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THE Bootle Buzz

Latest news from Sefton
Council's Bootle Town Centre
transformation team.
December 2025

Demolition Progress

The redevelopment project is well underway, and the transformation is starting to take shape.

The iconic Mons Square canopy has now been carefully removed using a 300-tonne crane—a striking moment that signals the start of something new.



Building 5 demolished

Further along, the old Building 5 has been completely demolished. This was once home to familiar names like One Below, Miss Scorpio, H Samuel, and 3 Mobile. Work has also begun on taking down Building 2, which previously housed Style, WH Smith, and Superdrug.

Meanwhile, the Palatine flats have been fully demolished, and excavation of the building's slab is underway.

Importantly, much of the demolition material is being processed on-site to create fill material for re-use. This sustainable approach means less waste and a greener future for our town.

What's Next?

The coming weeks will see continued demolition of Building 2 and further excavation of the Palatine Building slab. These steps are essential to prepare the ground for the exciting new development that will transform the town centre into a lively hub for shopping, leisure, and community life.

For the latest updates and timelapse videos of the project, visit - www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates



Bootle Children's Literary Festival

In October the Strand was filled with pirates as part of the 'Here be Treasure' themed 5th Bootle Children's Literary Festival delivered by Ykids. It involved 17 authors and artists and 40 schools.

Children and families had the chance to dig for treasure, virtual reality walk the plank, and create pirate themed crafts, at The Hive and attend free workshops at Kingsley and Co.

Breakfast with the Snow Queen

An interactive treasure hunt took place around the Shopping Centre to win a family ticket to Breakfast with the Snow Queen. Kingsley and Co also held a meet and greet with a Dr Who prop maker and workshops on the local history of Spitfires. Youth Cafe created illustrations with an artist, learnt special effects make up and how to paint miniature models for gaming.

An 'Audience with Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Over 400 children had the chance of an 'Audience with children's laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce, at Bootle Town Hall along with Steam Powered Hip Hop Emcee, Professor Elemental.



Tickets available from www.ticktaylor.com/events/inanotherplace/1885066

Social Value Shines Through the Strand Project

Hugh Baird T -Level Opportunities

On 9th October, VINCI Building welcomed two T-Level learners, Josie and Connor on a placement after they were shortlisted in interviews.

Josie and Connor attended the site during the demolition phase of the works, two days a week from October- December.

They will return during the main works to fulfil the rest of their placement and gain a different perspective from their placement.



“We truly appreciate the time, support and mentorship your team is investing in them, and we look forward to seeing how Connor and Josie develop throughout their placement. Thank you once again for your partnership and for helping to inspire the next generation of talent.” Paula Waltmaier, Director of Construction and Automotive, Hugh Baird College

Regeneration Brainery

As part of our collaborative social value efforts with AY, K2, and AtkinsRéalis, VINCI Building supported a Regeneration Brainery (an academy for 'bright young minds') careers session and site tour delivered by Hannah Bailey, Josh Smith, and Rob Symons.



Forty-six per-cent of the students taking part were female and 75% of students met at least one of our social mobility criteria.

Students were split into two groups, with one group taking part in a site tour led by VINCI and supported by design team members, while the other engaged in a hands-on master planning workshop led by K2.

After a short break, the groups swapped activities to ensure everyone experienced both sessions.

The day concluded with a feedback session, giving students valuable insight into construction, design, and regeneration careers.

“A massive thank you to everyone who got involved and supported us and the Brainees. Everything we do together lays the foundations for young people, giving them the insight, skills, and confidence they need to take the next step towards their dream careers.” Karis Downs, Project Design Officer at PLACED

Headliners for Salt and Tar Music Weekender announced as event goes on tour!

Nile Rodgers CHIC are the latest headliner to be announced for the Salt & Tar Music Weekender in Bootle.

Extra date added after sell-out

Originally scheduled for Sunday 16th August, the musical icon and legendary band have announced a second date on Monday 17th after tickets for the Sunday sold out during pre-sale.

The Waterboys are headlining on Friday 14th August while the Saw Doctors will be topping the bill on Saturday 15th.

Temporary residence for 2026

Owing to the work to regenerate the Bootle Strand area, which includes an expansion of the permanent Salt and Tar venue, the Music Weekender will take up a temporary residence for 2026.

The nearby Lock & Quay, Bootle's much-loved, community-owned pub and canalside venue, will host the event. Its large garden and green space adjoining the canal, will be transformed into a vibrant festival site for next year.

Last year's Weekender drew nearly 12,000 visitors and generated almost £1m for the local economy. Expect another unforgettable celebration of music and community in 2026.

For updates and tickets, visit www.saltandtar.com.



November's festive funday - a fantastic success.

It was wonderful to provide a full day of entertainment, completely free of charge to the local community.

Children particularly loved the inflatables, Christmas crafts with Mrs Claus, face painting and the Grotto. And over 800 free cups of hot chocolate were served and around 500 selection boxes were handed out to children.

The stage performances were brilliant too, with our K-Pop act proving hugely popular and Attitude Dance showcasing their amazing talents once again. It was an incredible day and everyone is already looking forward to next year!