



## COMMUNITY



Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

### Knowsley Better Together in action: Borough of Culture 2022 and Shakespeare North Playhouse



Coinciding with the opening of the unique Shakespeare North Playhouse, Knowsley is Liverpool City Region's [Borough of Culture](#) in 2022 - a year-long celebration of culture and creativity through community activities and events which forms a key part of the Borough's plans for recovery from the pandemic.



E: [comms@councils.coop](mailto:comms@councils.coop) | T: [@CoopInnovation](https://www.coopinnovation.co.uk) | W: [councils.coop](https://www.councils.coop)

The programme is encouraging collaboration and engagement across Knowsley's local communities - through cultural activities and events which will continue to have a positive impact in the future. This wide-ranging cultural events and activities programme (and, importantly, its continuing legacy) will be key to helping local communities thrive as part of the Council's ongoing COVID-19 recovery work.

The theme for the year is "Stories of people, places and magic", co-designed with local communities through dedicated "cultural conversations" and pop-up events across the Borough – demonstrating Knowsley's Better Together approach in action and giving everyone an opportunity to get involved and feel connected to the celebrations in different ways.

A [New Dawn ... Moments of Light](#) programme officially opened 2022 with thousands of people experiencing six spectacular "moments of light" events in the heart of communities, including:-

- the [Twenty Two Voices](#) project - reflecting the many diverse communities, experiences, and talents in the Borough, whilst shining a light on the stories they are proud of; and,
- Tall Tales - created in collaboration between residents, volunteers, Knowsley Council and local housing associations - telling heart-warming stories direct from the community - projected onto a 16-storey residential tower block in Stockbridge Village.

The highlight of the year is the opening of the [Shakespeare North Playhouse](#) in Summer 2022- a new theatre and education centre of national significance which represents a "once in several lifetimes" cultural development for the local community. Inspired by Prescot's historic connections with William Shakespeare, the Playhouse includes a traditional 470-seat timber-framed Jacobean theatre. The Shakespeare North Playhouse will be a place full of brilliant people with a story to tell – hosting a mix of vibrant new performances and, through its wider creative programme, providing learning opportunities and social spaces for local residents and visitors to Knowsley. In emerging from the pandemic, the Playhouse and the wider Borough of Culture programme are creating hope, confidence, and aspiration, and importantly driving economic regeneration by increasing footfall and spending across Knowsley's town centre areas and attracting complimentary businesses to Knowsley.

---

**For further information contact:**

Paula Williams

Interim Assistant Executive Director (Culture & Communities) – Knowsley Council

[paula.williams@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:paula.williams@knowsley.gov.uk) | 0151 443 3468 | [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)