

Oldham Council: Working For You



Spring 2025 edition

Spades in the ground 2,000 new homes coming soon



Cllr Arooj Shah pictured with Zach Maher from Rowan Ashworth, Alex Vogel and Hugh Taylor from Muse, Anthony Smith from Arcadis, Anthony Ashton from Rowan Ashworth, and Jadon Dooley and Scott Campbell, two T-Level students from Oldham College on placement at Muse, at the site of the former leisure centre.

Work has officially started to transform Oldham town centre and create 2,000 new homes.

Diggers are now on site at the former leisure centre as they prepare the ground in the first phase of the dramatic proposals to reshape our town centre.

This exciting project marks a key step in Oldham's ongoing regeneration. With local contractor Rowan Ashworth on

site now, the plans are moving forward to transform the area into a modern, mixed-use neighbourhood that will bring new life to the town.

The development is a crucial part of the wider town centre regeneration, which will create new opportunities for residents and businesses while improving public spaces and local infrastructure.

Oldham Council, working alongside Muse, an award-winning national placemaker led by Phil Mayall – a born and bred Oldhamer – are proud to be shaping the town's future and bringing the Oldham Town Living vision to life.

This project is set to play a key role in revitalising the area and creating a vibrant and thriving town centre for years to come. Exciting times ahead.

Exclusive money off offer at Oldham Coliseum

See page 3



Welcome to the latest edition of Oldham Council Working For You.

After a year of progress, 2025 will be a year of delivery for Oldham. Major projects are moving forward, bringing real improvements to our borough.

Tommyfield Market will open in its new home at Spindles, alongside our brand new events space. The Old Library will reopen this summer, providing a new home for Oldham Theatre Workshop, and – as you can see opposite – the plans to create 2,000 new homes in the town centre are turning into reality.

We're making a real difference in our communities, from new homes for care leavers to ongoing improvements in children's services. Plus, we have plenty of exciting events lined up for everyone to enjoy this summer.

I'm also really proud that we've been shortlisted for the Most Improved Council award in the prestigious LGC Awards. This is a big recognition for the bold steps we've taken in recent years to improve services, strengthen our communities, invest in Oldham's future and make our borough better.

Oldham always has its naysayers – but we'll continue to prove them wrong.

This is the year that the pride all true Oldhamers have in their hearts for our borough will start to be reflected on our streets.

Oldham is changing for the better: this is the year we make it happen.

Oldham's time is now.

Councillor Arooj Shah
Oldham Council Leader

Page 2 – New park, new eco-centre: transformation taking place

Page 3 – Brighter than ever: highlights from Illuminate 2025

Page 8 – Oldham sports stars: Aqib's win and Kevin's charity challenges



Oldham's new town centre park takes shape

The future is blooming as work begins on the new park in Oldham town centre, set to open in March 2026.

This exciting project is part of the Spindles redevelopment and the relocation of Tommyfield Market, transforming old sites into new green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

The park's design has been carefully planned with input from different services to ensure it meets the needs of residents. A flythrough video has been created to show what the park will look like when it's finished. Scan the QR code or visit the link for a sneak preview: youtu.be/yB2lq2368u4

Sustainability is at the heart of this project. The park will be completely self-sustaining, featuring solar-powered street lighting and wildlife to help nature thrive.

With work already underway, it won't be long before the town centre park becomes a much-loved spot for Oldhamers, just like our 34 other parks and green spaces across the borough.



A first look at how Oldham's new town centre park will look once complete.

A greener future starts here

Oldham Council has opened a brand new state-of-the-art facility at Alexandra Park.

The eco-centre – the first of its kind in Greater Manchester – not only creates brilliant new facilities for our amazing parks and street maintenance teams, but it will also become a community resource for local residents to use.

Local organisations, community groups, residents and businesses will soon be able to rent space, collaborate, and grow. Activities may include anything from meetings and community gardening projects, to weddings, birthdays and religious celebrations.

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of Oldham Council, said: "The eco-centre reflects our commitment to a greener future and supports our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. It also provides a modern base for our hardworking staff who keep our town clean and green."

Built by Whitfield & Brown, the centre now brings more than 200 staff under one roof, replacing old buildings like Gardener's Lodge. Oldham College apprentices will also be trained here to learn horticultural skills.

Find out more at oldham.gov.uk/regen



Council Leader, Cllr Arooj Shah and Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability, with colleagues and depot workers based at the new eco-centre.

Council goes for Gold in veteran support



Cllr Arooj Shah and Mayor of Oldham Zahid Chauhan joined colleagues and members of the Armed Forces to sign the Covenant.

Oldham Council is increasing its support for veterans as it works to secure the prestigious Gold Award in the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme. The Council has also renewed its pledge for our servicemen and women and veterans by officially re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

Council Leader Cllr Arooj Shah and Mayor of Oldham Zahid Chauhan attended the signing with other councillors and council staff.

They were joined by members of the Armed Forces, including Major Eddy Hardaker, two cadets and Louisa Blakemore from the Ministry of Defence.

The Covenant represents the Council's ongoing commitment to ensuring that serving personnel, veterans and their families are treated fairly and receive the support they deserve. Key commitments include ensuring they are not disadvantaged when accessing public services and

providing additional support for those who are injured or bereaved.

Cllr Shah said: "Oldham has always stood proudly with our Armed Forces. By renewing this Covenant, we are reaffirming our commitment to veterans, reservists and military families. Their dedication and sacrifices deserve not only recognition but meaningful action."

Oldham Council first signed the Covenant in 2013 and currently holds the Silver Award in the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme. We are now working towards achieving the Gold Award. As part of our ongoing commitment, the Council has partnered with Oldham Community Leisure to offer veterans discounted access to Oldham Active's five wellbeing centres. These special memberships, free for the first two months, provide access to more than 150 group exercise classes, gyms, racket sports, swimming and sauna facilities, supporting physical activity and mental wellbeing across the borough.

Oldham shines brighter than ever

Oldham's Illuminate Festival was a glowing success when it returned to Oldham's streets. The town centre was lit with colour, creative displays and a fantastic sense of community spirit.

On Saturday 22 February, Oldham town centre came alive with light displays, interactive art shows outside the Old Town Hall and our much-loved Illuminate Parade. Hundreds of people joined the parade and walked with lanterns, and giant puppets. They were joined by acts playing live music which filled the town centre, making it a night to remember.

Gallery Oldham stayed open late showcasing light art displays from Blackpool's Grundy Gallery, while

Oldham Parish Church featured 'The Matter of the Heart' – a moving display of local people's real-time heartbeats in lights. At Oldham Library, The DOME offered a 360° immersive experience and MAPP by Alex P turned residents into colourful works of art through interactive video-mapping.

Mayor of Oldham, Cllr Zahid Chauhan said: "It's amazing to see our town buzzing with creativity. Illuminate is a special event that brings people together and celebrates everything that makes Oldham unique."

If you missed the event, make sure to check out the highlights at oldham.gov.uk/illuminate and get ready for an even bigger Illuminate 2026.



Global Grooves puppets entertaining the crowds during the Illuminate parade.

Curtains Up! Oldham Coliseum springs into action

Oldham Coliseum is back and better than ever with an exciting Spring 2025 programme, bringing a fantastic mix of comedy, theatre and family-friendly shows to venues across the town centre.

A highlight of the season was the Coliseum's original production, The Engagement Party by Afshan D'Souza-Lodhi, which enjoyed a hugely popular run at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in late February.

On 20 March, get ready to experience Shakespeare like never before with Debs Newbold's King Lear Retold, a gripping reimagining of the classic.

Oldham Council: Working For You readers can enjoy an exclusive 20% discount, simply use the code **OLDHAM20** at checkout.

Families will love The Naughty Fox and The Noisy Dinosaur, an interactive theatre experience for young children, coming to Billingtons on 9 April.

Closing the season on 23 April, Wake the Beast's In the Sick of It at Oldham Library will offer a powerful and thought-provoking look at the hidden struggles of NHS workers.

Make sure to follow Oldham Coliseum on social media for updates on future shows and events happening across the borough.



Stars materialise at Oldham Theatre Workshop's new home

Three rising stars who got their start at Oldham Theatre Workshop; Millie Gibson, Seb Lowe and Noah Valentine returned to see its new home inside the Old Library, which is still under construction.

Millie is currently travelling through time and space in the TARDIS as the Doctor's companion in beloved sci-fi institution Doctor Who. Seb is making waves in music and Noah starred in the latest series of Waterloo Road.

They were welcomed by Cllr Arooj Shah, who spoke about the importance of restoring the Grade II listed Old Library, which will soon become a hub for creativity and community use.

Speaking about the project, Millie said: "Oldham Theatre Workshop means the world to me. This new space will be incredible."

Seb added: "This place shaped me. It's amazing that future generations will have the same opportunities."

Oldham's Old Library is set to open to the public this summer, giving Oldham Theatre Workshop and the local community a fantastic new space to enjoy for years to come.



Cllr Arooj Shah with Millie Gibson, Seb Lowe and Noah Valentine at the Old Library.

In your area...

Chadderton's Newman College prioritises mental health in curriculum

Newman Catholic College is setting the standard for including mental health in its lessons.

Headteacher Glyn Potts said “A* does not guarantee happiness. It’s vital for students to understand and manage their mental health. We focus on supporting them emotionally.”

The school has adapted lessons to address these concerns and provides external support services like counselling and wellbeing breakfasts.

Ofsted has praised the school for its inclusive approach, particularly in helping students with special educational needs.



Pink palace salon opens in Failsworth for children with hair loss

Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Zahid Chauhan, officially opened the new ‘pink palace’ salon on Wickentree Lane in Failsworth, dedicated to helping children with hair loss.

Founded in 2018 by Ashley Higgins, Little Lady Locks provides custom wigs, accessories, hats and headbands using natural hair donations.

At the launch, the Mayor met Tallulah, a young girl supported by the charity and Love Island star Kaz Crossley, one of the charity’s ‘hair fairies’. In April 2024, Kaz shaved her hair to create a wig and raise awareness and funds.

“It is mind-blowing what you have achieved” said the Mayor before cutting the pink ribbon.



New School Street launched in Lees to improve road safety

Oldham Council has introduced a new School Street at Hey with Zion and St. Edward’s RC Primary Schools in Lees.

Cllr Arooj Shah and Dame Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner for Greater Manchester, joined students, parents and staff to celebrate this important step in making school travel safer and more sustainable.

The campaign uses cameras to limit vehicle access during busy school hours, improving road safety and air quality. It is the first in Greater Manchester to use ANPR cameras for enforcement, setting a new standard for school travel in the region.

Parents have welcomed the change, with many noticing less traffic and a safer environment for children walking, cycling, or scooting to school. We hope the success of this School Street encourages more schools in the borough to set up a School Street at their school.



Oldham’s Saturday market moving to George Square



Council Leader Cllr Arooj Shah with Oldham outdoor market traders.

The Saturday outdoor market is moving to George Square as part of town centre changes. It is currently behind Tommyfield Market Hall, but will soon be near the transformed Spindles Shopping Centre, making it easier for people to pop by.

The market will be more accessible to residents and visitors as it will be next to Oldham Central tram stop, the bus station and car parks.

The move is planned for late 2025 and has been agreed with traders as part of wider improvements.

Councillor Arooj Shah said: “George Square is a fantastic location for our much-loved Saturday market. It will bring new life to the town centre and complement our redeveloped Spindles, including the new market opening next spring.”

This is part of a bigger plan to improve shopping in Oldham.

Royton primary school unveils new outdoor learning spaces

St Paul’s Primary School has recently opened two new outdoor areas to support student learning and socialising. The Genesis play area was designed for children with special educational needs and will help boost physical skills in a safe, inclusive environment.

The school also unveiled The Ark outdoor classroom, a project funded by the PTA’s six years of fundraising, raising an incredible £11,000. The Ark provides a sheltered space for outdoor lessons and social activities.

Cllr Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said: “These fantastic new spaces will enhance the learning experience for all children and encourage inclusion and physical activity.”

These new areas are exciting developments for St Paul’s, offering a better environment for children in Royton to learn, grow and socialise together.



Cllr Mohon Ali, alongside Deputy Mayor Cllr Eddie Moores and Deputy Mayoress Kath Moores with school children.

The Egyptian Room, our new food and drink hub

The Egyptian Room has been a big hit since opening in the historic Old Town Hall in Oldham town centre, offering a great mix of delicious food, live music and some signature Northern charm.

Every weekend the space comes alive with live music, and throughout the week there are some fantastic lunchtime deals. Some of the tempting offers include a £5 Margherita pizza from Ply Pizza, a tasty beef noodle bowl from Tuk Tuk, and a filling burger or wrap, fries and soft drink for £10 from Wings of Power.

Set in the Grade II listed landmark, the food hall blends its original

Victorian features with a fresh, modern feel. Inside, you'll find beautiful tiled walls, arched windows and parquet flooring, alongside indoor, outdoor and mezzanine seating.

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of Oldham Council, said: "The Egyptian Room is a brilliant addition to Oldham, bringing people together and boosting our local economy. It's fantastic to see the Old Town Hall brought back to life like this."

The Egyptian Room is fast becoming the go-to place to eat, drink and socialise in Oldham. Why not pop in and see for yourself?



The Egyptian Room comes to life.

Mansell builds its business in Oldham

Oldham has welcomed a major new business to the borough as Mansell Building Solutions relocates from Bolton to a brand-new site in Chadderton.

The move marks a significant step for the award-winning, women-led construction firm, securing its future in Greater Manchester while bringing new jobs and investment to the borough.

Mansell's new 45,000 sq ft facility at Oldham Broadway Business Park will provide the space and technology needed to support its growing workload. The company plays a vital role in delivering thousands of new homes across the North West, working on major projects in Wigan,

Manchester, Trafford, Salford and Stockport.

Angela Mansell, Managing Director, said: "Oldham is a forward-thinking borough with strong female leadership and a supportive council that actively welcomes business growth. We're proud to make it our new home."

Cllr Arooj Shah welcomed Mansell's arrival, calling the firm "pioneers in the industry" and celebrated their investment in the town.

With a 10-year lease commitment, Mansell's move signals long-term confidence in Oldham as a prime location for business growth, a big win for our local economy.



Council Leader Cllr Arooj Shah and Chief Executive of Oldham Council Shelley Kipling with Stephanie and Angela Mansell.

Meet Maggie Hughes: the woman behind Zutti Co and champion for Oldham's high street

For 44 years, Zutti Co on Yorkshire Street has been Oldham's go-to for men's clothing and school uniforms. But Maggie Hughes, the woman behind this Oldham institution, does so much more to keep Oldham's high street thriving.

Maggie isn't just running the shop, she's also Vice Chair of the Oldham Town Centre Board and Chair of the High Street Accelerator Partnership, working hard to make Oldham's town centre better for everyone. She's passionate about keeping the high street thriving and supporting local businesses.

She loves Oldham for its strong community, diversity and spirit, and she's proud to be part of what makes the town special.

A huge thank you to Maggie for everything she does. Her dedication and hard work are helping shape



Zutti's Maggie represents the very best of Oldham's business community.

Oldham's future, and she's made a real difference to so many people.

Next time you're in town, shop local and remember to support businesses like Zutti Co, because people like Maggie help keep Oldham's high street alive.

Book Bulky Bob's for your big items

If you have any unwanted bulky or large household items that you want picking up, then collections can be booked via **Bulky Bob's** on **0161 770 6644**. Charges apply. By using this service your furniture could be donated to a family in need. **Scan the QR code for more information.**



How to report safeguarding concerns

If you're worried about the safety of a child or young person, it's important to speak up and report your concerns. Protecting children is one of the council's top priorities and there are services in place to offer support.

To report a safeguarding concern, call the Oldham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0161 770 7777.

You'll speak to the Duty and Advice Service, who can either offer advice or, if needed, assign a social worker to assess the situation further. Around 70% of calls will lead to advice and guidance, ensuring that you're given the right help for your concern. If necessary, your case will be discussed with other agencies like the police or NHS.

Even if you're unsure whether what you've seen or experienced is a safeguarding issue, don't hesitate to reach out. Starting the conversation can make a real difference.

If you prefer independent support, Keeping Our Girls Safe (KOGS) is there to help. KOGS offer one-to-one support for victims of child sexual exploitation and provide group sessions in a safe, confidential space. You can contact them at kogs.org.uk or call 07491 068364.

Remember, your actions can help protect someone in need.



The Bee Network is buzzing – give it a (tap and) go

Residents can now enjoy unlimited tram and bus travel across Greater Manchester with the Bee Network. Whether you're commuting to work, shopping at Spindles or exploring the borough, the Bee Network has flexible travel options to suit your needs.

Great value travelcards

With a Bee Network tram travelcard, you can get unlimited tram travel for 7 days from just £10.60 or 28 days from £36.40. You can purchase your travelcard on the Bee Network app or at the Bee Network shop in Spindles.

Contactless Tap and Go

From 23 March, paying for your journey will be easier with contactless Tap and Go. Use your contactless card or phone to tap in at tram stops before boarding and tap out at your final stop. On buses, just tap once when you board. The system automatically calculates the best fare, with daily and weekly caps for unlimited bus and tram travel as cheap as £6 and £24.80.

Affordable bus travel

This is a pre-paid travelcard you buy on the Bee Network app. It costs £20 for 7 days or £80 for 28 days, specifically for unlimited bus travel only. This option is ideal for people who use Bee Network buses frequently.



Get started today by downloading the Bee Network app.

Don't be scammed during the digital switch-over

By 2027, Openreach will be switching from old analogue telephone lines to a fully-digital network across the UK.

This means that many telephone providers will move their customers to digital services like fibre. These changes have already started in some areas, and providers will contact customers to ensure they are switched over by January 2027.

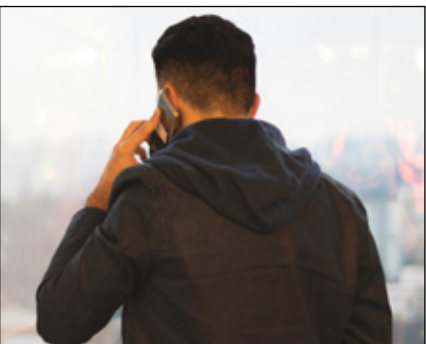
This switch will affect not just home phones but also systems like alarms, CCTV, and door entry systems that use analogue lines. It's important to note that digital landlines require mains power to work, unlike some old analogue telephones that could function during power cuts. Keeping a charged mobile phone nearby in case of a power failure is a good precaution.

As millions of people make the switch, scammers may try to take advantage of the situation. Be on the

lookout for fraudulent offers or people asking for money or personal details related to the switchover.

To protect yourself, remember to **Stop** and think before giving out any information, **Challenge** suspicious requests and **Protect** yourself by reporting any concerns to **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040**.

If you have concerns about how the switch might affect you, especially if you or a loved one may need extra help, reach out to your telephone provider for guidance.



Useful contacts

You can access lots of our services online at oldham.gov.uk

Customer Support Centre
Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm
Out-of-hours emergency
T: 0161 770 2222

Contact details for some of the key services available through our Customer Support Centre are the following:

Council Tax
E: council.tax@oldham.gov.uk
T: 0161 770 6622

Environmental Health
E: ENVhealth@oldham.gov.uk
T: 0161 770 2244

Housing Benefits
E: benefits@oldham.gov.uk
T: 0161 770 6633

Payment line
T: 0161 770 6611 (24 hour automated payment service)

Registrars
T: 0161 770 8960

Waste and Recycling
E: waste@oldham.gov.uk
T: 0161 770 6644

We Can Help helpline (for financial advice and support)
T: 0161 770 7007

For all the latest Oldham Council news, sign up to our e-newsletter at oldham.gov.uk/email

Follow us on social media for all the latest updates:
Facebook: @loveoldham
Instagram: @loveoldham
TikTok: oldhamcouncil

Baby Bistros: a lifeline for Oldham mums

New Oldham mums are getting life-changing support at free Baby Bistros in our Family Hubs across the borough. These welcoming sessions, run by Home-Start HOST in partnership with Oldham health visitors, provide infant feeding advice, practical help and a chance to make new friends.

For Lois Hill, the support has been invaluable. Her midwife recommended the Greenfield Baby Bistro after her daughter, Maeve, struggled to feed due to tongue-tie.

Sarah Mistry, who brings her daughter Jasmine, said: “When I walked through the door, I burst into tears. I’ve been


coming every week and now we’re a group of mums who go out together while our babies play. It’s been life-changing.”

Natasha Gilbody, who started attending when her son Remy was just three days old, said: “Nine months later, he’s exclusively breastfed and I don’t see us stopping until he’s at least two. That’s thanks to the support I’ve had.”

Baby Bistros run weekly at Shaw, Beever and Stanley Road Family Hubs, Failsworth Library, and Greenfield Satellite Centre. If you’re a new mum looking for support, you’re not alone. Simply drop in and get the support you need.



Babies and mums enjoying the baby bistros at our Family Hubs Satellite Centre in Greenfield.



Donate IT helping residents get online

Oldham Council is on a mission to become one of the UK’s most digitally inclusive towns, ensuring everyone has access to technology and online services.

One of our key campaigns is Donate IT Oldham, which launched in Spring 2024 in partnership with Tameside Community Computers. The campaign collects unwanted devices, refurbishes them and gives them to vulnerable residents who need them most. Businesses and residents can donate laptops, tablets and smartphones at any Oldham library or by simply emailing digital.gifting@oldham.gov.uk


This scheme is part of a wider £70,000 investment, funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to tackle digital poverty.

The funding will also support the creation of H.O.O.T Hubs (Hands-On Opportunities in Tech) which are local spaces where people can get free digital help, whether it’s getting online, filling in forms or learning new tech skills.

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability said: “Not having access to digital services affects health, work, education, and finances. We’re proud to be leading the way in tackling this issue.”

To donate a device or find out how you can help, visit oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp

Let’s make Oldham a town where no one is left behind in the digital age.



oldham.gov.uk/DonateIT

DON’T TRASH OLDHAM

Spring into action – help make our town cleaner and greener

Keep Britain Tidy is holding The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2025 from 21 March to 6 April.

We are doing our bit to keep our home town clean – so can you.

In 2024, an amazing army of #LitterHeroes pledged to pick more than 400,000 bags of litter.

To find out more about how you, your group or your school can get involved visit keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean

Don’t Trash Oldham is once again supporting this year’s event as we all want clean streets and open spaces.

We know a lot of you regularly carry out litterpicks and it would be great if even more of you got involved.

Dozens of you are regularly out in all weathers carrying out litterpicks in your neighbourhoods and communities – doing your bit to support Don’t Trash Oldham.


It would be brilliant if even more of you got involved. And we are happy to help you out.

The council supports community litter picks and loans out equipment.


You can contact us to book a time to pick up equipment for community groups by emailing EnvironmentalServices@oldham.gov.uk

If you want us to remove bagged litter after an organised group litter pick, we will need to agree dates, times, and locations in advance. Please give us as much notice as possible so we can support you.

If you are doing a litterpick on your own put any waste you collect in your bin at home.



For more information about how you can get involved in keeping the borough clean and green visit: oldham.gov.uk/dontrasholdham



Local boxer Aqib Fiaz masters the ring at Co-op Live

Oldham's own Aqib Fiaz delivered a knockout performance, securing a hard-fought victory over Christian Chircop at the Co-op Live.

Fiaz showed real skill and determination, proving once again why he's a rising star in the boxing world.

His win on February 15, is another big moment for Oldham's boxing scene, inspiring young fighters across the borough. With every fight, he's showing just how much hard work and dedication can pay off.

Massive congratulations to Aqib, we're looking forward to seeing what's next for him in the ring.



Aqib Fiaz celebrating his victory over Christian Chircop at the Co-op Live.

Kevin Sinfield's epic 7 in 7 in 7 challenge concludes in Saddleworth

Rugby legend Kevin Sinfield CBE wrapped up his incredible 7 in 7 in 7 Challenge in December, running across Greater Manchester to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charities. Covering over 50km per day for seven days, Sinfield ran a total of more than 350 km – that's the same as running from Oldham all the way to South London.

His 2024 Challenge, 'Running Home for Christmas' was particularly poignant as it was held in memory of Sinfield's close friend and former teammate Rob Burrow, who sadly passed away from MND earlier in 2024. The challenge saw Sinfield covering 7km blocks every hour, with a total of more than 350 km across seven locations.

The final leg of the run culminated in Saddleworth, where Sinfield joined over 2,200 Santa Clauses for the annual Saddleworth Santa Dash in Uppermill before crossing the finish line in front of family,

friends and supporters. The event raised significant funds for six MND charities, helping to continue the fight against this devastating disease.

Oldham Council Leader, Cllr Arooj Shah, said: "We're incredibly proud to support Kevin in this amazing challenge."

It was a day to remember, showing that not all heroes wear capes (but some of them do wear Santa hats).



Kevin Sinfield (left) running the final leg of the race in Saddleworth, where he joined over 2,200 Santa Clauses for the annual Santa Dash.

Get moving in Oldham's parks with gyms, tennis and bowling fun

Looking to get fit and enjoy some fresh air? Oldham's parks have plenty to offer, including outdoor gyms, newly refurbished tennis courts and relaxing bowling greens.

Outdoor gyms

Oldham's free-to-use outdoor gyms are a great way to stay active without breaking the bank. With equipment designed for all abilities, you can enjoy a full-body workout while taking in the natural surroundings. Some gyms are set up as fitness trails, perfect for combining exercise with a walk or jog. You'll find them in parks across the borough, including High Crompton Park, Waterhead Park and Werneth Park.

Tennis courts

In 2024, six park tennis venues were refurbished as part of a £250,000 investment, making the sport more accessible for everyone. Courts at Alexandra Park, Chadderton Hall Park and more now have improved surfaces, fencing and online booking. Free sessions and local leagues mean anyone can get involved, all you need is a racket.

Bowling greens

For a more relaxed sport, why not try bowls? Many of Oldham's parks have bowling greens, offering a great way to stay active while socialising. Simply email environmentalservices@oldham.gov.uk to request booking a team to play on one of the greens.

Time to get outside, get active and make the most of Oldham's 34 fantastic parks and green spaces across the borough.



Outdoor gym at High Crompton Park in Shaw.



Bowling green at St George's Square in Chadderton.



Tennis Courts at Alexandra Park.