



Funded by  
UK Government

# THE BOOTLE BUZZ

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

June 2026

## Bootle's BID for Town of Culture 2028

Bootle is bidding to become the UK's first-ever Town of Culture 2028. The bid puts local people, creativity and community pride at the heart of Bootle's future, setting out a bold vision for how culture can drive regeneration, wellbeing and opportunity. If successful, Bootle would receive £3 million to deliver an ambitious six-month cultural programme in 2028, bringing arts, music, performance, heritage and wellbeing activities into streets, town-centre spaces and venues across the area.



Culture is already playing a key role in Bootle's transformation. The bid builds on a growing and confident creative scene, including Salt and Tar, which has quickly established itself as a major social and cultural hub, attracting headline artists, supporting local businesses and generating new footfall and pride of place. This sits alongside the ongoing regeneration of Bootle Strand and investment in the wider area, showing how culture can help reshape town centres for the future.

Central to the bid is a commitment to young people, learning and creative talent. The programme aims to open up new opportunities for skills development, participation and creative careers, working closely with schools, colleges, universities, artists and community organisations.

Becoming Town of Culture 2028 would leave a lasting legacy of skills, connections and investment that extends well beyond the six-month programme. Find out more here - [www.madeinbootle.uk](http://www.madeinbootle.uk)

# Bootle Town Centre Transformation Update

The demolition works have now been successfully completed. To see the scale and progress of this work you can watch a timelapse video of the demolition at [www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates)

Work is now underway on the redevelopment phase. On the former M&S building the existing fronts are being removed in preparation for the new shop fronts and cladding systems to be installed. Groundworks for the new retaining wall is also underway, re-using materials from the demolition process which is more sustainable than removing it from site

This retaining wall is needed to allow the build-up of the ground, as there is an approximate 4.5m level difference between the former Palatine side and Stanley Road side of the site. 31 concrete piles have also been installed as part of this retaining wall work, with each pile extending over 8m into the ground.

Some of the material from the demolition has been used as part of this build-up work. A waterproof layer has also been laid across the exposed concrete slab in the new Mons Square area and new drainage outlets have been installed.



## Flushed With Success: Toilet Work Underway

Work on the new public toilets in the Strand Shopping Centre is now underway.

The new space, in the former Bodycare unit, will include:

- Male and Female toilets
- Changing Places toilet
- Feeding Room
- Quiet space/faith room

Works are due to complete in Winter 2026.



# Salt and Tar Inspires Next Generation of Creatives

Students from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) recently visited Bootle’s Salt and Tar site to gain first-hand insight into how culture is helping to transform the town. Since launching in 2024, the canal-side venue has become a key driver of regeneration, bringing live music, events and new audiences to the area while supporting local creatives and businesses.

As excitement builds, Salt and Tar’s popular music festival will take place this Summer at nearby Lock & Quay, featuring an impressive line-up of headline acts. The event highlights the growing ambition for Bootle as a cultural destination, with ongoing plans to expand Salt and Tar into a major permanent events space.

The visit forms part of Sefton Council’s partnership with LIPA, helping to connect students with real-world projects while supporting Bootle’s long-term cultural vision.



# A Day of Star Wars Excitement at The Strand



On the 27th May, shoppers at The Strand enjoyed a special visit from The Mandalorian and Grogu on their impressive hover bike, accompanied by Stormtroopers, to celebrate the release of the new movie. Visitors had the opportunity to take photos with the characters, while children enjoyed themed crafts and free face painting throughout the day. The event was a great success, bringing plenty of excitement and smiles to the centre.

# Working Together for a Cleaner Bootle



Local residents came together this Spring to take part in a community litter pick in Bootle town centre, helping to brighten up the area and show pride in their neighbourhood.

Organised by Ykids, the event saw families and volunteers of all ages giving up their time during the Easter holidays to make a positive difference. The day was marked by a fantastic sense of teamwork and enthusiasm, with participants working side by side to improve the local environment.

Sefton Council would like to thank everyone involved, including Ykids, K2 Architects, Kingsley and Co, Prima Group and the Linacre Litter Network, for their continued support in making Bootle a cleaner, more welcoming place for all.

## Bootle International Festival returns for 2026

Join us at Bootle Strand Shopping Centre on Saturday 27th June, from 12pm to 4pm, for a vibrant, free, family-friendly celebration of culture and community.

The Bootle International Festival brings the world to Bootle, with an exciting line-up including Bollywood dancing, samba performances, Ukrainian choirs, African drumming, and a showcase of talented local musicians and dance groups.

Visitors can also explore international crafts and enjoy giant games for all ages. Come along, experience something new, and celebrate the rich diversity of our community together!

