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BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture



GROUND-BREAKING

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Dying Matters

Connecting through grassroots arts to support disadvantaged ethnic minority women

A groundbreaking project is bringing together arts, culture, and healthcare to address the profound challenges faced by multiply disadvantaged ethnic minority women navigating dying, death, and grief in Bradford.

Led by The Leap, WomenZone, and Dr. Jamilla Hussain - a local palliative care consultant, and in partnership with Hospice UK, the initiative aims to tackle inequities in access to hospice and end-of-life services.

By using arts and creative workshops, the project creates safe, culturally sensitive spaces for women to explore and share their experiences.

Research has long highlighted enduring inequalities faced by minority ethnic groups when dealing with death and bereavement. These challenges are even greater for women living at the intersection of poverty, language barriers, and disability.

Continued on page 5



Rubina Khalid, Chief Executive at WomenZone encouraging Pakistani women to have discussions to help deal with the loss of a loved one

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ISSE (Inspire Support Sports Empower) will work with The Baji Bantams - Bradford City's first fans group for South Asian women

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Bradford 2025 and Creative Lives support over 50 local organisations through the 'Do Your Thing Awards'

Bradford 2025 and Creative Lives have announced the recipients of 'Do Your Thing' micro-awards which support community-driven creative projects across the district to celebrate the everyday creativity of Bradford's residents.

As part of the UK City of Culture programme over 50 grassroots creative groups have been selected under the UK City of Culture programme, and will receive a share of just over £20,000 to open-up opportunities for cultural participation in a multitude of ways.

One of the successful applicants are The Baji Bantams

- Bradford City's first fans group for South Asian women, to bring the community together with cultural music at the Bradford City Community Foundation. They are supported by ISSE (Inspire Support Sports Empower).

Another organisation included is 'SEND Salaam', who will hold a sensory art session for children with special educational needs and disabilities in the Girlington area, working with Summat Creative.

Rhiannon Hannon, Bradford 2025's Director of Creative Engagement says: "We had an incredible number of applications, and we're ever inspired and impressed by



'Do Your Thing Award' recipients

Addingham Allotments & Gardens Association.
 Anand Milan Elderly Centre.
 Baildon Civic & Historical Society.
 Bingley and District Local History Society working with Bingley Camera Club and Graham West Bingley Bell Ringers.
 Bingley Ukulele Group.
 Bradford Belles.
 Bradford Black & Brown Queers (BBBQ).
 Bradford Youth Activity Club.
 Burley Arts Collective.
 Carers Resource.
 Connecting Roma CIC.
 Denholme Shared Church Equity Partnership.
 Feeding Bradford and Keighley.
 Friends of Brackenhill Park.
 Friends of Crag Community Hub.

Friends of Heaton Community Orchard.
 Friends of Myrtle Park.
 FUNdraising 4U.
 Global Game Jam Bradford.
 Happy Healthy You.
 Harden Players.
 Haworth Stitch Group.
 Holmewood community association.
 Ilkley Players.
 ISSE (Inspire Support Sports Empower).
 Krylati - The Winged Ones.
 Lister Community Action Group.
 Loosely Bound / Bradford Sketch Club.
 Mindfulness Girls.
 Mixed Collective.
 Nebula Girls Group.
 Our legacy.
 Queensbury Singers and Black Dyke Mills Heritage Venue.
 Queer South Asian Cafe.
 Ravenscliffe Youth Centre.
 Redbeck Allotment Association.
 Routes to Roots: A South Asian Heritage Project.
 Sandale Community Development Trust.
 Sappgate Gardens Association.
 SEND Salaam and Summat Creative.
 Shipley Memories Group.
 Survivor Leaders.
 TCC Kids Art Club.
 Terne Caja.
 The 'Art Moves Kids' Project.
 The Big knitters.
 The City Gent Fanzine.
 The Sharing Tree.
 Thornbury Community Development Services (TCDS).
 ToNE (Tamils of North East).
 Topic Folk Club.
 Village Pavilion.

“We had an incredible number of applications, and we’re ever inspired and impressed by the creativity taking place every day in every area of our district.”

the creativity taking place every day in every area of our district. Bradford 2025 is all about making culture more available and accessible all across Bradford, and these organisations are showing how this can be done every day.”

Robin Simpson, Chief Executive of Creative Lives adds “Creative Lives was thrilled to receive an incredible 161 applications from local creative groups across Bradford, demonstrating the amazing breadth and diversity of grassroots creativity happening in communities throughout the district.

“We are delighted to be able to support 54 groups through ‘Do Your Thing’ micro-awards, but the quality and ambition shown by all applicants was truly inspiring and we hope all the groups will stay connected with Creative Lives as we continue our commitment to championing community-led creative activity in Bradford during 2025 and beyond.”

Mahum Fatima from SEND Salaam states “We’re really happy to have been selected as one of the recipients of Do Your Thing. We want to show Bradford how amazing and talented our young SEND children are! This award will enable us to raise awareness around hidden disabilities and help make art accessible to the local community.”

This news follows the recent Bradford 2025 announcement of ‘Our Patch’, a large-scale district-wide programme in collaboration with local artists, community organisations and residents, breaking down barriers to cultural participation by bringing the arts right to the community’s doorstep.

Find out more on how Bradford 2025 is putting local people at the heart of the UK City of Culture at bradford2025.co.uk/take-part and more on the work of Creative Lives at creative-lives.org.

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The free exhibition at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery is open until 27th April (Credit: David Lindsay)



Fighting to Be Heard

A new free exhibition features rarely seen items from the Arabic and Urdu collections of the British Library, as well as exploring the connections between boxing and calligraphy, through the eyes of a group of British South Asian Muslim men living in Bradford today.

'Fighting to Be Heard', forms part of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture's (Bradford 2025) opening celebrations, runs from 17th January to 27th April, and features rarely seen items from the Arabic and Urdu collections of the British Library and items from Bradford District Museums and Galleries collection.

Bradford Council's Cartwright Hall Art Gallery will exhibit rare Qurans, some of which have never been displayed in the North of England before, with the oldest dating back to the 9th century, alongside modern artworks inspired by calligraphy and typography.

Also on display will be historical and contemporary items from the collection of Bradford District Museums and Galleries, including works by artists Anwar Jalal Shemza, Shahzia Sikander and photographer Peter Sanders among others.

'Fighting to Be Heard' is an exhibition co-curated with World Champion boxer Tasif Khan, members of his boxing academy.

Objects in the exhibition have been chosen by Bradford based calligrapher, Razwan Ul-Haq and members of Bradford's Tasif Khan Community Boxing Academy. It includes an Early Quran from Near East or Iraq, dating back to the 9th century CE; one of the finest

Bradford 2025 exhibition explores the connections between boxing and the art of calligraphy



'Fighting to Be Heard' has been co-curated with World Champion boxer Tasif Khan, members of his boxing academy

examples of Il-Khanid manuscript illumination, the 14th century Öljaitü Qur'an, which is entirely painted in gold; handwritten Sufi Poetry in the Gujri dialect dating back to 1590 and an artwork from 2012, three paper aeroplanes calligraphed by the late Palestinian artist Dia Batal, which

explores how contemporary calligraphy can be used as a form of protest and self-expression.

'Fighting to Be Heard' features the men's personal stories and their reactions to the collections – offering intimate perspectives on these historical items and a look at the

unexpected similarities between boxing and calligraphy and how they can inspire one another.

The showcase features as part of a wider programme of activity forming part of Bradford's work with national partners throughout the year as UK City of Culture. The programme will

celebrate the city and surrounding district, tell the stories of its diverse communities, and spotlight its dynamic contemporary culture.

For more information, please visit: <https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/fighting-to-be-heard/>

Dr. Jamilla Hussain is a palliative care consultant



Dying Matters

Connecting through grassroots arts to support disadvantaged ethnic minority women

Cover story continued

In 2022, the “Uncovering” programme - supported by Hospice UK, The Leap, Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and WomenZone - successfully empowered Pakistani women to form a bereavement support group.

The initiative revealed the systemic barriers these women face and underscored the urgent need for meaningful dialogue, understanding, and action to address inequities.

Rubina Khalid, Chief Executive at WomenZone said: “We had previously delivered a project at WomenZone, funded by HOSPICE UK, to understand how Pakistani communities, particularly women, cope with the death of a loved one.

“This time, we partnered with Bradford Leap and NHS palliative care to bring together diverse organisations across the “death system” in Bradford. The aim was to facilitate direct discussions with women about their experiences and foster network/relationship building.”

Building on these insights, the new project aims to develop a systemic support model by fostering connections between women and diverse organisations within Bradford’s “death system.”

Through this initiative, women will have opportunities to share their stories, engage in dialogue, and build networks that can inform more equitable end-of-life care.

care at the end of life is not equal and fair.

“We need to ensure those on the margins have their voices and stories heard and that services meet them where they are at. This project aimed to set this in motion through workshops on topics that mattered to Pakistani women and in partnership with people and services across Bradford there to



We know access and quality of care at the end of life is not equal and fair.

Artist Shy Burhan has led a series of six workshops, using culturally relevant and accessible creative methods to facilitate discussions and empower women to share their experiences. The workshops focused on intersectional challenges, particularly around access to hospice and bereavement services.

Dr. Jamilla Hussain commented: “We know access and quality of

support them.”

This collaborative project is a bold step toward equitable support for marginalised communities, setting a precedent for inclusive and compassionate end-of-life care. The learning from the programme will be shared with other health and wellness professionals around the country. Details of the touring exhibition will be posted on

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Baton of Hope

A symbolic baton representing mental wellbeing will be carried through Leeds for the first time later this year as part of a special UK-wide tour to inspire hope through action in suicide prevention.

The city has been chosen as one of 20 locations to host the 'Baton of Hope' on its tour in September to October to raise awareness and challenge stigma around suicide.

The baton will stop in Leeds on September 10th – coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day – and organisers are inviting anyone affected or bereaved by suicide to apply now to be 'baton bearers' on its journey through the city.

The baton was devised by suicide prevention charity Baton of Hope UK, as a parallel icon to the Olympic torch, but one that celebrated mental health rather than physical wellbeing.

One of the original co-founders of Baton of Hope UK is Steve Phillip, whose son Jordan was living in Leeds when he died by suicide on December 4 2019 at the age of 34.

Steve, of Harrogate, went on to set up The Jordan Legacy in his memory, a community interest company (CIC) which campaigns for a zero suicide society.

It was through his campaigning work that he met fellow Baton of Hope UK co-founder Mike McCarthy, who lost his son Ross, 31, to suicide in 2021.

Steve, who has since stepped back from Baton of Hope UK to focus on his work with The Jordan Legacy, said: "Given Jordan's connection with

Leeds, it feels particularly poignant that the baton will be coming to the city and I'm very much looking forward to supporting this amazing initiative.

"Together, we can make a real difference when it comes to preventing all preventable suicides in the UK."

The tour itself will see the Baton of Hope – created by Thomas Lyte, official gold and silversmiths to the FA cup – passed between volunteers as part of a relay through the city, visiting different spaces, communities, venues and events.

Leeds City Council is working closely with the charity, and partners across Leeds, in organising the day as a key supporter of the city's leg of the tour.

Reducing suicide and the stigma around it is a priority in Leeds, with working to make this a mentally healthy city named as a key objective in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2030.

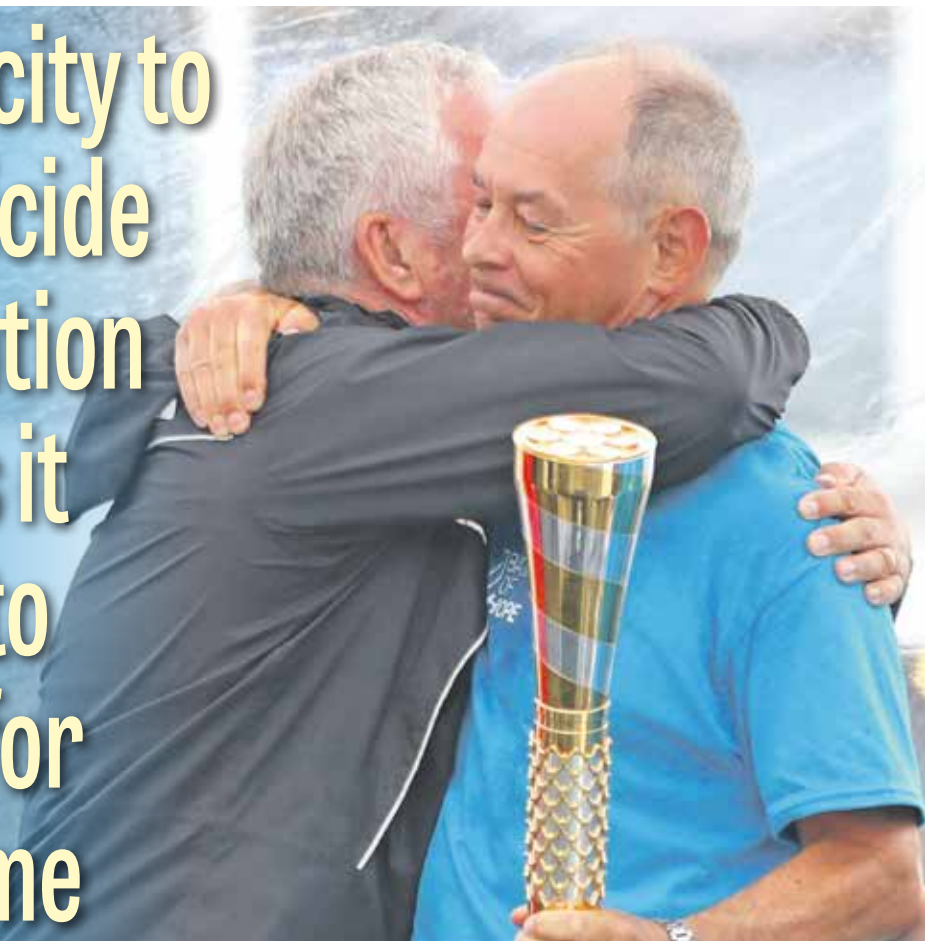
The most recent data by the Office for National Statistics shows the three-year average suicide rate in Leeds for 2021-2023 was 11.6 per 100,000 people - higher than the England average rate of 10.7.

The council also commissions the Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service, for anyone bereaved or affected by suicide.

Councillor Fiona Venner, Leeds City Council's executive member for equality, health and wellbeing, said: "We're honoured to have been chosen to host the Baton of Hope tour and help raise awareness of this important issue.

"Every suicide death leaves behind family, friends, colleagues and

Call to city to join suicide prevention tour as it heads to Leeds for first time



communities shattered by the loss.

"We have a long-term commitment to suicide prevention in Leeds and this tour is an incredibly moving way to show the strength of feeling in the city to reduce the number of people dying by suicide and remind us that no-one is alone – help is out there for those in need."

Victoria Eaton, Leeds City Council's director of public health, said: "We're

so proud to be hosting this iconic tour in Leeds this year and hope it will provide an inspirational opportunity for people to come together and show our city-wide commitment to promoting positive mental health and reducing stigma around suicide.

"Having suicide survivors and those bereaved by suicide in Leeds involved in carrying the baton will be a powerful

way to honour their own survival or memory of a lost loved one and I would encourage anyone interested to apply now through Baton of Hope UK."

People can apply to carry the baton through the charity's website at <https://batonofhopeuk.org/become-a-baton-bearer/> before the deadline of January 31.

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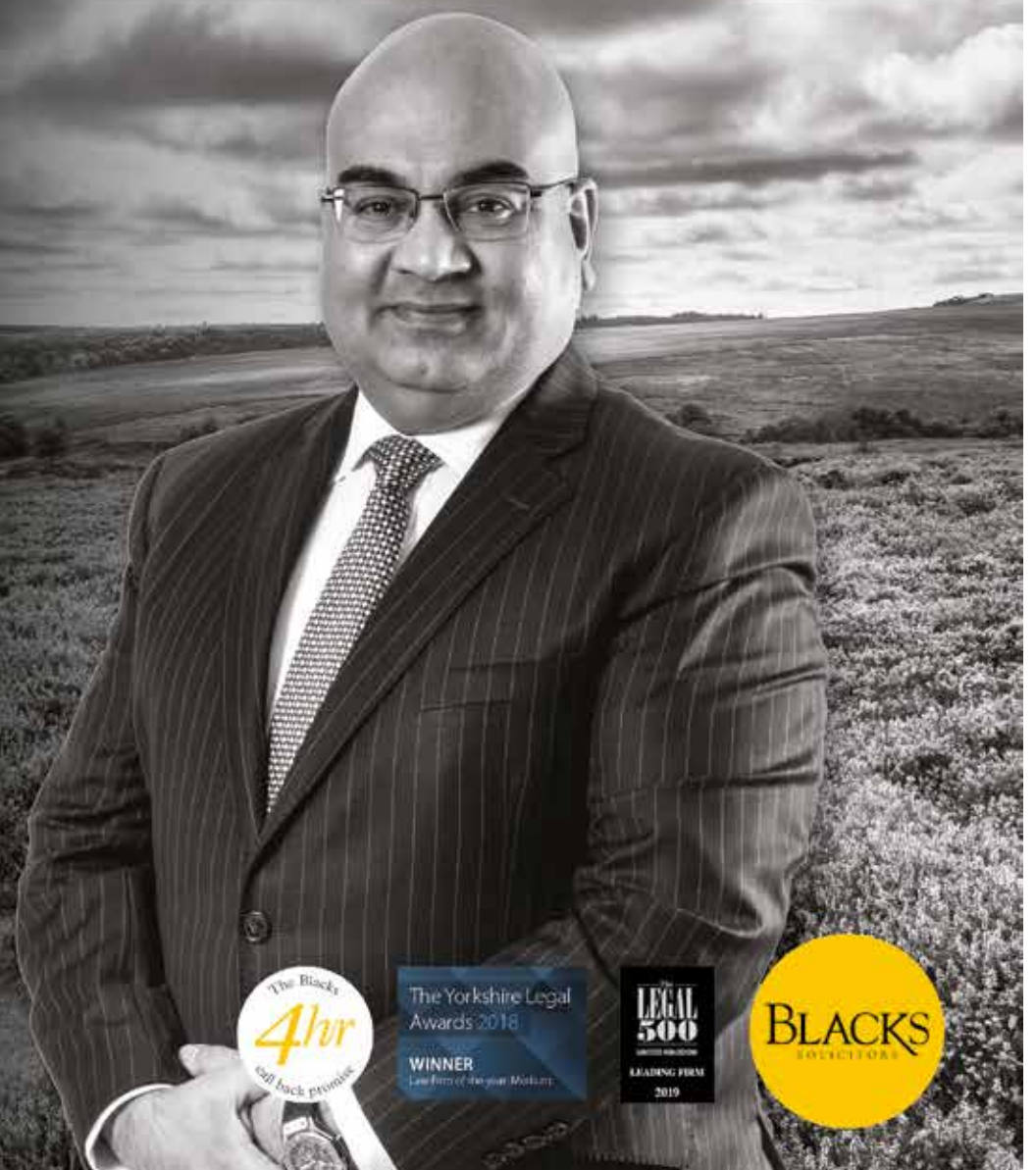
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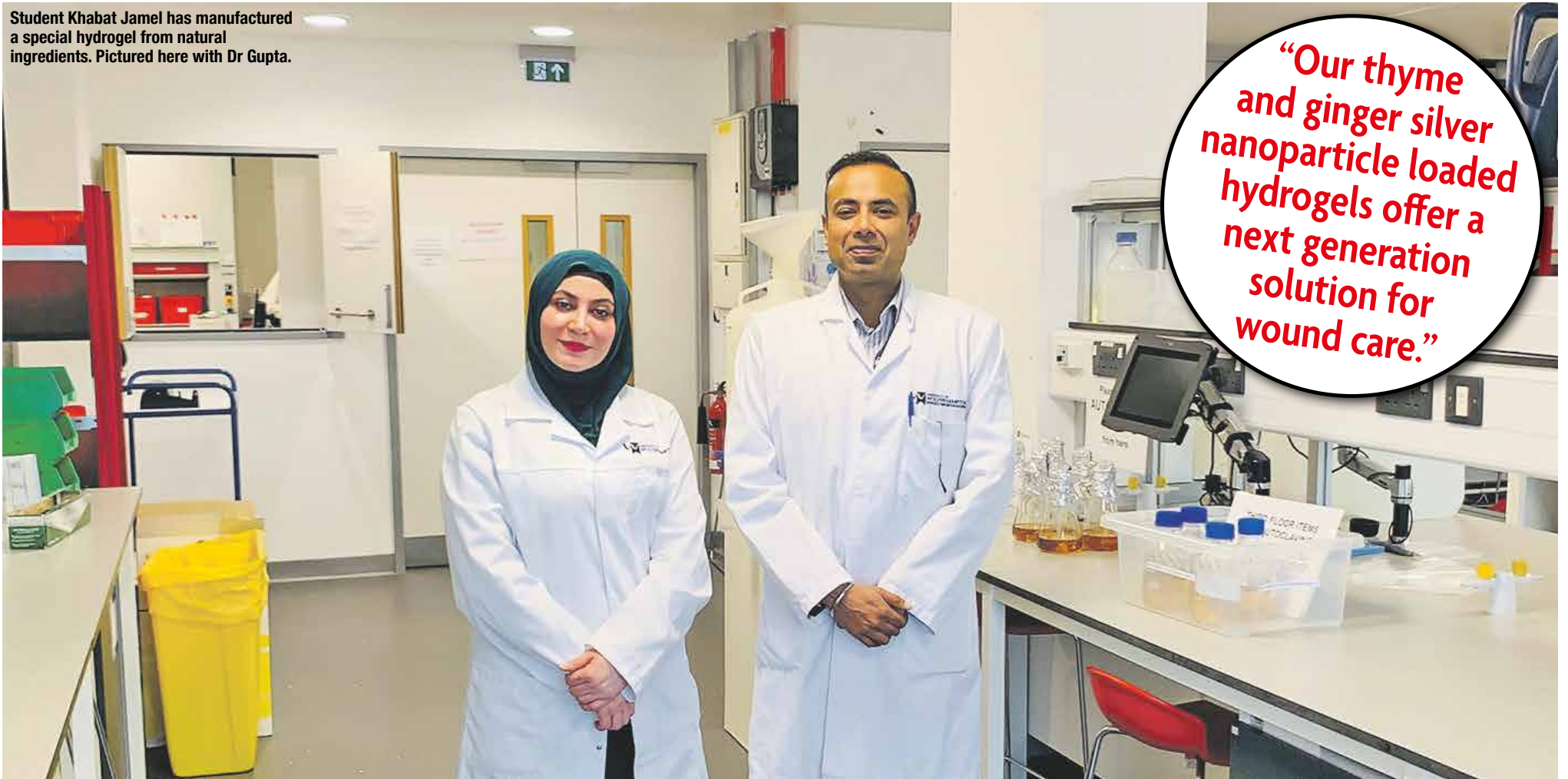
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Student Khabat Jamel has manufactured a special hydrogel from natural ingredients. Pictured here with Dr Gupta.



“Our thyme and ginger silver nanoparticle loaded hydrogels offer a next generation solution for wound care.”

Natural healing

Student develops biodegradable dressing to help transform wound care

A Master’s student from the University of Wolverhampton has developed a ground-breaking biodegradable wound dressing which could help transform wound care.

Student Khabat Jamel has created innovative hydrogels, as part of her research project, combining the natural healing properties of thyme and ginger

with the potent antimicrobial action of silver nanoparticles, offering a sustainable and effective alternative for wound care.

Khabat manufactured the hydrogel under the supervision of Dr Abhishek Gupta, Senior Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy at the University and an expert in advanced wound dressings.

As part of the project, Khabat created silver nanoparticles using green chemistry methods and utilised the natural bio-reducing properties of thyme and ginger extracts. Thyme, known for its anti-bacterial and antioxidant properties, and ginger, famed for its anti-inflammatory effects, were chosen for their unique contributions to wound

healing.

The silver nanoparticles were incorporated into bacterial cellulose hydrogels, resulting in a cutting-edge wound dressing with broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity.

The transparency of the hydrogels allows easy wound monitoring without needing to remove the dressing, making it particularly beneficial for managing chronic wounds, such as those experienced by diabetic patients and individuals with pressure ulcers.

Khabat said: “Our thyme and ginger silver nanoparticle loaded hydrogels offer a next generation solution for wound care. Using natural extracts from thyme and ginger, we’ve crafted a dressing that not only combats infection but does so in an environmentally sustainable way.

“Chronic wounds are notoriously difficult to treat, especially with rising antibiotic resistance. Our hydrogel, fortified with green synthesised silver

nanoparticles, presents a powerful, eco-friendly alternative to conventional treatments.

“What sets our wound dressing apart is the fusion of cutting-edge nanotechnology with the healing properties of thyme and ginger. This dual action dressing not only reduces bacterial growth but also allows for easier wound monitoring.”

Dr Gupta said: “Wound healing is a complex sequence of cellular and biochemical processes that, when uninterrupted, results in successful recovery. A major obstacle to wound healing is uncontrolled infections, which can create conditions at the wound site that hinder the body’s ability to heal. This issue is further exacerbated by the rise of antibiotic-resistant microbes, limiting treatment options for clinicians. Therefore, exploring alternative natural healing agents is crucial.”

Scottish Government funds £125,000 towards life changing work for flood survivors in Kenya

The Scottish Government’s Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF), and Islamic Relief has helped over 7,000 flood survivors in Garissa County, Kenya to rebuild their lives following devastating floods in 2024.

In spring of 2024, Garissa County - one of the two most impacted counties - was affected by floods that claimed the lives of 267 people, as well as massive property damage, loss of possessions and displacement of over 380,000 people.

With the help of the Scottish Government’s Humanitarian Emergency Fund (HEF), Islamic Relief supported survivors with multi-purpose cash transfers to help with healthcare, food, school related costs,

and farming to help rebuild lives.

During such disasters as floods, it is reported that gender-based violence increases due to the pressures on men as being seen as the household providers. The additional burdens that disasters place upon them can lead to stress which can breed violence, which is often inflicted upon their spouses.

To combat this rise in domestic violence, Islamic Relief has been training up local people as gender champions. So far, with the help of HEF, Islamic Relief has been able to train 200 champions, 122 women and 78 men. They are taught about gender-based issues, like domestic violence, and their causes. Men are included in this process, so they too

can understand the issues affecting women in their community and advocate for them.

The champions were trained on how to communicate and counsel survivors in cases of gender based related incidents as well as increasing people’s understanding, support for survivors, and reporting incidences of violence.

Hassan Abdi Abdille, Islamic Relief Kenya’s Country Director said: “When we initially started this programme there was some resistance from men in the community. Many thought it was a foreign concept or ideology that was intrusive to their own area. But also, it was men who had committed domestic violence, further explaining their resistance.

“But by bringing them on board during the training and making them a part of it, it helped demonstrate why this initiative was so important and got them on side. This in turn meant the men involved in our training programme would then communicate these messages to the other men in the community. We also brought in religious leaders into the process, as many would refer to their local imams on issues such as these. Gaining the support of imams helped people buy-in to our initiative that has backing in the local mosques.

“We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Scottish Government’s, Humanitarian Emergency fund for supporting this project and helping to transform

the lives of so many, we are deeply thankful.”

Nadeem Baqir, Islamic Relief UK’s Regional Community Fundraising Manager in Scotland said: “We are extremely grateful for the incredible support of the Scottish Government whose contribution will help so many people to rebuild their lives after the traumas of losing homes, loved ones and means to make a living due to the impact of devastating floods.

“This project will transform so many lives, and once again we see the generosity and kindness of the Scottish Government’s Humanitarian emergency fund, which is a lifeline to many struggling around the world. We thank the Scottish Government for this amazing support.”

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Two hospital teams shortlisted for national healthcare awards

Two specialist hospital teams from Bradford who have been shortlisted for three national healthcare awards considered the 'Oscars' for the sector.

The HSJ Partnership Awards celebrates health professionals where good practice and innovative programmes are celebrated among NHS staff and commercial colleagues.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which operates the Bradford Royal Infirmary, St Luke's Hospital and the district's community hospitals, has had two teams nominated after impressing the HSJ judges.

The Rheumatology and Transformation team has been shortlisted in two categories for their revamped Rheumatology Nurse Advice Line which was implemented alongside IT partners, Dr Doctor.

The team was shortlisted for the 'Best contribution to improving the efficiency of NHS services' award and 'Most effective contribution to improving care for those with long-term conditions' prize.

Consultant Rheumatologist, Kavitha Nadesalingam, said: "This work

which was led by Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Catherine Short and I, along with support from the trust's transformation team, has transformed our rheumatology advice line service.

"It has reduced waiting times by redirecting calls that would have otherwise come through to our CNS team to patient resources, thereby reducing our call back time and helping patients quicker.

"It has reduced waiting times by redirecting calls that would have otherwise come through to our CNS team to patient resources, thereby reducing our call back time and helping patients quicker."

"It has improved patient experience, safety and education and we are really proud of what we have achieved."

The Trust's Responsive Emergency Assessment and Community Team (REACT) service which provides an Acute Palliative Care Virtual Ward with daily Emergency Department in-reach has been shortlisted for the 'Best contribution to the improvement of urgent and emergency care' award.

This work which sees the hospital team working alongside colleagues from Marie Curie Bradford, aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions in the last year of life and ensure patients are cared for in the community and in their own homes, which is where they tell the service they want to be treated.

Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Clare Rayment said 'I am delighted the collaboration between Marie Curie and Bradford Teaching Hospitals has been shortlisted for this national award as the best contribution to the improvement of urgent and emergency care.

"It is a reflection of the dedication of the staff delivering REACT and those colleagues working in our Emergency Department."

The Rheumatology Nurse Advice Line has also attracted interest from other hospital trusts across England who are keen to adopt a similar, successful service for their patients, as it is replicable within other NHS departments.

The HSJ Partnership awards ceremony takes place on March 25, 2025.



Consultant Rheumatologist, Kavitha Nadesalingam



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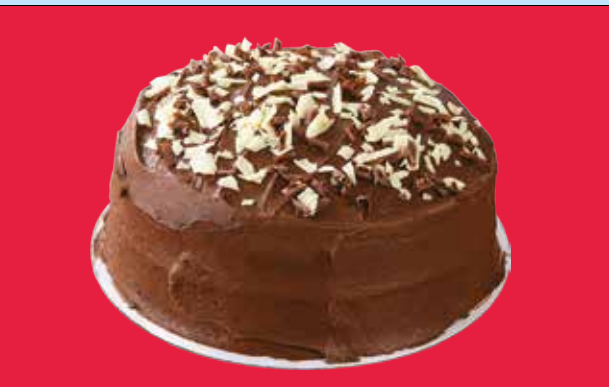
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Art exhibition showcases young creative talent

‘Our Bradford’

An exhibition of children’s artwork celebrating the people and places of the Bradford district is running at a city centre gallery.

Children from 40 schools from across the district have worked on pieces in the ‘Our Bradford’ exhibition that is on display at the Dye House Gallery until 30 January.

Each school has created a 2D artwork honouring a person of importance to their local community and a 3D piece of art showcasing the geography and buildings of their postcode.

The project has been led by the headteacher of Home Farm Primary School, Jo Poole, and Tony Bullock who is the Visual Arts coordinator for Bradford Council’s Music & Arts Service. They wanted to do something to celebrate Bradford having been awarded the status of UK City of Culture for 2025.

Headteacher Jo Poole said: “2025 is set to be an inspiring and creative year for Bradford with a legacy created for years to come. Tony and I wanted to create an event to celebrate the uniqueness and individuality of the different parts of the district and its people. All schools were invited to participate and showcase their talents.

“Through the art pieces I can see the pride our children have for their local hero and for their part of the Bradford district.”



“Through the art pieces I can see the pride our children have for their local hero and for their part of the Bradford district.

“Creativity, imagination and art play a crucial part in children’s development but can be overlooked. I’m proud that our project has provided opportunities to promote these areas.

“I’d like to thank all schools who have contributed and for their hard work. The children of Bradford have real talent! It is fantastic to see how each school has interpreted the brief.”

Cllr Sue Duffy, Bradford Council’s portfolio holder for children and families, said: “It is wonderful to see the pride and passion the children have for where they live.

“‘Our Bradford’ is a testament to their creativity and the strong sense of community that defines our district.

“Our year as City of Culture will bring some great artistic opportunities to our young people and their energy and enthusiasm will be a key to its success.”

Entry is free to The Dye House Gallery, which is part of the Bradford College campus. It is open to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11am to 4pm, and between 10.30am and 12.30pm on the first two Saturdays in January. On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, it is open by appointment only.

After the gallery showing, much of the work will go on display at local libraries, Shipley Pool and Sedburgh Sports Centre.



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Three men convicted in Belgium over their involvement in a major people smuggling ring following a joint investigation by the National Crime Agency and Belgian police have been arrested in the UK.

The men – all Afghan nationals – were apprehended by National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service officers in south London, Hertfordshire and Essex after warrants were issued for their arrest by Belgian courts.

Ziarmal Khan (AKA Boxer Bhai), aged 24, was arrested on 6 December by MPS officers at Stansted Airport in relation to a domestic violence offence, and further arrested on behalf of the Belgians while in custody.

Specialist NCA extradition officers then arrested 20-year-old Zeeshan Banghis (AKA Bangash Zeeshan) at an address on New Kent Road on 18 December and Saifur Rahman Ahmedzai (AKA Raeem Hamza), 23, at an address in Hemel Hempstead on Monday 30 December.

Prosecutors in Belgium say the trio's gang were involved in organising the transport of migrants from Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey and the Balkans into western Europe, mainly France and Belgium.

Many would eventually be put on small boats from northern France to the UK, with the gang suspected of transporting thousands of people this way.

The group also committed serious sexual offences against male migrant minors, including rape which they would video and use footage to blackmail the victims into criminality and further sexual abuse.

NCA investigators supported the



Fugitive members of smuggling ring who transported thousands, and sexually abused, migrants arrested

Belgian investigation for around two years, supplying intelligence and evidence to the Belgian Federal Police around suspected members of the network.

Last month, a court in Antwerp convicted and sentenced the trio and 20 other members of the gang to a

total of 170 years imprisonment, with sentences ranging from two to 18 years.

Eleven members were tried in their absence, including the three men arrested in the UK.

Ahmedzai was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, while Khan and

Banghis were each sentenced to three years in jail. All three were also fined 3,000 Euros.

They now face being returned to Belgium to serve their sentences and extradition proceedings have commenced.

Officers also worked with

colleagues from Border Force and Immigration Enforcement to identify migrants and victims of the network who had been transported to the UK, conducting safeguarding checks.

NCA Deputy Director Craig Turner said: "This operation shows that no matter where people smuggling gangs operate, we will find them and bring them to justice.

"These men were part of a network involved in illegally moving migrants across the globe, through Europe and eventually into northern Europe and the UK, profiting from the dangerous situations they put vulnerable people into as they were transported, and committing the most heinous sexual offences against them.

"The work done by NCA officers, alongside partners in the UK and Belgium, was crucial to securing the convictions in Antwerp of gang members in November this year, and these further arrests should send a very clear message that we will not stop in our work to disrupt and dismantle the gangs that are behind these horrendous crimes."

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, said: "This case is nothing short of sickening. These men ran extensive illegal smuggling operations and inflicted extreme cruelty on the migrants they smuggled – some of them children – when they were at their most vulnerable.

"I am grateful to the NCA, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement officers, for their hard work and dedication in pursuing these vile criminal gangs, safeguarding victims of exploitation and protecting our borders."



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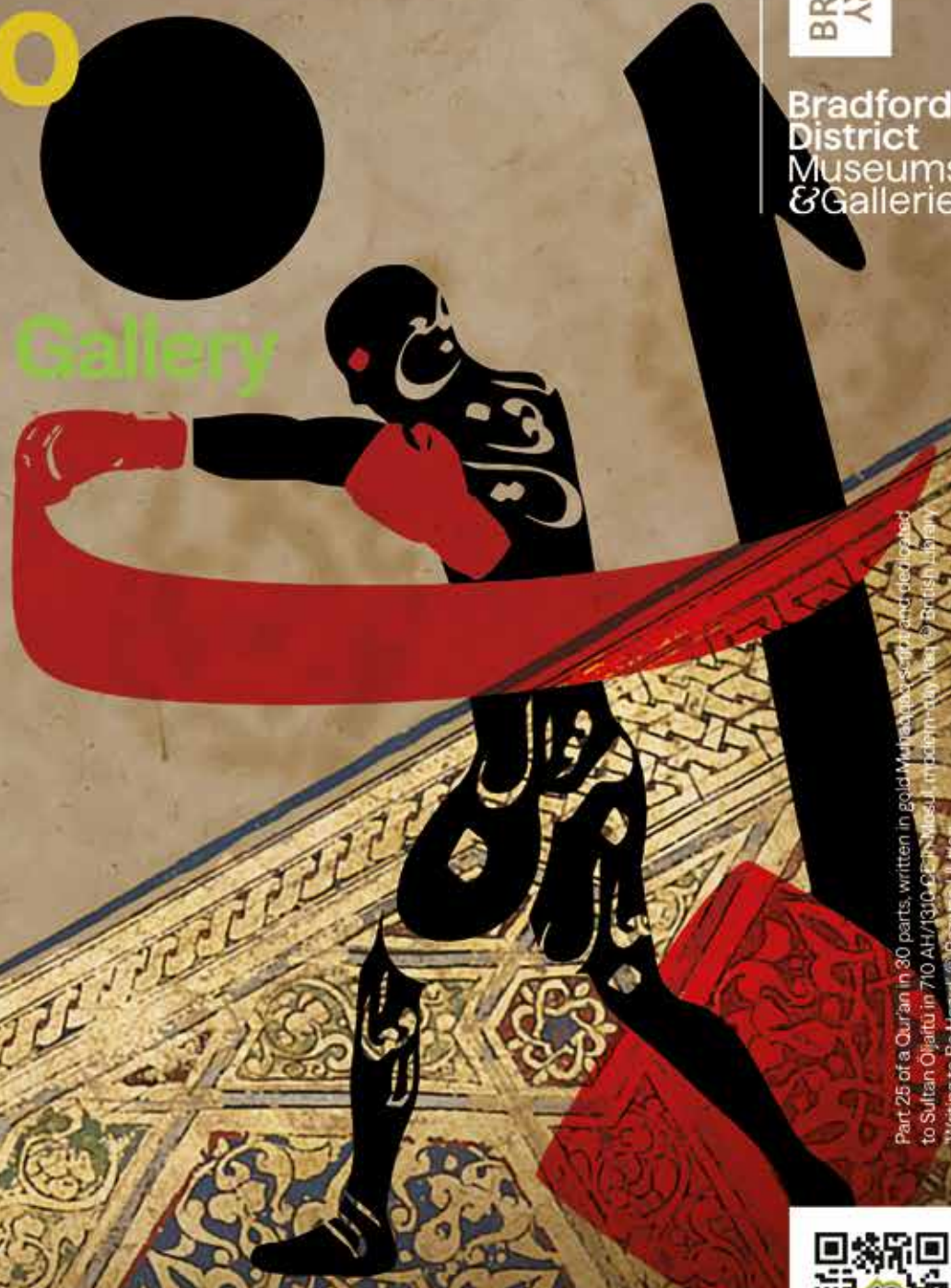
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Exhibition

CEO of Regal Food Products Group Plc, Younis Chaudhry has been recognised in the New Year Honours List with an MBE for his services to business and to the community of Bradford.

For over twenty years Younis Chaudhry has excelled in British business and international trade, all whilst giving back at every opportunity to the Bradford community and beyond.

Starting life from very humble beginnings, Younis has not only built one of the UK's most successful food groups, Regal Food Products Group plc (home of Regal Bakery, Regal Foods, Yorkshire Baking Company, Just Desserts Yorkshire and Love Handmade Cakes), but has become one of the most exciting and well-respected entrepreneurs.

Younis continues to contribute positively to the UK economy, is a tremendous ambassador for the value of export, and 'gives back' at every opportunity. From supporting community sporting clubs, feeding those in need in his local community, to working with charities overseas, Younis is making a difference to the people around him.

Younis was recently recognised as one of The LDC Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders for 2024, in partnership with The Times.

Younis Chaudhry MBE comments: "When I started in business over twenty years ago, nothing would have prepared me for the journey I have been on, both in business and in life. The community in where I live and where I have built my business is everything to me and I am humbled to be a part of it."

"Whilst I feel it is my duty to give back, I feel truly honoured to have received such recognition. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for my family, I would personally like to thank

my parents for their prayers and blessings and for the guidance they have given me in life.

"A heartfelt thanks also goes to my wife, children, and brothers for the support they continue to give."

"I am honoured to work with around 300 people who make up my brilliant team at Regal Food Products Group, I thank each and every one of them for joining me in my Regal journey and for working with me in building the great food group you see today."

"And finally, my dear friends, friends who have stayed by my side throughout my journey both on a personal and professional level."

Shahid Afridi, Chairman of Shahid Afridi Foundation comments: "Younis is kind, generous and down-to-earth (despite his success), his generosity to the Shahid Afridi Foundation is so vital in helping disadvantaged communities access amenities that we take for granted in the western world. It is because of individuals such as Younis, these people are provided with hope. He has a wonderful humanitarian spirit, and we are extremely grateful to him for his continuing benevolence."

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Warsi comments: "Younis demonstrated that the process of building and developing a viable commercial enterprise can be done with hard work and determination. He has become a role model to so many other business leaders."

"Younis is a renowned philanthropist and well-known across Bradford and Yorkshire. And when it comes to 'giving back', he is everywhere! From supporting cricket clubs and youth teams in the local community, to funding clean water projects in developing countries, Younis can be found, supporting quietly without fanfare."



Regal Foods CEO Younis Chaudhry awarded MBE in New Year Honours list

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KORT's Balochistan housing project delivers 250 dwellings to flood-affected families

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti



The keys to 250 houses, constructed for the flood-affected families of Balochistan in Pakistan, have officially been handed over during a heartfelt ceremony at the Chief Minister's House in Quetta.

The event was graced by the presence of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, alongside KORT Chairman, Choudhary Mohammed Akhtar.

Other notable attendees included Saleem Khosa, Minister for Communication & Works, Asim Kurd, Minister for Revenue, and Barkat Rind, Parliamentary Secretary, Hamza Shafqaat Commissioner Quetta, among other dignitaries.

The Balochistan housing project, another Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust (KORT) initiative, marks a significant milestone towards rebuilding lives and restoring hope for those impacted by the 2022 floods.

KORT, a UK registered charity, began its work in Pakistan 19-years ago following the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that rocked the northern areas of Kashmir and Pakistan.



KORT founder and chairman Choudhary Mohammed Akhtar

The charity's chairman, Choudhry Mohammed Akhtar, after witnessing the plight of thousands - especially the orphan children, was compelled to respond.

Ch Akhtar rented a building in established sanctuary for orphan children, but that was just the beginning. In 2008, fuelled by desire to provide even greater support, built a new purpose facility that would redefine the very concept of an orphanage.

Up to date, KORT has delivered

educational and residential projects for over 1,500 children.

The last year has seen KORT commit to building and delivering schools across Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK), dozens of two-bedroom dwellings for vulnerable widows and their young families, as well as providing hundreds of educational resources to children.

Their most ambitious project yet is also currently underway - a 500-bed £32M free healthcare facility, which is set to change the lives of millions of people in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, and surrounding areas.

The KORT Hospital Complex will feature an Accident & Emergency department, along with full hospital services such as outpatient care, radiology, paediatrics, pathology, pulmonary, dental and eye clinics, proving an essential lifeline for the poor and needy. Also being developed on site is accommodation for staff and students, a dental college, a nursing training college, a teaching college as well as other facilities.

To find out more about KORT's work, please visit kort.org.uk

Their most ambitious project yet is also currently underway - a 500-bed £32M free healthcare facility, which is set to change the lives of millions of people in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, and surrounding areas.





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Branch Code: 0116

Pak Rupees- Sadaqah Account

Bank Name: FAYSAL BANK LIMITED
Account Name: Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
Account No: 01160060003342
IBAN:PK65FAYS0001160060060003342
Swift Code: FAYSPKK0116
Branch Code: 0116

Pak Rupees - Hospital Account

Bank Name: FAYSAL BANK LIMITED
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A recent report by security firm Egress has highlighted the increasing role that quishing is playing in phishing attacks. With the popularity of QR codes rising all the time, cybercriminals have identified them as an 'easy' route into an organisation's data and infrastructure.

Like most phishing attacks, it plays on the trusting nature of an employee, tricking them into using the QR code that looks like it will take them to a legitimate page.

However, it instead pushes the victim towards a malicious site that can result in cybercriminals gaining direct access to a company's systems.

Whilst the increasing use of QR codes has driven cybercriminals to this new tactic, it has also been the successful countering of malicious hyperlinks with intelligent cloud-based solutions that have meant that they have had to find new ways of finding holes in company defences.

As we know, cybercriminals tend to be at least one step ahead of the sectors' attempts to keep them out, and QR codes offer a real opportunity for bad players to go around new, effective defences.

Egress identified that from 1st January – 31st August 2024, 12 percent of all phishing attacks contained a QR code. This is likely to increase substantially in 2025 due to an expected surge in QR code usage this year so companies have to become more aware of what such threats look like and how their employees can better manage the incoming phishing attacks.

The report highlights what a typical attack looks like:

Step 1 - The victim receives a phishing attack containing a QR code, often accompanied by social engineering



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With QR code redemption set to surge to 5.3 billion in 2025, cybercriminals will increase their quishing attacks

techniques designed to compel them to read it. Cybercriminals typically emphasise elements such as urgency, authority, or emotional appeals within the email to increase the likelihood that the recipient will engage with the malicious payload

Step 2 - The victim uses their smartphone camera to read the QR code, which prompts them to open their browser and directs them to a malicious website.

Step 3 - Depending on the nature of the website, the victim could be asked to enter log-in credentials or financial details, or malware may be downloaded onto their device. If the attacker successfully gains access to a user's credentials, they can use these to launch further attacks within an organisation or move laterally across networks

Rob Batters, Director of Managed and Technical Services, Northdoor explains: "Essentially, quishing works the same as a 'normal' phishing attack; however, by utilising a trusted source such as a QR code, cybercriminals are increasing their chances of success. Quishing, as a tactic, is relatively new, but as companies and solutions begin to catch up cybercriminals are already adapting their approaches.

"Some are putting the malicious QR code on a coloured background to try and make it harder for

software to identify the code's anchors and highlight it as malicious.

"Others are embedding the code within emails as attachments. Once the attachment is open it can be opened as any other QR code but it can trick some software into allowing it through.

employees is that such efforts to get past the software means that the code itself looks more suspicious and easier to identify as a cyberattack.

"The key for countering quishing attacks is the same as phishing attacks. If employees can identify what a malicious email looks like

continue and likely become more sophisticated and complex. This means that the job of internal IT and security teams becomes more onerous and time-consuming. At a time when manpower and budgets are stretched, this becomes, on the face of it, an almost impossible task.

Quishing involves the embedding or attaching of QR codes into phishing emails, which take victims to malicious websites

"The most sophisticated approaches involves embedding QR codes within macro-enabled Excel files. When opened these files execute macros that assemble a malicious URL from separate cells and generate a QR code from it. As most solutions struggle to analyse a fragmented URL components it increases the chances of the code getting through. The positive for

then they are unlikely to click any link, open an attachment or use a QR code. Keeping employees up to date with the latest threats and how to deal with them means that cybercriminals have to find new routes to gain access to data and systems.

"The efforts of cybercriminals to find a soft underbelly of a company's security will

"Many are turning to third-party consultancies to help shoulder some of the pressure. These consultancies can also provide the expertise that in-house struggle with. By keeping an eye on systems as well as informing teams about the latest threats, consultancies are, in many cases, in a better position to keep cybercriminals out," Batters concluded.

New Healthy Heart Screenings aim to reduce heart attacks and strokes in West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership is rolling out groundbreaking cardiovascular disease (CVD) health screening to targeted local communities as part of its commitment to increase the years of life that local people live in good health.

The 'Healthy Heart Screening' uses app-based technology, provided by PocDoc, to offer patients a comprehensive cholesterol profile, body mass index score, heart age estimate, and a ten-year risk assessment for having a heart attack or stroke.

The use of the new technology means patients can have the results of their screen within minutes and start making healthy changes straight away.

Patients will also be offered resources to help them understand their results and lifestyle advice on how to improve their heart health.

In West Yorkshire, almost 6% of the adult population has CVD, and over 115,000 people are at high risk of developing a heart attack or stroke over the next 10 years according to their QRISK score.

By detecting risk early, it means patients have the chance to reduce this through a healthy diet and exercise, as well as receiving further preventative care if needed.

Importantly, the Healthy Heart Screening is proven to be successful in reaching those at higher risk of developing CVD, including Black or South Asian people, those with severe mental illness or learning disabilities, people living in deprivation, men aged 40 to 59 and women aged 35 to 55.

The first screenings will be delivered at the following sites: Get Set Goal at the University of Huddersfield, Healthy Heart Community Hubs in Wakefield, and

Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Pathfinder pilot sites.

Screenings will be offered to those in attendance at these sites who are identified as being at high risk of CVD and meet the eligibility criteria.



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Moana 2 causes a copyright headache for Disney

There have been widespread headlines recently that Disney is being sued for \$10 billion USD (approximately £8.1 billion) for alleged copyright infringement in relation its hit animation film Moana 2.

Buck Woodall, an American animator has initiated legal action against Disney in the California Federal Court claiming that Disney has stolen elements of a screenplay he produced for an animated film project in the early 2000s named "Bucky". The screenplay was shared with the Director of Mandeville Films, an independent film company, in 2003 and featured a character who "encountered a tattooed demi-god with a giant hook" and "a giant creature that's concealed within a mountain". The Director also asked Mr Woodall to provide production plans and character designs so they could proceed with the development of the animation. Mr Woodall claimed that he received copyright protection for these materials in 2004, which was updated in 2014, and he believes that his materials were passed over to Disney through "legal loopholes".

The legal action refers to alleged overlaps with his screenplay and

Moana 2. Both involve an ancient Polynesian village and the Polynesian belief in spiritual ancestors manifested as animals as well as a plot involving a "symbolic necklace" and a dangerous adventure to save a Polynesian island.

As a result of this alleged copyright infringement, Mr Woodall is seeking an order in addition to damages to ban further infringement of his copyright. The Court will need to consider whether both works are substantially similar or strikingly similar and whether this amounts to Disney's Moana 2 being an infringement of Mr Woodall's ideas.

Whilst this case relates to a copyright claim in the United States, there are also copyright laws in this country. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 protects the author or creator's rights giving them the exclusive right to copy, adapt, lend or sell copies of their work. Copyright protection starts as soon as the work is created and is enforceable until 70 years after the author or creator's death. If those rights are infringed, then the author or creator can pursue legal action with potential remedies including damages and/or an injunction to stop the person making further use of the work.

It appears that Mr Woodall tried to sue Disney previously over the first Moana film that was created in 2016. However, due to limitation under US law, that claim was dismissed. With the release of Moana 2, legal action is once again being taken by Mr Woodall. This highlights the importance of knowing the limitation periods for claims. In England and Wales, a claim for copyright infringement must be brought within six years from the date of the infringement.

If you are involved in any intellectual property dispute or require advice on intellectual property matters, then Blacks Solicitors can assist. Please contact Luke Patel on 0113 227 9316 or by email at L.Patel@LawBlacks.com.



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5.4 million yet to file their tax return

With less than a month to go, the countdown is on for 5.4 million customers who still need to complete and pay their Self Assessment and avoid penalties, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) warns.

Thousands of taxpayers have already done so by completing their tax returns before the fizz was barely flat on New Year's Day. HMRC can today reveal more than 24,800 people filed on 1 January.

A further 38,000 had even squeezed theirs in before the bells on 31 December, with 310 filing between 23:00 and 23:59.

Filing your tax return and paying on time plays an important role in supporting public services and the government's Plan for Change, which is delivering economic stability and investment across the UK. Anyone who is yet to file their tax return can do so online, via GOV.UK.

Anyone required to file a tax return for the 2023 to 2024 tax year who misses the 31 January 2025 deadline could face an initial late filing penalty of £100.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer

Services, said: "We know completing your tax return isn't the most exciting item on your New Year to-do list, but it's important to file and pay on time to avoid penalties or being charged interest.

"The quickest and easiest way to complete your tax return and pay any tax owed is to use HMRC's online services – go to GOV.UK and search 'Self Assessment' to get started now."

Some 97% of customers now file online and one benefit is that they don't have to complete it all in one go – they can save what they have done and pick it up again later.

Once a tax return is filed, payments can also be made quickly and securely through the HMRC app. Customers can set up notifications in the app to remind them when payments are due, so they don't need to worry about missing deadlines or penalties. Information about the different ways to pay, can be found on GOV.UK.

HMRC has a wide range of resources online including a series of video tutorials on YouTube, help and support on GOV.UK, to support customers in completing their tax return.

For people who can't meet

the tax return deadline, HMRC will treat those with reasonable excuses fairly if they tell us before 31 January.

There are also additional penalties for paying late of 5% of the tax unpaid at 30 days, 6 months and 12 months. If tax remains unpaid after the deadline, interest will also be charged on the amount owed, in addition to the penalties above.

If someone regularly sells goods or provides services through an online platform, they may need to pay tax on their income. Customers can find out more about selling online and paying taxes on GOV.UK by searching 'online platform income' or by downloading the HMRC app. The guidance will help them decide if their activity should be treated as a trade and if they need to complete a Self Assessment tax return.

Criminals use emails, phone calls and texts to try to steal information and money from taxpayers. Before sharing personal or financial details, people should search 'HMRC tax scams' on GOV.UK to access a checklist to help decide if the contact received is a scam.

The penalties for late tax returns are:

- an initial £100 fixed penalty, which applies even if there is no tax to pay, or if the tax due is paid on time
- after 3 months, additional daily penalties of £10 per day, up to a maximum of £900
- after 6 months, a further penalty of 5% of the tax due or £300, whichever is greater
- after 12 months, another 5% or £300 charge, whichever is greater

You also may need to file a return if you:

- are newly self-employed and have earned gross income over £1,000
- earned below £1,000 but wish to pay Class 2 National Insurance Contributions voluntarily to protect your entitlement to State Pension and certain benefits
- are a new partner in a business partnership
- have received any untaxed income over £2,500
- receive Child Benefit payments and need to pay the High Income Child Benefit Charge because you or your partner earned more than £50,000

business power

Top-rated legal firm, Batley Law, expand with new Conveyancing department



A fast-growing award-winning law firm with over 50-years of combined legal experience has just welcomed the opening of its new Conveyancing department.

With over 400 five-star Google reviews, and a 4.9 score on Trustpilot, Batley Law - offices in Batley and Hull hosted the launch of their Conveyancing department, in collaboration with Islamic Finance provider Stride Up.

At an event held at Sapphire Banqueting Hall on 15th of January, Managing Director of Batley Law - Mr Waseem Nazir, presented how the firm has grown from a two-man team to now a team of 20 caseworkers, boasting a very diverse team with individuals from 10 different nationalities.



Batley Law's newly appointed Head of Conveyancing - Liaquot Ali presented his plans for the new department.

Liaquot, an individual with over 15-years experience having managed HNW clients for both Barclays Premier and Coutts during his ten year stint with Optima Legal.

Mr Nazir commented: "With Liaquot Ali's expertise on board now, Batley Law are in a position to carry out all property-related work including, Sales, Purchases, Transfer of equity, Commercial leases and Landlord/tenant disputes."

Head of Sales for Stride up (Islamic finance provider) Rizwan Ali presented the work their organisation is doing to allow customers to purchase homes in a more ethical manner as oppose to traditional lending.

Professionals and businesspeople from the property industry were in attendance, including many estate agents and property developers.



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...life & style

5 foods to stock this winter to curb illness

Like Phil Collins said, I can feel it coming in the air tonight. Or if you've been around people who don't cover their mouths, maybe you could see it in the air.

That's right, it's cold and flu season, and just about everyone seems to be sick with something.

If you're like me and want to avoid that bug, here are 5 foods you need in your pantry this winter, according to Jaya Jaya Myra, former immunologist turned mind-body wellness expert.



Kiwis

"Kiwis are high in vitamins, particularly vitamin C. This can help you battle winter colds and help you heal inside and out."

Continued on page 32

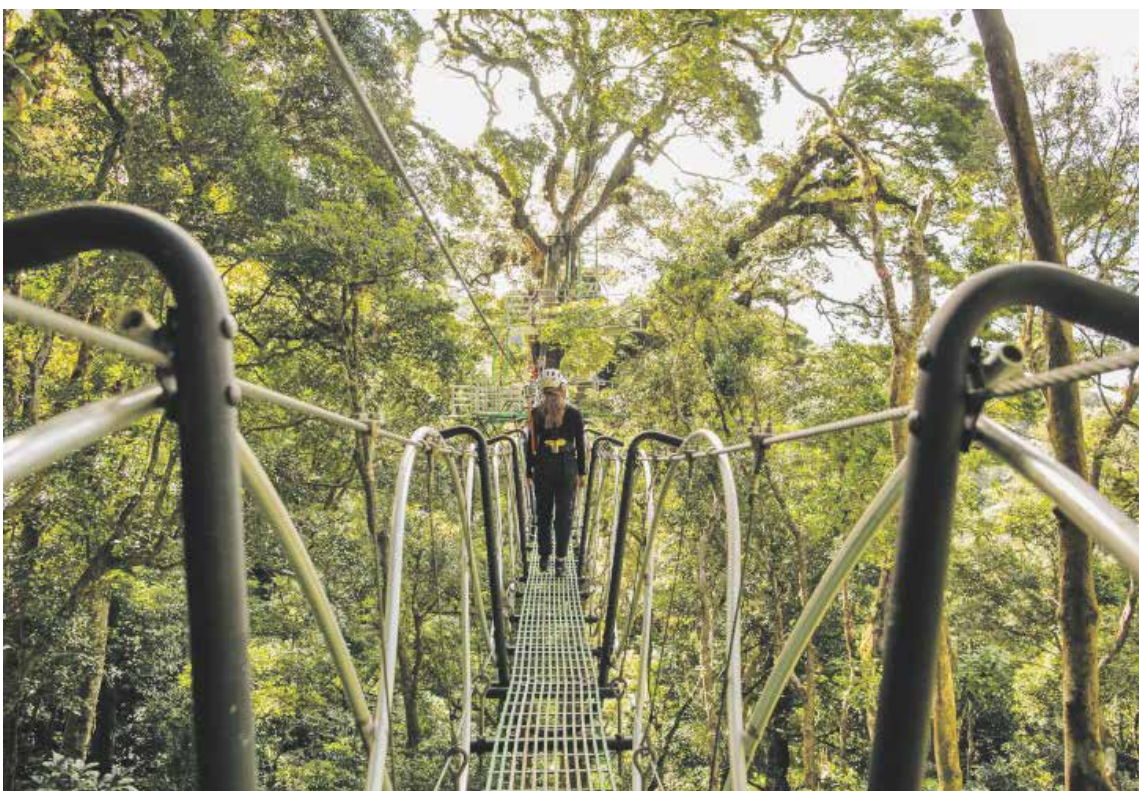
Reset in 2025 with these wellness experiences around the world

Ananda in the Himalayas: Focus on Ayurvedic Traditions

Embrace tradition at Ananda in the Himalayas, a holistic wellness retreat in North India that overlooks the spiritual town of Rishikesh. Ananda's Sleep Enhancement Program is the perfect way to begin the new year by addressing sleep issues and improving overall sleep. A customized comprehensive approach of lifestyle modifications, dietary corrections, Ayurveda therapies and Traditional Chinese Medicine improve sleep quality. The healing therapies and guidance from physicians, yogis and healers help calm the nerves, restore the metabolic and emotional balance for high energy levels and a renewed state of self. Ananda offers a range of signature programs targeting specific health issues including stress management, longevity, menopause, fertility, men's and women's health and more.

Customized programs take place in the former Palace Estate of the Maharaja of Tehri-Garhwal, which spans 100 acres of lush grounds and gardens and embraces emotional healing and spiritual awareness. The heart of Ananda lies in its 25,000 square foot wellness center, offering therapy rooms, open-air yoga and meditation pavilions, an outdoor pool, a physiotherapy center, gymnasium, and a range of Ayurvedic therapies. Wellbeing retreats in India, such as Ananda in the Himalayas, play a vital role in fostering holistic health and wellness in today's fast-paced world. Ayurveda is a journey of self-discovery, making use of mental and emotional strengths by keeping the body healthy.

New for 2025, Ananda is hosting a group retreat in Portugal at the end of February. Set amidst the vineyards and rolling hills of Arrábida Nature Park, Casa Palmela welcomes visitors to a wellness journey designed to provide participants with a deeply personalized and transformative experience, weaving together Ayurveda, yoga, and mindfulness practices in a serene and breathtaking setting. Learn more about Ananda's other upcoming wellness escapes to the Maldives and Wales in 2025. Visit www.anandaspa.com.



Hotel Belmar in Costa Rica: Immerse in Rainforest Tranquility

It's back to basics with yoga and nature at carbon-neutral Hotel Belmar, which ties in sustainable practice to its wellness approach. Central America's premier destination for enriching experiences, Hotel Belmar provides massages, and yoga for traditionalists looking for a straightforward way to reconnect in Monteverde's cloud forest. Fresh mountain air, vibrant biodiversity, and a sense of tranquility foster introspection and renewal, while the property's sustainable practices and immersive experiences enhance the transformative journey.

Wellness seekers at Hotel Belmar are drawn to their holistic approach, which blends the tranquility of Monteverde's cloud forest with guided forest immersions, yoga, and farm-to-table culinary experiences. Guests can expect personalized itineraries focused on mental clarity, physical rejuvenation, and spiritual connection. From hiking through their forest reserve to taking part in regenerative farming practices at Finca Madre Tierra, each activity is designed to inspire a deeper connection to oneself and the natural world.

SAVIA creates curated rainforest experiences at Hotel Belmar bringing guests up close to nature. Professional Forest Mobility Experts guide visitors as they explore the forest's layered wonders. Trails, gardens, platforms, suspension bridges, and other surprise elements prompt participants to continually shift gears and perspectives to kindle curiosity, adrenaline, and discovery. Five unique thematic forest immersions await visitors throughout the day, whether its early birdwatching, expeditions at nightfall, or enjoying a specialty cocktail high up in the forest's canopy. Hotel Belmar is an independent, family-owned luxury eco-lodge situated in Costa Rica's renowned Monteverde cloud forest highlands. Its spirited hospitality has pioneered a model of regenerative tourism that enriches travelers with immersive experiences, fostering connections to nature, mindful serenity, and holistic wellness. Visit www.hotelbelmar.net.



Naya Traveler: Tap Into Ancient Traditions

The best way to get back to wellbeing basics is to be inspired by cultures that do it best. Naya Traveler's growing list of Wellness Wanders are designed to detox, refuel and rejuvenate mind and body within a unique cultural context. They pair the transformative power of travel with the benefits of native wellbeing practices, inviting travelers to engage more meaningfully with a destination. Either private or small group itineraries are available, lasting a minimum of seven days. Carefully crafted wellness-centric experiences reflect the ancient healing and wellbeing traditions of each of their destinations around the world.

Travelers can tap into the traditional hammam baths and natural exfoliating scrubs with black soap when booking an excursion to Morocco. Visitors will be restored by local rhassoul clay, aromatic plants, rose water and henna while learning about Prophetic Medicine, a traditional form of homeopathy inspired by spiritual and natural resources of the Arabian Peninsula. A trip to Moulay Yacoub, famous for its natural hot springs, offers sulfur-rich water full of therapeutic properties. In North America, travelers can embrace Navajo healing traditions while communing with nature in Utah. It is the best way to learn wellness techniques from the masters to tap into the elements of earth, wind, fire, and water. The Colorado Plateau features the highest concentration of national parks in America with excursions available to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Park, inviting visitors to explore ancient wellness traditions in some of the country's most beautiful landscapes.

Founded in 2016, Naya Traveler offers tailor-made experiential journeys to a curated selection of destinations steeped in ancient traditions and customs. Naya Traveler works with an exceptional group of local hosts and expert guides in each destination, ranging from historians and artists to ethnographers and chefs. Visit www.nayatraveler.com.



Calabash Cove Resort and Spa: Natural Scrubs and Soothing

Self-care amenities abound at Calabash Cove Resort and Spa, where the Ti Spa blends traditional European techniques with Saint Lucia's storied tradition of using plant and food-based curatives. Forget the technology and serums and get back to basics with Earth's bounty to cleanse the body of stress and relax the mind. Therapists will gladly show the benefits of different scrubs and treatments.

It is all about embracing what's natural, whether it's a coffee, papaya, lemon salt or chocolate spice scrub, paired with a volcanic mud mask or a healing aloe and lavender cocoon. Papaya scrubs blend island fruits, sugar, and oils to rejuvenate skin and fight signs of aging while lemon salt scrubs leave skin glowing. The exfoliation products are all organic made from local products that are in some cases directly from the resort. Guests dip into the Caribbean and enjoy massages with a view of the ocean or in the privacy of each guest's room. The resort's outdoor gazebo is perched on a hill overlooking the ocean and is the perfect spot for a spa treatment while listening to the waves down below. For guests who do not want to choose just one treatment, the spa offers a detox bundle with a cleansing salt scrub, an herbal mud wrap, and a lymphatic drainage massage.

Calabash Cove Resort and Spa is one of the most popular all-inclusive, adults-only boutique hotels in Saint Lucia, a Caribbean hideaway offering seclusion, beauty, and mesmerizing views at every turn. Its 26 villas feature classic Caribbean charm coupled with luxurious resort amenities of today. From the heavenly Windsong restaurant and lively C-Bar overlooking the infinity pool to the peaceful Ti Spa, guests have everything at their fingertips when vacationing at Calabash Cove. Visit www.calabashcove.com.



Bollywood star Manisha Koirala to become Ambassador for ovarian cancer support charity

Celebrated Bollywood and Netflix star Manisha Koirala is to become an Ambassador for the UK's ovarian cancer support charity Ovacomе.

Having successfully overcome stage 4 ovarian cancer almost a decade ago, Manisha is now using her platform to support others battling the disease and to spotlight critical issues such as health inequalities in the UK and beyond.

7,500 people in the UK are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year.

Through her voluntary work with Ovacomе, Manisha will engage with cancer survivors and patients, offering words of encouragement and hope while shedding light on the importance of early detection and support systems.

With many patients still diagnosed in the late stages of the disease, Manisha will also be working to raise awareness of the disease and the symptoms. With her deep personal understanding of the physical and emotional toll of cancer, Manisha aims to inspire others to stay positive and keep fighting.

"I want to use my voice to not only support cancer patients but to raise awareness about the need for equitable healthcare access and the importance of knowing the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer" said Manisha.

"Having faced cancer myself, I know how isolating and challenging the journey can be, and I believe it is essential that we all play a part in changing that reality for others."

Victoria Clare, Ovacomе CEO said "We hear daily from those we support about the isolation they feel following an ovarian cancer diagnosis. Manisha's decision to share her own

experience and challenge the stigma associated with the disease is deeply inspiring and will help so many amongst our community.

"Ovacomе are firmly committed to reducing health inequalities and we hope together that we can be a force in improving equitable access to diagnosis and treatment."

Manisha is also the author of *Healed*, a powerful memoir detailing her journey with cancer. Her resilience and contributions to cinema were recognised last year when she was honoured in British Parliament. Adding to these accolades, she has received heartfelt letters from Kate Middleton and King Charles, offering their best wishes for her continued recovery.

Alongside her philanthropic work, Manisha is enjoying the success of her latest role in the hit Netflix series *Heeramandi*. The series has shattered records, becoming one of India's biggest OTT hits. Manisha's performance earned her the Best Actress award, cementing her status as a powerhouse in international cinema.

The versatile actor is also the granddaughter of

former Nepalese Prime Minister Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala, a background that further underscores her commitment to public service and advocacy.

Manisha's Ambassadorship of Ovacomе is a testament to her passion for driving change, not just in entertainment but in the realms of healthcare and social equity. Her story of survival and resilience continues to inspire millions, and her dedication to using her platform for good is evident in her ongoing work to create awareness around cancer and tackle global health disparities.

"Having faced cancer myself, I know how isolating and challenging the journey can be, and I believe it is essential that we all play a part in changing that reality for others."



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G L I T

Entertainment

THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRITY NEWS FROM BOLLYWOOD & HOLLYWOOD

Hardeep Sahota in Prince Re:imagined (Photo credit: Studio Bokehgo)



Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield have been working closely with local South Asian artists to welcome new audiences to experience the magic of the arts.

The West Yorkshire theatre's Community Ambassadors scheme aims to reflect the diversity found in the region, with a particular focus on welcoming South Asian communities to the theatre.

The scheme was launched two years ago, seeing the theatre work closely with local artists and members of the South Asian community in Kirklees to make a step change in the programme of shows and activities at the

theatre and to understand why local people of South Asian heritage were underrepresented in the theatre's audience, staff and programme.

The Community Ambassadors engage with various community groups, ensuring that underrepresented voices are heard and celebrated. They organise workshops, discussions, and performances at the theatre that highlight different cultural perspectives, playing a crucial role in broadening the theatre's reach and impact.

The theatres' Community Ambassadors are local South Asian artists, they include dance artist Hardeep Sahota, producer and food author Sobia Bashir and theatre-maker Madiha Ansari.

Since 2023 the scheme has helped kickstart a number of creative projects, these include South Asian women's choir Song Geet, Rasm-e-Milan, a multicultural music and dance showcase held in the theatre's courtyard, Prince Re:imagined, a large-scale Arts Council funded project which reimagined the music of Prince into diverse musical genres, a regular Bhangra Night with Bhangra DJs, Dhol drum players and dancing, alongside a series of Bhangra and Giddah dance classes.

The Community Ambassador scheme now continues to grow. In spring 2025 the theatre presents an Olivier-award nominated drama from South Asian theatre makers on their main stage. 10 Nights, from Phizzical Productions and written by Shahid Iqbal Khan, is the story of one man's journey of self-discovery as he takes part in itikaf, sleeping and fasting in the mosque for the last ten nights of Ramadan.

They also present Rassam, a free exhibition of photography which explores South Asian traditions curated by Hardeep Sahota and captured by local photographer John Slemensek-Thorne. The theatre is also working closely with the Community Ambassadors on the development of a South Asian Arts Cultural Hub, providing space at the theatre for South Asian artists to develop their creative practice.

Continued on page 34

Lawrence Batley Theatre
 Queen Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2SP
Box Office: 01484 430 528
Website: www.thelbt.org

GROUNDBREAKING

Introducing Lawrence Batley Theatre's Community Ambassadors scheme

Madiha Ansari, Community Ambassador and theatre maker said "As a South Asian artist, serving as a community ambassador is a profound honour, allowing me to connect the arts with my community in meaningful ways."

"The role enables us to bring vibrant cultural experiences to those who might not otherwise have access, celebrating a space where diversity is celebrated, and young people and families feel their voices and stories are truly valued."

"The unwavering support from the dedicated team and the theatre's exceptional leadership has been instrumental in cultivating an environment where innovation and engagement flourish. Its deeply rewarding to help shape an inclusive arts scene that mirrors the rich tapestry of our community."

"Representation matters, and it's crucial



Madiha Ansari

for young people to see individuals who look like them in influential roles, fostering aspiration and belief in their potential.

Lawrence Batley Theatre is committed to enriching lives of people in the local area, making the arts accessible to all."

Hardeep Sahota, Community Ambassador and dance artist said "Being a Community Ambassador at Lawrence Batley Theatre is such a rewarding experience. It's a chance to promote diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement and celebrate the arts while nurturing a shared cultural identity, making the theatre a true reflection of Huddersfield's vibrant community."

Becky Dash, Chief Executive of Lawrence Batley Theatre said "Lawrence Batley Theatre is the creative heart of Huddersfield, a theatre built by the community for the community where all people are welcome and can find a creative

home. Our Community Ambassadors scheme is helping the theatre reflect the people it is serving today.

"We want communities to feel welcome here and to leave inspired, we're proud that this scheme has made positive changes to our programme, brought different cultures together, given audiences an opportunity to learn something new, make connections and bring people together in a time when it's much needed. We are excited to continue and expand this work and embed it within the organisation for the future."



Sobia Bashir

Sobia Bashir, Community Ambassador and producer and food author said "Being part of Lawrence Batley Theatre's Community Ambassador scheme has been deeply fulfilling, empowering me to make a lasting cultural impact while strengthening the bond between the theatre and the diverse communities it serves."

PHIZZICAL

SHAHID IQBAL KHAN'S OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATED PLAY

10 NIGHTS

FEATURING ADEEL ALI DIRECTOR SÂMIR BHAMRA

#Yassers_ChunkyChips

One man's spiritual journey is about to begin... after he's posted one last Tik-Tok.

★★★★★

"a seldom-told experience of a young Muslim man grappling with his identity"

NORTHWESTEND.COM

★★★★★

*"a captivating piece of storytelling...
...it has a lovely heart"*

WHATS ON STAGE

★★★★★

"it's laugh out loud funny, at times movingly poignant and deeply incisive"

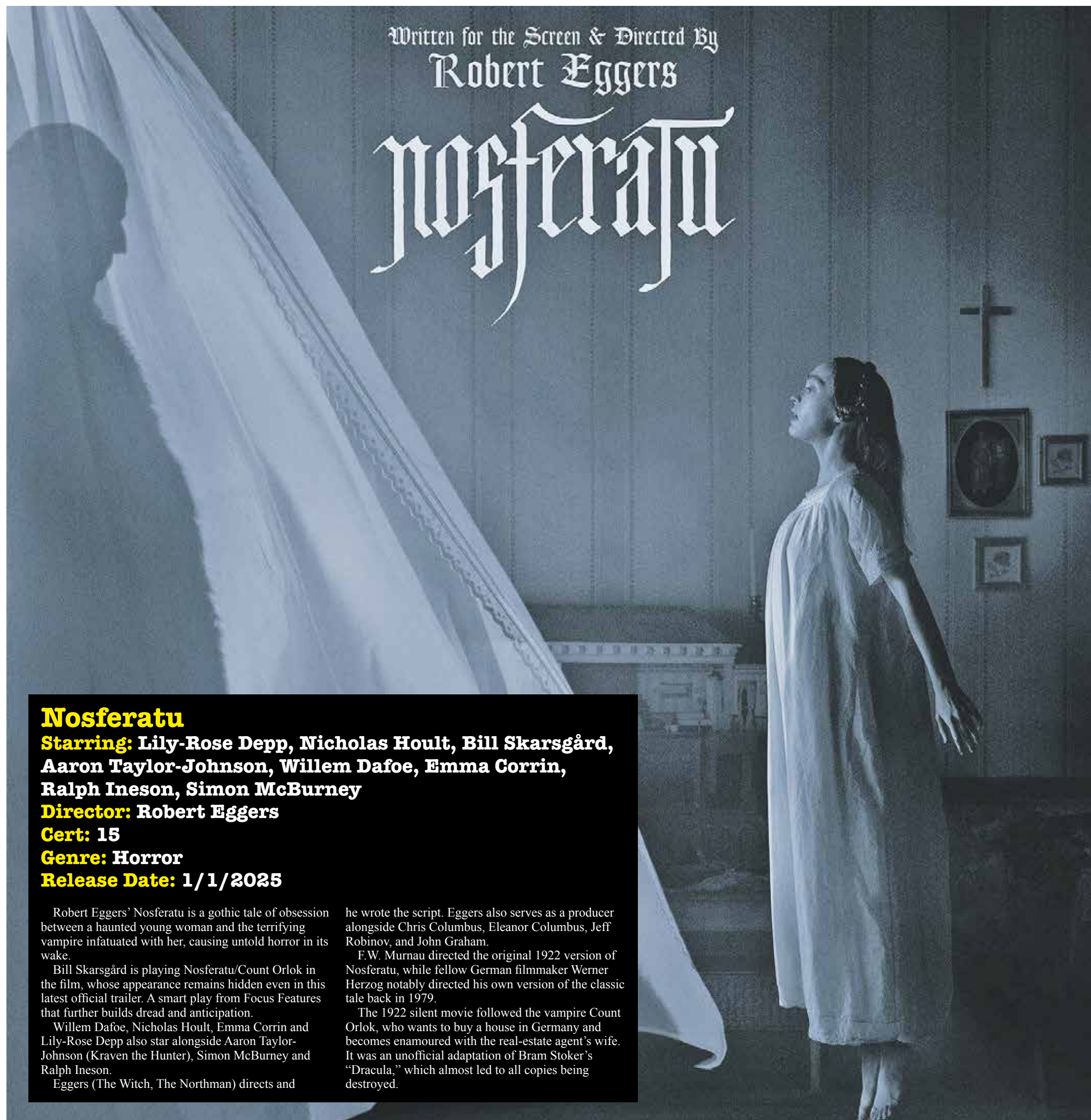
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WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month



Written for the Screen & Directed By
Robert Eggers

Nosferatu

Nosferatu

Starring: Lily-Rose Depp, Nicholas Hoult, Bill Skarsgård, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Willem Dafoe, Emma Corrin, Ralph Ineson, Simon McBurney

Director: Robert Eggers

Cert: 15

Genre: Horror

Release Date: 1/1/2025

Robert Eggers' *Nosferatu* is a gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake.

Bill Skarsgård is playing *Nosferatu*/Count Orlok in the film, whose appearance remains hidden even in this latest official trailer. A smart play from Focus Features that further builds dread and anticipation.

Willem Dafoe, Nicholas Hoult, Emma Corrin and Lily-Rose Depp also star alongside Aaron Taylor-Johnson (*Kraven the Hunter*), Simon McBurney and Ralph Ineson.

Eggers (*The Witch*, *The Northman*) directs and

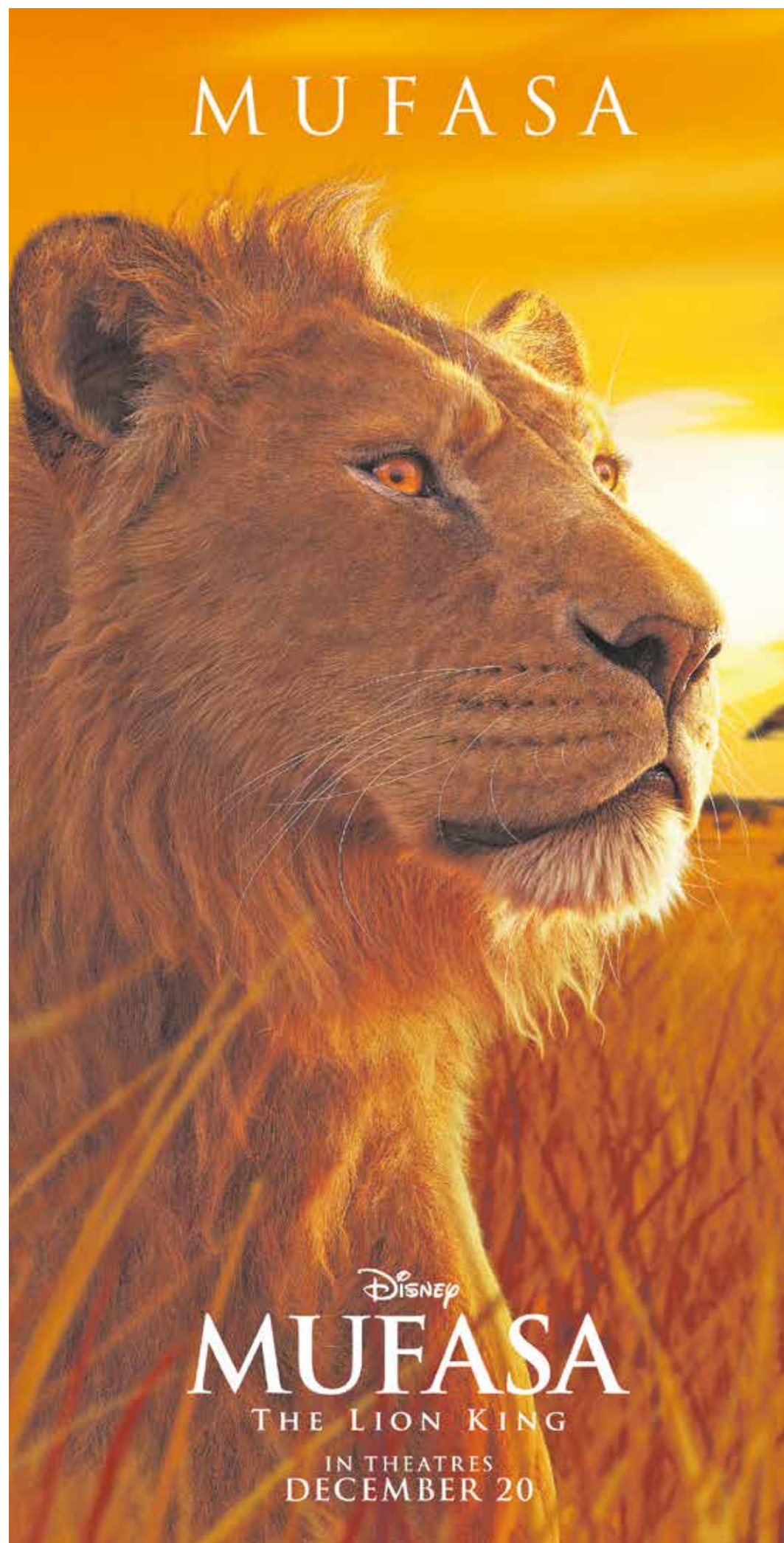
he wrote the script. Eggers also serves as a producer alongside Chris Columbus, Eleanor Columbus, Jeff Robinov, and John Graham.

F.W. Murnau directed the original 1922 version of *Nosferatu*, while fellow German filmmaker Werner Herzog notably directed his own version of the classic tale back in 1979.

The 1922 silent movie followed the vampire Count Orlok, who wants to buy a house in Germany and becomes enamoured with the real-estate agent's wife. It was an unofficial adaptation of Bram Stoker's "*Dracula*," which almost led to all copies being destroyed.

WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month



Mufasa: The Lion King

Starring: Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner, John Kani, Mads Mikkelsen, Thandiwe Newton, Blue Ivy Carter, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Keith David, Anika Noni Rose, Donald Glover, Lennie James, Tiffany Boone, Preston Nyman

Director: Barry Jenkins

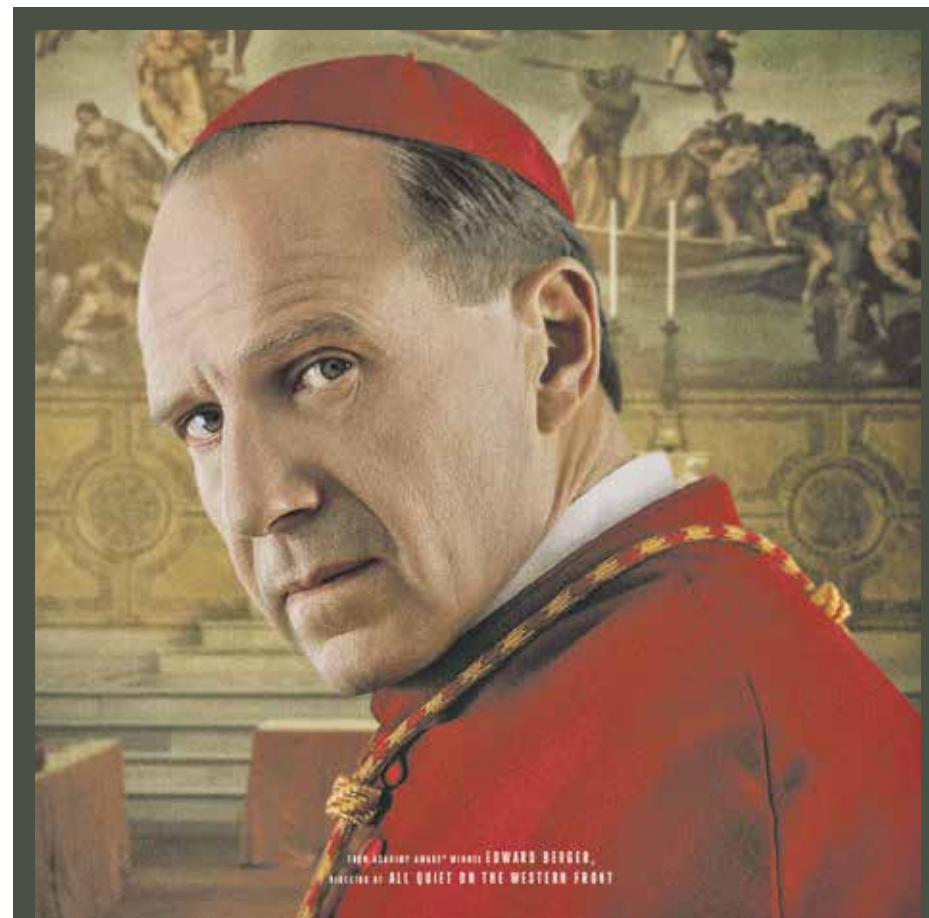
Genre: Animation/Family/Adventure

Release Date: 20/12/2024

'Mufasa: The Lion King' enlists Rafiki to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick.

Told in flashbacks, the story introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka - the heir to a royal bloodline.

The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny - their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.



Conclave

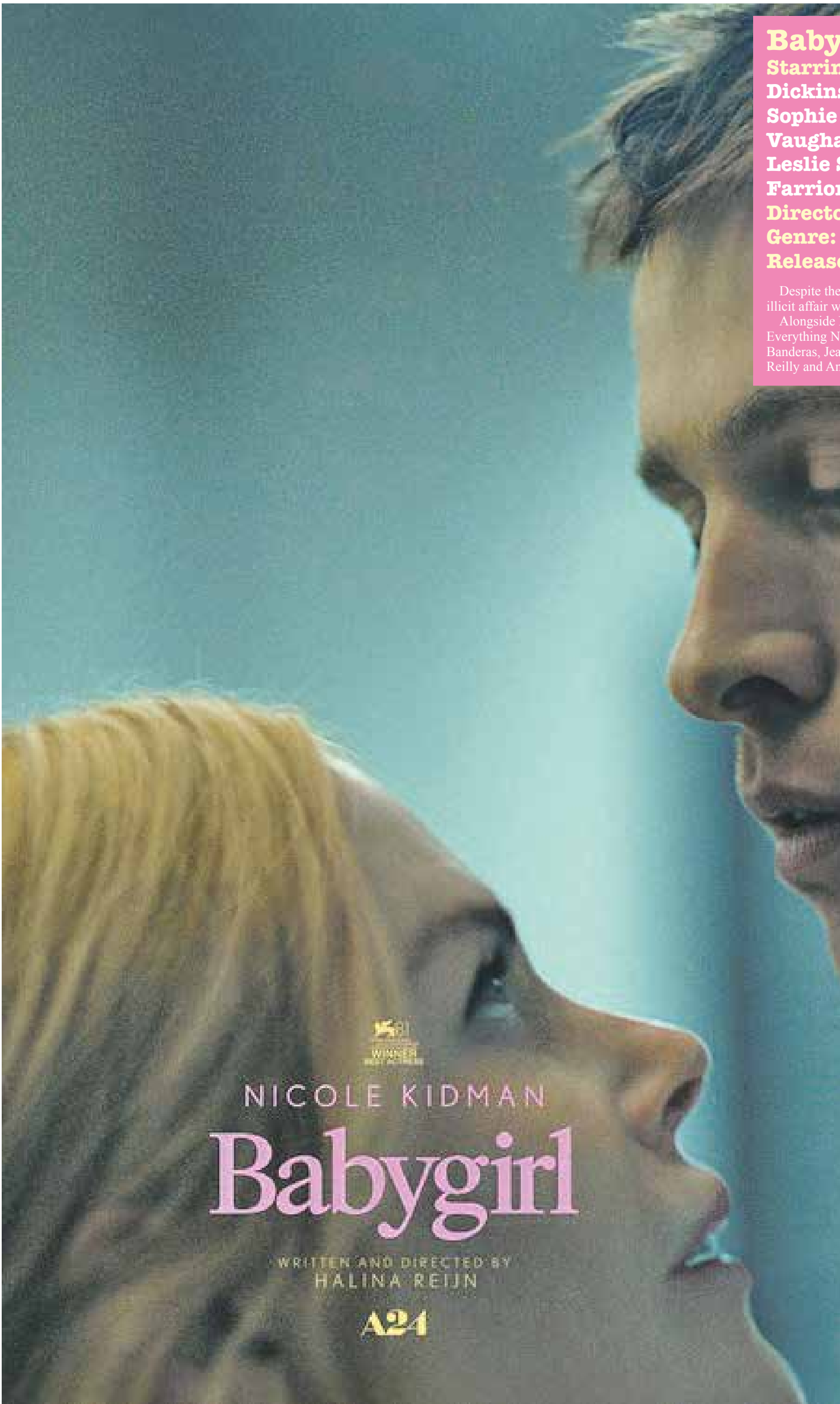
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Merab Ninidze, Isabella Rossellini, Brian F. O'Byrne, Lucian Msamati, Sergio Castellitto, Carlos Diez, John Lithgow, Stanley Tucci

Director: Edward Berger **Cert:** 12A

Genre: Thriller **Release Date:** 29/12/2024

'Conclave' follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events - selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope.

Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

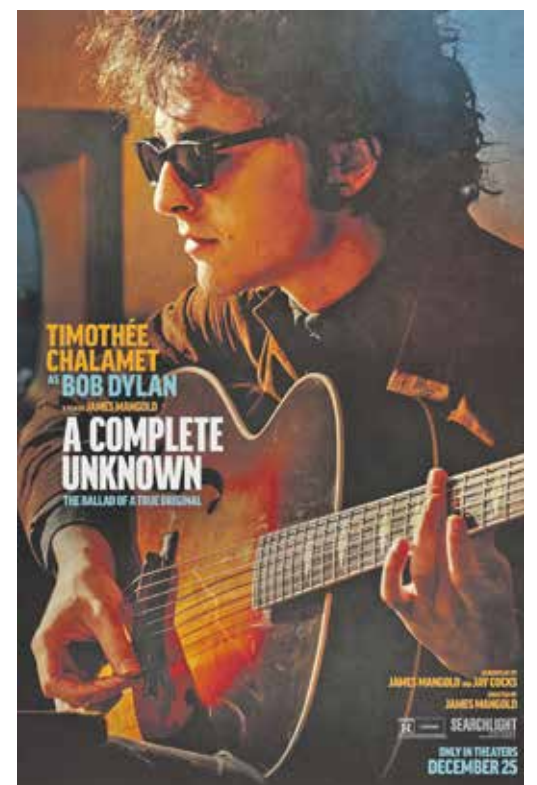


Babygirl

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Harris Dickinson, Antonio Banderas, Sophie Wilde, Esther McGregor, Vaughan Reilly, Victor Slezak, Leslie Silva, Gaite Jansen, Robert Farrior, Bartley Booz, Anoop Desai
Director: Halina Reijn **Cert:** 18
Genre: Crime/Mystery/Thriller
Release Date: 10/1/2025

Despite the risk and prejudices, a very successful CEO begins an illicit affair with her much younger intern.

Alongside Nicole Kidman and Harris Dickinson will be Everything Now and Talk To Me star Sophie Wilde, Antonio Banderas, Jean Reno, Victor Slezak, Esther McGregor, Vaughan Reilly and Anoop Desai.



A Complete Unknown

Starring: Timothée Chalamet, Edward Norton, Elle Fanning, Monica Barbaro, Joe Tippett, Scoot McNairy, Dan Fogler, Boyd Holbrook, Norbert Leo Butz
Director: James Mangold
Cert: TBC
Genre: Biography/Drama/Music
Release Date: 17/1/2025

In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar and forges relationships with music icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates worldwide.

Set in the influential New York music scene of the early 60s, the movie follows teenage Minnesota musician's meteoric rise as a folk singer to concert halls and the top of the charts – his songs and mystique becoming a worldwide sensation – culminating in his groundbreaking electric rock and roll performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965.

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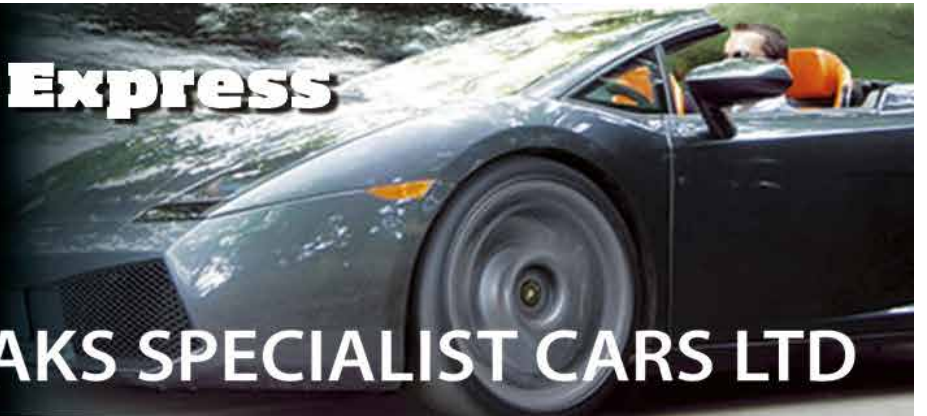
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Electric car sales to increase to 440,000 in 2025, but still missing UK industry target

Electric car sales in the UK will increase to 440,000 in 2025, representing 24% of 1.84 million total new car sales, according to forecasts from leading EV leasing company DriveElectric.

This is a 4.4% increase compared to electric car sales equating to 19.6% of the total new car market in 2024 (381,970 units) - although new electric car registrations accounted for 31.0% of the market in December 2024 as manufacturers aimed to hit the government's Zero

Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate target.

The continued growth in electric car sales shows that more and more motorists are embracing EVs, but the forecast of electric cars representing 24% of total sales this year means that the 2025 ZEV mandate target of 28% will be missed.

DriveElectric's 2025 electric car sales forecast is informed by a number of factors.

Good news includes that there are increasing numbers of new EVs

coming to market in 2025, with smaller and more affordable models, including new entrants from China, as well as battery costs reducing and more EVs being offered at price parity with petrol cars.

The latest EVs have longer driving ranges and faster charging, helping to break down the barrier of range anxiety which has been cited as a blocker to adoption, and amplified by misinformation.

The UK's charging network is continuing to expand, particularly

with more rapid and ultra-rapid chargers, giving consumers added confidence to switch to EVs.

There are still also significant financial incentives for businesses and fleets to transition to EVs, thanks to low benefit in kind (BIK) tax rates (2% until April 2025, then rising by 1% each year to 5% in April 2028). These low BIK rates have fuelled the increasing popularity of salary sacrifice, which can reduce the monthly cost of driving an EV by up to 40% for the employees of an

organisation. Businesses will also be incentivised to electrify to enable them to report on carbon emission reductions, helping to secure existing contracts and win new business.

However although financial incentives exist to support businesses and fleets to transition to EVs, there are currently no similar measures such as grants for private motorists, which will continue to hold back retail EV sales.

Continued on page 40

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Electric car sales to increase to 440,000 in 2025, but still missing UK industry target

Continued from page 39

DriveElectric's forecast for 1.84 million overall car sales in the UK in 2025 is slightly lower than some other industry figures because it is expected that some manufacturers will reduce sales of petrol and diesel cars in an effort to meet the ZEV mandate targets – a development that was already evident in 2024.

Adam Kemp, Partnerships Director, DriveElectric, comments: “We are forecasting that electric car sales in 2025 will experience an increase of just over 4% compared to 2024 figures, taking them to 24% of the total new car market, which is significant progress,

but this still falls short of the 2025 ZEV mandate target of 28%.

“A key factor in the shortfall is that while businesses and fleets enjoy financial incentives to make the switch to electric cars, and although EVs have lower whole life costs than petrol and diesel cars, there are currently no incentives for private motorists to purchase new EVs.”

DriveElectric, one of the UK's leading electric vehicle leasing companies, uses its own model built from its intelligence of the UK market to forecast registrations of battery electric cars and vans each year. In January 2024 DriveElectric accurately predicted that the percentage of EV

sales for 2024 would be closer to 19% of the total market rather than the industry forecast of 22%, the latter being revised downwards later in the year to around 19%.

Although some manufacturers may hit or exceed the 28% ZEV mandate target for 2025 (Tesla, a company that only sells EVs, being one of the obvious winners), many manufacturers are likely to fall short of the target because they currently don't have enough EVs in their model ranges, and demand for EVs from private motorists remains much lower than from businesses and fleets.

There are steep fines of £15,000 for each vehicle within the ZEV

mandate's 28% allocation that isn't zero emission, but there are ways that car manufacturers can work around a shortfall in EV sales, including by the sale of low emission petrol and diesel cars, which is expected to contribute an additional 3% to the industry's figures in 2024, so achieving the ZEV mandate target for the year. The government is currently consulting on details around the 2030 end of sales date for petrol and diesel cars, as well as flexibilities in the ZEV mandate, a process which is due to be completed on 18 February 2025.

Electric vehicles are seen as a key solution to help the UK achieve its net zero greenhouse gas targets, as well as helping with the problem of local air

quality. EVs also have lower running costs than petrol and diesel vehicles, however an overwhelming factor in the rapid increase in EV adoption is that the vast majority of motorists prefer the driving experience of EVs compared to petrol and diesel cars and vans.

DriveElectric is an electric vehicle leasing company that has been helping organisations and individuals to adopt EVs to save money, lower emissions and transition to low carbon energy since 2008. DriveElectric aims to make the switch to electric cars and vans simple for business fleets, offering added benefits including monitoring and optimising emissions from charging fleet vehicles.

“A key factor in the shortfall is that while businesses and fleets enjoy financial incentives to make the switch to electric cars, and although EVs have lower whole life costs than petrol and diesel cars, there are currently no incentives for private motorists to purchase new EVs.”



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Audi UK accelerates transformation with a strong 2024

Audi UK recorded 122,431 vehicle sales in 2024, placing the brand third in the overall market with a market share of 6.3 percent.

Despite challenging market conditions, battery electric vehicle (BEV) sales remained strong, with a total of 24,216 BEVs sold in 2024 - equating to a record share of 20 percent of Audi UK's overall sales. The Audi Q4 e-tron was the second best-selling BEV in the UK with 17,622 examples sold.

Audi's lineup of plug-in hybrid TFSI e models once again performed strongly with 12,399 sales. Combined with the number of BEVs, almost one in three new Audis sold in 2024 had a plug.

José Miguel, Director Audi UK said: "Audi has embarked on its most ambitious new model initiative and appetite for our growing lineup of fully electric e-tron models remains strong.

"Throughout 2025 our model portfolio will continue to be renewed with all-new versions of some of the brand's key models, such as the Audi Q5, while the arrival of the fully electric Audi A6 e-tron family broadens our BEV offering and takes the brand into new segments with class-leading technology."

Audi UK 2024 top five selling model ranges

A3 - 28,908

Q4 e-tron - 17,622

A1 - 13,612

Q3 - 13,282

Q2 - 10,599

Audi UK 2024 sales breakdown by fuel type

Petrol - 74,747

BEV - 24,216

PHEV - 12,399

Diesel - 11,069



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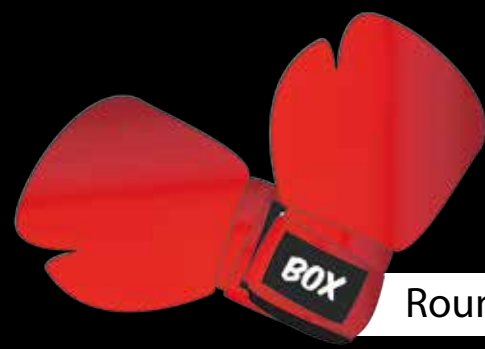
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GLASGOW 2026 announces senior team

The Glasgow 2026 Organising Company has announced the executive team who will lead the organisation to deliver the 23rd Commonwealth Games in the summer of 2026.

Phil Batty has been appointed Chief Executive Officer to deliver the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games alongside a senior team with a wealth of expertise and experience of delivering major sporting events in Scotland.

Jade Gallagher has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer; Faye Shaw, joins as Chief Financial and Corporate Services Officer; Louisa

Mahon joins as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer; and Martin Fitchie joins as Chief Information Officer.

Glasgow 2026 will take place from Thursday 23 July to Sunday 2 August 2026 and feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor of the city. The Games are being delivered by the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company in partnership with the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Games Scotland.

Batty joins Glasgow 2026 with a strong and impressive track record in

major event delivery having previously been Director of Ceremonies, Culture & Queen's Baton Relay for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. In his role as CEO of SKYMAGIC, a world-leading drone light show business, Batty has worked internationally to deliver a programme of global shows and events. He brings significant experience of realising the social impact from events, having held senior positions for the UK City of Culture programme and as Board member of Spirit of 2012, the London Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Funder.

Batty is looking forward to leading

Glasgow 2026, "I am absolutely thrilled to be appointed as Chief Executive of the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company, for what is set to be a unique and truly special Games. Glasgow and Scotland have such a strong reputation in delivering world-class major events and I am confident we will be a brilliant host for the 23rd Commonwealth Games.

"Delivering the Games is a team effort, which will bring over £100m of inward investment into the city, and I am looking forward to working with such a hugely talented workforce, experienced network of suppliers, partners, and local communities to

bring the vision for Glasgow 2026 to life.

"Delivering at pace and without public funding, means that we, as an Organising Company, and our partners, need to think differently and innovatively. Glasgow 2026 will be fuelled by the legacy of 2014 - venues, talent and expertise - and of course the world-renowned Glasgow welcome. As we prepare for next year, we are determined to create an accessible and inclusive Games for both local communities and international visitors alike."

Continued on page 46

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**Company and man charged with causing the death of Paralympian athlete**

Met detectives have charged both UK Athletics and a man in connection with the death of Paralympian athlete Abdullah Hayayei during a training incident in 2017.

UK Athletics Limited, the national

governing body for athletics, was charged on Tuesday, 7 January with corporate manslaughter and offences under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Keith Davies, 77 (06.05.1947) of Bushwood, Leytonstone and Head of

Sport for the 2017 World Paralympic Athletics Championships was charged on Wednesday, 8 January with gross negligence manslaughter and offences under Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Both UK Athletics and Davies

are due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Friday, 31 January 2025.

An investigation was launched after emergency services responded to reports of a seriously injured man struck on the head by a metal pole

during a training incident at Newham Leisure Centre in Prince Regent Lane, E13 on Tuesday, 11 July 2017.

The man, Abdullah Hayayei, 36, a United Arab Emirates athlete, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

GLASGOW 2026 announces senior team**Continued from page 45**

Jade Gallagher joins Glasgow 2026 as Chief Operating Officer, having formerly been Championships Director of the hugely successful World Athletics Indoor Championships held in Glasgow last year, and having held senior event operations roles at Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council, including working on the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, COP26, the 2018 European Championships and Festival 2014 as part of the previous Commonwealth Games in the city.

Louisa Mahon joins the Organising

Company as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer from Renfrewshire Council, where she was Head of Marketing, Communications and Events. Louisa was a member of the Council's Corporate Management Team and directed cultural regeneration in Renfrewshire, including leading the campaign for Paisley's Bid for UK's City of Culture in 2021.

Faye Shaw, who was Managing Director of Serco Business Services and CFO of VIVO Defence Services, has significant commercial, operational and financial expertise and will oversee the corporate services of Glasgow 2026.

Martin Fitchie brings a wealth of Games expertise to Glasgow 2026, having worked as the Head of Results Technology Services for Glasgow 2014 and subsequently across a wide range of multi-sport events and championships in Scotland.

Martin has been a key part of the working group that developed the Glasgow 2026 concept, and has a deep knowledge of all the excellent work undertaken to date to prepare venues in the city for major events and for 2026, ensuring continuity of planning and enabling the Organising Company to continue to move quickly and build

on the strong foundations and business collectively set in motion.

George Black CBE, Chair of the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company, said: 'We welcome Phil, Jade, Louisa, Faye and Martin, to their new roles on the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company executive team. This is a hugely talented and experienced major events team, and I am looking forward to working closely with them to bring the vision for Glasgow 2026 to life.'

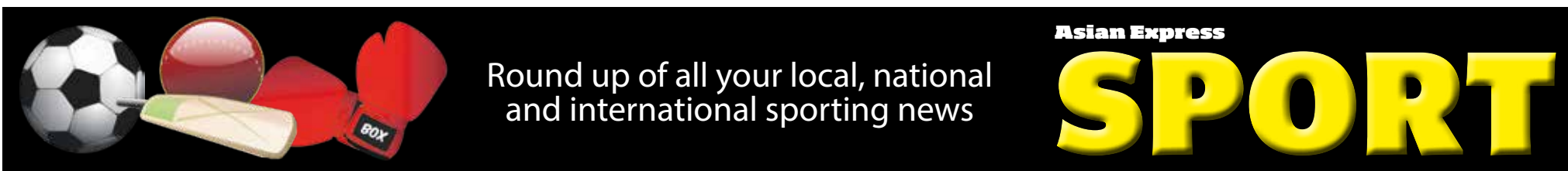
'We have brought together a passionate and skilled team with a real mix of experience to ensure that we will deliver the best possible Games for the

people of Glasgow, Scotland and the Commonwealth.'

Katie Sadleir NZOM, Chief Executive of Commonwealth Games Federation said: 'We are delighted that the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company has secured such an experienced senior leadership team to help deliver the Games, and we look forward to working closely with Phil and his colleagues. Having the leadership team in place is an important milestone as we continue our journey with confidence towards Glasgow 2026.'

To find out more about Glasgow 2026 visit www.glasgow2026.com





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Rallying call for change

The British Asian Rugby Association launches groundbreaking South Asians in Rugby League insight report

Continued from page 48

Dignitaries included the Lord Mayors of Bradford and Leeds, who emphasised the importance of community cohesion. Prominent figures from the rugby league world also shared their insights. These included: Ben Abberstein, Senior EDI Partner at Rugby Football League (RFL), Ian Stafford, Commercial Manager of Bradford Bulls and Tony Sutton, Chief Executive of RFL.

Tony Sutton's closing remarks encapsulated the event's spirit, while each speaker reinforced the report's call to action for inclusivity and diversity.

The report's findings and objectives were presented by Dr. Hanif Malik OBE, whose expert hosting underscored the importance of integrating rugby league into diverse communities. Dr. Malik set the tone for a forward-thinking discussion on the strategies outlined in the report.

Young leaders like Nimrah Gul of Halifax Panthers, a recent Rising Star award recipient, and teenagers Bibi Aisha and Aizah Hussain from the 20:20 Foundation captivated the audience with their inspiring stories. They shared how

their involvement in rugby league leadership programmes has bolstered their confidence, highlighting the transformative power of the sport.

One of the event's highlights was the presentation of the Outstanding Community Excellence award to Starr Zaman, co-founder of the 20:20 Foundation. This accolade, presented by the Lord Mayors and Tony Sutton, recognised Zaman's unwavering dedication to community engagement and inclusivity in rugby league.

Dr. Ikram Butt, founder of BARA, reflected on the report's significance, stating: "Today not only marks a significant milestone in our continuous effort to integrate rugby league into the cultural fabric of diverse communities, but it also sets a strategic path forward."

"We are inspired by the commitment shown by everyone involved and look forward to the impact this report will have on our sport."

Ken Davy MBE, Former Chairman of Super League and Chair of Huddersfield Giants, shared his thoughts in the report's foreword: "I am deeply honoured to contribute to this significant report."

"As the former Chairperson of Super League, I have long been immersed in the development and

expansion of rugby league from its historic roots in Huddersfield. Our club is profoundly committed to fostering inclusivity and has spearheaded several initiatives that set benchmarks for community engagement within our sport.

"I urge all stakeholders in rugby league to embrace the call to action outlined in this report. It is imperative that we not only celebrate diversity but also actively implement strategies that ensure inclusivity is at the heart of our sport."

RFL Chief Executive Tony Sutton applauded the event's success: "It's fantastic. It was a wonderful event this afternoon. It's wonderful to hear some of the stories, especially from some of the girls who have been involved in the programmes."

The South Asians in Rugby League Insight Report represents a pivotal step toward building a more inclusive and representative future for the sport. With the support of leaders, players, and the wider community, rugby league is poised to break barriers and foster a stronger sense of belonging for all.

This event at City Hall in Bradford will be remembered as a rallying call for change, inspiring the next generation to embrace rugby league as a sport for everyone.



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Rallying call for change

The British Asian Rugby Association launches groundbreaking South Asians in Rugby League insight report

The British Asian Rugby Association (BARA) recently hosted a landmark event at Bradford's iconic City Hall to launch the much-anticipated South Asians in Rugby League Insight Report.

Commissioned by the Rugby Football League (RFL), this report explores the participation of South Asians in rugby league and provides strategic

recommendations to promote inclusivity, engagement, and representation within the sport.

The event, held in the heart of Bradford, featured an impressive lineup of speakers and attendees, reflecting the significance of this milestone for rugby league and the South Asian community.

Continued on page 47



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