



← Festival

Oldham →

Dance • Music • Street Theatre • Fun

Saturday 1 June,
12noon – 4pm, free

Across Oldham town centre
and Gallery Oldham



Oldham
Council

Festival Oldham **Saturday 1 June, 12noon – 4pm**

Festival Oldham is the annual outdoor arts festival. This year we are marking 175 years of Oldham becoming a borough and celebrating its People, Places and their Pastimes.

Did you know there has been an annual outdoor arts festival in Oldham since 1997. This year makes 27 years of inspiring performances from local, national and international artists and performers.

This year we welcome over 100 artists and performers delivering 50 shows, performances, installations, and creative workshops at sites across Oldham Town Centre.



The Living Dress – Cabasa Carnival Arts.

175 Anniversary Celebrations

Check out some of our key events happening this summer to commemorate Oldham's 175 Anniversary...

The Tour of Britain Women

Sunday 9 June

Greater Manchester: National Cycling Centre to Leigh

Greater Manchester gears up to host stage four of the major international stage race on Sunday 9 June. Cyclists will take in some of the region's challenging climbs before reaching the finish line in Leigh, where the race winner will be crowned.

One Seven Five: An Incomplete history of Oldham in 175 objects

Saturday 15 June 2024 –

Saturday 11 January 2025

Gallery Oldham

A variety of today's Oldhamers have selected objects which tell fascinating stories about our area through the years. We'll be showcasing stories of Olympic glory, a pet wasp, and some gems from Oldham's art and natural history collections which you may not have seen.

Oldham Music Centre's Summer Music Festival

Friday 12 July, 4pm

Saturday 13 July, 10am

Hundreds of Oldham's best and brightest young and community musicians are set to get the town centre rocking at this year's Summer Festival.

Oldham Pride

Saturday 20 July

The ever-popular Oldham Pride festival returns for 2024 with a range of entertainment and activities across the town centre. The Pride parade event itself will take place on Saturday and will travel through the town centre to the Queen Elizabeth Hall where there will be community stalls, a youth event and a main stage cabaret. More on this to be announced soon.

Oldham Histories Festival

Friday 6 – Sunday 15 September

This year's theme is Routes, Networks and Connections and our programme includes gallery talks, town centre walks and behind-the-scenes tours.

Find out more:

www.oldham.gov.uk/Oldham175



Market Place

The Living Dress – Cabasa Carnival Arts

12noon – 4pm

Festival Oldham is delighted to present The Living Dress that celebrates Oldham's rich heritage of cotton spinning, wool weaving and dyeing through this new installation. The result is a large-scale naturally dyed, handmade dress worn by a beautiful 5-metre tall sculpture.

The dress has been made with the help of local community groups in Oldham including the Women's Chai Project. Using a hybrid of both ancient techniques and modern processes the living dress explores and celebrates the culture and stories behind the natural dye madder, which has been used around the world since around 3000BC.

Cultural Comedy Tours

12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm

Join a tour and you'll be whisked around Oldham on a giggle by stand-up comedians who will guide you on your journey around artworks, collections, exhibitions, and buildings. Fun, factual and hilarious don't miss out. Limited Headsets available.



Jubacana

12noon – Gallery Oldham

1.15pm – Market Place

2.45pm – Town Hall Stage

Jubacana is Oldham's youth-led,

fusion music and dance project in Oldham for 8–18s who meet weekly at Gallery Oldham. Inspired by the music of Brazil and beyond with a UK twist they make a massive sound with Brazilian percussion instruments, creating original music with melodic guitars, bass, drum kit and flute thrown into the mix, all combined with vibrant dance choreographies.



Dancing Diyas and Natraj dance Academy

12.45pm – Market Place

2.15pm – Hilton Square

3.30pm – Market Place

Come and be amazed by the dazzling Dancing Diyas and Natraj Dance Academy. The Oldham based dance companies will bring their heritage and culture alive through dance specially for the festival.



High Street

Serving Sounds – Working Boys Club

12.30pm, 2pm, 3.15pm

Serving Sounds is a multi-sensory sound installation that creates connection through music – a bar that serves bass rather than beer.



Lollipop Patrol – Curious Cargo

12noon, 1.15pm, 2.45pm

With excessive enthusiasm and a slippery grip on reality, the Lollipop Patrol is here to help and hinder in equal measure. They are the 64th emergency service holding up the luminous hand of the law.



Bob the Butterfly and Gerry the Gerbera – Artemis

12noon,
1.15pm,
2.45pm

Market Place

Inspired by the Beautiful Oldham campaign in 1902. Watch out for Bob the Butterfly and Gerry the Gerbera who have escaped the greenhouse and are ready to explore their new surroundings.



Oldham Play Action Group

12noon – 4pm

High Street and Albion Street

There are lots of exciting activities to take part in on the day just come along to the two Festival Creator Stations and bring out your inner artist.



Hilton Square

The Cloud Travellers –

Judith Hope

12noon and 3pm – Albion Street
1.30pm – Oldham Childrens Library

In Oldham we are used to the rain but wishing for sunny skies on festival day. Let's hope the only clouds we see are Nimbus and Cumulus, two curious puppet characters, riding high aloft their cloud-top homes. Watch as they cast magical raindrops from the tips of their fingers.

Ollie and Millie's 175 Birthday Party – Oldham Theatre

Workshop

12.30pm – Oldham Children's Library
2pm and 3.30pm – Market Place

Join Oldham's owls as they celebrate the 175th birthday of the borough. There will be cake, music and party games.



Spindles Town Square

Shopping Centre's Kids Club

12noon – 4pm

Inside the centre there will be facepainting, crafts, retro arcade and character visits throughout the day.

The Pop Up Barn Dance –

Fairly Famous Family

12noon and 2.30pm Market Place

1.30pm – Hilton Square

Barn dance, hoedown, whatever you call it, it's great fun to dance with friends, family even complete strangers, and thanks to the pop up barn dance band the fun can happen anywhere.



Hilton Square

The Album: Skool Edition – SAY

12.45pm, 3pm – Hilton Square

Celebrate the joy and innocence of making up dances to exciting new music in this interactive, outdoor dance show.

Combining fast-paced and slick contemporary dance routines to exciting new music, including tracks with UK beatbox champion MC Zani and alternative pop artist Naomi Banks, the album: skool edition is an interactive dance created specifically for kids and families.

Urban Canvas

12noon – 4pm

This is not just an art activity, but an educational insight into the world of illusionary art. Go along and grab a brush and make your mark on this giant 3D artwork to celebrate 175 Years of the borough.

Adoration of the Chip Encore – Oldham Theatre Workshop

12noon – Hilton Square

1.45pm – Market Place

3.15pm – Gallery Oldham

Did you know Oldham is the home of the 1st fried chip? Specially created for this year's festival this trio is a chip off the old block. Filled with songs and puppetry that will make you want to grab the salt and vinegar to do a chippy tea happy dance.



Old Town Hall

New for 2024 join us at the Oldham Live Music Stage. Enjoy some of the incredible music from some of the finest local up and coming and established bands.

Millie Milner & the Deadnames

12noon

Millie Milner & The Deadnames, the queer fronted indie-pop band. Playing music written by their very own front-person under the alias of their deadname as an act of striking back. They tell stories through the means of a mix of genres whilst keeping firm roots in the indie pop genre that is speckled through each track.

Carnival Bloco – Global Grooves

12noon – Market Place

2pm – Main Stage

3.15pm – Hilton Square

A Carnival Bloco is typically a group of revellers, raising the energy and getting everyone moving and shaking. Bloco comprises of drummers, dancers and brass musicians, determined to make you feel immersed in the Carnival experience.



Old Town Hall

Mercy Kelly

1pm

The Greater Manchester 5-piece formed during the winter of 2019; channelling a stirring mix of Chameleons-esque guitar sounds and stadium sized melodies. Originally starting out as an acoustic song writing duo of frontman Jack Marland and guitarist Adam Bridge, the group has morphed into its current incarnation with new members Joel Buckley and Leon Hepke joining on bass and drums respectively.



Heavy Salad

3pm

Formed in Manchester in 2018 by Lee Mann, Rob Glennie, and Allan Hutchison, the band soon blossomed into a seven piece. Heavy Salad proudly create a melting pot of melodic, psychedelic pop music infused with the band's eclectic love of surf rock, fuzzed up punk funk and cosmic gospel-tinged folk.



Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library



Fabric Feathers – Caroline Daly

12noon – 4pm

Come and help create a beautiful giant Oldham Owl in the Gallery Gardens. We need the people of Oldham to come down and make their mark. Made from eco-friendly materials pop down at any time during the festival to do your bit to create this giant make.



Beyond The Rooftops – Eye Of Newt

12noon and 3pm 3.45pm –
Oldham Childrens Library
12.45 and 2pm – Albion Street

Somewhere amongst the chimney pots a nest is being prepared. In this tale of friendship, courage, and self-discovery we follow Pigeon as she discovers strength in the most unexpected places.



175 – HAMMO

12noon – 4pm

Witness one of Manchester's finest Street Artists create a new mural in the Gallery Oldham Gardens to celebrate Oldham's 175 anniversary.

Bumble Bees – Circii

12.45pm, 1.45pm and 2.45pm
Gallery Oldham

These adorable Bumble Bees are irresistibly cuddly and have left their sting at home to ensure they follow the summer scents. They will be heading to Gallery Oldham to see their smaller cousins the Gallery Oldham honey bees.



Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library

Ocean Drifters

18 May – 7 September

Oldham is a long way from the sea so we are bringing the magical world of the ocean to Gallery Oldham this summer. You are invited to step into the underwater kingdom and immerse yourself in the world of Ocean Drifters.

Set your imagination free and join the giant jellyfish in this new, fun interactive exhibition.

We promise that they won't sting but they may tantalize you with their tentacles.



Ocean Drifters Workshop, free

12noon – 4pm

Gallery Oldham Foyer

Join in and have fun making your own puppet inspired by the underwater creatures you can find in Gallery Oldham's Ocean Drifters exhibition.



At various venues across the town centre

- 1 Market Place
- 4 Old Town Hall
- 2 Hilton Square
- 5 Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library
- 3 High Street

Festival Oldham is a partner in Without Walls, a consortium of festivals and arts organisations bringing fantastic outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across England. Find out more on www.withoutwalls.uk.com



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