

BRADFORD MATTERS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HOPE NOT HATE CAMPAIGN

HOPE
HATE

EVERYONE LOVES THE LUVABULLS!

CHEERLEADING sensations the LuvaBulls are reaching new heights this season – after their star turn at the City of Culture closing ceremony. The junior dance team, made up of talented 9–11-year-olds, now boasts an astonishing 80 members.

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

NOT EVERYTHING'S PERFECT. We know that and so do you. The spiralling cost of living, exacerbated by foreign wars and a host of other issues, is causing families to struggle, making this a difficult and challenging time for many of us.

But it's how we deal with such times that becomes the hallmark of who we are. There are those, most prominently Reform UK, who want to use these difficult times to make divisions worse – and to create new divisions between us for the sake of narrow political advantage.

Farage has been playing this game for decades. Put simply, he is a grifter who stokes division for his own benefit. A snake-oil salesman who cares not one jot for the chaos he leaves behind.

There is, however, another way. A better way. And that is for communities to come together, working to make life easier, being determined to leave no-one behind, and being clear that scapegoating and racism are not the answer.

We are certain that the overwhelming majority of people in Bradford reject the racism and hatred of Reform and want to live in harmony, peacefully with their neighbours. We hope this paper will give you a little insight into just how much good work is going on in Bradford by local people determined to build a better future based on friendship and respect.

Let us together reject the politics of hate in May's elections and redouble our efforts to make our town a beacon of hope.

Scan here for a digital copy of your local HOPE not hate paper



Email us:

campaigns@hopenothate.org.uk

WHERE TRUMP LEADS... FARAGE FOLLOWS

World would be a 'better place' if US took over Greenland, says Nigel Farage

Guardian, Jan 21, 2026

Nigel Farage says he's 'never wavered' in his support for Donald Trump

Independent, Sept 4, 2025

Farage hails Trump 'inspiration' at Reform UK rally

BBC, Feb 1, 2025

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is increasingly dangerous and out of control.

Quite apart from the disastrous conflict with Iran, which is likely to lead to many civilian deaths, rising energy bills and a global depression, he wants to take over Greenland, has demanded that Canada becomes part of the United States and is demanding Ukraine surrender territory to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Closer to home, he is demanding that British supermarkets stock US-bred chlorinated chicken.

Any one of these policies and actions should cause our politicians to be nervous of Trump. But not Nigel Farage. The Reform UK leader cheers on Trump's madness.

Where Trump leads, Farage follows.

This alone should be enough to make you question the political judgement of Farage and Reform UK.

Britain is a proud, independent country. The last thing we need is for us to follow every mad act of Donald Trump.

HUMILIATED IN OFFICE

REFORM UK will make lots of promises in the forthcoming elections. If past experience is anything to go by, they will be lying to you and they will fail to deliver.

Last year, Reform UK took control of 10 councils around the country on the promise that they were different from the other parties. One year on, and their rule has been disastrous.

- The party's 2025 election leaflets promised council tax would either be frozen or cut, yet it is rising in every council under Reform's control.
- Reform's pledges to cut "woke waste" with an Elon Musk-inspired DOGE unit have also failed to materialise.

- Much-needed public services are being cut, including care homes in Derbyshire, a council-tax relief scheme in County Durham, and health-advice initiative in Lincolnshire.

- Promises to increase bin collections have not been met. In Lancashire, Reform councillors recommended rubbish be picked up every three weeks!

- One in ten Reform councillors elected last year have already quit, costing local council taxpayers tens of thousands in new elections.

It is easy to promise the world when you stand for election, but Reform UK have already failed to deliver on their promises when in power.

ROOTS IN THE RIVER AIRE

THE AIRE Rivers Trust is running an exciting community-engagement project, “Roots in the River”. They aim to connect communities in Bradford and Keighley to the natural and industrial history of their local rivers and becks.

West Bradford is lucky enough to have multiple becks running nearby, including Pitty Beck, Clayton Beck and Bradford Beck. Surrounded by wonderful scenery, the becks are important wildlife corridors, connecting diverse habitats and allowing animals to move.

Our wildlife and environment are at risk and have been in decline since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Over time, our rivers and becks have been compromised by weirs, culverts and man-made channels. They have endured pollution from sewage, agriculture, and urban drainage.

This project aims to help nature recover, and to inspire communities to join in. “We would like to help people understand the history of their beck and why it is important,” says Anna Williams, Outreach Officer at the Aire Rivers Trust. “In addition, we want to upskill locals to be able to look after their waterways.”

The Trust will work closely with communities, running exciting events and activities including guided walks, workshops and practical volunteering along the becks. Thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, it will be possible to restore these valuable waterways for the benefit of wildlife and the communities that live, work and play alongside them. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved.

■ Visit www.aireriverstrust.org.uk/roots-in-the-river or find the Trust on Facebook.

DID YOU KNOW

A BECK IS...

- A small stream or brook, usually with a stony bed.
- Typically found in the Yorkshire Dales and North of England.
- A sign that there was once a 10th-century Scandinavian Viking settlement.
- Derived from the Old Norse *bekkr*.



DOING OUR BIT: ELDERS STEP UP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED

SHE MIGHT be 101 but that doesn't stop Lilian from doing her bit for others.

The Sandale resident is just one of a team of elderly volunteers giving their time to support families and neighbours in the area – including making packed lunches for a school holiday meals scheme.

As Andy Walsh explains: “We’ve got some lovely people, members get involved in all sorts.

“Helping us make packed lunches, raising money for Easter eggs and Christmas presents...

“Lilian comes for lunch then helps others. She gets the bus and is very talkative. At 101 she’s fitter than me!

“Having purpose is really important and we really appreciate everyone who provides support in our community.”

Lilian is one of 150 members who regularly attend the popular Older People’s Club at the Sandale Community Hub.

They get together for a three-course lunch and to spend time with friends, playing games, crafting and taking part in fun activities. Staff are trained in dementia care, opening the service up to lots of members.

Its volunteer team also provides transport to and from events, via their own red minibuses – and members are planning a sponsored event over the summer to raise money for another one.



THE BEST OF BRADFORD

A CITY CENTRE EVERYONE CAN ENJOY



AFTER YEARS of neglect, the city centre has finally become somewhere we can all be proud of – a place for families, children and residents to come together, feel safe and have fun.

Over the last decade, Bradford has undergone a series of huge changes – with extensive regeneration projects restoring valued buildings, creating stunning new ones and inspiring spaces people can make their own.

We've welcomed a City Park, opened the UK's number one street market, set up a new live entertainment venue, and hosted thousands of free City of Culture and other events.

This ambitious progress has been powered by the people of Bradford – our appetite for cracking on and getting things done.

From the restored gleaming domes of Bradford Live, to the designs of our new street signs, this is regeneration with civic pride at its heart.

A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS

The City Park – once an unloved, crumbling traffic island – has been transformed into a vibrant place where people love to meet and hang out. In summer it becomes the now-legendary

“Bradford on Sea” – where kids splash and parents take a breather. In winter it's the backdrop for magical light shows and Christmas fun.

INTRODUCING... BRADFORD LIVE

The iconic Odeon was saved from destruction by a brilliant, people-powered campaign – led by Bradfordians from all backgrounds.

Thanks to their work, and with investment from Bradford Council and other national partners, it's been reborn as the amazing Bradford Live entertainment venue, bringing up to 7,000 fans a night to BD1.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The redevelopment of the old Kirkgate Shopping Centre – creating another new park, shops and homes.
- A £4 million Heritage Action Zone to help preserve historic streets and revitalise them for modern use.
- A brand-new central railway station.
- A new tram network creating closer ties with Leeds.
- A new Bradford branch of the prestigious “BRIT School” performing-arts academy.



REAL SKILLS, REAL JOBS ACADEMY COMES TO THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

SANDALE STUDENTS are skilling up and accessing well-paid job opportunities thanks to a new remote-learning scheme.

The Bradford College Community Construction Academy offers young people a chance to train, access work experience and gain support with job applications in the building trade – studying and learning in their own neighbourhoods.

As well as training, the Academy provides any expensive but vital PPE equipment – to make sure all students can afford to take part.

Sandale Community Hub has been one of the host venues delivering the 20-week course.

Aged between 19 and 24, the first group of students has been developing technical skills in bricklaying, joinery, decorating, plumbing, tiling, and electrics, as well as working on maths, English, employability, digital, and soft skills like problem-solving.

Three students have already secured job interviews, with others expected to follow.

Bradford College Project Manager John Wells explains: “This programme is offering a lifeline to determined young adults who can gain the skills needed to get back on track.”

“Our male and female participants come from diverse backgrounds and skill levels, but they have sadly fallen through the system.

“The aim is to boost construction worker numbers and help achieve national housebuilding targets, while getting more adults into work... offering a pathway into a very rewarding and well-paid sector.

“Delivered in small groups and with tailored support, this flexible training is designed to break down barriers and boost success rates, especially for those who have been out of education for some time.

“Alongside work experience, site visits, masterclasses and networking, students like this also gain a Level 1 qualification, a Health & Safety Award, and a vital CSCS card – proof that a construction worker has the appropriate training and qualifications for their job.

“Students benefit from our taster sessions across diverse construction trades, which gives them a broad skillset that is attractive to prospective employers. It also allows individuals to find out what they enjoy before selecting a specialism.

“This superb skills package will give more young adults the foundation they need to succeed in a truly exciting and rewarding industry.”

■ **To find out more contact Project Manager John Wells: J.Wells3@bradfordcollege.ac.uk**

IT'S OFFICIAL...WE'VE GOT THE BEST FOOD MARKET IN THE UK

DARLEY STREET SCOOPS TOP AWARD

TRADERS AT Darley Street Market are celebrating after being named the UK's top food market.

The Bradford market, which only opened in July 2025, has bagged top prize at this year's National Association of British Markets Awards.

Judges were impressed by the range and quality of goods on offer at the three-floor venue, as well as the general atmosphere and renovations.

They praised the market for being "truly impressive" and "a bold, modern food destination that blends culture, community and quality at the heart of a major regeneration project".

Home to a blend of historic, family-run stalls and new concessions, it offers a massive range of regional and international produce, including Caribbean, Italian, Belgian, Indian, Mexican, Greek and traditional British menus.

Trader Jonny Taplin from Taplins Butchers said: "Our family has been in business for over 100 years and moving to Darley Street Market has been a real catalyst for us to grow and expand our business even further."

■ You can find out more about the market, including a full list of traders, online at: www.bradfordmarkets.com/the-markets/darley-street-market-traders.



TAKE YOUR PICK – PIONEERING SHOP BRINGS QUALITY PRODUCE TO SANDALE

SANDALE RESIDENTS are being offered great-quality food at affordable prices thanks to a pioneering collaboration between a trusted charity and local traders.



More than 700 members have now signed up to be part of the Sandale Supermarket project – a unique shop that gives people in and around Sandale access to a massive range of meat, fruit, vegetables, cleaning products and even cut flowers!

The store – run by volunteers at Sandale Community Hub – lets shoppers buy any 15 items for £7 or seven items for £3.50 and that includes luxury items from high-end outlets like Marks and Spencers, who donate surplus to the store.

As well as collecting food from supermarkets, organisers also work closely with local traders, including butchers and fruit and vegetable merchants, to buy goods wholesale for the shelves.

"Active members" have access to a safety-net fund. So, if they're struggling or short on cash, they can receive a free food parcel to keep them going.

As organiser and CEO, Andy Walsh, 53, explains: "We're a not-for-profit organisation, so any profits we make go straight back into the community, to help fund other projects."

"The shop is really popular. People tell us they



Andy Walsh, CEO of Sandale Community Trust, is so proud of how the community has rallied round the Sandale Community Hub. "We've been able to really make a difference," he says. "We've seen the centre grow and thrive as more and more people find us." It hasn't always been easy to break even. Just keeping the lights on has sometimes been a struggle. "But we have so far found a way. We couldn't do it without the brilliant support of volunteers and partners."

want to pay something and to have a selection of goods – and we're lucky enough to be working with great traders.

"Thursdays are really popular because that's when we usually get the Marks and Spencers' items but we work with a local butcher to get our meat and local wholesalers to stock fresh fruit and vegetables so every day is a good one!"

HOPE NOT HATE FUN DAY

THE BEST YET



MORE THAN 10,000 people attended a landmark family fun day at Odsal Stadium, celebrating community, culture and unity.

Organisers are still glowing from the hugely successful Free Family Fun Day last summer. Delivered in partnership with Bradford Bulls and HOPE not Hate, the event transformed the stadium and surrounding grounds into a vibrant hub of activity.

Designed to bring families together through art, culture, sport and food, the event offered a packed programme of free activities for all ages. From the moment the gates opened, families from across Bradford were welcomed into a lively environment that reflected the district's strong sense of community spirit.

A major highlight was a large-scale "Art Attack" live art project. Local participants and professional artists worked together in front of a live audience to create a fantastic collaborative piece. There were additional creative workshops throughout the day, where visitors created their own take-home artworks.

There was a full programme of

live performances, including dance groups representing all five Bradford constituencies and their wide range of cultures and heritages. Transport was provided for groups from the most disadvantaged communities, meaning no-one was left out.

The towering climbing wall, provided by Bradford Council's Adventure Team, was a big hit. Live music and stage performances added to the festival atmosphere, while interactive sports workshops led by Bradford Bulls, Bradford City and the Bradford Park Avenue Ladies Cricket Team encouraged kids and young adults to get active.

Alongside this, a bustling

community marketplace gave attendees direct access to advice and support from a wide range of organisations, including housing services, sports clubs, and the NHS, who provided health support. Emergency Services outreach teams from the Police and Fire Service were also on site.

And, of course, everyone enjoyed the free food, with a World Food Court offering delicious international flavours and dishes.

The Family Fun Day stood as a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities come together – a joyful, inclusive celebration that highlighted the many great things happening across Bradford.



FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS...

THE FIRST ever HOPE not hate event in Bradford was held in 2016, the year Jo Cox was murdered by a far-right supporter. "We wanted to build cohesion and make life better for our communities," says Paul Meszaros of HOPE not hate. "We needed to bring people together." The first Family Fun Day was in the city centre. "It was fun," Paul remembers, "but it took a few goes before it were brilliant. The key was moving out of the centre and into the real communities."

In 2018, HOPE not hate held its first gathering at Buttershaw's Sandale Community Centre. In 2021, the organisation celebrated "Buttershaw by the Beach", an event designed to bring the fun of the seaside to the estate. "That were fantastic," Paul says, smiling. "There was nowt like it in West Bradford."

Every year since, There has been a HOPE not hate event somewhere, ranging from kids' art workshops in Buttershaw, Ravenscliff and Girdlington, to the 10,000-strong Fun Day at Odsal Stadium last year. But, says Paul, size isn't everything. "What matters is the strength of community spirit and feeling you get when you're there."

EVERYONE LOVES THE LUVABULLS!



CHEERLEADING sensations the LuvaBulls are reaching new heights this season – after their star turn at the City of Culture closing ceremony.

The junior dance team, made up of talented 9–11-year-olds, now boasts an astonishing 80 members who meet to train together each week.

They were part of thousands of young Bradfordians taking part in December's City of Culture finale, performing a high-octane routine against a dazzling backdrop of lights and fireworks.



They bring that star quality to their match day shows too, supporting the Bulls before every home and away match – providing a colourful, athletic display for fans.

Working with specialist coaches, they learn cheerleading and dance moves as well as specialist stunts and lifts.

For anyone who would like to give it a go, there are a variety of teams and classes available for boys and girls.

■ **For more information about joining/supporting the team contact: luvabulls@bullsfoundation.org**

BRADFORD WORKERS CELEBRATE NEW RIGHTS AT WORK

WORKERS ACROSS Bradford are celebrating a new law that gives them increased protection at work. The Employment Rights Bill, which passed last year, will give all workers greater rights and protections at work. This comes after new polling that shows the majority of people in Bradford believe that workers are not treated fairly and that they should be entitled to greater protection and rights.

The Employment Rights Bill gives us the biggest shake-up in workers' rights for a decade and it signals a decisive break from the Tories' race to the bottom on employment standards that has done so much damage to our living standards and productivity.

By tackling the scourge of zero-hours contracts and fire and rehire, delivering day-one rights to statutory sick pay, and boosting family-friendly and flexible working, the Bill offers the biggest upgrade to workers' rights for a generation. Everyone needs a job they can build a life on.

As well as clamping down on bad bosses, the Bill will also give workers a stronger voice at work. And crucially, it will make it easier for workers to benefit from union representation.

REFORM OPPOSE NEW RULES

The five (at the time) Reform MPs did not support these new rules. In fact, Reform want to reduce workers' rights even further.

When they say that they are on the side of ordinary working people, remember, they failed to back better conditions and rights at work.

BRADFORD SOUTH VOTERS AGREE!

- Making sure the minimum wage is a real living wage that people can live on: **77%** agree, **23%** disagree
- Ensure all workers have the right to sick pay, paid from the first day of sickness: **69%** agree, **31%** disagree
- After 12 weeks on a zero-hours contract, workers will have to be offered a guaranteed-hours contract based on the hours they have been working: **71%** agree, **29%** disagree

CHALLENGING HATE, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

HOPE not hate is Britain's leading anti-fascist and anti-racist organisation. We believe in the good in people, and that given the option, people will always choose HOPE over hate.

We want to build a Bradford that is free from hate.

A Bradford where young people can grow up with a decent future.

A Bradford where people can be proud of who they are and communities that are strong and proud.

If you want to help us build that future, then please join us and together we can make HOPE not hate grow in Bradford.

For more information, contact chrish@hopenothate.org.uk

HATE HOPE



THE NEW RULES

- Ban zero-hours contracts by offering all workers a contract that reflects their normal hours of work and compensation for cancelled shifts
- Ensure all workers have the right to sick pay, paid from the first day of sickness
- Extend statutory sick pay to all workers, including the lowest paid
- Ensure all workers are protected from being unfairly sacked after six months in a job (at the moment, workers have to wait two years for this protection)
- Make it easier for people to have flexibility in their patterns and hours of work
- A right to parental leave from day one of employment
- Establishing the Fair Work Agency to ensure people get their rights



PROMISING YOUNG rugby players from across Bradford are boosting their skills and working to realise their potential through the Bulls Talent Pathway.

Building on their previous success, this year’s training and outreach programme promises to be the best yet, giving more 12–14-year-olds access to quality coaching than ever.

Working with schools and clubs, Bulls will always be there to work with young players – and support those ready to progress.

As the club says, the programme is about making sure everyone gets the chance to develop and achieve.

And they’re doing just that – working with 170 players across 26 different communities.

“Every young player from 12 years old should receive high-quality coaching as they all are potentially on the ‘Bulls Talent Pathway,’” a spokesman explains.

“Bulls Talent Pathway is an inclusive programme and the first step of the Player Pathway. The programme is delivered through Club Foundations, Community Clubs, Professional Clubs and Schools.

“The ‘scheme of work’ is a programme



of Coach Education, based around 24 blocked coaching sessions that can be used and adapted to meet the needs of young players at any stage, providing holistic development.”

Bradford Bulls Foundation Manager, Shaun Flynn, said it was another example of the club’s ongoing commitment to supporting and nurturing young people from across the city.

“We’ve also visited 33 schools and delivered 10,050 free junior tickets, as well as handing out more than 2,000 junior season tickets to rugby league teams within Bradford.

“The work that is happening between club and foundation is amazing. We really are trying to make a difference to the people of Bradford.”

■ Find out more at bullsfoundation.org



VOTE HOPE

Help Stop Reform UK in your area

votehope.org