

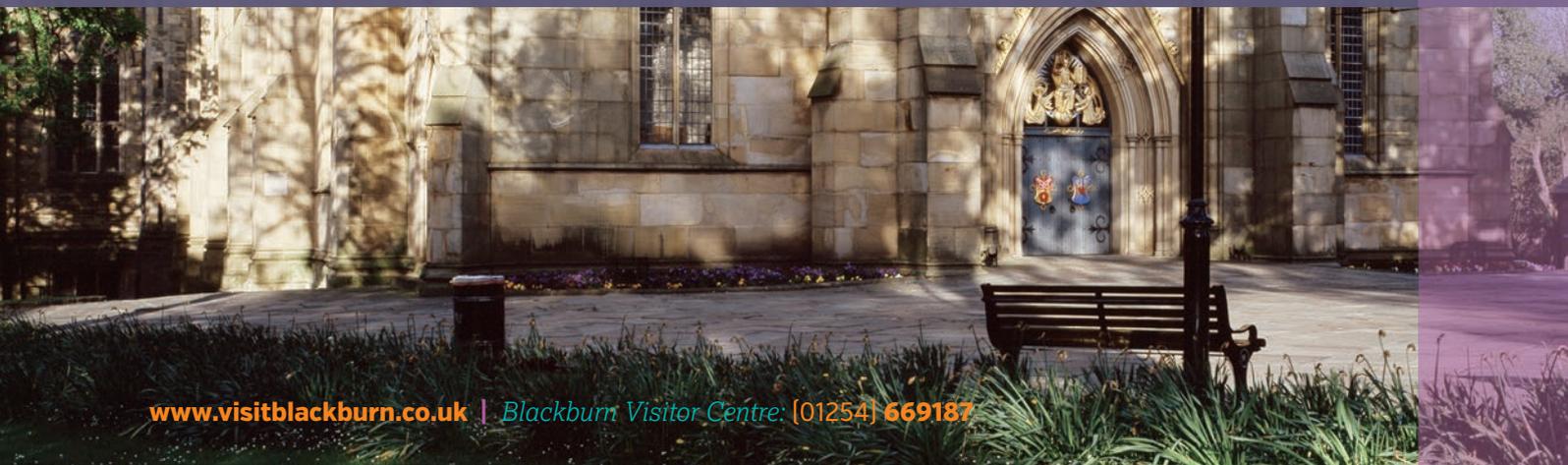


# BLACKBURN

Arte Et Labore / By Skill and Hard Work

*In special commemoration of  
the Queen's visit to Blackburn*

**April 17, 2014**



# WELCOME

TO ALL THAT IS BRILLIANT ABOUT BLACKBURN

The borough is a creative, entrepreneurial and entertaining place to be with great food, good sport and a fashionable heritage as well as being blessed with a bustling town centre.



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*This is a really exciting time for Blackburn and its communities. As a Council we are investing heavily in creating employment, improving our infrastructure and developing growth opportunities. I feel it is the residents and their diverse communities that make Blackburn special. Together the Local authority, businesses and residents are forging a bigger, brighter and bolder Blackburn. I am extremely proud to serve the residents of this vibrant town and Borough.*

**Councillor Kate Hollern**  
Leader of the Council

# BUILDING A BETTER BLACKBURN

Blackburn town centre is at an exciting point in its history. It is currently subject to a multi-million pound investment, with the development of the area known as the **CATHEDRAL QUARTER**, to include a new hotel.

**The £30 million scheme, which includes a Premier Inn hotel, restaurants, shops, new bus interchange, a public square, landscaped gardens, and new offices, will transform one side of the town centre and create 350 jobs.**

A planned £7m suite of domestic buildings includes the Clergy Court residential development with a refectory open to the public and cloister garden - the first since the 16th Century. It will include houses and apartments for the Cathedral clergy and lay staff and a small hall of residence for music scholars.

Clergy Court will also give the Cathedral more space to resource its community cohesion and educational work.

It is the most significant addition to the Cathedral since completion of the transepts and lantern tower in the late 1960s and is central to a series of significant regeneration projects across the town of Blackburn.

Clergy Court has been made possible through a partnership with the Cathedral Chapter, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Homes and Communities Agency and the European Regional Development Fund. The Chapter has appointed the John Turner Construction Group of Preston to build this landmark project.

The Cathedral Quarter regeneration project will transform the town centre, create hundreds of jobs and will encourage people to use the area around the cathedral more, both for work and leisure time.



It is the first part of an ambitious development plan for the town embodied in a 12-point 'blueprint' including restaurants, free weekday afternoon car parking, reviving the town's nightlife and business rates relief for new ventures.

The strategy includes a major revamp of the traffic system to encourage people to drive into the town to shop, eat, drink and go out for the evening; the creation of a hub of new independent shops and creative industries in the town centre; and a programme of monthly events with four major festivals a year.

Proposed  
Commercial  
Office Building



*It is fitting that the Queen is returning to Blackburn at a time when work has now begun on the new Cathedral Quarter. It is an exciting time for Blackburn and the region.*

**The Rt Rev. Julian Henderson**  
Bishop of Blackburn



# MAP



Blackburn is a wonderfully diverse place with many shopping, leisure and cultural activities for everyone to enjoy. ”

**Harry Kay**

Blackburn with Darwen Youth MP



## BLACKBURN VISITOR CENTRE

Blackburn Visitor Centre is situated within Blackburn's new market off Church Street. It is the first stop for anyone looking to make the most of a visit to the area. Happy to-help staff can help with finding your way around, what to do & where to go. The friendly & knowledgeable staff are on hand 6 days a week to help & give advice to visitors.

**Blackburn Visitor Centre,**  
Blackburn Market, Church St.,  
Blackburn BB1 5AF

Tel: **01254 688040**

email: [visit@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:visit@blackburn.gov.uk)

web: [www.visitblackburn.co.uk](http://www.visitblackburn.co.uk)

**Opening Times:** Monday to Friday  
9.00am to 5.00pm & Saturdays  
9.00am to 4.00pm

## Did you know?

**Largest youth population:**  
Did you know that nearly a third of the borough's population is aged 0 - 19, one of the highest in the country.

# THINGS TO DO AND SEE

## ATTRACTIONS

Blackburn has a thriving cultural scene with two excellent arts centres in the town or within easy reach. **King George's Hall** consists of three separate venues offering everything from pop to pantomime, while **Thwaites Empire Theatre** also welcomes big names from the world of entertainment.



King George's Hall

## MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

From books to beetles and from mummies to machinery, Blackburn Museum and Art gallery has something to intrigue and inspire all ages. It showcases Blackburn's cotton legacy as well as housing important collections from across the globe. If you want to find out more about Blackburn's fascinating industrial past, a heritage tour will help you step back in time and find out more. More information can be found at [www.visitblackburn.co.uk](http://www.visitblackburn.co.uk)



## BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Blackburn Cathedral is one of England's newest cathedrals, yet it is one of the country's oldest places of Christian worship.

It was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and it is believed that a church has stood on this site since 596AD. For many centuries, this has been the Parish Church of Blackburn dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin.

Blackburn Cathedral as the Cathedral of Lancashire stands in the heart of multicultural East Lancashire. It has been a cathedral since 1926 and the present building is a much-extended Georgian Gothic Parish Church of 1826.

It is a magnificent building with a superb organ and excellent acoustics. The cathedral also has a small but impressive collection of 20th and 21st century modern art.

The Cathedral is the centre of Diocese of Blackburn (The Church of England in Lancashire) and the only Anglican cathedral in the County.

### Did you know?

**World Leaders:** Did you know Blackburn was the weaving capital of the world? It was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. James Hargreaves the inventor of the Spinning Jenny was a weaver here.



*Blackburn has always been bursting with talent and we want to do all we can to support this and let people know Blackburn is Open. We have the 'big hitters' like the acclaimed film director Michael Winterbottom and the director of The Manchester International Festival, Christine Cort but also a small army of Blackburnians making a difference up and down the UK. "*

**Wayne Hemingway** MBE  
Designer



As well as some great little pubs and bars, Blackburn is also fast building a reputation for musical talent and has a thriving live music scene across a number of different venues in the town. 'First Thursdays' sees venues throughout the town centre like **Blakey's**, **Blackburn Museum**, **Blackburn Library** and the new pop-up arts centre opening till late with events to suit everyone on the first Thursday of every month.

# A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

## CINEMA

The state-of-the-art, 10-screen Vue Cinema, part of the Townsmoor Leisure Park, is conveniently located just behind the railway station. Showing all the latest blockbusters and Bollywood hits, the multiplex also includes a speed bar and ice cream café.

The town centre also now has a pop-up cinema in King William Street as part of the Blackburn is Open programme.

## BOWLPLEX

It's more than just bowling! Bowlplex is an entertainment complex packed full of fun activities for all ages. Located in the Townsmoor Leisure Park, it has a 24-lane, computerised bowling alley complete with bumpers and ramps to help people of all abilities strike it lucky.



*The best thing about Blackburn is how friendly the people are. I find that when I come back up north everyone is really chatty and welcoming. I love coming home and hearing everyone's northern tones.* “

## RESTAURANTS AND PUBS

The town has a diverse range of restaurants from high street names such as Chiquito's, Frankie and Benny's and Pizza Hut, local favourites such as Maida Indian Restaurant and Calypso Caribbean Restaurant to country pubs such as Clog and Billycock and fine dining establishment Northcote Manor. Scholars is Blackburn College's fully licensed restaurant & offers a great dining experience in the centre of town. They also hold regular themed nights on Thursday evenings, which give their students chance to try new & exciting menus. Whilst Blackburn Market boasts a real hive of culinary choice from exotic curry meal deals to traditional locally sourced fayre.

## A SELECTION OF BLACKBURN RESTAURANTS

- Clog and Billycock**, Pleasington, Blackburn, BB2 6QB
- The Oyster & Otter**, Livesey Branch Road, Feniscowles, Blackburn, BB2 5DQ
- Liz n' Lils**, 108 Northgate, Blackburn BB2 1AA
- Chiquito**, Lower Audley Street, Blackburn, BB1 1BB
- Frankie & Benny's**, Lower Audley Street, Blackburn, BB1 1BB
- Pizza Hut**, Lower Audley Street, Blackburn, BB1 1BB
- Maida Indian Restaurant**, 16 Eanam, Blackburn, BB1 5BY
- Roomali**, Fine Dining, 1 Lowercock Croft, Blackburn BB2 1JX
- Scholars Restaurant**, Feilden St., Blackburn BB2 1LH
- Calypso Caribbean Restaurant**, Eanam Wharf, Blackburn, BB1 5BY
- Saigon Buffet**, 21 Exchange Street, Blackburn, BB1 7JN
- The Courthouse Restaurant**, 33 Kings Court, Blackburn, BB2 2HD
- Northcote**, Langho, Blackburn, BB6 8BE



# CAFÉS AND TEA ROOMS

There are a whole host of cafés and tea rooms in Blackburn whether you want a quick bite or relaxing afternoon tea. We're very proud of our food and drink heritage in Lancashire and we want to encourage consumers and traders in Blackburn to **'Think, Buy, Eat Local.'**

## BLACKBURN TOWN CENTRE CAFÉS

**Exchange Coffee Company,** Fleming Square, Blackburn, BB2 2DG

**Simply Chocolicious Café,** Regent Street, Blackburn, BB1 5PJ

**Café in the Crypt,** Blackburn Cathedral, Blackburn, BB1 5AA

**Blakeys Café Bar,** King Georges Hall, Northgate, BB2 1AA

**Café Revive at M&S,** King William Street, Blackburn

**Brew Room at One Rovers Store,** Church Street, Blackburn

**Liz n' Lils,** King William St. Blackburn 01254 698976

## COUNTRY CAFÉS AND TEA ROOMS

**Turton Tower Tea Room,** Chapeltown Road, Turton

**Pavillion Cafe,** Witton Park, Blackburn

## SPICE OF LIFE

**Whalley Range Bazaar** is Blackburn's vibrant and historic Asian quarter. It has a thriving food and drink scene and enough authentic restaurants, cafés and food shops, specialising in cuisine from the Sub-Continent, to rival Manchester's famous 'Curry Mile'.

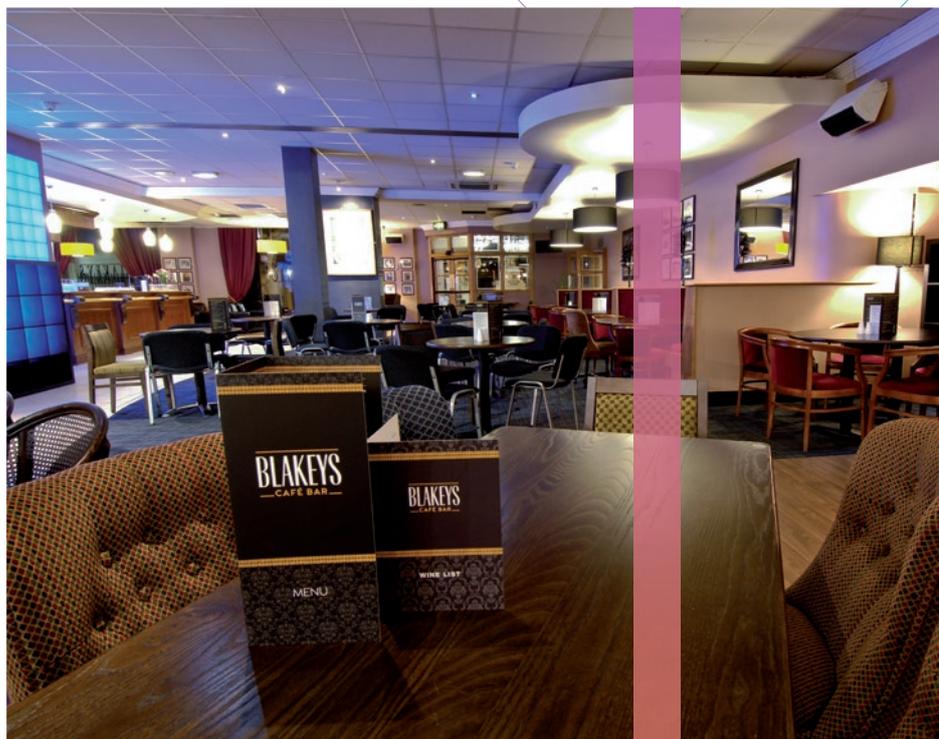
## Did you know?

**Diverse community:** Did you know that Blackburn's Anjum Anwar MBE was the first Muslim to be appointed to the staff of a Cathedral anywhere in the world, to act as dialogue development officer. It's the first Christian-Muslim partnership of its kind.



*There's a real sense of community spirit amongst Blackburn's residents that you don't always see in other areas. Everyone pulls together as a team to help each other along – it's a wonderful place.* “

**Christine Connell**  
Founder and volunteer at Ivy Street Community Centre



Blakeys  
Café Bar



There's no need to travel miles out of town to experience great retail therapy. Blackburn is rapidly establishing itself as a shopping hotspot with a fantastic and diverse range of high quality shops and stores. As well as major high street names you can also browse the great selection of independent businesses and popular specialist shops packed with character.

# SHOP TILL YOU DROP



*We at The Mall love being in Blackburn. We are at the very heart of the community and we are proud to serve the people of Blackburn and beyond. The development of The Mall was one of the first regeneration projects to be completed within the town, and really shows the commitment businesses and the Council have towards Blackburn. The future is definitely bright for Blackburn.*

**Lorraine Jones**  
General Manager at The Mall Blackburn



Blackburn  
Market

## BLACKBURN MARKET

Blackburn's award-winning Market is at the heart of Blackburn Town Centre in The Mall Shopping Centre. Offering traditional values but within a modern, new, bright environment. From fresh, locally sourced food, to the latest technology. You will soon find out that whatever you want; you can get it on Blackburn Market.

## TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Blackburn is well served by public transport. Plus there is free parking on all Blackburn Council owned car parks during the week after 3pm and on Saturdays, including the multi-storey Fielden Street car park.



*I love Blackburn, I love its communities, its heritage and its cultures. We are a fantastic friendly Borough with innovative, talented and inspiring people. I am proud to represent and serve as Mayor for all the communities in this remarkable town and Borough.* “

**Councillor Salim Mulla**  
Mayor of Blackburn with  
Darwen

# THE MAGIC LIES OUTDOORS

## Did you know?

**Free fitness:** Did you know people can access free leisure in Blackburn? Swimming and gym activities are free to people who live, work, attend full time education or who have a GP within the borough.

Blackburn is set amongst miles of magnificent countryside with vibrant landscape, rugged moorland, ancient woodlands and tranquil reservoirs.

Whatever your age or interest the great outdoors surrounding Blackburn is full of activities including walking and cycle routes, heritage and nature trails, and outdoor attractions. Covering 90 square miles of rural Lancashire and Greater Manchester, the West Pennine Moors provides the great outdoors experience on the doorstep of Blackburn and Darwen.

## HERITAGE TOWN TRAILS

Discover Blackburn's incredible history as a leading industrial town when cotton was king and weaving was big business. Self-guided Heritage Town Trails will help you explore the town from a new perspective, revealing stories behind some of Blackburn's historic buildings and taking you back to a time when the town was the weaving capital of the world.

## CANALS

The longest canal in Britain, 127-mile long Leeds and Liverpool Canal is thought by many to be the finest in England.

## WALKING

Blackburn sits at the heart of Lancashire's Hill Country. Here you can experience the dramatic moorland, tranquil reservoirs, traditional farmland and wooded valleys. A range of walking routes to suit all abilities are available across the Borough.

## CYCLING AND RIDING

Maps for cycling and riding routes are available at:

[www.visitblackburn.co.uk](http://www.visitblackburn.co.uk)



“As a Blackburn lad, born and bred and proud of it, the area is a great place to do business – it’s entrepreneurial, with great local pride and a desire to be successful.”

**Andrew Graham**  
CEO, Graham and Brown

Corporation  
Park

# WHERE THE WONDERS NEVER CEASE

Close to Blackburn town centre are **Corporation** and **Witton Country Parks** set in acres of countryside offering picnic spots, walks and nature trails, as well as a children’s adventure playground, providing an ideal family day out.

## **CORPORATION PARK**

officially opened on 22 October 1857, with shops and mills closing for the day, church bells ringing, and flags flying from public buildings. Railway companies claimed 14,000 people travelled to the town for the opening. A conservatory was opened in the park on 16 May 1900. Within Corporation Park is the Blackburn War Memorial which commemorates people who lost their lives in WWI and WWII.

## **QUEEN’S PARK** was

opened in June 1887 having been laid out at a cost of £10,000 on land acquired by Blackburn Corporation from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1882. It originally had two bowling greens, two tennis courts, a lake of over 3 acres, a children’s paddling pool, a bandstand, and a refreshment room. Two additional bowling greens and a pavilion were added in 1932.

## **WITTON PARK** is one

of the largest urban outdoor spaces in the country. With a full-size athletic track, currently being redeveloped, it is home to the Blackburn Harriers which produced three finalists at the London 2012 Olympics – hammer thrower Sophie Hitchon, pole-vaulter Holy Bleasdale, and modern pentathlon silver medallist Sam Murray.

### *Did you know?*

#### **Higher Eanam Windmill:**

Not a lot of people are aware the Blackburn once had a windmill, built by Samuel Derbyshire in 1822 and the appropriately named John Miller. It stood on the canal bank and the land was bought for £160!

# SPORT

## Did you know?

**Record breaking:** Did you know Ewood Park was the setting of a new Guinness World Record, when a one tonne Chicken Samosa was made in recognition of club owners Venkys.

Blackburn has some fantastic sporting opportunities. Home to **Blackburn Rovers Football Club**, **Blackburn Ice Arena**, various leisure centres and climbing facilities and a number of excellent Golf courses there really is something for everyone.

### BLACKBURN ROVERS FC

Blackburn Rovers Football Club is the boroughs acclaimed football club based at Ewood Park.

### ICE SKATING

Something different – but equally exciting – is a visit to Blackburn Ice Arena to ‘Holler for the Hawks’, Blackburn’s pro-ice hockey team. The arena is the North West Regional Centre of Ice Skating Excellence.

### GOLF

For those who like the outdoors Blackburn and Darwen have eye-catching and spectacular countryside, perfect for playing golf, there are 6 golf courses for the serious players and two driving ranges for those who want to flex your arms and have some fun.

### SOCCERDOME

Blackburn’s Soccerdome has a fitness centre, superstore, 11 indoor pitches and gym, making a great day out for fitness fans.

### BOULDER UK

Fantastic facility for climbing enthusiasts. Indoor bouldering wall provides a wicked challenge for beginners and veterans alike. The shop stocks a wide range of climbing gear & accessories.

Blackburn  
Rovers



*Blackburn is a town that is close to my heart. When I was growing up I wanted to be a professional footballer and dreamed of playing for my local club. My dream came true and I have Blackburn to thank for that. I am passionate about this town and the people here. I'm committed to helping young people achieve their best in life.* “

**David Dunn**  
Blackburn Rovers midfielder

# LANDMARKS

## BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

In 1926 a new Church of England Diocese for Lancashire was created, centred on Blackburn, and the existing St Mary The Virgin Church in Blackburn was elevated to Cathedral status. It was later extended to the building we have today. Blackburn was selected above other locations to host the Cathedral for the new Anglican 'Diocese of Blackburn' because of its excellent transport infrastructure; something that is as true today as it was back in 1926!

## EWOOD PARK

On 18 November 1995, the newly re-developed Ewood Park was officially opened. With a capacity of 31,367, the facility comprises four sections: the Darwen End, Riverside Stand (named as such because it stands practically on the banks of the River Darwen), Blackburn End, and Jack Walker Stand, which is named after

Blackburn industrialist and club supporter, Jack Walker. The stadium also houses conference and banqueting facilities.

## TOWN HALL

The construction of Blackburn's original, Italian renaissance style 19th century town hall was completed in 1856 at a cost of £35,000 - equivalent to about £1.5 million today. The architect was James Paterson. It originally housed a police station with 18 cells, a large assembly room, and a council chamber.

## THE WAINWRIGHT BRIDGE

Opened in June 2008, the £12 million bowstring arch bridge crosses the East Lancashire and Ribble Valley railway lines west of the town centre and forms part of the A6078 Town Centre Orbital Route. The bridge is named after Alfred Wainwright following a vote by the townspeople.

## RAILWAY STATION

Blackburn railway station features a 24-foot mural by Ormskirk-based contemporary artist Stephen Charnock. It depicts eight famous faces associated with the town, including Mohandas Gandhi, who visited nearby Darwen in 1931. The station was renovated in 2000.

## PUBLIC ART

Blackburn with Darwen Council have made refurbishments and renovations of key public places, notably the Church Street area with its Grade II listed art deco Waterloo Pavilions complemented by street furniture and sculptures.

There are a number of other public art pieces in Blackburn including the prominent braid and transitions sculptures in Blackburn Town Centre as well as pieces in more rural locations. The Blackburn Panopticon offers panoramic views over Corporation park.

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S STATUE

Blackburn's statue of Queen Victoria is located next to the Cathedral grounds overlooking the old bus station site. Victoria's fourth daughter, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, unveiled the statue on 30 September 1905. It was sculpted by Australian sculptor Sir Bertram McKennal out of white Sicilian marble and stands on a grey granite plinth.



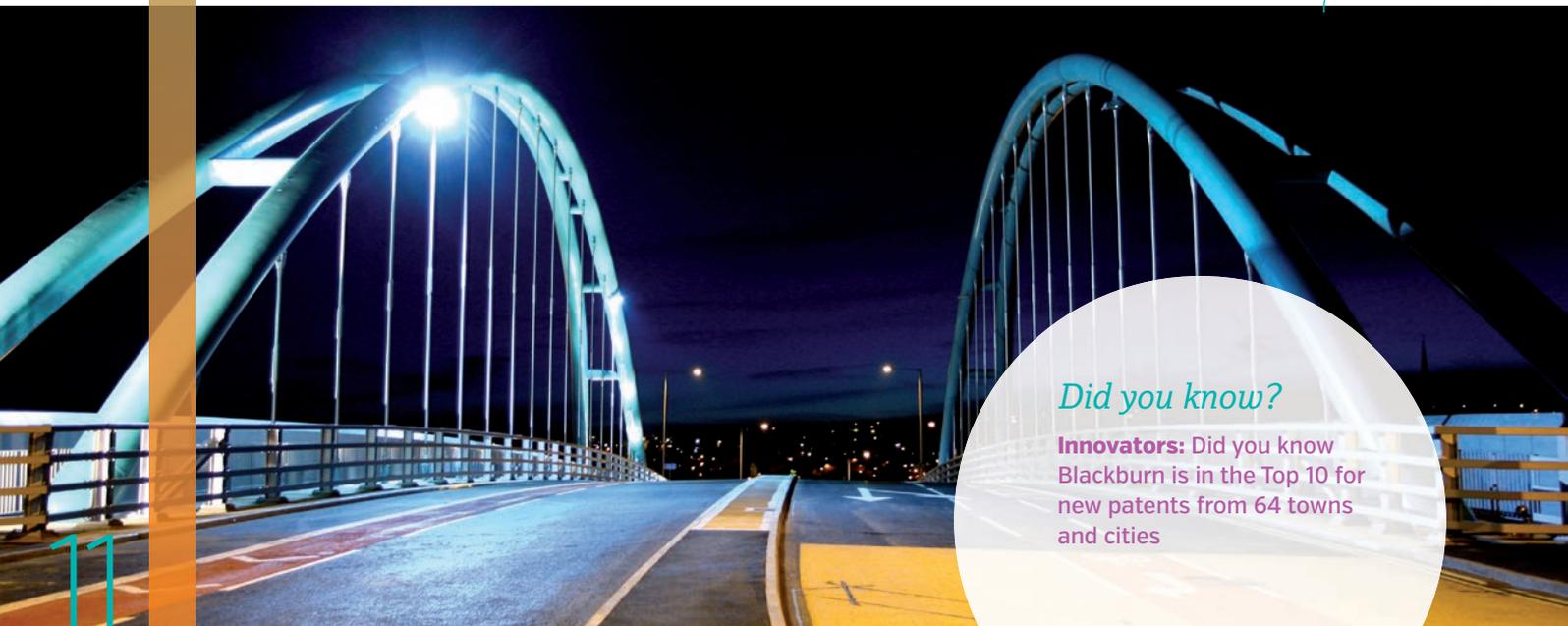
*We are proud to have our headquarters in Blackburn and from here supporting over 2,000 employees across our national estate of 180 forecourt site operations. As we continue to grow our ambition is to work with the Local Authority and other stakeholders with a view to investing in a diverse, talented work force for the future.*

**Ilyas Munshi**

Commercial Director, Euro Garages



Wainwright Bridge



## Did you know?

**Innovators:** Did you know Blackburn is in the Top 10 for new patents from 64 towns and cities



Launch of the Hive Network at Blackburn Youth Zone

# BLACKBURN'S OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Blackburn is a hive of business and opportunity.

## THE HIVE

The **Hive Network** has been established by some of the Borough's most influential people and companies, more than 180 business leaders have already signed-up to the Network.

It was officially launched at Blackburn Youth Zone in 2012 with an aim to turn the Borough into a 'world class' business area. See [www.business-hive.co.uk](http://www.business-hive.co.uk)

Work doesn't stop there though. The Borough plays home to 4,880 businesses, has a higher business start-up rate than in Lancashire or any other East Lancashire authority and is 11th on the list for the proportion of high-growth businesses in any town in the UK. The Council's economic development company, **Regenerate Pennine Lancashire**, is also working hard to allocate grants of all sizes to new and existing firms having secured £16.5m of government funding to help Lancashire's businesses invest and grow. See [www.regeneratepl.co.uk](http://www.regeneratepl.co.uk)

## Did you know?

**We're great at making things:** Blackburn-based **Heritage Envelopes** produces 2.5 billion (yes, billion!) envelopes every year, and the number's growing. Global wall papering giant **Graham and Brown** manufactures 20 million rolls of wallpaper from their Blackburn factory every year, whilst we're also home to **Accrol Papers** - one of Europe's largest independent soft tissue converters, with a manufacturing capacity in excess of 60,000 tonnes per annum. *That's a lot of toilet rolls!*



*Working together, the Business community and the Council are transforming Blackburn and the Borough. We are providing new infrastructure, new opportunities and creating new jobs. We are turning Blackburn and the surrounding area into a landscape ripe for investment, employment and success.* ”



**Khalid Saifullah**  
Director of Star Tissue and  
Chair of Hive Network

# CONFERENCING AND BUSINESS CENTRES

Blackburn's eco-friendly managed centres offer a world of opportunity for new and existing companies.



*The great thing about Blackburn is the people. Warm with great senses of humour, they're straight-talkers who always let you know where they stand on things – and what you're doing wrong! It's a privilege to serve them as editor of the Lancashire Telegraph.* ”



**Kevin Young**  
Group Editor,  
Lancashire Telegraph

There are various office suites available, suitable for different types of businesses and able to accommodate for future expansion. If you need a place for a meeting, a seminar or multimedia driven conference, then all the facilities are at hand together with the expertise of the staff.

#### **Business Development Centre**

Eanam Wharf  
Blackburn BB1 5BL  
Telephone 01254 503200

#### **Business Enterprise Centre**

Furthergate  
Blackburn BB1 3HQ  
Telephone 01254 505000

#### **Blackburn Technology Management Centre**

Challenge Way  
Blackburn BB1 5QB  
Telephone 01254 261262

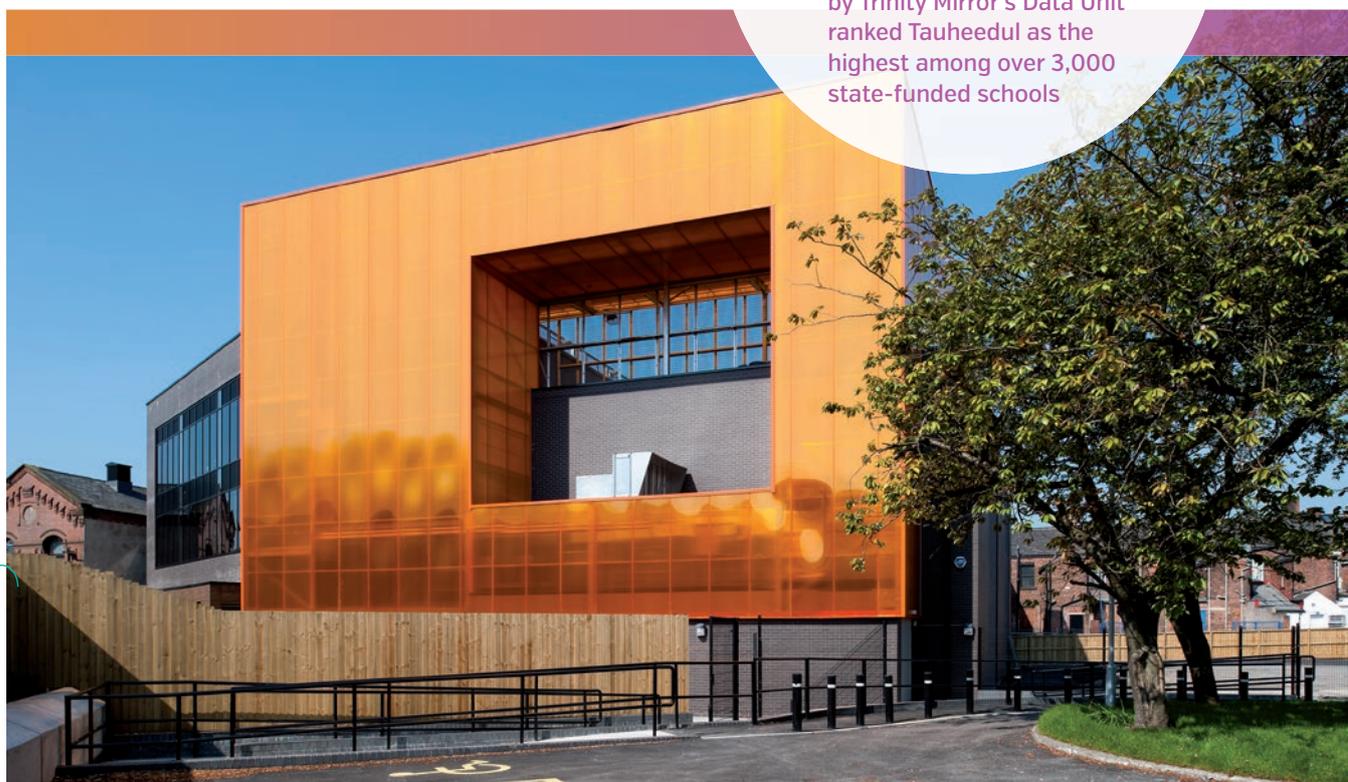
#### **BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**

Opened in 2012 Blackburn's Youth Zone is a pioneering project that helps Blackburn's Young People get the most out of themselves. Focussed on creativity and physical activity, it is directly linked to local business and the Local Authority, with both of them committed to the continued development of the towns young people.

#### *Did you know?*

**Best school:** Blackburn has the best rated high school in the country? In September 2013, a group of leading academics commissioned by Trinity Mirror's Data Unit ranked Tauheedul as the highest among over 3,000 state-funded schools

Blackburn Youth Zone



# BLACKBURN'S FAMOUS FOLK



*The people of Blackburn are wonderful, they are friendly, down to earth, and they haven't changed, they have always been like that. Everyone is on the same level. Blackburn is an absolutely beautiful place with fantastic buildings and parks.* “

**Josephine Cox**  
Blackburn-born author

In Blackburn we are proud to have a wealth of home-grown talent and well-known public figures.

Opera singer **Kathleen Ferrier**, brought up on Lynwood Road in Blackburn after her father William was appointed head teacher of St James Primary School, was described at the time of her death, from cancer aged 41 as “the second most famous woman in the world after the Queen”.

**Jack Walker**, steel baron and one time owner of local steel company Walkersteel, was born in the town in 1929 and lived locally until he moved to the Channel Islands in 1974. He was the former owner of Blackburn Rovers.

The town is also home to **Carl Fogarty**, arguably the most successful motorcycle World Superbike champion of all time.

Blackburn's **Billy Townley** was the first football player to score a hat-trick in an FA cup final.

Whilst England rugby union players **Will Greenwood** and **Iain Balshaw** are from the town alongside **Keith Duckworth** famous in the motor racing field as an engine designer. Widely acclaimed director, **Michael Winterbottom**, is also Blackburn-born.

## Did you know?

**Pot holes:** The Beatles song “A Day in the Life” includes the line I read the news today, oh boy, 4,000 holes in Blackburn, Lancashire.” It allegedly came from an article in the Daily Mail about a plan to fill potholes in the town, which caught John Lennon's eye as he was writing the song.



Jack Walker  
Rovers Greatest  
Supporter



# COMING SOON IN BLACKBURN

Millions of pounds worth of investment and regeneration is set to breathe new life into the borough. There are a number of on-going key projects currently underway.

## ATHLETIC FACILITY

The new £2.3m community athletics facility at Witton Park, Blackburn, is due to open soon. Home to Blackburn Harriers and Athletics Club; the new facility will include: improved changing facilities; spectator terracing; warm up/education room/social space and club room, indoor 60m warm up/training track (6 lane) and 45 station fitness suite with free weight area. Construction company, Eric Wright, are delivering the project. The existing running track will remain open to the Harriers, schools and members of the community throughout construction.

## NEW SKATEPARK

The borough is soon to get its first ever state-of-the-art indoor skatepark. The facility will be based in the former Blackburn Rovers Sports Academy building (BRSA) near to Darwen Vale School. It will be used by BMX bikes, skateboards, roller blades and scooters. It is due to open later this year.

## BRAND NEW LEISURE CENTRE

A new £13.5million sports and swimming complex in Blackburn town centre is being built. The joint project between Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackburn College will replace the ageing Waves Water fun centre. The new leisure centre is being built next to Feilden Street multi-storey car park. The sports halls and fitness areas will be ready for September 2014 and the swimming pools will open a year later.

## BLACKBURN CENTRAL LIBRARY

The transformation of Blackburn Central Library is well underway. Cladding has been taken off Town Hall Street, unveiling the original 1920's façade of the historic building. Work has now began on the Town Hall Street elevation and the restoration of the Northgate side of the building is almost complete. The work, which was necessary for health and safety reasons, will restore both elevations back to their original 1920's appearance.



## BUS STATION

Construction of Blackburn's New Bus Station is due to start on the site of the former six day market. It is a key part of the Pennine Reach £40m major transport project and will include 14 stands, will be fully covered and feature the latest technology. It is due to be completed in early 2015.

## FORMER MARKET SITE

An outline planning application has been submitted by the Council for the former market site of the three day market. It will be redeveloped into a retail store, which also offers food.

## Did you know?

**Investing in Blackburn:** Over £200 million has been invested in Blackburn over the last 10 years, increasing the number of visitors, shoppers, students and workers in the town centre. £60 million further investment planned over the next three years.



**BLACKBURN**  
with  
**DARWEN**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

[www.visitblackburn.co.uk](http://www.visitblackburn.co.uk)

Blackburn Visitor Centre: [01254] 669187