

Bunny Hop is bouncing back!

The team at Dr Kershaw's Hospice are inviting schools, nurseries, playgroups, childminders, clubs and families to get creative and active to help make every moment count for the patients and families in their care.

And new for the Dr Kershaw's Bunny Hop 2020... they're making a difference for the environment too!

Throughout March, April and May, children in the borough have the opportunity to hop, skip, walk, run or jump their way along their chosen sponsored walk route, wearing their very own bunny ear creations.

The plastic bunny ears from previous years have been replaced with a specially designed card template, ready for kids to design, colour, cut out and create.

Community Fundraiser Lillie Winterbottom said: "By taking part in the Bunny Hop, children in the borough will be doing their bit in helping to provide care of patients in the future."

"Here at the Hospice, we want to help protect our children's future, so we're making every effort to reduce the use of plastic on the Bunny Hops."

"We've replaced the old plastic bunny ears with a card version meaning less plastic - a more environmentally friendly option all round!"



HOPPING GOOD FUN: Staff and children from Ladybirds Educational Nursery in Chadderton preparing for the Bunny Hop.

The Dr Kershaw's Bunny Hop is the perfect way for children to get creative, get outdoors and be active in order to raise money for the Royton-based hospice, which relies on the community to raise funds to support the care of patients in Oldham.

Thanks to their sponsors, Little Owl Farm in Grains Bar, the event will give tots to teens the opportunity to spring



into action to help others.

Cindy, Little Owl Farm's owner, said: "We jumped at the chance to get involved with the Dr Kershaw's Bunny Hop, it's something that reflects the things that are important to us at Little Owl Farm - exploring, creating, learning and helping. We're even putting on an event ourselves on April 11 - a perfect Easter Weekend activity."

You can register for a Dr Kershaw's Hospice Bunny Hop fundraising pack by contacting the fundraising team on 0161 624 9984 or email fundraising@drkh.org.uk, or visit the website at <https://www.drkershawshospice.org.uk/>. Want your child to get hopping but they're not part of a group that's getting involved? Drop a message to Little Owl Farm on Facebook.

Marking International Women's Day 2020 at Oldham Coliseum

Women from across Greater Manchester celebrated International Women's Day at Oldham Coliseum Theatre last Friday.

2020 was the fifth International Women's Day event arranged in partnership with the theatre and Jigsaw Homes, giving residents from Oldham and Tameside backstage access to the borough's historic theatre for a day packed with activities and discussion.

The annual event also regularly features Henna painting throughout the day, creative workshops based on the themes of International Women's Day and a sit-down lunch.

This year's International Women's Day event focused on the theme of self-belief.

Activities included a Stage Combat workshop from Kaitlin Howard, an Academy of Performance Combat Senior Instructor and one of only three women on the Equity Register of Fight Directors, and a Make a Message workshop led by the Coliseum's



CELEBRATION: Residents of Jigsaw Homes with Fight Director Kaitlin Howard.

Head of Learning and Engagement, Carly Henderson.

Asmina Choudhry from Jigsaw Homes Group said: "It's been a fantastic event for International Women's Day. Women from Oldham, Tameside and Stalybridge have enjoyed coming together and doing all kinds of activ-

ities. The main theme of the day was self-belief and the ladies have gotten really stuck in."

Alongside this, the global theme for International Women's Day 2020 is #EachForEqual, helping to forge a gender equal world by celebrating women's achievements and increasing

visibility whilst challenging stereotypes, raising awareness against bias and calling out inequality.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Jigsaw Homes Group work in partnership to run regular projects with tenants which help to build confidence, employability and health and wellbeing.

They have helped more than 100 young people return to work or education, created a theatre company for people with additional needs and reached hundreds of school children using theatre as a propeller for learning.

Tanuja Patel from Jigsaw Homes Group added: "We thank Oldham Coliseum for organising these kinds of events. It's opened doors to many ladies in the Asian community, who have learnt to believe in themselves and stand together for women's rights."

The partnership also encourages tenants to try something new whilst experiencing different cultures.

School's way with words to aid the development of pupils

Pupils at an Oldham primary school have been increasing the number of words they are using, by staging a first 'Vocabulary Parade' which proved to be a huge success.

Staff at Alexandra Park Junior School came up with the idea of hosting a Vocabulary Parade in a bid to extend the vocabulary of the children and challenge their creative abilities.

Children and staff went to school, dressed as interesting words and took part in a poetry workshop with popular children's poet Ian Bland.

The whole day was an overwhelming success with vibrant costumes and some fantastic poetry heard!



GETTING INVOLVED: Year 5 teacher Mr Unsworth.

Jenny Seabright, head teacher at the Brook Lane school, said: "In the lead-up to book week, we wanted to

do something creative and different to celebrate our love of words and reading, so Alexandra Park Junior

School decided to carry out their first 'Vocabulary Parade'.

"All the children and staff had to do was simply select an unusual word and make it into a homemade costume.

"The words which were chosen and the costumes that were made by both children and adults were amazing."

She added: "We all had so much fun parading around the hall and showcasing the hard work that had gone into the task - more importantly, we all learnt new words and their meanings."

"Thank you to all the children, their families and staff for making this event a huge success."

■ Help for Fun Day

A community association are planning to go back in time to bring a new lease of life to their annual showpiece event.

For more than 11 years, a Saddleworth Fun Day has been held in Dawson's Field on the A62 Huddersfield Road at Scouthead, attracting hundreds of Saddleworth families to enjoy an affordable day out.

But the organisers, the Scouthead and Austerlands Community Group, say setting up, running and clearing the site has relied on a handful of local residents, many of whom are now elderly.

Robert Knotts, chair of the group, said: "Consequently, the work has become more demanding, and for some extremely difficult - to the point that unless new blood is forthcoming to help develop, set up and run the event, its future is in jeopardy."

"We are looking to change the emphasis of the event by having simpler and a greater number of old-fashioned game type stalls."

"Large features such as a bouncy castle or crazy golf are too expensive to hire at the same time placing charge for their use above an affordable level."

Now, the group are considering introducing a range of nostalgic elements, including a coconut shy, ball in a bucket, welly throwing, Hooplah and space hoppers races. Instead of the usual cake stall, they plan to offer afternoon tea and cakes.

"We will provide the funds for materials but seek volunteers in Saddleworth to make and run the stalls and we are open to any other ideas too," he added.

Anyone who can help can get in touch with Robert by emailing him on robert.knotts@sky.com.

■ School had no water

The Blue Coat School in Oldham was closed last Friday because there was no water supply.

In a message sent to parents by head teacher Robert Higgins, the Egerton Street school said it had "no alternative" but to close and the issue seemed to be isolated at the school.

United Utilities investigated the problem, which forced the school to cancel some exams for Year 13 students but a Year 7 school trip went ahead as planned.

The school - which is a mixed gender Church of England academy for 11 to 18 year olds - re-opened as usual on Monday.