uk/whats-on/>



## Great Places joins Countryside Homes to Educate Pupils on Construction Site Safety

As part of our collaborative effort to enhance community well-being, Great Places recently joined Countryside Homes to give a presentation for pupils at Medlock Valley Primary School in Oldham, close to our Hartshead site, to shed light on the real-life dangers associated with working construction sites.

Great Places joined Countryside Homes and CPC Project Services, at the presentation to highlight the potential hazards found on and around construction sites, as well as how site operatives protect themselves while building new homes.

Commenting on the event, Mica Vanden, Assistant Development Project Manager at Great Places, said:

*"Social purpose is at the heart of everything we do at Great Places, and we were delighted to come along to speak to pupils to talk about the real life dangers of a working construction site, particularly with our Hartshead site being so close to their school."*

*"We look forward to continuing our relationship as the project progresses and hope that our visit may have sparked interest in becoming the builders, surveyors and site managers of tomorrow."*



## Join our Customer Charter!

Our aspiration and ambition is to deliver excellent customer experience, providing outstanding customer service and support. To achieve this, we recognise it is essential to engage and listen to the people who live in our homes, to make sure that we can deliver services tailored to the needs of customers and communities.

We already engage with customers in a variety of ways to gather this essential feedback and insight, but we recognise that our customers and their views are more important than ever. Therefore, we are creating a Customer Charter to help us as part of that journey.

This will allow customers to have a voice and influence the way that we do things.

It will make sure that service updates and improvements for customers are delivered effectively with customer feedback in mind.

**So, Are you ready for an exciting new challenge, which will benefit customers?**

**Do you want to help influence and shape services?**

**Are you passionate about excellent customer service?**

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, then please reach out to [Jan.Wade@greatplaces.org.uk](mailto:Jan.Wade@greatplaces.org.uk)



## Join Us for Our Residents' Forum

We are dedicated to empowering, enabling, and valuing the voices of our residents. Our goal is to provide opportunities for everyone to be involved in the development, improvement, and decision-making processes within our communities.

**The Purpose of Our Residents' Forum: Engaging, Listening, and Involving You .**

What's Involved:

- Drop-in sessions at each of our community centres to discuss the issues that matter to you.
- Share your ideas for improving our communities, suggest activities, and provide feedback on how our services can be enhanced.
- Meet and interact with our Neighbourhoods and Repairs Team.

Some issues can be resolved and acted upon immediately, while others may require further discussion and decision-making.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday 6 March – Primrose Centre, 5-7pm
- Thursday 10 April – Crossley Centre, 5-7pm

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## Early help drop-in with Positive Steps

**Positive Steps holds early help drop-in sessions every Thursday at Primrose Bank Community Centre from 1pm.**

These support families and individuals with issues surrounding Housing, Finances, Mental Wellbeing, Physical Health, Parenting and Employment.

## EARLY HELP DROP-IN

We support families and individuals with issues surrounding **Housing, Finances, Mental Well-being, Physical Health, Parenting and Employment**

**THURSDAYS FROM 1PM**  
**PRIMROSE BANK COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
9 Magnolia Gardens, Oldham, OL8 1HX





# Neighbourhood News

## Music in Mind

**Come and join the fun! Music Café for people living with dementia and their carers.**

Bringing joy and support through making music together, powered by Manchester Camerata Orchestra since 2012.

Every Thursday, doors open 10am for welcome tea and coffee, music session 10.30 - 11.30am at Primrose Centre, 9 Magnolia Gardens, Oldham, OL8 1HX.

To attend or if you want more information please contact [GemmaCooper@tomind.org.uk](mailto:GemmaCooper@tomind.org.uk) or call 07770263286.



### Come and Join the Fun!

Music Café for people living with dementia and their carers

Bringing joy and support through making music together!  
Powered by Manchester Camerata Orchestra since 2012.

Weekly, starting Thursday 17th October  
Doors open 10am for welcome tea and coffee, music session 10:30 – 11:30am  
Primrose Centre, 9 Magnolia Gardens, Oldham, OL8 1HX



"A little piece of heaven in our week"

"It's so lovely to see the joy the sessions bring to him and to others"

"We enjoy seeing mum enjoying herself...we never stop smiling"

"The sessions are full of playfulness, laughter, tears... They are so inclusive, and so much fun!"

- Free to attend
- Make new friends
- Find new ways to connect
- Improve your wellbeing and mood
- Help people with dementia to communicate and express themselves
- Free tea and biscuits!

To attend this Music Café, or for more information on parking and accessibility, please contact: [GemmaCooper@tomind.org.uk](mailto:GemmaCooper@tomind.org.uk) or 07770 263286



## Free Air Fryer Project with Cracking Good Food

Over at the Crossley Centre we're running a 6-week Air Fryer Project, each week there will be a new air fryer recipe and at the end of the course you will receive a FREE Air Fryer.

If you are interested and would like to take part in the next project, please contact [Leanne.Keane@greatplaces.org.uk](mailto:Leanne.Keane@greatplaces.org.uk)

## Come and get involved in our Zubma session!

**Every Thursday over the Primrose Centre we're hosting Zumba sessions.**

Time: 7:30 - 8:15pm (45-minute session)

Location: The Primrose Centre - 9 Magnolia Gardens, Oldham, OL8 1HX

Price: £1 per session

Contact Shaz on 07974788762 to find out more.



## Festive Fun

Last year, during the festive season, we hosted two events at our community centres for families and friends to participate in.

Both events were well attended, with over 150 members of the community engaging with us. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and food!

Events like these are crucial for bringing the community together, allowing people to spend time together and build relationships with one another, as well as with us.



## Local Food First

Local Food First is based at the Wildbrook Food and Growing Hub in Fitton Hill. They operate the Community Veg Bags project, which aims to improve access to affordable, fresh produce in underserved areas with limited retail options. Fruits and vegetables are sourced from market wholesalers in Manchester and supplemented by produce grown in local allotments, including the Wildbrook Community Growing Hub in Fitton Hill. These fresh goods are then sold at affordable prices.

The Community Veg Bag program is designed for families and individuals who:

Have difficulty accessing a regular, affordable supply of fruits and vegetables and want to improve their diet.

Are facing financial constraints that make it challenging to prioritise fresh produce and healthy eating in their grocery shopping.

Are interested in learning how to use fresh produce, developing new cooking skills, trying out different fruits and vegetables, and potentially growing some of their own food in the future.

Have young children who receive the NHS Healthy Start Benefit, which can be used to pay for their veg bag.

**You can collect your £5 weekly veg bag from:**

Wildbrook Community Food and Growing Hub, Wildbrook Crescent, Fitton Hill, OL8 2NT every Wednesday between 12 and 3pm.

To order email [localfoodfirst@outlook.com](mailto:localfoodfirst@outlook.com) or text 07536 996 166

Pay by cash, card or Healthy Start, order by Monday 5pm.



- Weekly bag of 8 different fruit & veg
- Weekly recipes and cooking tips
- Market sourced or grown locally



£5



## Care, help and inspire with the Women's CHAI project

Last year the Women's CHAI project received funding from our Community Resilience Fund.

November 2024 marked the end of the 'CHAI Wellbeing and Cost of Living' project which aimed to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing of women living in Oldham.

Women who were part of this project gained knowledge of local support services to help with the cost-of-living crisis and the project covered the five ways to wellbeing, social prescribing to local services and cost-of-living crisis support.

Recently, the women organised a celebration event as a way of giving back to the community. Over 200 people come along to event that was held at the Primrose Centre to join in with the activities and meet new people.

Leanne Keane, Community Partnership Manager at Great Places said:

*"This project has been a huge success. The women have been able to gain an understanding of the challenges that come with the cost-of-living crisis and how to overcome them and how their own wellbeing plays a vital part in this.*

*By being delivered in a space where they feel comfortable, they were able to ask questions and understand that there is no stigma as many are in the same situation.*

*The community give back day was a huge success and I was honoured to be part of it. It gave us the opportunity to invite other women from the community to the Primrose Centre and enjoy the activities that the CHAI women had organised."*

Najma Khalid MBE, Founder and Director of the Women's CHAI Project said:

*"This funding has had a massive impact on grassroots communities. Through the project, we have been able to impact over 60 women, their families, their friends and their community. The women were mainly from BAME disadvantaged communities, they learnt all about the five ways to wellbeing and how to use these to improve their physical, mental, health and wellbeing, they also learnt strategies to manage the cost-of-living crisis, helping them to cope with poverty.*

*The women have used what they have learnt to improve their quality of life and accessed support services to help them with their own and family health. They have also developed skills and their aspirations have been raised. Their confidence has been built and the project has helped reduce isolation."*



## Damp and Mould Prevention Guide

It's always important for us to help tackle the problem of damp and mould in our homes. Everyday jobs around the house like washing and drying clothes, cooking, and bathing all release moisture into the air, creating condensation. If this continues for a long period of time, it will eventually cause damp and mould to begin to grow.

**To prevent this problem from starting you can follow some of the of the advice below:**

### Produce less moisture:

- Dry clothes outdoors where possible
- Avoid drying your washing on a radiator
- Always cover pans when cooking and do not leave the kettle boiling

### Remove excess moisture:

Wipe down windows, windowsills, walls and shower walls every morning to remove condensation. Just opening a window isn't enough.

### Ventilate to remove moisture:

- Open your windows and throw back the sheets or duvets to air the bed and bedding
- Clear windowsills of clutter that will restrict opening the window
- Avoid overfilling cupboards and wardrobes as this prevents air circulation
- Don't block air vents in your home

### Regulate your heating

- In cold weather, the best way to keep rooms warm and avoid condensation is to keep low background heat on all day, rather than short bursts of high heat, and it's cheaper!
- Avoid using portable gas heaters

### Defective plumbing

Leaks from water and waste pipes are common and can affect both external and internal walls and ceilings. The affected area looks and feels damp to the touch and remains damp whatever the weather conditions outside. A quick examination of the water and waste pipes could find the source of the problem.

### If in doubt – Call us

If you think something needs looking at in your home please contact the Helpdesk on 0300 123 2003 option 1 or email [info.oldhampfi@wates.co.uk](mailto:info.oldhampfi@wates.co.uk) where the team will arrange a visit to assess any concerns with your property you may have.



# Fire Safety in your home

## Top tips for keeping you safe

### Doors



Do not wedge fire doors open and never disconnect or remove a closing device. Report any damage to us immediately.

### Balconies



Don't have barbecues or smoke on balconies, and don't store flammable items such as gas canisters or tins of paint on them.

### Smoke Alarms



Test your smoke alarms every week and do not cover or remove them.

### Appliances



Do not leave appliances running when nobody is home.

### Smoking



Smoking is not permitted in the accommodation.

### Cooking



Do not leave cooking unattended. Swap stove top chip pans for electric ones.

### Matches



Store matches and lighters in a safe place, out of the reach of children.

### Belongings



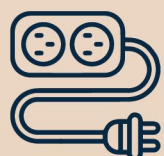
A clutter free home can help stop fire spreading. Always know the escape route out of your home and keep it clear.

### Candles



Do not leave them unattended. Make sure they are fully extinguished before you leave home or go to bed.

### Electrical



Don't overload sockets or rely on too many extension leads. Unplug unused items and switch off sockets when not in use.

### Flammable



Don't store anything flammable such as petrol in your home.

### Communal Areas



Please don't leave any items in shared communal areas of the building, we want to maintain a safe environment for everybody.



## Fly-tipping and Bulky Bob's disposal

**Please remember it is an offence to fly-tip on Great Places, council or private-owned land.**

Fly-tipping is a breach of your tenancy agreement, and if you are caught, you could be issued with a fine.

We'd like to say a big thank you to tenants who are getting in touch with us to report offenders. Fly-tipping is never acceptable, and with your help we can ensure those responsible are penalised.

If you need to dispose of large items, Bulky Bob's offer a collection service. You can request up to three items to be collected for £23. Any additional items are £8 each – the additional charge for fridges, freezers or fridge-freezers is £12. We will also collect any bagged-up fabric or small electrical items, like kettles or toasters, for free as part of any paid collection.

To find out more and request a collection, please [click here](#).



# What's on in Oldham?

## Fancy a knit and a natter? Northmoor Library's very own Lego Club!

Limehurst Library, OL8 3HH  
Wednesdays 4:30 - 6pm

With the new year upon us, what better time to pick up a new hobby – or rediscover an old one? For those of you who are fans of arts and crafts, or who would like to learn a new skill and meet new people, why not come along to a free 'Knit and Natter' club?

These friendly sessions are held **every Wednesday afternoon between 4.30pm and 6pm at Limehurst Library, Lime Green Parade, Oldham**. They are open to everyone, whether you're entirely new to knitting and crocheting, or could knit a scarf in your sleep!

Loads of us love knitting and crocheting because they're mindful activities that help to reduce stress, and give us that satisfying feeling when we've finished creating something special, perhaps as a gift for someone to wear. You can enjoy the calming process of knitting and crocheting as the perfect way to wind down mid-week and meet new friendly faces.

Simply come along! You do not need to sign up and attendance every week is not essential.



Northmoor Library, OL9 6DH  
Wednesdays 3:30 - 5pm

Are your kids lego mad? Why not treat them to an afternoon of fun at Northmoor Library's Lego Club?

This is a free drop-in play session held **every Wednesday between 3.30pm and 5pm**. You don't need to book in advance, or join for the whole session, simply come along at a time that suits you.

Let your kids' imaginations run wild as they play, build and create – whether they enjoy building small creations, or entire lego cities, they're sure to have fun and make new friends – the perfect mid-week after-school treat!

Research shows that playing with lego has positive effects on children's creativity, but also their patience, problem-solving skills, teamwork skills and self-confidence – and there's even physical benefits as it helps to develop dexterity in their fingers! Even if your child is new to lego, these fun after school sessions can be the perfect introduction and a fantastic break from screens.

Please note, these play sessions are for children aged five and over, and all children under the age of eight must be accompanied by an adult.

You can find Northmoor Library on Chadderton Way, Oldham, OL9 6DH.



## Live at the Library... Dominoes and Dahlias

Oldham Library & Lifelong Learning Centre  
OL1 1AL, Thursday 6th March

The award-winning show is coming to Oldham! Dominoes and Dahlias is an enchanting and heartwarming performance that celebrates the working history and the social and cultural contributions made by the African and Caribbean communities in the North West of England.

Originally from the Royal Exchange Theatre's 'Dream Project', in the show we meet a group of ladies taking part in a regional dominoes tournament, and the show comes to life as the players share their early memories and reminisce together – some real, some fantasy. Complete with music, storytelling, humour and voluntary audience interaction, this unbeatable atmosphere makes this a show you don't want to miss!

**Date: Thursday 6 March**

**Time: 7pm-8.30pm (doors at 6.45pm)**

**Location: Oldham Library & Lifelong Learning Centre, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL**

**Tickets: £6**

The original show won 'Best Age Friendly Award & Fantastic Family Award' in 2023 – why not treat the family this March? You can book tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/livethelibrary-dominoes-dahlias-oware-tickets-1016561080557>



## 3Cs Chess Club

St Edward's Parish Hall, OL4 5AJ  
Thursdays 7pm - 9pm

Why not introduce your kids to the fantastic game of chess, over at the '3Cs' Chess Club? A part of the Oldham area since 1978, the Children's Chess Club is dedicated to providing local children in Oldham with the opportunity to learn the game.

Most members come from schools part of the Oldham Primary School's League, but all children are welcome to the club – no prior experience of playing chess is necessary. Its members proudly represent the diversity of Oldham, and the children all compete on equal terms, both in teams that represent 3Cs or individually.

The sessions don't just include games; moves and tactics are taught to members in four to five coaching groups for each level of skill, ensuring an appropriate level of coaching is provided for all children at the club. Members also get to learn the fascinating history and traditions of chess, which adds to their understanding and enjoyment of the game.

Sessions are held on **Thursday nights, 7pm-9pm at St Edward's Parish Hall, Spring Lane, Lees, OL4 5AJ**.

You can find out more through their website here:

<https://www.3cschessclub.com/3cs-chess>

Or you can email: [nippy50@hotmail.com](mailto:nippy50@hotmail.com)





# What's on at The Primrose Centre from Jan '25

## Monday

**12:30pm - 2:30pm - Music Cafe for people living with dementia.** Every Monday from 13th January - 14th April (closed 17th & 24th February)

## Tuesday

**9:30am - 11:30am - Sewing Class**  
Booking is necessary

**12:00pm - 2:00pm - Coffee & Crafts**  
1st Tuesday of each month

**6:00pm - 8:00pm - Free Meal**  
3-course vegetarian meal provided by the Food Cycle Hub

**COMMUNITY FRIDGE – Stocked every Tuesday, ring Jan to see what's available**

## Wednesday

**10:30am - 12:00pm - ABL Health**  
Healthy living sessions (Contact ABL Health for more information)

**2:30pm - 5:00pm - Parkinson's UK**  
Meet 1st, 3rd & last Wednesday every month

**6:00pm - 9:00pm - M J Dance**  
Call in for more information and prices

*To book the hall for private events:*

*Contact Jan - 0161 642 7202, call into the centre or email [jan.wade@greatplaces.org.uk](mailto:jan.wade@greatplaces.org.uk)*



## Thursday

**10:00am - 11:00am - Baby/Toddler Group**  
Ran by Spark Oldham, starting 23rd January

**1:00pm - 2:30pm - Poethery Session**  
Expression of emotion via poetry (ladies only)

**1:00pm - 4:00pm - Early Help Drop-In**  
Ran by Positive Steps. Support with housing, finance, mental wellbeing, physical health, parenting & employment. No appointment needed.

**6:30pm - 8:30pm - Youth Club**  
Ran by Mahdlo. Year 5 upwards

## Friday

**9:00am - 3:00pm - Restart Scheme**  
For Jobseekers who have been referred onto the programme by their Jobcentre Plus Work Coach.

**10:00am - 12:00pm - Art Class**  
5 weeks, starting Friday 10th January. Ran by Lifelong Learning.

**6:00pm - 9:00pm - Health & Wellbeing Get-Together with Food.** Meet people, share experiences over a meal.

**HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE PARTIES**

## Saturday

**HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE PARTIES**

## Sunday

**11:00am - 2:00pm - Autism Support Group**  
**HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE PARTIES**

**Clean Kicks Programme** - for young people ages 11+ for 6 weeks, starting Friday 7th March, 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Upcycling workshops using trainers meant for landfill.  
*Contact Jan if you'd like to join the programme.*

# What's on at The Crossley Centre from Jan '25

## Monday

**10:00am – 12:00pm - Creative Crossley**  
(Sewing & knitting class)

**12:30pm – 2:30pm - ABL Health & Nutrition Group**  
(fortnightly)

**6:00pm – 8:00pm - PHAB**  
(activities to reduce isolation for people of all abilities)

## Tuesday

**6:00pm – 8:00pm - Slimming World**

## Wednesday

**10:00am - 2:00pm - Oak Tree Woodcarvers**  
Creative wood Carving, Annual Membership £20 plus £5 weekly fee.

**2:00pm – 4:00pm - Community Fridge (free surplus food) & Community Space**

*Your Community Centre for Chadderton*

*Please enquire about the above & booking the centre*

**Contact number - 0161 652 1419**

**@theCrossleyCentre**

**323 Denton Lane, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 9GA**

**[www.crossleycommunity.org.uk](http://www.crossleycommunity.org.uk)**

## Thursday

**10:30am - 12:30pm - ESOL Class: ACCA**

**1:00pm - 2:00pm - Chair based exercise class**  
Gentle exercise

**6:30pm - 8:30pm - Youth Zone**  
youth club for 11-18 age group (OMBC)

## Friday

**6:30pm – 8:30pm - Behind the Curtains Theatre Group**

## Saturday

**9:00am – 11:30pm - Slimming World**

**12:00pm – 8:00pm - Available for private hire**

## Sunday

**11:00am – 1:00pm - Oldham Tuition Centre**  
(Maths & English tuition)

**1:30pm – 3:00pm - Urdu Tuition (ladies only)**

**3:00pm – 7:30pm - Available for private hire**



**CROSSLEY COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**

Charity Registration Number - 1182129



## News from the Wider Borough



### Returning to Royton

Following a campaign to buy it back, a First World War memorial has finally been returned to the Heyside area of Royton, after being found in a military antiques dealer 100 miles from home in 2020.

The bronze sculpture, depicting the figure of peace and commemorating the local men and boys who lost their lives in the historic conflict, had stood in Heyside Congregational Church since its first unveiling in 1923. When the church roof was badly damaged by storms, the building was demolished, and the congregation moved to the Sunday School next door. But in 2017, this too needed major repairs, and so the decision was made to close and sell the building. Whilst the parish elders attempted to retain the memorial, it was lost in the process. However, in 2020, researchers from the Royal British Legion Royton Branch found out about a certain war memorial that was for sale on a military dealer's website.

Eventually, the team identified the memorial as the same one that had been lost from Heyside Congregational Church. Then began the process of getting in touch and bringing the memorial home.

It had turned out that the memorial had been found in a barn in Worcestershire, then sold to a private collector before being sold on to War and Son Medals and Military Antiques in Herefordshire.

Back home in Oldham, the community raised donations to buy back the memorial, which the antique company removed from auction and reduced the price. The memorial is now back in Royton, displayed at Royton Library and Town Hall.

To mark the end of a long process to bring the memorial home, a special rededication service took place in December 2024, organised by the Royton branch of the Royal British Legion, as well as the Mayor of Oldham, Leader of Oldham Council and military dignitaries of Greater Manchester.

### Plans underway to bring Oldham Coliseum back to life

Oldham Coliseum is an iconic and historic performing space, providing the joy and magic of theatre to the people of Oldham for over a century. Having closed in March 2023 after losing its funding from Arts Council England, which had provided one third of its income, the loss of this cultural gem was sorely felt.

Since then, the community has been working hard to get to a place where the theatre can open its doors once again, and in mid 2024, Leader of Oldham Councillor, Arooj Shah, announced that they would invest £10 million towards achieve this in time for Panto 2025.

And first thing's first – refurbishment! Work has been going on behind the scenes to deliver on this pledge. Recently, Oldham Council announced the appointment of Tilbury Douglass, bespoke heritage contractor, to lead on the refurbishment. This is great news – with this contractor currently transforming the Old Library, the community can be confident that the Coliseum is in good hands.

Alongside the £10 million, the support behind this project is bolstered by £6.1 million from the Towns Fund, as well as the remainder of Oldham Council's regeneration budget.



# How are we doing?

% of repairs that are inspected within 20 days following completion

12.23%  
(target 10%)



Estate inspections performance

4 per month

Repair for re-let time

4 days  
(target 10)

Void re-let time

16 days  
(target 21)

Rent collected

101%  
(target 98%)





