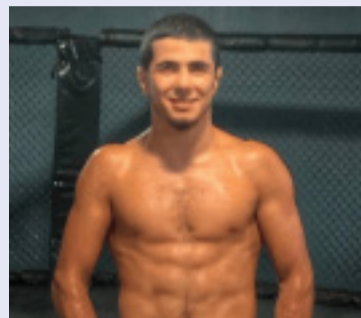


50th anniversary of Salford Astronomical Society Observatory

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Salford-based MMA fighter to represent GB at U23

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RAIDS LAUNCH POLICE CRIME CRACKDOWN

Raids and arrests across Salford last night as police outline aims for Operation Avro

By Sadie Maude

Dawn raids across Salford today marked the start of a new campaign involving more than 200 police officers to target crime across the borough.

Talks were held at Walkden community centre and at the Lowry, by the police, to outline the aims and methods of their new 'Operation Avro.'

Chief Inspector of Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Paul Coburn who assisted in the talks said: "You hear a lot of things in the media about GMP and this is an opportunity for us to show we're tackling those issues."

"We want to be at the forefront, and we want to reassure the community."

Greater Manchester Police's Operation Avro is a day of action aiming to stop criminals, protect vulnerable people, and provide support within the community.

Already today 11 arrests have been made; drug, cash and vehicle seizures have taken place, and numerous warrants continue to be carried out.

Coburn said: "There's been really good feedback from the community today about what we're doing and why we're out and about."

"We are being really transparent and open and just telling them. We want to gather community intelligence in order to sustain policing in the area and rebuild confidence in the police."

Many members of the community attended today's talks and raised their concerns in relation to antisocial behaviour, drugs, and firearms, all of which have been tackled in some respect in today's raids.

The operation is ending for the day at 11pm but is set to continue for the next few days.

Keep up with what's going on by following #OperationAvro on Twitter.

Operation Avro is intended to be a highly visible, monthly operation that targets crimes people are most concerned about.

The briefings are taking place in public to demonstrate that the police are trying to make this operation as visible to the public as they can.

Salford GMP have posted lots of information about the operation.

They claim it "will actively target criminals and bring them to justice."

GMP have urged people to register any crime-related issues that they may have.



Police smash their way into a Salford house earlier today GMP

Lordy Park Regeneration



Find out more on page 2

Universal credit cut



Find out more on page 4

Diaries of a WW2 teen



Find out more on page 7



Lordy Park playground

Photo courtesy of Craig Havern

Cadishead park enjoys £100,000 upgrade - with more to come

By Matthew Spink

Lordy Park in Cadishead has reopened after a five-week reconstruction of the playground.

The redevelopment of Lordy Park, at Cadishead Recreation Ground, has cost up to £100,000, which includes

upgrades to play equipment as well as introducing a disability-friendly roundabout and swing set.

Labour Councillor for Cadishead and Lower Irlam, Lewis Nelson, said: "Cadishead very much is not a forgotten-about community.

"So securing an investment and im-

proving the town is number one on our agenda."

The mayor of Salford, Paul Dennett, visited the park for its reopening to get across his message that parks are at the heart of communities.

The Friends of Lordy Park were an integral part of the park's reconstruc-

tion, with chairman Craig Havern saying: "With Covid and everything that put us back like 18 months, I was getting to a stage where I thought it was never going to happen.

"But now I must admit there was goosebumps and tears on the day that the old park was being demolished

and the new one being opened. I am very, very pleased - we all are."

The Friends of Lordy Park are now aiming to raise another £80,000 for the next phase of long-term improvement plans which include a new zip line as well as an outdoor classroom for children to learn.

Salfordians call for more to be done as wages set to rise

By Archie Richards

A rise in the National Minimum Wage to £9.50 per hour has been welcomed by Salford residents ahead of tomorrow's Budget - but they say it is not enough.

Workers over the age of 23 are set to get a wage boost of 59p, rising to £9.50 from £8.91. This means that workers on the wage can expect to earn just under £11,000 a year, before taxes.

After increasing pressures following the cutting of universal credit at the beginning of the month, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, is expected to officially announce this rise during Wednesday's Budget.

The rise came about partially in response to campaigns from groups such as Living Wage Foundation, to support lower paid and younger workers who were hardest hit by the pandemic.

On Twitter, the group praised the news and said "the rise in the National Wage is a positive step for workers - it will go some way to easing the pressure on households feeling the squeeze."

The 6.6% increase will come into place for workers aged 23 and over on April 1st 2022. This next scheduled rise will be more than double the current consumer price inflation rate, the rate at which the prices of goods

and services bought by households rise or fall, that currently stands at 3.1 per cent.

It was also later announced that there will also be a wage rise for workers under 23 as well as those doing currently taking on apprenticeships too.

Speaking on Monday, the Chancellor said the rise "ensures we're making work pay and keeps us on track to meet our target to end low pay by the end of this Parliament".

But it is often feared that a rise in minimum wage will ultimately lead to an increase in unemployment, as employers may have to cut their staff to counterbalance wage increases.

Despite this, industry experts maintain that there is little to no evidence based on previous rises that mass unemployment will occur.

Here in Salford, many residents welcomed the news that wages for over 23s are set to go up.

But in the same vein, some have also stated that, despite wages going up for under 18s, more could definitely be done to support them while earning in employment - as Grace, a full time mum with two teen boys from Worsley, explained:

"It should happen for all minimum wages. For 16 year olds, who are earning even less than that (23+ NMW), they deserve a pay rise as well. I think its the same for everybody. The cost

of living is constantly going up and the Minimum Wage doesn't seem to be going up at the same rate - and I don't think it's good enough.

They went on to say that the NMW rise was "necessary" and should occur more often, with it providing a lifeline to families who were the most harshly effected by the slashing of Universal Credit.

"The announcement yesterday was long overdue" they said.

Lois, who works at Wilko in Salford's Shopping City also welcomed the news, hailing it as "a good idea". However, she remained skeptical, as only the older workers were getting the biggest increase when those younger than them could potentially be working longer hours for a lower pay, they said:

"I'm not too sure... 22 year olds, 21 year olds and under all still do the same amount of work. So I do agree that they should raise it, however I do think they should raise all wages (to an equal amount) from the age of 18."

With Rishi Sunak's impending announcement on the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage coming tomorrow, it is clear that while the rise in both wages is definitely a step towards a greater end goal, Boris Johnson and his cabinet could do a lot more to help "level up" the regions youngest workers, whose effort is not being reflected in their wages.



Chancellor Rishi Sunak

Credit: HM Treasury

Worsley teen owns his own celebrity carwash

By Sadie Maude

Zykhia Ditchett, 15, began washing the cars of relatives and has since transformed his business into a Worsley celebrity carwash, with clients such as Gary Neville, Tommy Fury and Molly-Mae Hague.

He has said that his success "doesn't feel real". He started his own car washing business Dirt2Clean after his family bought him a valeting set to help channel his Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

Zykhia said: "I started cleaning family and friends' cars and then we opened it up to neighbours. Then we put out a Facebook post and people were queuing down the street.

"It's crazy, I didn't even think that many people would want their car washing!"

Zykhia explained he has always had a love for cleaning and after his OCD

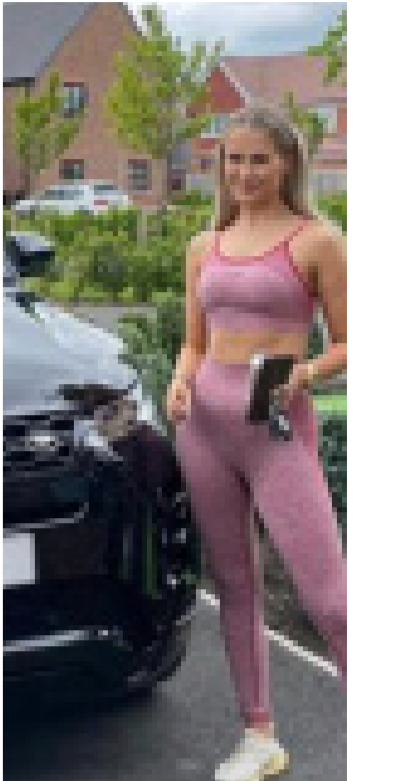
diagnosis at age 13, he needed a way of distracting from his "constant" cleaning at home. He watched numerous videos online and taught himself how to properly valet cars.

Due to his success with his Worsley celebrity carwash, Zykhia was approached by Jason from Coal and Cotton gin bar in Worsley, who offered him a permanent spot on weekends for his business in their venue car park.

He has been based there for the past two years and feels that the location works great.

Zykhia said: "It helps because I love cleaning, so it's a job that I love. It's like a hobby instead of a job because I love what I do."

Dirt2Clean operates only on weekends as Zykhia attends school during the week. In the future he hopes to expand the business and have bases across the UK in cities such as Liverpool, Birmingham, and London.



Helen Leigh pictured with her dog next to the sewage waste at Salford Quays

Photo credit: Fergus Adderley

Sewage and waste disposal dumped in Salford waters

By Fergus Adderley

Open water swimmer Helen Leigh is disgusted by the amount of waste being dumped into rivers around Salford.

This comes to light after recent research found Salford was one of the worst areas for waste disposal and sewage being dumped into local rivers.

A map has been created by the River Trust that shows where the sewerage network discharges waste into rivers across Salford with the majority being located in the Irwell and the Manchester Ship canals.

Waterports enthusiast Ms Leigh is particularly concerned about water

quality around Salford Quays.

She said: "We don't see the fish, we see the litter that just goes past us. It's a shame that it's such a beautiful place with a surface of litter."

Helen said: "It's disgusting but also hazardous, a lot of children come down and I have seen needles.

"We have to tell them not to swim in there when they try too, Salford council need to do more.

"They come down once a month and that's it they clean it and then it looks like this every single day. "When you try and get out on the water it's just impossible. Because it covers the entire landing area and more needs to be done."

Helen works for AgeCrowth Rowing club and it uses the Quays regularly

for various water sports.

Ms Leigh has also been recently smelling a foul smell surrounding the water, that she assumes is sewage.

She said: "More needs to be done but how many times do people have to complain for them to make a change.

"Unfortunately it seems the environment is the least of people's problems which is a shame for the people of the future and people who want to enjoy it.

"It's disgusting, the pigeons and the swans love it but they are the ones swimming with dead pigeons, dead rats, dead squirrels and even worse the smell of faeces."

Social media protest against the dumping of sewage into rivers has been mounting since MPs voted

against amendments to the Environment Bill that would have placed a legal duty on water companies not to pump waste into rivers.

The vote was lost after Environment Secretary George Eustice told Tory MPs to vote against the amendment.

A Government statement defending the decision said: "To eliminate storm overflows means transforming the entire Victorian sewerage system to a whole new sewerage system.

"It would be irresponsible for any government to spend an estimated preliminary cost of anywhere between £150 billion and £650 billion to transform the entire sewerage system.

"This is a huge amount to spend in an ordinary time, let alone at a time of a continuing health pandemic."

Old Salford cinema up for sale

By Krysta Daniels

The iconic New Harvest Church Salford building has been put up for sale, and Salfordians are worried about its future.

The New Harvest Church, formerly the Salford cinema, has been posted on Rightmove for £1,500,000. The building was originally built in 1846 as a Scottish Presbyterian Church.

Many Salford citizens are concerned about the iconic building being turned into a block of flats, similarly to the Salford Quays dock office in 2017.

Rachel Kelly, a 43-year-old Cat rescue owner that grew up in Salford, said "it's a completely unique building in terms of its architecture, that's why I've always loved it, from being a child. The structures that are thrown up today are kind of character-less."

She went on to add: "Buildings with character make a city. If you tear them down, you strip away at the personality of Salford. A city is more than just its people.

The people are the beating heart of the city, but its landscape (including the stunning architecture of its unique older buildings) is vital, the backdrop for the creativity that is so abundant in the city."

Jenny Lynn, 50-year-old Salfordian and IT assistant thinks that the building has lots of opportunities for renovation: "I think the area really needs something social, there are enough flats in the area.

I and probably others would like to see a small intimate cinema or screening room, cafe, bar, community space or small theatre."

Lee Baylis, 28-year-old Archeologist thinks the iconic New Harvest Church building needs to be preserved: "I feel that buildings with a history and importance in history should be preserved in the best way possible.

"If developers do turn it into flats they should work around the building and design, preserving everything they can.

"I've seen many buildings like this get destroyed by developers, working in commercial archeology I've seen it a lot over my years."

Swinton Community Garden aims to aid mental health

By Sam Ketch

A Swinton garden centre is aiming to become a community resource to support people's health and wellbeing.

Ian Bocock, who runs Cleavley Community Forest Garden, wants people to be able to access the site as part of social prescribing.

He says a visit to the site might be prescribed instead of medication by GPs.

He said: "So if somebody is presented at their GP, and isn't feeling quite right and has a little bit of anxiety, maybe they can come and join a group here and be involved in an outdoor activity instead of being put on some sort of medication when really what they want or need maybe is just to develop a network of supporting people who can help them get through that."

Already in 2021, the community garden has seen the installation of a poly-tunnel, which helps crop growth in the winter, the 'Ivy Den' café and the start of their community edible garden.

Bocock, the director and horticulture educational lead at InrEdible Education, has an even bigger plan that could help the garden in the future – solar power.

Bocock said: "One of our investment ideas and developments is we'd like to get a power supply here, an electrical power supply, but we'd really love to be able to generate that through solar power."

"So instead of us taking from the grid, it's actually being able to give back to the grid. Now, there's a lot of trees around here, but we do get a lot of sunlight."

"So maybe potentially solar would be a good way of doing that, whether or not we could generate through wind power, because we've got quite a little micro climate going on here because we're completely surrounded."

At the moment, the food grown at the community garden is taken home by the volunteers.

"This space really has its limitations if we were ever going to go to trying to grow food," Bocock started, "but we would love to develop that as a wider concept from here."

"So this is like where you will come and look at how do we start that, but then how do we scale that up into having some fields where we can actually grow produce – which will then make an impact on sort of food and food being travelling lots of miles as opposed to being very local."

Bocock's main hope, though, was that the garden would belong to the local people.

He said: "What we always wanted to achieve by opening up this site was that it became a community asset, although we manage it – it belongs to the local community."



Yvonne Simms from Salford Food Parcels

Photo by Emmie Norton

Salford families hit hard by end to Universal Credit uplift

Households struggle as Government ends scheme to deal Covid-19 impact

By Emmie Norton

The cancelling of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, which many households in Salford relied on, has already had devastating effects three weeks later.

According to Joseph Rowntree Foundation, due to the cut, it is expected that around 5.5 million low-income families will lose £1,040 from their annual income.

It has also been reported that the typical household is also set to see their energy bills rise by £139 to £1,277 a year.

Foodbanks in Salford are also reporting that since the Universal Credit cut, more people have been coming to them for help.

Pete Simms, who volunteers at Salford Food Parcels, said: "We're already seeing a large number of people coming to us for short term aid, they are dealing with in-work poverty, and in Salford itself that's a real issue."

"We recognise that people should have food security and that food is a human right, so we are going to be working our best, it may be tight some weeks, but these people will be fed."

"We are a city which does struggle with poverty, but I think we are going to see people drowning."

"I think we are literally going to see people drowning, with no hope, unless places like this can stay open and give them what they can."

Sarah Whitehead, who works for the Salford Poverty Trust Commission, explained how crucial the uplift was for the people of Salford: "The £20 lift has been a lifeline to people and families throughout this pandemic and now situations have only worsened for people who are struggling financially."

"Throughout winter, we already know that people are having to choose between heating and eating."

"Even now, I think the choice to eat and not heat is still a difficult one and people still don't have the ability to feed themselves and meet just their basic daily needs."

"So, to take away the £20 uplift whilst we're having such inflation in the energy costs having so much of an issue with food shortages, it is going to have devastating effects."

The Department of Work and Pensions have said that the uplift was only a 'temporary intervention' and that now they want to 'shift the focus strongly into getting people into work, jobs'.

Andrew Willets, 47, who lives in Swinton, is one of the many people being affected by the cut.

He said: "I applied for Universal Credit back in May because it was becoming clear to me that I was no longer able to work due to being diagnosed with long covid."

"Not being able to work meant that the extra £20 helped me out a lot, I had just moved into my mum's house, and I needed to pay for rent, my car, and gas bills."

"Since losing this £20, I've now got to make the choice of giving everything up, just so I can pay my mum the rent money."

Andy continued: "I didn't think things would get this bad so quick, the more I try and work out how I am going to afford things, it keeps me up at night."

"If I didn't have my mum, I would be homeless, I wouldn't be able to afford anything, I'm giving up my car. "I can't even think about Christmas right now, it's honestly just so depressing."



Suffering already: Andrew Willets

Photo by Andrew Willets

Salford urged to pay tribute to missing BAME characters

By Simone Harrison

An investigation conducted by Salford Now has found that none of the city's 48 blue plaques commemorate black figures from history.

This investigation comes after a Guardian report showed only 2.1 per cent of London's blue plaques celebrate black figures, and a further 4 per cent across the country have been from a black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) background.

Salford's BAME community accounts for 15.6 per cent (36,488) of the population, with figures set to rise to 31.7 per cent (90,000), according to the 2011 census.

Guy Bochar of New Step for the African Community (NESTAC) works to empower disadvantaged BAME communities across the Greater Manchester region.

He described the findings as "very sad" because "we need to see black people more integrated into our community".

He continued: "It feels like these black figures are invisible. People don't know how to be visible, there is not a strong enough community and it can lead black people to feel isolated. It's very frustrating."

The blue plaque scheme was first introduced in 1866 to commemorate figures who have lived, worked and stayed in buildings across the country. Examples of recipients include John Lennon, J.B Priestley and Freddie Mercury.

In order to be commemorated by the service, a nominee must be sufficiently famous to be familiar to the succeeding generation or be regarded as sufficiently significant within their field, and their achievements must have made a lasting and significant contribution to the community.

NESTAC is working to help BAME communities feel recognised in the area. Bochar explained that they aim to guide and encourage black people to believe in themselves.

He said: "We need to be proud of



Image credit: Nick Harrison via Flickr

who we are. There are a lot of accomplishments, we need to believe in our ambition.

"We also need to use all the possible areas we can to encourage these beliefs: social movement, research etc. We need to let people know we exist."

"More and more people want to know about our future, our value. We are one of the oldest cultural communities in the world, we need to be aware of that, this can help us believe in ourselves and share, teach and ap-

preciate."

Salford City Council have been made aware of the issue and a spokesperson said: "We have a plaque scheme in Salford to commemorate and celebrate notable aspects of Salford's heritage, including buildings, people and events."

The spokesperson continued: "All nominations are considered by our panel and they along with our equality team recognise a lack of diversity in this area. So, we will be calling on the public to nominate recipients that

represent their communities across the city, and we're excited to see who they want represented via our plaque scheme."

The Blue Plaque initiative is public-led, and suggestions made go straight to the panel, who apply a set of criteria to all the nominations.

It is a self-funded scheme, and therefore people must meet all the costs, which range from £500 to £800 for successful applications. Nominations for the Blue Plaque initiative can be made via Salford Council's website.

30-storey tower planned for Salford skyline

Property developers in Salford are asking for opinions from the public on a proposed 30-storey tower community living project at Clippers Quay.

The development has been designed with 402 apartments, as well as a sky bar located on the 30th floor providing views across the Quays and MediaCity, which developers Cert believes the public and tenants will benefit from.

Cert advertise the apartments as "diverse living spaces, each with their own front door" on their website, with offerings of 261 studios, 126 one and two-bedroom apartments, and 15 penthouse units.

There will be a range of amenities available to everyone, including a roof terrace and sustainable allotment, as well as a variety of exercise areas, a café and a restaurant.

On the developers' website, the

buildings design is described as "a modern design with a historic influence".

The first 11 stories will represent the dockside warehouses, with red bricks and grey balconies, while the upper tower is described as maintaining "a lighter feel with a reflective quality, acting as a beacon for the development".

A resident did raise their concerns regarding the "quality of the build", while two other residents of the area said the noise of construction was "part and parcel" of living in the city. However, another resident said that the development would not help with traffic issues, especially on a match-day.

One final resident was supportive because of the lack of affordable housing in the city centre, especially as the Quays is an area with lots of workers.



No support for women during menopause

By Patryk Bialkowski

A Salford woman says there are not enough menopause specialists or support for women in the north of England.

Joanne Brizland-Cullen shared her experience on World Menopause Day in hopes of raising more awareness of what a challenging time for women in their lives can be.

She said: "I think things started changing when I was in my 40s, when I was younger, I'd always been quite outgoing, from going to parties to being the last one on the dancefloor."

"But I think as I got older it got to a point where I didn't want to go out, I didn't want to see anyone and this was similar to depression, but I always got out of it, but this was different, it felt different, and I couldn't find a way out."

"So, I put it down to external events but it came to a point where I had no clue what was going on, I couldn't even get through the day, even basic things like reading I couldn't do."

Menopause is when a woman stops having periods and is no longer being able to get pregnant. This is a natural process of ageing which affects all women.

The average age a woman reaches her menopause in the UK is 51 but can take its course usually between 45 and 55 years old. One in 100 women experience menopause before the age of 40, which is known as premature menopause.

Jo says that after suffering with symptoms and severe depression she felt suicidal.

She said: "I already worked out that I didn't want to be here and worked out that everyone was going to be okay, I was just tired of fighting these feelings."

"I saw a psychiatrist and had some therapy and I still couldn't work out why I was feeling this way."

For Jo, yoga became that mindful route and helped her navigate her life while dealing with menopause and its symptoms.

"When you don't have the support from your local GPs then you don't get a lot of air play or people getting referred to you."

"It appears to be that women's health is just silent, I just think it's so sad that women's hormonal health isn't really acknowledged, it's not an easy thing to discuss, it seems to be taboo."

"I think it's because historically our society is male dominant and I don't mean to be horrible but there's still that idea that it's part of your make up just deal with it, while when it comes to male health there just seems to be more sympathy."

She says that menopause has been difficult to live with when it has been misdiagnosed and misunderstood by specialists, who we rely on with our mental and physical wellbeing.

"In other countries there's all these menopause specialists but in this country there's only a few and none really in the north."

"There's no wrap around support, people need more information about the changes that are going on in their bodies and there just needs to be more understanding of the complexities of these changes that people are going through".

Salford church encouraging LGBT+ community back to Christianity

A church in Salford is hosting monthly Open Table evening services, with a focus on encouraging LGBT+ members of the Christian faith to return to church.

Sacred Trinity Church on Chapel Street, hopes that by demonstrating clearly that LGBT+ people are welcome in their congregation by hosting a specific night inviting them, more people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or of any sexuality or gender identity, will feel welcome at all of their services.

The Anglican church's Rector, Andy Salmon, hopes that these events will change the false narrative that LGBT+ people are not welcome in Christianity. He said: "The reason we do Open Table is so that people know that they are loved by God. That's why we do most services that we do; to express our love to God, and be reminded of the fact that God loves us."

"However, in the case of LGBT+ people, quite often, people have been given the impression that God doesn't love them because of the way

they are, and we want to completely refute that. God loves everybody, and accepts us as who we are.

"All of our services are open to everybody, but we do Open Table because some people have the impression that they won't be welcome, and so we want to make that welcome explicit."

That warm welcome has been particularly important for people like Jay Neville, who has only recently begun returning to church after realising he was transgender. Rationalising those two parts of his identity has been a difficult journey for Jay, as he recalls: "I'm still making sense of it. I've recently returned to Christianity after many years of feeling exiled and rejected, but I have still a lot of personal wounds and pain related to the humans of the church."

"Yet, my personal relationship with God is one of pure love and unconditional acceptance. I am trans, and that is what God has called me to be, and I answered that call - very reluctantly, I took my time about it! But it's what has brought me home to myself, and the more I

commune with God, the more sure I am of that.

"For a long time, I was terrified of rejection, and saw it everywhere because I was so terrified of it. I used to think that that was God's doing, and I was angry at God, and thought that God hated me. But I realised that I'd probably listened too much to those humans were saying, and thinking that that was what God was saying. As I've gotten older and I've done a lot of recovery work around my own mental health, and had a lot of counselling, now, within myself, there feels no contradiction at all between my relationship with God and my gender and sexuality."

"Especially now that I've come back to Christianity recently and I've re-read the stories of the New Testament, I am in absolutely no doubt that Jesus would not reject LGBT+ people - he's so radical. His words still call into question even the most progressive of outlooks in our society, so there's no contradiction for me, including LGBT+ people in the church is the bare minimum of what I feel Jesus would have advocated for."



Sacred Trinity Church rector Andy Salmon on their LGBT+ inclusive services. Photo by Charlotte Hardman.

Though services like this are becoming much more commonplace across all religions, for many young people who are questioning how their religion and their personal identity intertwine, it can still be confronting to feel ostracised from a community you have always been a part of.

When reflecting on the advice he would give to his younger self, Jay says: "I would say, be careful you don't let it harden your heart. You're beautiful and loved, and one of God's children, exactly the same as everybody else is. You will probably feel pain, but it is a human delusion that you can only be religious or LGBT+, and if you stay in an authentic relationship with God,

I absolutely know that he will love you, because that's what he does.

"But also, give yourself time, it's a really complicated thing. And even though God will love us, we still have to live on Earth, so just don't let it harden your heart, because I did for a long time, and it's taken a long time to soften it again."

Sacred Trinity Church hosts their Open Table services once a month, on every third Sunday, at 7.15pm. The next event is scheduled for November 7. Services and special events are also streamed on the Church's facebook page.

By Charlotte Hardman



Spooktacular events lined up to celebrate Halloween in style

With Halloween just around the corner, here are some of the spooky activities taking place this week.

Salford Watersports Centre is hosting a spooky swim on October 28.

Kicking off at 6.30pm, you can swim for as long as you feel comfortable and look forward to a nice warm cup of soup afterwards.

They said on social media: "This is our favourite swim of the year and each year it gets bigger and better thanks to the support of our fantastic swim community!"

Continuing the water theme, Manchester River Cruises is organising a Halloween Boat Party on October 29.

Its website says: "Jump aboard Manchester's number one party boat for a night of dastardly tunes that will you dancing the night away."

There will be fancy dress and



Manchester River Cruises take in some Salford sites Image credit: Gerald England

cocktails on board for a Spooktacular night out.

For family friendly events, turn to Friends of Light Oaks Park are organising a Halloween party filled

ghoulish activities and treats. With pumpkin carving competitions, face painting and a Halloween themed treasure hunt; there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate Halloween safely this year. The party will be held from 2pm on Halloween.

Buile Hill Park will also be host to some spooky thrills this Halloween weekend. On October 30, Buile Hill Mansion Association is organising a fun-filled afternoon with a Halloween garden, spooky storytelling and temporary tattoos.

Fat Out Fest, which first took place in 2011, starts on the 29th and runs until Halloween. The festival returns with a blend of different musical genres and cultures across a range of venues in Salford.

Its post on the Islington Mill website says: "Fat Out has grown from humble DIY punk roots into a force to be reckoned with in the Salford/Manchester independent music scene."

The festival will be hitting venues



Dukes Drive, Monton, hosts a Halloween monster hunt Image credit: David Dixon

such as the Old Pint Pot and the White Hotel, and ends with a Halloween-themed club night.

Dukes Drive in Monton will be host to a monster hunt on October 27

By Annie Brewer

Salford diaries reveal reality of life as 17-year-old during Second World War

A woman who found her mums old diaries of life in Salford during the Second World War has turned them into a book.

During Lockdown, Fiona Deakin took on the task of re-living her mother's teenage diaries after they had sat in her loft for over 15-years.

Fiona Deakin decided to do something with Eileen Dwyer's diaries and send the finished product out to family members.

"Last year was the 75th anniversary of VE day, so there was a lot of talk of Dame Vera Lynn and Captain Tom. So I got them down and looked at them and I was like 'Wow! There's a whole history here.'

"A whole history of living through the war as a teenage girl in Salford - right in the thick of it."

The book is now being shared, reported, and read by people all over England and has even been picked up by Oxford University to show the government the impact of research.

On reading and writing out the diaries Fiona said: "I wanted to shout down the decades... mum you're going to burn yourself out."

"She was working six days a week, studying pattern work during night classes at Salford Tech and spending her Sundays at church, but she still went out dancing and went to the cinema 58 times in 1940."

Through the years, the pages show her secret romances and code names. Danced with O and Valentines with L' her heartbreaks from her own mother's early death and coming to terms with the on-going war.

She details her conscription and call to work as a lorry driver, carrying rations to soldiers all over the northwest to hiding inside a crypt during the Manchester blitz.

The Manchester and Salford Blitz as Fiona calls it injured over 900 people and destroyed an estimated 8,000 homes in Salford, however, Eileen mainly focuses on the positive of her 20th birthday.

"Today be merry, for tomorrow we die" writes Eileen.

Understandably, this accounts for the dancing, the romancing and the joy she would push for, taking each day as it came.

At 21-years-old, Eileen married a Manchester firefighter, Les Deakin at a 10am service in the iconic Salford Cathedral.

"She was amazed as she was walking down the aisle at how many soldiers and sailors were in the church as it was a holy day of obligation so anyone in the port that day wanted to get mass in before they were shipped out."

"She felt very aware that they were thinking about their own wives, sweethearts and daughters and the last thing they probably saw was my mum and dad walking down the aisle and she always knew that a lot of those men probable wouldn't make it back."

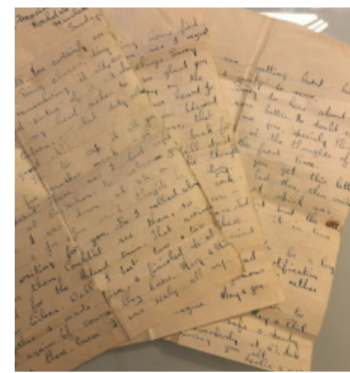
"She felt very aware that they were thinking about their own wives, sweethearts and daughters and the last thing they probably saw was my mum and dad walking down the aisle and she always knew that a lot of those men probable wouldn't make it back."

The pages of the diary end here, and despite spending Christmas in hospital after suffering a miscarriage, Eileen writes it as "The happiest year of my life".

Eileen then went on to have nine children of her own and passed away in 2000 at age 79 but her unique story of finding joy in the wartime will live on as a part of Salford history.



Fiona Deakin with images of her mother



Letters received by Eileen Dwyer from her husband Les Dwyer



Eileen Dwyer and her husband Les on their wedding day



By Harriet Heywood



Eileen Dwyer's diaries

Salford Observatory celebrates 50th anniversary

Members of a stargazing society in Salford celebrated the 50th anniversary of their observatory with the unveiling of a newly refurbished 18-inch telescope.

The Salford Astronomical Society celebrated 50 years since the opening of their observatory with guest speakers, face paintings and more.

In pride of place was the Newtonian Telescope, which has recently been revamped and updated.

Gary Yule, the chair of the society, said: "We wanted to upgrade our telescope as it only tracked in one direction."

"So, we have now installed another motor drive which is all rigged up to a smaller computer box, this computer basically has catalogues of the night sky in it, and once this telescope is aligned, we will be able to see all the corners of the sky."

"This then means we will be able to tell the scope where we want it to



Lee Bowditch of Salford Astronomical Society

go."

According to Gary, the click of a button is all that is necessary for the telescope to move and provide a shot of Saturn.

One of the directors of the society, Gareth Leaver, said: "Salford Astronomical Society was formed back in the 60's, the group used to meet at Chasesly House, they didn't have an observatory and they didn't

even have a telescope.

"Then in 1970, Jodrell Bank approached the society and asked if they would like an 18-inch Newtonian telescope and of course they said yes."

Gareth added that the society "soon realised that they didn't actually have anywhere to put it, so Salford City Council approached them and basically built the observatory," which opened in 1971, 50 years ago."

Long-serving member of the society Tony O'Sullivan, 68, added: "The telescope has now come into the 21st century, and hopefully it's going to be used by the people of Salford for many years to come."

"I find it fascinating that we are able to look at something that is billions of light-years away."

"That fact that we are able to look at the night sky with our own eyes and see these things for ourselves, that's simply amazing."

Despite being open for five decades, those in the society have

said that there are still a lot of Salfordians who do not know about the group's existence.

Lorraine Paterson, who is a new member of the society, said: "We're very privileged to have an observatory here in Salford and that is why we are celebrating 50 years of the society being in place."

"I am very new to the group but they have been so welcoming, and it's great to share a similar passion with so many people, especially here tonight."

"Every week I look forward to coming down to the observatory, and I am even more excited to see the refurbished telescope."

Lorraine continued: "I have lived in Salford all of my life and I had no idea there was an observatory here until my friend had told me about it."

"I think it's important that we see more people get involved in the society, the directors here are especially eager about opening up to others."



The Astronomical Society's 18" Newtonian telescope

"It would be great to see schools and younger people come to our observatories, it's really educational and there's so much more to discover out there in our universe."

By Emmie Norton



RISING MMA STAR TO REPRESENT GB

By Millan Dudson

Muhammed Mokaev, a Salford-based, Russian born, MMA fighter, is set to represent Great Britain at the Under-23 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia.

Training under Oleg Druzhynets at the City of Manchester Wrestling Club in Salford, Muhammed Mokaev is confident in his wrestling ability as he aims for gold at the tournament.

Arriving in the UK originally as refugee from Dagestan, Russia, Mokaev has represented the Great British wrestling team for nine years and also won four gold medals for GB at the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) tournaments.

Mokaev announced the news he's heading to Serbia on his Instagram stating: "I will take participation at the world wrestling championships under 23 in Serbia November 1-7 representing Great Britain."

Currently holding a 6-0 professional record in MMA, Mokaev has showcased his wrestling prowess over his fight career. This includes his 23 wins as an amateur, in which he also remained undefeated.

Although signed to Brave CF, many top athletes and pundits alike have tipped the Dagestani to one day become a UFC champion.

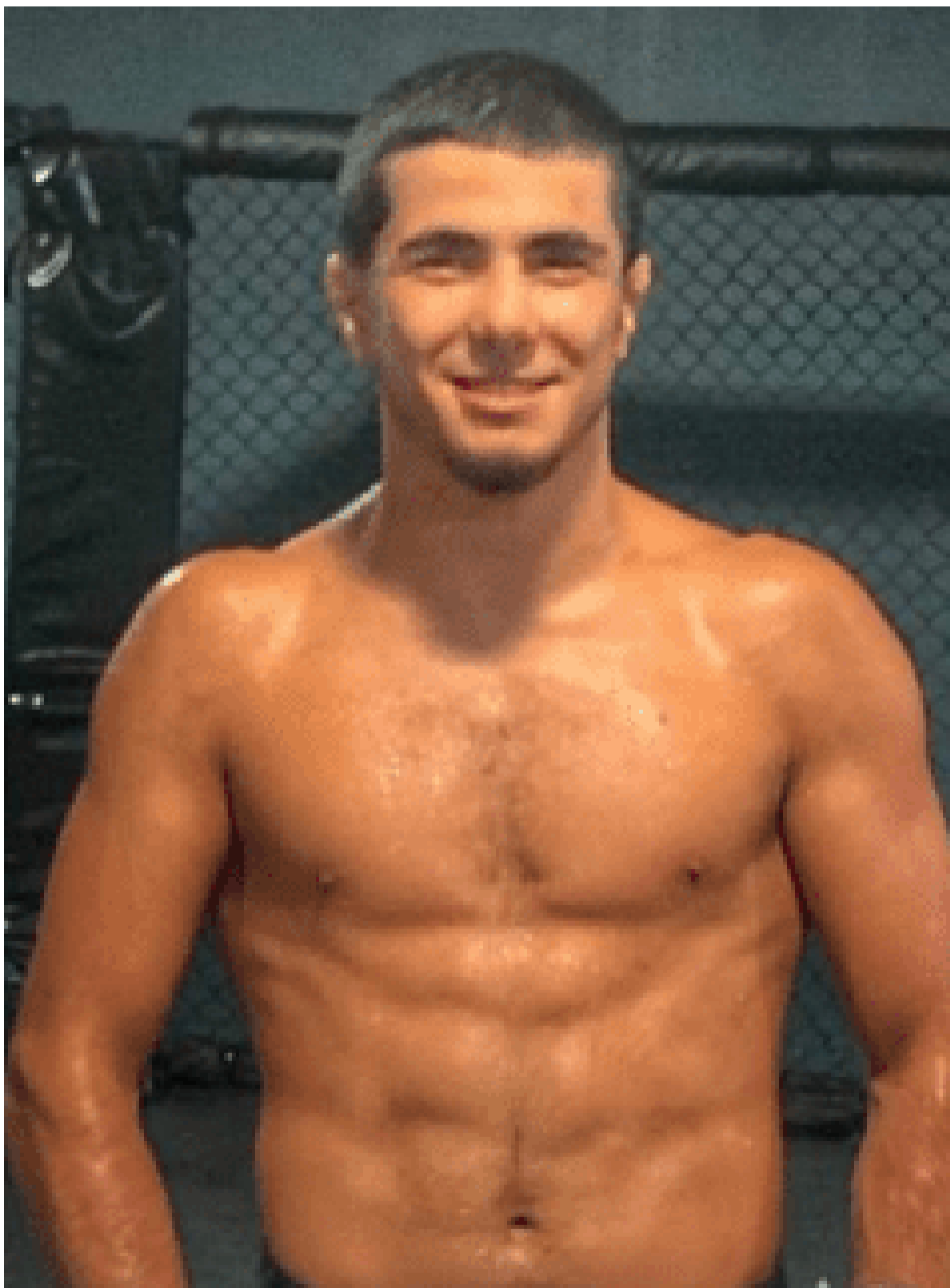
Interestingly, Muhammad didn't pick up wrestling until he arrived in the UK, which is remarkable considering Dagestan is considered to be the number spot in the world for producing high level wrestlers.

Although now shifting his focus to wrestling, Mokaev has maintained his intention to stay active in MMA as well in a post on twitter.

"Between my fights, staying active all year round, if Brave CF will put event in December I will be ready just call me"

The six-time British wrestling champion looks to build upon his already impressive resume as he is set to compete in the 61kg weight category.

If you are looking to catch the action over the winter, be sure to head to the United World Wrestling website.



MMA U-23 fighter Muhammed Mokaev

Red Devils celebrate 'great start' to first women's team trials

By Charlotte Hardman

Salford Red Devils are celebrating a "great start" to the trials for their new women's squad, which took place yesterday evening.

The trials, which were held at the AJ Bell stadium, are the first of their kind in the club's history. While they have several junior girls' teams already competing, these new recruits will make up the Devils' first open-age women's team.

Following the trials yesterday, and another round commencing on Wednesday the 20th of October, the club will select the members of their squad, with a view to commencing competition at the beginning of next season.

Salford Red Devils Women's new head coach, Marc Simon, expressed his delight at how the trials had begun.

He said: "Yesterday was a great start to our trials, with around 30 attendees arriving with a high standard of quality across the board. We were pleased with what we saw and looking forward to putting them through their paces on Wednesday, with the additional trialists that we didn't manage to see.

"We will also be announcing our coaching staff after reviewing the applicants' delivery, and look forward to announcing our very first Women's first grade squad shortly."

The establishment of this new team is an important step towards improving access to sport for women, particularly sports such as rugby, which have traditionally been largely male-dominated. The United Kingdom is seemingly falling behind other parts of the world in this regard, with only one of the four nations falling inside the top 10 countries for women's participation in the sport.

However, with the Salford Red Devils Women's team entering the game, our city could become a landmark for encouraging more young women to take up rugby in years to come.

If you would still like to take part in the trials for the team, the second round will be hosted on Wednesday the 20th of October – register your interest via their website

You can keep up with all the other news from Salford Red Devils on their website and social media pages.