LEEDS MAGAZINE



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DIGITAL EDITION
August 2026

Compiled from stories published online in August 2026

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DIGITAL EDITION

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Unity in the Community Family Fun Day Showcases the Best of Chapeltown, page 7. Photo supplied by Unity Homes and Enterprise.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in August 2026. Leeds Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Leeds Jewish Housing Association Celebrates Opening of New Family Homes Scheme

Leeds Jewish Housing Association (LJHA) has formally opened a development of 28 new affordable properties for families in the north of the city.

The construction of 14 two-bed and 12 three-bed homes, a two-bed apartment and a one-bed adapted ground floor apartment on the Queenshill estate marks the completion of the second phase of a two-part Leeds LJHA scheme part-funded by Homes England.

The first phase, made up of 51 sheltered housing apartments for residents aged 55 and over, and 34 general needs apartments, opened in 2022.

The ceremonial ribbon was cut by joint guests of honour Marcia Brown and her daughters Katie Taylor and Samantha Walton, who are all trustees of the Marcia and Andrew Brown Charitable Trust which provided invaluable support to the development.

They were joined by LJHA board members past and present, project partners, LJHA residents and other special guests.

Addressing the gathering, LJHA Chief Executive Mark Grandfield thanked residents for their patience during the construction process.

What we're finishing today is 113 properties, so you can see the difference we've made," he said.

"The previous properties were built in the 1950s. They weren't the right homes, but they were definitely in the right place. Taking the decision to demolish people's homes and rebuild was difficult, but it was the right one. We recognise the significant upheaval that they went through but hope they were comforted by the fact that we were able to honour our promise of rehousing every resident who wished to remain with LJHA.

He praised the local community for their financial backing which enabled the scheme to be delivered, commenting:

A number of community members supported us. Marcia and Andrew Brown came and saw what this project might mean for the community. We will be eternally grateful for the tremendous support the Trust showed to turn this into reality.

And he had a special word for Sheffield Jewish Housing Association which, prior to its closure, was able to redirect a Homes England grant to LJHA to bolster the new development.

We're very grateful to Martin at Sheffield Jewish, he said.

Concluding his remarks, the LJHA Chief Executive added:

The magic starts toward the end of September when everybody moves in, adding vitality to the Queenshill estate, bringing a new generation of families forward and really putting some more energy back into the community. And that was the whole point. As we celebrate what we've achieved, I'm really looking forward to seeing how it pans out in the next few years.

Andrew Pliener, Chair of the LJHA Board, also paid warm tribute to the Brown family for their assistance, adding:

this wouldn't happen without that help and that commitment.

He said:

Living with a construction site is not easy and we really appreciate the support of the residents. We really look forward to meeting the new families who are moving in very shortly.

Marcia Brown said she and her daughters Katie and Samantha were honoured to be present. She told guests:

This project is reality, thanks obviously to all of you. What an amazing achievement. We're so happy to be able to support Leeds Jewish Housing Association with the wonderful work that you do, it's just amazing to see this new development.

Affixing a mezuzah (small case containing sacred scripture) to one of the new homes, Rabbi Anthony Gilbert said everyone had come to the opening "to witness the fulfilment of a dream."

He continued:

I call this the affixing of the mezuzah, but the consecration is a very positive light of this phase of the Leeds Jewish Housing Association. I'm familiar with the history and I'm truly honoured and take it as a great privilege to affix a mezuzah to a door of a property that was the work and the vision of Leeds Jewish Housing Association.

Following the ribbon cutting, guests joined LJHA residents to enjoy a celebratory family fun day featuring a host of attractions including a bouncy castle, face painting and a wide variety of stalls.

By Barry White Online 26 August 2026
Read more: **leedsmagazine.com**

Sir Kevin Sinfield to Voice The Giant in Leeds Panto Debut



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He's a true sporting giant who was a towering presence on the rugby pitch throughout his glittering career.

But even Leeds Rhinos legend Sir Kevin Sinfield has found himself with some big shoes to fill as he steps into a larger-than-life new role for his panto debut this festive season.

The Rugby League icon and tireless charity campaigner has been officially announced as the voice of The Giant in the Carriageworks Theatre's family pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

The former Leeds Rhinos skipper hit Leeds-based Our House Studio this week, lending his commanding voice to the fairytale antagonist and bringing the super-sized character to life.

Produced in partnership with Paul Holman Associates (PHA) Jack and the Beanstalk runs at the theatre from Friday, November 20, 2026 until Sunday, January 3 2027.

The show promises stunning costumes, toe-tapping musical numbers, plenty of audience participation and a heartwarming story about bravery, family and believing in yourself.

Speaking on his upcoming panto debut, Kevin said:

Leeds has been such a huge part of my life, professionally and personally, and the city will always hold a very special place in my heart.

"I've faced a few giants in my rugby career, but voicing The Giant is a new kind of challenge, and having the chance to be part of Christmas for all the families that will be paying a visit to the Carriageworks Theatre over the festive season is a real privilege. I can't wait for audiences to come along, boo The Giant and enjoy what will undoubtedly be a fantastic show.

By Barbara Parker Online 17 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/sir-kevin-sinfield-to-voice-the-giant-in-leeds-panto-debut**

LEEDS

Unity in the Community Family Fun Day Showcases the Best of Chapeltown



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Photo supplied by Unity Homes and Enterprise

Families from across Chapeltown have come together for a memorable afternoon of fun, food and community spirit organised by Leeds-based BME housing association Unity Homes and Enterprise in partnership with the Reginald Centre.

The Unity in the Community family fun day was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Stephen Holroyd, who spent time meeting stallholders, chatting with residents and learning more about the wide range of organisations providing support and opportunities for local people.

The celebration was made possible by Leeds City Council's Inner North East Community Committee matching Unity Homes and Enterprise's financial contribution.

Visitors had the chance to connect with a variety of community groups and service providers, including Unity staff, the Reginald Group's Connect Men's Group, Realigned AP, which supports young women and girls in Leeds who have struggled in mainstream education, the Feel Good Factor Men's Group, Mama's Time to Talk, and the ever-popular Leeds Libraries Story Bus.

Residents were also able to access information provided by Leeds Black Elders Association and chat with Chapeltown Neighbourhood Forum, who were carrying out an extensive community consultation.

The day also offered plenty of practical support with Leeds Bike Mill providing free bike servicing, helping local cyclists to get their bikes roadworthy and ready for late summer adventures.

By Barry White Online 7 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/unity-in-the-community-family-fun-day-showcases-the-best-of-chapeltown**

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‘Where are these Children Meant to Go?’ Leeds Mum Highlights ‘Missing Middle’ in SEND Provision



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A Leeds mum has highlighted a “missing middle” in SEND education for academically able autistic children who struggle in mainstream settings.

Psychotherapist Nicola Hughes, from Pudsey, says families can face an incredibly difficult choice when a child is capable of achieving alongside their peers but unable to manage the size, noise and demands of a mainstream secondary school.

The issue is explored in Nicola’s new book, SENT: The Emails I Sent, the Silence That Followed, which draws on her personal experience of advocating for her autistic son.

There is a gap that I don’t think we talk about enough,” said Nicola.

By Natalie Richmond Online 30 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/where-are-these-children-meant-to-go-leeds-mum-highlights-missing-middle-in-send-provision**

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Leeds Council Housing Plans Reach Key Milestone in Boggart Hill



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Plans for dozens of new council homes on the former site of an eyesore flats complex in Leeds have passed another key milestone.

Leeds City Council recently demolished the Kingsdale Court flats, in the Boggart Hill area of Seacroft, after acquiring them from private ownership.

Now the council has submitted an application for planning permission for the 79 affordable homes it is seeking to build on the cleared site.

The proposed development would comprise 20 houses, each with two or three bedrooms, and a pair of buildings providing a total of 59 one or two-bedroomed apartments.

By Leeds Magazine Online 3 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-council-housing-plans-reach-key-milestone-in-boggart-hill**

LEEDS

£44m Leeds Junction Scheme Moves Closer to Completion



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The Dawsons Corner and Stanningley Bypass improvement scheme has reached another major milestone, with final surfacing works now underway as the project moves into its final stages ahead of completion in early 2027.

The £44m scheme is transforming one of Leeds' busiest junctions, improving journeys for everyone while creating safer and more accessible routes for people walking, wheeling and cycling. The improvements will also help reduce congestion, improve connectivity between Leeds and Bradford and support more reliable bus services.

By Barbara Parker Online 16 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/44m-leeds-junction-scheme-moves-closer-to-completion**

LEEDS

Leeds Housing Association Gains National Recognition



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Photo supplied by Unity Homes and Enterprise

Unity Homes and Enterprise has been shortlisted for the two Housing Executive Awards, including the blue ribband category of Housing Association of the Year.

The Leeds-based BME organisation is also in the running for Best Social Value Project which recognises initiatives "explicitly aimed at enriching the lives and communities of residents, beyond building homes."

The Housing Association of the Year Award will be presented to one of four national finalists "that has supplied safe, affordable homes to those that need them most, and upheld a high standard of quality all year round."

The Housing Executive Awards is the UK's dedicated social housing awards night and provides a platform that aims to celebrate the most innovative projects in the sector, as well as the people that make them happen.

By Barry White Online 12 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-housing-association-gains-national-recognition**

In brief



LEEDS

Cross Gates Illustrator Brings 12 Local Independents Together in New Collection

Cross Gates-based designer and illustrator Darren Scotland has built an illustrated collection of independent businesses and places around his corner of East Leeds.

By Darren Scotland Online 11 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/cross-gates-illustrator-brings-12-local-independents-together-in-new-collection**



LEEDS

20 Female Founders Come Together for Leeds Book Launch Challenging Traditional Business Success

The Matriarchal Economy brings together the voices of 20 women who have built businesses rooted in collaboration, community, authenticity and long-term sustainability-rather than hustle culture, burnout and constant competition.

By Corinna Nicol Online 8 August 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/20-female-founders-come-together-for-leeds-book-launch-challenging-traditional-business-success**



YORK

Award-Winning Actor Billy Bowness Brings Comedy, Theatre and Television Success Back to Yorkshire

Harrogate-based actor and television personality Billy Bowness is continuing to make his mark on stage and screen, with an award-winning career that has taken him from British television and West End theatre to the Great Yorkshire Show.

By Paula Sandino Online 11 August 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/award-winning-actor-billy-bowness-brings-comedy-theatre-and-television-success-back-to-yorkshire**



YORK

York to Light City Walls in Blue and Yellow for Ukraine Independence Day

Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the Ambassador of Ukraine, has written to City of York Council, requesting our support to mark Ukraine's 35th Independence Day on Monday 24 August 2026.

By Zoe Walker Online 24 August 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/york-to-light-city-walls-in-blue-and-yellow-for-ukraine-independence-day**

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