

Ian Hodgson

Ian Hodgson has worked as a Community Activator based in Clayton-le-Moors for two and a half years. Hired by Hyndburn Leisure, Ian helps to facilitate activities that help the communities' mental health and well-being.

Throughout the years he has worked with around twenty people to use funding from the heritage lottery, to collate memories, photographs and information about Clayton-le-Moors. Together they created an ongoing exhibition within the community centre, to celebrate the history of the village.

Ian has helped groups like the Clayton Community Singers to get started and enjoys hosting historic and nature walks. Ian loves working within the community, but his real passion is music.

As a singer-songwriter and frontman of the band 'Bradford', you will always find him singing. He plays guitar, but also likes to experiment with other string instruments, such as his banjo, ukulele and mandolin.

His band 'Bradford', which consisted of himself, Ewan Butler and Stephen Street, took off in the late eighties. It was during this time that 'Morrissey' and 'The Smiths' became fans of the Blackburn based band. In 1988, Morrissey invited Bradford to open for him at his first ever solo performance in Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

Bradford released their debut single 'Skin Storm' in 1988, which Morrissey covered in 1991. He released two singles which included 'Skin Storm' as the B side. 'Pregnant For the Last Time' which was released to the world and 'My Love Life', available in the USA.

Even though Bradford were on the rise, the music scene around Manchester was changing and 'Madchester' happened. A blend between acid house, indie rock, psychodelia and 1960s pop took over, with bands such as, The Stone Roses and Happy Mondays. The new trend made it hard for the indie band to sell records.

In 2018 the skinhead looking band returned with a 30-year celebration release and gig at Blackburn Museum to launch their new album 'Thirty Years of Shouting Quietly.'

Ian and his band mates have now released two more albums since their return. 'Bright Hours' in 2021 and 'You are stronger than you think' in 2025, with a portrait of Ian's Great Uncle, Jack Kendal, who was a Victorian boxer.

When Ian is not doing all the above, he can be found living the life of a hippie. He enjoys keeping fit, being in nature, meditating and hugging trees. On his runs, you will find him picking up litter as a respect to his local environment.

I asked him what advice he would like to give people. His response was 'Accept it. Deal with it. Move on.' He explained for different situations; you may find that you need more time between each of the statements.

Before ending the interview, Ian left me with one last quote, an ode to Bill Hicks. 'We are all one consciousness experiencing itself subjectively, there is no such thing as death, life is only a dream, and we are the imagination of ourselves.'