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THE BOOTLE BUZZ

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

September 2026

Main works start at The Strand

Bootle town centre is set for a major makeover as the redevelopment phase of regeneration work begins at The Strand.

The creation of the new outdoor Mons Square will bring green areas into the heart of the town centre. This work will also provide a new route that will link The Strand and Stanley Road to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The Salt and Tar events space will increase in size, providing the opportunity for more events to take place.



The project will make it easier for people to get around, with new ramps, steps and fully accessible pathways connecting different levels of the town centre. There will be plenty of seating areas across the new space.

The former Marks & Spencer building will be refurbished, and modern building fronts will help create a more welcoming look. Once complete the works will create a more attractive town centre for residents, businesses and visitors.

The improvements are part of a wider plan to create a more accessible, vibrant and investment-ready future for Bootle town centre. You can find all updates here - www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates.

A BRIGHTER BOOTLE - Art Gallery now open!



An open-air Art Gallery is now in place on Washington Parade, showcasing a series of vibrant large-scale artworks by local and national artists Heather Almond, Timea Balo, Cherie Grist, Jay Stockley and Sam Wiehl. The gallery forms part of a wider vision to bring more culture, creativity and colour to the town centre, all things that local residents have spoken about previous during engagement events. The Gallery also builds on the momentum of Bootle's Town of Culture bid and supports the town's ongoing regeneration. Funded through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the Community and Place Improvements for Bootle programme, the gallery complements wider investment in the Bootle Strand transformation and the continued development of Salt and Tar.

Salt and Tar 2026 Success



Over 15,000 music fans enjoyed five days of live entertainment as the 2026 Salt and Tar Music Festival took place at Bootle's Lock & Quay event grounds. Despite moving from its usual home while regeneration work continues at Bootle Strand, the festival delivered another memorable summer event, featuring headline performances from Nile Rodgers & CHIC, Billy Ocean, The Waterboys and The Saw Doctors. Visitors also enjoyed performances from local artists and a range of food and drink from Sefton-based traders. The festival once again proved a popular highlight of Sefton's events calendar, bringing visitors to Bootle and supporting local businesses.

Bootle Shuttle Service Expanded to Trial a Service for Liverpool FC Home Matches

Following the success of the shuttle service linking Bootle with Everton's Hill Dickinson Stadium, a new trial service for Liverpool FC home games has been launched. The service helps make Bootle a key transport hub for football supporters, offering convenient parking, public transport links and direct shuttle buses. The new 968 shuttle bus runs from Bootle Bus Station to Anfield, with buses operating from three hours before kick-off.

Supporters can also take advantage of parking at Bootle Strand Shopping Centre, as the car park opening hours will be extended. The expanded service will provide fans with another convenient travel option while bringing more visitors into Bootle town centre and supporting local business. For more information, visit:

www.sefton.gov.uk/bootlefootballshuttlebus



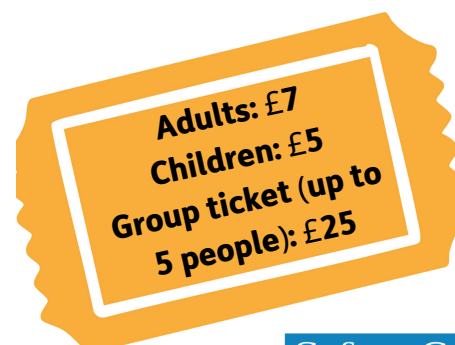
Step Through the Wardrobe as The Narnia Experience Comes to Bootle

This October and November, audiences can step into the magical world of Narnia as The Narnia Experience comes to the Strand Shopping Centre from the 17 th October to the 7 th November. Presented by In Another Place, this immersive walk-through production brings C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe to life, with visitors journeying through a wintry forest and meeting characters including Mr Tumnus, Mrs Beaver and the White Witch. Guests can choose to follow either Lucy's or Edmund's journey through Narnia, with each route offering different scenes and perspectives from the story.

Following the success of The Little Narnia Experience at the Strand Shopping Centre, the company is bringing the full-scale production to Bootle for the first time.

Selected performances will include a cream tea at a small additional cost, in partnership with Kingsley and Co.

Book your tickets here - www.tickettailor.com/events/inanotherplace/2203589



Summer of event success at The Strand

Bootle International Festival returned to The Strand in June and attracted around 800-1,000 visitors, making it one of the event's most successful years yet. The celebration brought together around 20 community organisations and featured a packed programme of performances, workshops and activities showcasing cultures from across the world. The festival's growing success has also been recognised nationally, with it being selected as one of just five community and family events to receive Arts Council funding to support its development in 2027.



The Strands summer programme of free family events was a huge success, welcoming families to the centre throughout the school holidays and creating a vibrant atmosphere across the summer months.

From popular Toy Story and Dinosaur Days to the energetic K-Pop Experience, each event offered something for everyone, with visitors enjoying live entertainment, performances, crafts, face painting and memorable photo opportunities.

The programme received a fantastic response from the local community, with families returning time and again to take part in the activities. It was wonderful to see the centre bustling with visitors throughout the holidays and making it a destination for family-friendly experiences.