

InspiredLiving

SUMMER 2025 | THE MAGAZINE FOR OLDHAM PFI RESIDENTS



**Five minutes with
Ryan Smith, Head of
Neighbourhoods**

**Spaghetti towers and
big ideas - a careers
day to remember**

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 **info.oldhampfi@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 Ryan Smith, Head of Neighbourhoods

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

One of the standout moments recently was hosting an inspiring Careers Day with Year 10 students from Waterhead Academy at our Oldham Office, in collaboration with Wates and Positive Steps. Welcoming the students into a professional environment, I helped create a morning filled with insight, interaction, and inspiration. From sharing real-world experiences to guiding students through hands-on activities, the event offered a glimpse into the diverse career paths available—and the skills needed to pursue them. Read more about the day on page 7..

As the weather warms up, many of us are enjoying a break from switching the heating on. While this helps with managing household finances, we know that the cost of living continues to be a challenge. Our Money Matters service offers practical advice to help you make the most of your money, and our Employability Coaches have a strong track record of supporting people into work and training. Could they help you or someone you know? Find out more on pages 13 and 14.

We always welcome your feedback. In this edition, you'll find dates for upcoming neighbourhood walkabouts—please feel free to join us and share your thoughts about your area.

I hope you enjoy reading our updates, and I look forward to seeing you soon.



Ryan Smith

Head of Neighbourhoods

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5 minutes with Ryan Smith, Head of Neighbourhoods

We caught up with Ryan Smith (Head of Neighbourhoods, Central) to get a sense of his role and perspective at Great Places.

Ryan Smith brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role. With 17 years service with Great Places Housing, Ryan brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role including 13 years in the Central Region. Ryan’s commitment to excellent customer service, combined with his passion for community impact and team collaboration, makes him an important figure in making positive change within Great Places.

The central region covers Oldham, Tameside, Rochdale, Bury, Bolton, Salford and Wigan.

What does your role involve?

I’m responsible for the delivery of frontline housing services within the Central Region which covers seven local authority areas, our NHS keyworker accommodation at the Royal Oldham Hospital and our PFI Project, a 25-year housing regeneration partnership with Wates Construction, also in Oldham.

My role involves oversight of our operational performance as well as developing and managing relationships with many partner organisations.

I am also the chair of our Allocation and Voids Service Excellence Group which involves colleagues from across the business to ensure our allocations and voids offer follows regulation and ensures high levels of customer satisfaction.

How long have you worked in the Central Region for and why is it a great place to be?

I have worked at Great Places for 17 years in several roles.

I think what makes the Central Region great for me is the people in the team. Our region is largely made up of colleagues who are local to the areas that they work in and around, and there is a genuine and heartfelt passion about doing the best for people who need our support and pride when we make improvements; this could be largescale developments, or the work we do through our community centres.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Seeing the impact our work has in neighbourhoods, on the ground, in homes, talking to customers face-to-face. It’s not always good; I also deal with some customer complaints and seeing how something we have done impacts someone so much, talking over a brew in their front room is eye-opening. We must remember what this sector is here to do and a real barometer for that is to have face-to-face interactions with our customers.

I am also privileged to have such a dedicated team, and I love being around them. I do feel we have an energy when we are all together; overhearing conversations between the team and customers and bouncing ideas off each other is something I love being part of.

What’s your biggest challenge at the moment?

We live in an age where we can order products as consumers, and it be on our doorstep when we get home. We operate in that space and many of our customers have additional requirements when it comes to service so managing expectations is by far the biggest challenge.

Seeing how the ‘Housing Officer’ role has changed since I entered the sector 20 years ago is fascinating. It’s not unique to Great Places, but ensuring that the links between our colleagues and customers remain as strong as they can be is crucial.

How would you describe your Central Region Team in three words?

Honest
Passionate
Dedicated

What’s been the highlight of your career so far?

Professionally, welcoming the apprentice/graduate roles into our team. Seeing numerous recruits completing their course, gaining a qualification and progressing in the sector makes me proud that I played a small role! The sector needs to continue to attract people who are passionate about what we do.

On a personal/professional level, seeing the impact of the PFI regeneration. Specifically, the two community centres where we have touched thousands of lives in one way or another, in my hometown, will always be something I will reflect on proudly.

Neighbourhood News

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 16 September – 10am - 12pm

Tuesday 14 October – 10am - 12pm

Tuesday 18 November – 10am - 12pm

Tuesday 16 December – 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: September to November

Primrose Bank

Tuesday 2 September at 10am
Tuesday 7 October at 10am
Tuesday 4 November at 10am

Fitton Hill and Dew Way

Tuesday 9 September at 10am
Tuesday 14 October at 10am
Tuesday 11 November at 10am

Crossley

Tuesday 30 September at 10am
Tuesday 28 October at 10am
Tuesday 25 November 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.



Spaghetti towers and big ideas - a careers day to remember

Recently, we hosted a careers visit with year 10 students from Waterhead Academy at our Oldham Office.

On Thursday 12 June in collaboration with Wates and Positive Steps, we welcomed Year 10 students (aged 14-15) as part of our ongoing commitment to raise aspirations and opening young minds to the many opportunities available in the world of work.

This event showcased our dedication to community engagement and building positive relationships between businesses and schools. A range of colleagues from Great Places, Wates, and Positive Steps actively participated, contributing to the success of the day and highlighting our shared commitment to making a positive impact in the communities we work in.

Throughout the morning, students took part in a variety of challenges and activities that provided insight not only into the housing industry but also into the essential skills needed in the workplace.

The day began with a housing-related quiz led by Ryan Smith, Head of Neighbourhoods, designed to help students understand the role of a social housing landlord and the challenges Great Places faces in an ever-changing operating environment.

Next, students participated in a hands-on activity led by Ste Molyneux, Emerging Talent and Development Specialist, where they were tasked with building a house using limited supplies and a set budget. This exercise highlighted the challenges faced by the housing sector and gave students the opportunity to demonstrate key skills such as teamwork and communication.

The day concluded with a fun and creative challenge led by Anthony Grundy, Project Manager at Wates, where students used only spaghetti and marshmallows to build the tallest and sturdiest tower possible.

Leanne Keane, Community Partnership Manager, said:

“It was a pleasure to welcome the students from Waterhead Academy to our office to explore careers in housing. They were highly engaged, eager to participate in the activities on offer, and asked us plenty of questions. Our partnerships with local schools like this one demonstrate our vision of creating Great Communities and Great People. We’re thrilled to work with the students and the school to raise aspirations and open their minds to the vast opportunities available to them in the future.”

Shaquea Bennett-Cole, Youth Engagement Worker at Positive Steps, added:

“The visit was an eye-opening experience for the students, demonstrating how the housing support provided by Great Places can help transform the lives of people in the community. The students gained valuable insights—not only into housing, but also into the skills needed in the working world, which were highlighted through the tower and house-building activities. Thank you to the entire team for your support in organising and hosting such an inspiring visit.”

Crossley Centre hosts innovative gut health and science-led food and wellbeing programme

From May to July 2025, the Crossley Centre was the heart of a pioneering gut health and nutrition programme, empowering local customers to improve their wellbeing through science-led food experiments and education. The initiative, led by Haleh Moravej, an award-winning sustainability specialist and registered nutritional scientist, offered hands-on experiences that combined practical food exploration with clear, engaging health science.

Over the course of 12 sessions, participants took part in an experience that blended evidence-based science with accessible, community-focused learning. Customers explored the science of the gut microbiome, the connection between digestion and mental health, and the impact of fibre-rich, fermented, and seasonal foods, all in an inclusive, community-led environment.

The sessions were made possible through the leadership and partnership efforts of Leanne Keane, Community Partnership Manager, and Naseem Ahmad, Community Development Coordinator who sourced Haleh and created a pathway to engage residents through trusted neighbourhood channels.

Customers said:

“These sessions helped me understand what my body needs. I feel better and more energised.”

“Learning how fibre feeds good bacteria was a lightbulb moment for me.”

“It wasn’t just food, it was real science, made simple and useful.”

“This programme was genuinely life changing. The science was the most exciting part of it, and the educator’s knowledge was exceptional.”

The programme didn’t just improve knowledge, it built confidence, connection, and curiosity about the science of everyday eating.

Following the success of the May–July 2025 pilot, the team is exploring opportunities to deliver more sessions across local communities. With strong engagement and enthusiasm from participants, there is clear momentum to continue offering accessible, science-based food education that supports long-term wellbeing and community connection.



Adult Courses Information Event

Come along to the Adult Courses Information Event at The Crossley Centre!

Would you like to improve your English and Maths skills?

Would you like to gain new qualifications for employment?

Do you want to help your children with their homework?

Oldham Lifelong Learning offer a wide range of course and qualifications that will develop your skills, knowledge and experience to support you in life.

Thursday 11 September 11am – 12pm. No booking is necessary.

For more information, please call 0800 525 956 or visit www.oldham.gov.uk/lifelonglearning

Oldham Lifelong Learning
Funded by **GREATER MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR OUR WORKFORCE

Adult Courses Information Event

Would you like to improve your English and Maths skills?

Would you like to gain new qualifications for employment?

Do you want help your children with their homework?

We offer a wide range of courses and qualifications that will develop your skills, knowledge and experience to support you in your life.

Come along and speak to our tutors and find out more about the courses available from September 2025.

Crossley Community Centre
Thursday 11th September 2025
11am – 12pm

Freephone 0800 525 956
www.oldham.gov.uk/lifelonglearning
E: lifelong.learning@oldham.gov.uk
FB & Insta: OldhamLifelongLearning

Oldham Council | matrix | Ofsted Good Provider



Dare to Be You in Oldham

The ‘Dare to Be You’ project recently wrapped up with a celebration at Yew Tree Youth Club in Chadderton. Run by Fullcircle and funded by Great Places and The National Lottery Community Fund, the eight-week course helps young women build confidence, self-esteem, and resilience.

The project provided a space for participants to develop essential life skills, explore their identities, and build a strong sense of self-worth. The course included workshops on self-expression, skincare routines, what it means to be ‘be you’, how to build confidence and basic make up techniques.

The event featured talks from Leanne Murphy (makeup artist and influencer), Leanne Keane (Community Partnerships Manager at Great Places), and Councillor Arooj Shah (Leader of Oldham Council), who all spoke about the power of confidence, resilience, and “girl power.”

Leanne Keane said: “We are delighted to have supported this fantastic project. Seeing the positive impact it has had on these young women is truly inspiring and aligns with our commitment to creating thriving communities.”

Becci Drake, Director at Fullcircle nw CIC, added: “The ‘Dare to Be You’ project is a shining example of how we can equip young people with the skills and confidence they need to thrive. Fullcircle was set up 14 years ago with a core mission to help people learn, grow and give back. This project has embodied that spirit by promoting growth, building confidence and empowering the girls to be who they truly are.”

The evening ended with each participant receiving a certificate, handbag, and Younique makeup products to celebrate their hard work and dedication.

SPARK Oldham, based in Fitton Hill, has received an £8,000 grant from the Great Places Resilience Fund

This funding will enable SPARK to deliver various community-driven projects aimed at promoting wellbeing, resilience and a sense of belonging among local residents.

With a core mission to create an inclusive environment where individuals feel welcome and valued, SPARK Oldham is dedicated to providing opportunities for the community to thrive. Their initiatives are designed to empower customers, create connections, and enable access to essential services that contribute to healthier living.

The funding will support a range of projects that target different parts of the community:

Women's Support Group - A 10-week wellbeing project focusing on building confidence and self-belief. The group will encourage individuals to form new friendships and support networks, with attendees trained to become buddies or champions for future cohorts.

Pre-school Group - The Baby Boogies sessions will provide a safe space for parents and carers to bring their pre-school children, promoting social skills and child development while allowing adults to make new friendships and improve their mental wellbeing.

Family Cooking Session - This 10-week programme will teach families how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget, empowering them to make healthier choices while being mindful of their budget.

Youth Activities - SPARK will conduct outreach work to engage young people in the community, identifying their needs and preferences to enhance existing provisions and create new opportunities.

Street Games - Families will have the chance to participate in play street sessions, utilising road closures by the local authority. Community members will be recruited and trained to plan and deliver these sessions, promoting ownership and involvement.

Monthly Coffee Mornings - These gatherings at local schools will invite health and community services to share information and promote their offerings, creating a network of support for customers.

Volunteer Training - SPARK will provide training for adults and young leaders in essential areas such as Health and Safety, First Aid, and Food Health Safety, actively recruiting volunteers to support the various activities throughout the community.

Men's Support Group - A weekly group providing a safe space for men to meet, share experiences, and build friendships, addressing any challenges they may face.

Community Champions - Residents can become community champions, advocating for local needs and linking with existing steering groups to ensure that the community's voice is heard.

All sessions and activities will be held in Fitton Hill, with priority given to Great Places customers.

With the support of the Great Places Resilience Fund, SPARK Oldham is set to make a significant impact on the lives of local residents.

Local Food First receives £3,000 to enhance community health in Oldham

Local Food First, based at the Wildbrook Food and Growing Hub in Fitton Hill, has received £3,000 from the Great Places Resilience Fund to support its Community VegBags project. This initiative aims to improve access to affordable, fresh produce for local residents, particularly those facing financial hardship.

The VegBags are filled with fruits and vegetables sourced from Manchester market wholesalers and local allotments, including from Wildbrook's own. By offering produce at low cost, the project helps families, especially those receiving the NHS Healthy Start Benefit, eat more healthily.

Participants also receive weekly recipe sheets and tips on how to prepare the vegetables, helping them build cooking skills and confidence. A two-hour cooking demonstration, led by a qualified cook and nutritionist, further supports healthier eating habits.

The £3,000 grant will fund VegBag distribution, aiming to reach all Great Places customers. There are also opportunities for participants to grow their own produce in the future, promoting long-term food sustainability.



Join us at FoodCycle Oldham

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 or visit <https://foodcycle.org.uk/location/foodcycle-oldham>



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.



Promoting healthy cooking: The Air Fryer project at The Crossley Centre

In partnership with Cracking Good Food, The Crossley Community Centre in Oldham launched an exciting air fryer project aimed at encouraging healthier cooking habits within the community.

The project took place over six weeks, during which participants were introduced to the benefits of using air fryers. Each week, customers received a new air fryer recipe, allowing them to explore a variety of healthy and delicious dishes. The hands-on sessions were designed to be engaging and educational, catering to individuals of all ages and cooking skill levels.

The project has been a great success, boosting customers confidence in cooking and promoting healthier eating habits.

The Crossley Centre and Cracking Good Food are excited about the project's success and look forward to more initiatives that support the community's wellbeing.

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

great places HOUSING GROUP
PRIMROSE BANK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
POSITIVE STEPS



Money Matters

With the cost of living continuing to be a challenge for many people, remember that help is on hand from our Money Matters Team, who can provide confidential support and guidance to customers who are experiencing financial hardship.

We aim to empower customers to effectively manage their finances so that they can move away from any financial pressures and flourish in their tenancy.

Our free, impartial advice is available to all customers, and we have permission from the Financial Conduct Authority to provide debt counselling and debt adjusting services.

We can support customers in the following ways:

- » Help plan a budget.
- » Support customers to maximise their income.
- » Assist customers to address Priority and Non-Priority Debts.
- » Coach and support customers to apply for welfare benefits.
- » Guide customers to challenge incorrect welfare benefit decisions.
- » Help customers navigate changes to the welfare benefits system e.g. Universal Credit Managed Migration.
- » Enable customers to access energy advice and additional support within the community.
- » Assist customers to access local funding and grants.

Getting advice from the team is straightforward. Simply send an email to money matters@greatplaces.org.uk and a team member will get back in touch.



Employability Service

Great Places' Employability Service is available to all our customers and anyone living in their households. We can support people to progress with their career goals by helping them find training courses, job opportunities, apprenticeships and volunteering. We run regular self-employment courses and can provide funds to contribute towards start-up costs. We can also help with travel expenses, interview clothes and digital devices. Our service is tailored to the individual, and offer support meetings face-to-face, over the telephone or online. We look at someone's wider situation and take into account people's finances, confidence levels and anything else that's proving to be a challenge.

Over the past few months, we have provided first aid, food hygiene, henna art, lashes, DIY courses, barista and podcasting training for our customers in different regions. Whether you're just leaving school and need help with your CV and job searching or if you're in a job and need some guidance about changing careers and retraining, the Employability Service can help you.

If you'd like to refer yourself to your local Employability Coach, you can either speak with your Neighbourhood Services Manager or self-refer via the [Great Places website](#) and completing the online form.



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](#).



Spotlight on Support: A Day in the Life of Employability Coach Naseem Aktar

Naseem Aktar plays a vital role in helping residents overcome barriers and move closer to meaningful employment. We sat down with her to learn more about her approach, the challenges her customers face, and the impact of her work.

What are the most common barriers to employment, and how do you help customers overcome them?

Many customers face low confidence, limited qualifications, gaps in work history, health issues, caring responsibilities, and digital exclusion. Social isolation is also common, especially among those in Independent and Wellbeing schemes.

“I start by building trust and understanding their situation,” Naseem explains. “Then we set small, achievable goals—whether that’s confidence-building, CV support, interview prep, or training. It’s about making the journey feel manageable.”

Can you share a success story that shows the impact of the employability service?

One customer came to me after being signed off work due to stress from a toxic workplace. Her confidence was low, and she was hesitant to return to any similar environment.

Through regular coaching, we rebuilt her trust, identified her strengths, and explored what she needed to feel safe in a new role. Over time, her confidence grew, and she secured a part-time job at her local health centre—somewhere she feels valued and supported.

Her journey shows how personalised support and patience can help people move past difficult experiences and find the right role.

How do you tailor your support to each customer?

Flexibility is key. Many customers prefer not to come into an office, so I meet them where they feel comfortable—at home, in their scheme, or over a cup of tea in a communal lounge.

I work at their pace. Some need time to build confidence, while others are ready to explore training or job options. I create personalised action plans and adapt them as we go.

What partnerships or resources do you use to help customers access training or jobs?

I work with local colleges, training providers, community organisations, and employers offering placements or job opportunities. Internally, I collaborate with our Community Partnership Manager on funded community projects.

We also have a budget to help remove practical barriers—covering travel costs for interviews, smart clothing, uniforms, or training fees.

A current example is a partnership with Tatti Lashes to deliver a one-day beauty training course in Oldham. It’s a great opportunity for residents interested in self-employment or freelance work in the beauty industry.

How do you measure long-term success?

Success isn’t just about getting a job—it’s about progress. I look for growth in confidence, independence, and steps toward employment, even through volunteering or training. We track outcomes monthly via our balanced scorecard, but the biggest win is seeing someone believe in themselves again.

If you’d like to refer yourself to your local Employability Coach, you can either speak with your Neighbourhood Services Manager or self-refer via the [Great Places website](#) and completing the online form.

What's on in Oldham?

Live Music Saturdays

Bees Knees Oldham
Every Saturday, 7pm, Free Entry

Looking for the perfect way to spend your Saturday night? Look no further than Bees Knees Oldham, where the stage comes alive every weekend with unforgettable live music!

Each Saturday from 7PM, we showcase a fresh lineup of talent—from local artists and tribute bands to genre-spanning performers that bring the best of Rock, Pop, Dance, and Indie. Whether you're into nostalgic classics or the latest hits, there's something for everyone.

No tickets needed

New acts weekly

Check our Facebook for updates

So, grab your friends, grab a drink, and get ready for a night of music, energy, and good vibes. It's free, it's live, and it's happening every Saturday.

Bees Knees Oldham—where music meets memories.



Small Cinema: Hook

Oldham Library, OL1 1AL
Saturday 4 October, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Celebrate the best family films at Oldham Library with The Small Cinema!

Get ready for an afternoon of fun and adventure at our screening of Hook. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this animated classic on the big screen. This in-person event promises an unforgettable experience for cinema enthusiasts. Grab your popcorn, find a comfy seat, and get ready to be captivated. The perfect adventure for you and the family to enjoy.

Each child attending receives a goodie bag filled with treats. You're also welcome to bring your own with you too. We also have drop-in wonderful crafts inspired by the film starting at 12 - 1.30pm. Please be aware the film will start at 2pm with no adverts or trailers beforehand.

Chat and Choose

Northmoor Library, OL9 6DH
Every Saturday 10:30-11:30am

Looking for a relaxed way to spend your Saturday morning? Come along to Chat and Choose at Northmoor Library, where the kettle's always on and the conversation is always flowing.

Whether you're a book lover or just fancy a friendly chat, this weekly drop-in is the perfect chance to connect with others in your community. Talk about your latest read, share recommendations, or simply enjoy a brew and a natter—no pressure, no agenda.

Books, brews, and brilliant company

All welcome—just pop in!

Come for the tea, stay for the chat. We'd love to see you there!

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



Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to enjoy the magic of the big screen with friends and family. Book your tickets now - please be aware both adults and children require a ticket.

[Book now here!](#)



Fancy a knit and a natter?

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

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.



Crochet Basket with T-Shirt Yarn

Gallery Oldham
Saturday 11 October, 10:30am - 1:00pm

Discover the art of upcycling and creative crochet in this hands-on workshop led by local artist Caroline Coates. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to explore new techniques, this session is the perfect opportunity to get crafty and learn something new.

Choose from a gorgeous selection of colours and create your own crochet basket—or even a cute little pumpkin—using simple stitches and step-by-step guidance. You'll also learn how to transform old t-shirts into usable yarn, giving your projects a sustainable twist.

Northmoor Library's very own Lego Club!

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.



All materials provided

Ages 18+ only

[Book your place now here](#)

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out on this creative morning of colour, texture, and community!



What's on at The Primrose Centre from Aug '25

Monday

12:30pm - 2:30pm - Music Cafe for people living with dementia. Starting 15th September

Tuesday

9:30am - 11:30am - Sewing Class

14-week course starting 9th September

10:00am - 12:00pm - Stop Smoking Clinic

Ran by ABL Health. Please ring for appointment.

12:00pm - 2:00pm - Coffee & Crafts

1st Tuesday of each month

12:00am - 3:00pm - Pre-entry ESOL

Starting 9th September

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



Thursday

1:00pm - 2:30pm - Poethrapy 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.

5:00pm - 6:00pm - Zumba

Starting in September.

Friday

10:30am - 11:15am - Ladies Tai Chi

Starting 12 September, £1 per session. Contact Jan to book a place.

12:00pm - 3:00pm - Pre-entry ESOL

HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE EVENTS.

Saturday

HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE EVENTS.

Sunday

11:00am - 2:00pm - Autism Support Group

For families and carers. Starting 7th September.

4:00pm - 7:00pm - Health & Wellbeing get-together with food

Meet people, share experiences over a meal. Meeting dates: 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November.

HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR PRIVATE EVENTS.

What's on at The Crossley Centre from Aug '25

Monday

10:00am - 12:00pm - Creative Crossley

Sewing class, term-time only.

12:30pm - 2:30pm - ABL Health & Nutrition Group

(fortnightly)

6:30pm - 8:30pm - PHAB

(activities to reduce isolation for people of all abilities)

Tuesday

Watch this space!

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

Positive steps - Early help (support with employment, housing and wellbeing)

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

Thursday

9:30am - 11:30pm - Active Ladies Exercise Class

(Outta Skool) free to join.

Friday

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

Saturday

9:00am - 11:30pm - Slimming World

12:00pm - 9:00pm - Available for private hire

Sunday

12:00pm - 9:00pm - Available for private hire



CROSSLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number - 1182129



Oldham Council awarded gold for armed forces support

Oldham Council is proud to announce it has achieved the prestigious Gold Award in the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme, the highest honour a civilian employer can receive. They offer the following support to armed forces staff and potential staff:

- Guaranteed interviews for Veterans, Reservists and Cadets who meet essential job criteria
- 10 days additional paid leave annually for reservists to attend their annual camp
- Volunteering days for Adult Cadet Force Volunteers to undertake

The award comes just months after the Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, reinforcing its pledge to ensure that serving personnel, veterans and military families are treated fairly and with respect in Oldham.

Leader of Oldham Council, Cllr Arooj Shah said: “This Gold Award is a powerful recognition of Oldham’s unwavering commitment to our Armed Forces community. We stand proudly with our veterans, reservists and service families, not just in sentiment, but in action. We’re so proud to be leading by example and will continue to ensure no one who serves is left behind.”

The Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award acknowledges organisations that go above and beyond in their support. Oldham Council has met the highest standards, including employment practices that support reservists, veterans, and military spouses, and active engagement with the wider Armed Forces community.

The Gold status builds on previous achievements, including the Council’s partnership with Oldham Community Leisure, offering veterans discounted access to five local wellbeing centres. This initiative, free for the first two months, promotes both physical health and mental wellbeing, providing access to gyms, swimming, racket sports and over 150 classes.

Oldham’s new town centre park to be named ‘Tommyfield Park’

Oldham Council is proud to announce that the town’s new five-acre park, currently under construction in the town centre, will be named Tommyfield Park, in honour of the historic Tommyfield Market.

The name is a tribute to a site that has been central to Oldham’s community life for more than two centuries. Tommyfield Market will close its doors as part of the town centre’s wider regeneration programme. The name traces its roots back to farmland once owned by a local man named Tommy. The market officially began in the early 19th century on what became known as the “Tommyfield Estate.”

In 1860, Tommyfield gained national culinary fame when it became the first place in Britain to sell fried chips, a tradition that would spark the nation’s love affair with fish and chips. A blue plaque commemorates this delicious moment in history.

With the market’s closure, the next chapter in Oldham’s story begins. Tommyfield Park will be a fully self-sustaining green space, featuring:

- Solar-powered lighting
- Wildlife friendly landscaping
- Open green areas for families and residents
- A commitment to sustainability and biodiversity

[Get a sneak peak of what Tommyfield Park will look like here.](#)



How are we doing?

% of repairs that are inspected within 20 days following completion

11.6%
(target 10%)



Estate inspection performance

4 per month

Repair for re-let time

5 days
(target 10)

% of repairs completed on the 1st visit

92%

Rent collected (July)

99.86%
(target 98%)



