**Press Release**

**Uniquely designed bandstand to be installed in the grounds of Strawberry Field, Liverpool**

**Liverpool council planners give final OK**

When one thinks of Strawberry Field, John Lennon or the Beatles, it is music that comes to mind. For many that is what they also first associate with the Salvation Army. The team at Strawberry Field are therefore delighted that Liverpool City have now given planning permission for the installation of a uniquely designed bandstand in the grounds of Strawberry Field where John Lennon played as a child.

Further details will be announced shortly including an anticipated opening date once the details of the planning requirements have been fully reviewed.

Kathleen Versfeld, Mission Director at Strawberry Field said “We are thrilled to have received the go ahead for the bandstand. We are looking forward to celebrity performances, performances by our Step to Works students and of course by Salvation Army bands. We are very conscious of the fact that we are in a residential neighbourhood, so our plans include significant steps to avoid noise, crowding or other forms of disturbance. We want the bandstand to bring great joy to our local community as well as to our visitors from around the world”

For more information, visit Strawberry Field, www.strawberryfieldliverpool.com

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors**:

Strawberry Field, the iconic site immortalised in The Beatles hit ‘Strawberry Fields Forever’, welcomed the public beyond the famous red gates for the first time in summer 2019. The new Strawberry Field centre proved popular, with over 40,000 Beatles fans visiting in the first few months of opening.

The new site is a welcome addition to Beatles tourism in the city, with responsible tourism at its heart. It is now home to a brand new visitor experience, complete with visitor exhibition, café, shop and gardens and a Steps to Work programme, which aims to help young adults with learning difficulties and other barriers to employment into work.

The Salvation Army is an international Christian church and registered charity which has been transforming lives for more than 150 years. Working in 131 countries worldwide, The Salvation Army offers friendship, practical help and support for people at all levels of need. In the UK and Republic of Ireland this work includes more than 750 community churches and social centres. Registered Charity Nos. 214779, 215174 and in Scotland SC009359, SC037691. For more information visit the website [www.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk)

Media enquiries please contact The Salvation Army Strawberry Field Press Team:

Laura Taylor, Marketing & Communications Manager, Strawberry Field

laura.taylor@savalvationarmy.org.uk Tel: +44(0)7770 092552

Out of hours: 020 3657 7555 or pr@salvationarmy.org.uk

Location - Beaconsfield Rd, Woolton, Liverpool L25 6EJ

**FACT SHEET**

**Visiting Strawberry Field**

* Post Covid-19, Strawberry Field will be opening on 20th July
* Strawberry Field is around 15 minutes’ drive from Liverpool city centre. Drop off and pick up parking spaces will be available as well as nearby coach parking.
* The site is a short walk away from John Lennon’s childhood home in Menlove Avenue where he lived with this Aunt Mimi.

**The Salvation Army and Strawberry Field**

* Strawberry Field was gifted to The Salvation Army in 1934. The organisation opened the site as a children’s home in 1936 and for nearly 70 years the site supported some of Liverpool’s most vulnerable children until it closed in 2005.
* A young John Lennon lived nearby and played in the grounds. It eventually inspired him to write the song Strawberry Fields Forever.
* The Salvation Army is a church and charity, working in 131 countries around the world, demonstrating Christian principles through practical support and friendship to people of all ages, backgrounds and needs.

**The grounds and interactive exhibition**

* Visitors will learn about the site’s history and connection with The Salvation Army. There will be exclusive insights into the former Salvation Army children’s home, John Lennon's childhood and the writing and recording of the famous song, as told by John’s close friends and family
* There is also a café, shop and gardens on site for visitors to enjoy

**Responsible Tourism**

* Proceeds from the site will help fund the Steps to Work programme, which supports local young people, aged 18-25 with learning disabilities and other barriers to employment. The programme aims to remove barriers and support trainees into employment. The 12- 18 month employability programme includes an 8 week ‘work readiness course’ followed by at least 3, three month work placements with a local employer, which could include the Strawberry Field shop, visitor exhibition, café or garden. These work placements include two days a week at work and two days a week at The City of Liverpool College.