

Heritage, Libraries and Arts

# What's On in Oldham

October 2024 – April 2025





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## Gallery Oldham 4 – 11

We've got a fantastic range of exhibitions over the next few months. Don't miss our programme of associated craft sessions and gallery talks too.

## Live@thelibrary 12 – 14

The latest season of performance and spoken word is now booking. From children's drama to musical comedy there really is something for everyone. As always, we are delighted to showcase a range of new writing and local talent.

## What's On listings 15 – 23

We run a huge range of regular sessions and special events activities to suit all ages. Get ready for our ever popular light festival in February. Illuminate is going to be bigger and better than ever!

## Even more to explore 24 – 27

There is a huge selection of services available from Oldham's Heritage, Libraries and Arts. Find out about our artist network, volunteering opportunities, and the work of Oldham Theatre Workshop and Oldham Local Studies and Archives.

## Visit our shop

Looking for a special gift? The Gallery Oldham shop has a great selection of cards, crafts, gifts, children's toys and Oldham souvenirs to suit all pockets. We also showcase a selection of items made by local artists and craftspeople. Every purchase supports the work that we do.

You can also shop online with Art UK. Over 300 images from our collections are available to buy as prints or as merchandise such as cards, coasters and mugs. Visit [artuk.org](http://artuk.org)



# Oldham Stories: Encounters with our Collections

## A Permanent Gallery

Oldham Stories brings together a range of our favourite objects, alongside some things which might surprise you. The display features items from our Natural History, Social History and Art collections.

Discover a selection of sports stories and memorabilia, including a case linked to Oldham's Rugby League players, as well as information about well-known people such as Sir Winston Churchill, who began his political career as MP for Oldham. In our wildlife section explore a wide range of Oldham habitats and creatures. This includes many common ducks including Teal, and Hedgehogs which are occasionally seen hunting for slugs and snails in our gardens.

### Wednesday 11 December, 2pm

Explore behind the scenes in the art store with art curator Rebecca Hill. Limited capacity. Please book on Eventbrite.

### Wednesday 12 March, 2pm

Join curator Karen Heatley to explore some of the delicate textiles and costume within the social history collection.

Image: Teal from the Gallery Oldham collections



# The Oldham Open 2024

Until 23 November

Make sure you see this joyful exhibition showcasing the extraordinary range of talented artists living, working or studying in the borough of Oldham.

Come and choose your favourite from the wide variety of artists and styles, across drawing, painting, photography, ceramics and sculpture.

Don't forget that everything in this exhibition is for sale, so it's a great opportunity to treat yourself or to pick up some Christmas presents while supporting artists in our area.

**Wednesday 16 October, 2pm**

Join our art curator to take a look at some of the entries in this year's Oldham Open exhibition.



# One Seven Five: An incomplete history of Oldham in 175 objects

Until 11 January 2025

2024 is the 175th anniversary of the founding of the borough of Oldham. To celebrate, a variety of today's Oldhamers have selected objects which tell fascinating stories about our area through the years.

This exhibition gives an overview of some of the enormous changes that have occurred since the borough was founded, and zooms in on some of the stories of the people who have led those changes.

## Wednesday 9 October, 2pm

Join us for an exploration of 175 years of history in 50 pictures chosen from the collections of Oldham Local Studies and Archives.

## Saturday 2 November

Oldham Borough's Big Birthday Bash. Join us in wishing Oldham a happy 175th birthday. Details of times and events through the day are available on our website.

## Wednesday 13 November, 2pm

Find out more about the beginnings of the fire and police service in Oldham as part of our celebration of 175 years of the borough of Oldham. This talk also runs on Saturday 30 November as an Audio-described talk at 10.30am and BSL signed talk at 2pm.



# Minute to Midnight

7 December – 1 March 2025

The Doomsday Clock was developed in 1947 as an indicator to show how close humanity is to destruction. Then it was set at seven minutes to midnight. The hands are currently set at 90 seconds to midnight, indicating how much closer the planet is to disaster.

Human activities such as burning fossil fuel to power factories, for transport and to heat our homes release carbon dioxide. Scientists have observed Earth's surface is warming as a result. This is Climate Change.

For this exhibition we have invited five artists based in the north-west of England to show works which consider the climate emergency, and their role as artists in relation to this. Featuring thought-provoking work by Rebecca Chesney, Antony Hall, Mishka Henner, Adele Jordan and Rae Story.

## Saturday 25 January, 2pm

What is the Role of the Artist at the End of Time?  
Join in a discussion with the contributing artists about their work in relation to Climate Emergency.

Image credit: Red, Amber, Green by Rebecca Chesney (detail), copyright the artist

PLATE  
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p. 464

*Ad. m.*      *Imm. m.*  
GREENFINCH (♂)      *Ad. f.*

p. 466



*Ad. f.*      *Imm. m.*  
GOLDFINCH (♂)      *Ad. m.*

p. 463



*Imm. m.*      *Ad. f.*  
HAWFINCH (♂)      *Ad. m.*

# The Lights

25 January – 28 April

Over the last ten years, Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool has developed a special interest in artists who use light as a material within their work. In addition to an annual light themed exhibition each autumn, Grundy has also been adding light based art works to its collection.

We are pleased to present a selection of works from Grundy's collection here in Oldham for the first time. The exhibition will include work by artists Martin Creed, Noel Clueit, Tracey Emin, Tony Heaton, and Mark Titchner.

The Lights takes its title from the shorthand for how the Blackpool Illuminations are referred to locally. Don't miss the details of Oldham's very own Illuminate Festival on p19.

Wednesday 12 February, 2pm

The Grundy's Paulette Brien, will introduce Blackpool's collection of contemporary light art.

Image: Tony Heaton OBE, Raspberry Ripple, 2018. © the artist, Courtesy Grundy Art Gallery Collection. Photo: Brenden McGregor





# New life in an old building

15 March – 30 May

Preparations continue to celebrate the reopening of the Old Library later in 2025. This exhibition acts as a taster before we reopen the doors, giving an insight into the work that has been carried out to restore the building to its former glory.

A new chapter will begin as the building becomes home to civic functions such as the Mayor's Parlour and Council Chamber. It will also contain studio spaces for the creativity of Oldham Theatre Workshop's young people to flourish. And on the second floor one of the original art gallery spaces will be beautifully restored.

Take a look back and explore the history of this building which has served the local community since 1883. Built as a library, museum, and art gallery it has been a place where many Oldhamers attended their first exhibition or borrowed their first library book. We'd love to hear, and share, your memories too.

## Wednesday 23 April, 2pm

Find out more about the history, and the future, of this much-loved building.



## Gallery Four

Gallery Four features work by groups or individuals who live or work in Oldham, or whose subject matter relates to Oldham in some way. If you would like to exhibit in this space, please email [nick.duke@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:nick.duke@oldham.gov.uk) for more details.

### Colin Welden – 'A Walk Along the Towpath'

7 December 2024 – 11 January 2025

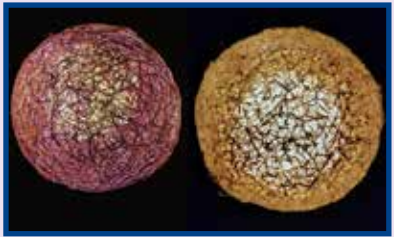
In early 2023, Oldham based artist Colin Welden began sketching and taking photos of selected sections of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. His aim is to capture the sheer scale, grit and grime of our local industrial heritage.



### Amber Queally & The Stupid Astronomer – 'Solar Maximum'

25 January – 8 March

Embark on a captivating journey with Amber Queally and The Stupid Astronomer to explore our sun. Together they unveil the secrets of solar activity through mesmerizing sculptural forms and breath-taking up-close photography, showcasing a phenomenon called 'Solar Maximum' that occurs approximately every 11 years.



### Sophie Tyrrell – 'Myth & Moor'

15 March – 30 May 2025

The surrounding moorland provides the backdrop for Oldham based artist Sophie Tyrrell as she playfully grapples with the myth of progress. Dramatic carnivalesque scenes are animated by costumed creatures, using traditional crafting materials and brilliant colour.

## Donations and enquiries

Our specialist curators provide a free identification and advice service, although we are unable to give valuations. Please make an appointment in advance.

#### Art and Craft

[Rebecca.Hill@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Hill@oldham.gov.uk)

#### Natural History

[Patricia.Francis@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.Francis@oldham.gov.uk)

#### Social and Local History

[Karen.Heatley@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Heatley@oldham.gov.uk)



# Adult Art and Craft

We offer a range of creative sessions for adults. Booking is essential. Please check our website for details.

## Life Drawing

**Thursdays –  
12 September,  
10 October,  
14 November,  
12 December, 6 – 8pm,  
£10 per person per  
session, Gallery  
Oldham**

From beginners to more advanced, our life drawing sessions are the perfect opportunity to develop your skills.



## Embroidery: Thread Journal

**Saturday 19 October, 10.30am – 12.30pm  
Saturday 26 April 2025, 10.30am – 12.30pm,  
£10 per ticket (class only), £35 per ticket  
(class and starter kit), Gallery Oldham**

The Sew Unique Thread Journal class is an inspiring workshop where Stephanie will be sharing tips and techniques that will help you to create your very own thread journal.

## Lino Printing: Christmas Workshop

**Saturday 30 November,  
10am – 12noon and  
1.30 – 3.30pm, £15 per  
person, Gallery Oldham**

Join Hunion for a beginner's lino course. Print your own Christmas cards and Christmas wrapping this year to really stand out.



## Mindfulness Watercolours

**Saturday 25 January 2025, 10am – 4pm,  
£40 per person, Gallery Oldham**

Create your very own work of art to take home, using vivid watercolours in a fluid fun style.

## Clay Vase Workshop

**Saturday 15 March, 10.30am – 12noon and  
1 – 3.30pm, £30 per person, Gallery Oldham**

This guided workshop will show you how to create a vase using the coil method. You will also paint your vase, which will be taken away for kiln firing and then returned for collection. All materials included. Perfect for complete beginners and the more advanced.



# live@thelibrary: **Family**

Oldham Theatre Workshop Presents

## **guinea pig**

**Tuesday 12 November – Saturday 16 November, various times, Oldham Library, £8**

It's 2028, on the eve of a referendum that might change young people's lives forever as the country decides if smartphones should be banned for under 16's. This original heartwarming pop rock musical explores what it means to grow up against the backdrop of a technological revolution.

FRONTLINEdance Presents

## **The Explorers**

**Saturday 18 January, 12noon and 3pm, Oldham Library, £5**

Join the Frontline dance team their multi-sensory, wonderful adventure, where you get to help bring life to stories, with dance, colour, sound, and teamwork. This fully inclusive contemporary dance performance and participatory show is relaxed accessible and fun. Suitable for audiences 3+



Oliver Sykes Presents

## **We are Family: Six Kids and a Super-Dad**

**Monday 17 February, 10.30am, Oldham Library, £5**

There's Dad's disgusting nettle soup and peculiar pancakes, horrible home haircuts and more but then there's the joy of fun family outings, jokes and pranks – and storytelling round the fire. Oliver's real-life childhood is taken from the page to the stage in this groundbreaking live poetry adventure.

**There will also be a free writing workshop at 12noon.**

Image: We are family – Oliver Sykes



# live@thelibrary: **Comedy**

Ragged Edge Productions Presents

## **The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon**

**Saturday 19 October, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

An American Wild West town in 1870. A travelling English Theatre company are performing scenes from Shakespeare when lone gunslinger The Wanderer comes up to a gang of outlaws. When the gun smoke clears, Mrs Speakwell lies dead.

Hambledon Productions Presents

## **Dracula: One Bloody Fang After Another**

**Wednesday 30 October, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

One man. Eighteen roles. Plenty at stake... Whitby, England, 1897. Will Dracula see the light of day? Or will he forever be a pain in the neck? Bram Stoker's immortal horror story is given an affectionate lampooning in this physical, riotous comedy.



Page2Stage Creatives Presents

## **Life's Little VicToms**

**Thursday 13 February, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

Follow Vicky and Tom, a middle-aged couple, in two very different scenarios as they tackle the ups and downs of everyday life. This play's unique style masterfully breaks the fourth wall, drawing the audience into the narrative. Suitable for audiences aged 16 years and above.



Image: Mystery of the Blue Moon



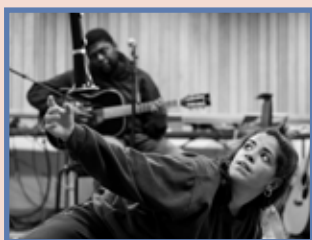
# live@thelibrary: Dance, Drama and New Writing

Sound UK and Marco Woolf Presents

## Dream Setting

**Wednesday 16 October, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

Celebrating the power of dreams, Marco shares stories about the people (and sometimes creatures) he and local people have encountered in dreams about Oldham. In collaboration with Oldham Theatre Workshop.



Dominoes, Dahlias and Oware Presents

## Dominoes & Dahlias (+ Oware!)

**Thursday 6 March, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

This performance acknowledges and celebrates the working history, social and cultural contribution made by members of the African and Caribbean Diaspora in the North-west. This show takes a light-hearted view as we join a group of ladies as they participate in a Regional Dominoes Tournament.



Teepee Productions Presents

## Fluff

**Thursday 13 March, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6**

Fluff desperately needs to piece together her life; story by story, person by person. This darkly comedic play explores memories and the choices we make in life. The non-linear plot line allows the audience to feel, first hand, the devastating effects of dementia, through joining Fluff in her journey to uncover her life's memories.



# What's On: October

## Art Club

**Saturday 5 October, 1.30–3.30pm, free, bookable via Eventbrite**

Join our monthly art session for 10 – 16 year olds to explore a new craft and work with an artist.

## Small Cinema: Home (U)

**Saturday 5 October, 2pm, £3.30 per person, bookable via Eventbrite**

Join us every month for a for a family friendly movie.

## Little Reads Day

**Monday 7 October, 1.15–1.45pm and 2.15–2.45pm, free, booking essential via Eventbrite**

Join international storyteller Jan Blake, djembe player Yahaël Onono and musicians from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra for an interactive performance of Ananse and the Monkeys. Perfect for 3 –7 year olds.

## GO! Saturday with the Science and Industry Museum

**Saturday 12 October, 1–3pm, free, drop-in, Gallery Oldham**

This interactive story sharing workshop will bring our 175 exhibition to life for children and families.

## Get Online Week

**Monday 14, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 October, 9am–12noon, free at Oldham Library**

**Friday 18 October, 9.30am–12noon, free at Northmoor Library**

Join us for Digital Drop In sessions throughout the week.

## Collab Lab

**Tuesday 29 October, 1.30–3.30pm, free, booking essential via Eventbrite**

Sessions for young people aged 10–16. Learn, test and explore your creative skills with other people.

## Halloween Silent Discos

**Tuesday 29 October, 4–6pm free, booking essential via Eventbrite, Lees Library**

**Thursday 31 October, 4–6pm free, booking essential via Eventbrite, Chadderton Library**

Get a rave on with the whole family as you boogie amongst the bookshelves at our Halloween monster mash – costumes encouraged.

## GO! October: Our Oldham Panorama

**Wednesday 30 October, 1–3pm, free, drop in, Gallery Oldham**

Recreate Squire Knott's panoramic photo of 1876 Oldham by drawing or painting a building for a large-scale artwork and then create a 2024 version of the Oldham panorama.



# What's On: November

## Small Cinema: Monsters Inc. (U)

**Saturday 2 November, 2pm, £3.30 per person, bookable via Eventbrite**

Free, drop in themed crafts from 12noon, followed by the screening.

## Art Club

**Saturday 2 November, 1.30–3.30pm, free, bookable via Eventbrite**

Join our monthly art session for 10 – 16 year olds to explore a new craft and work with an artist.

## Adult Author Event

### Dan Forrester, Havock

**Thursday 14 November, 5–8pm, free, booking essential**

Havock is a comedy fantasy for adults who would have preferred Game of Thrones if it had been written by Terry Pratchett. Join local author Dan for some bookish games and book chat.



## GO! Saturday

### Light Graffiti with Tim Simpson

**Saturday 9 November, 10.30am–12.30pm and 2–4pm, free, drop-in, Gallery Oldham**

Photographer Tim Simpson will help you to create your own Graffiti Art pictures which will be displayed in our future exhibition The Lights.

## GO! Saturday

### Family Chocolate Making Workshop

**Saturday 23 November, 12noon–4pm, free, booking essential via Eventbrite, Gallery Oldham**

From bean to bar, come and make your own ethical chocolate.



# What's On: December

## Merry Mindfulness Crafts

Tuesdays 3, 10 and 17 December, 10.30am–12.30pm, Oldham Library, free, booking essential via Eventbrite

Don't be lonely this Christmas. Join us at Oldham Library to have a go at our festive crafts, enjoy a mince pie and have a natter.

## Small Cinema: Frozen (PG)

Saturday 7 December, 2pm, £3.30 per person, bookable via Eventbrite

Free, drop in themed crafts from 12noon, followed by the screening.

## live@thelibrary: Christmas

Oldham Theatre Workshop Presents

### Tales of the Toymender

Various dates and times throughout December, £8, Oldham Library

Legend has it that on the night of midwinter, all the toys across the land come to life and play out wonderful adventures... but what about the ones that are broken?

Night after night, in a magical workshop on the edge of town, the toymender works tirelessly. A fairy with a withered wing, a jack in a box with a rusty spring, a thingamabob with a missing thing and... a clockwork owl that just won't sing.

As the cold sets in, and the magical winter festival draws close, will the toymender fix all the toys in time for the celebrations?



# What's On: January and February

## Healthy New Year Festival 2025

**Friday 24 and Saturday  
25 January, 10am – 2pm,  
Oldham Library**

Free exercise classes, health checks, author talks, information stalls and art for wellbeing activities. Join us for a fantastic start to 2025 and a Healthy New Year. Free, booking essential for some activities.



## Baby Fair

**Friday 31 January, 10am – 2pm, free, drop in.  
Workshops are bookable via Eventbrite**

Find out about the amazing offer Oldham has for under 4's and their families at our annual Baby Fair. With free workshops and activities through-out the day.

## Small Cinema: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (U)

**Saturday 1 February, 2pm. £3.30 per person,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Free, drop in themed crafts from 12noon, followed by the screening.

## Art Club

**Saturday 1 February, 1.30–3.30pm, free,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Join our monthly art session for 10 – 16 year olds to explore a new craft and work with an artist.

## GO! Saturday with the Science and Industry Museum

**Saturday 1 February, 1–3pm, free, drop-in,  
Gallery Oldham**

Explore the wonder of creating and capturing light with hands-on activities.

## GO! Saturday

**Saturday 15 February, 1–3pm, free, drop-in,  
Gallery Oldham**

Make your own kaleidoscope in this workshop that explores light and symmetry.

## Small Cinema: Lilo & Stitch (U)

**Monday 17 February, 2pm , £3.30 per person,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Join us every month and enjoy a range of family friendly movies that little ones and grown ups will love.

## Illuminate Lantern Making Workshops

**Saturdays 8 and 15, Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and  
Thursday 20 February, 10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4pm,  
free, bookable via Eventbrite from 2025 (drop in also  
available), Gallery Oldham**

Make beautiful lanterns at our family workshops to light up the night at Illuminate 2025.

# Illuminate

**Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February 2025, free**

**Across Oldham Town Centre, Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library and Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco Park**

See Oldham in a new light as Illuminate Light Night returns for its seventh year.

Experience light art in the dark inspired by our 2025 theme of 'Illuminating the everyday' as you explore the illuminated townscape of installations, exhibitions and performances by local, national and international light artists over two incredible nights.

Don't miss the Illuminate parade on Saturday where hundreds of community lanterns create a river of light through the town centre to the Old Town Hall for the opening show.

Would you like to take part in Illuminate 2025? Make a lantern, join the illuminated parade, take part in creating one of the light artworks or be an Illuminate Event Volunteer. Head to our website for more info <https://hla.oldham.gov.uk/illuminate/>

## Light Artists

We're always happy to talk to artists and potential festival partners. If you would like to discuss a project for Illuminate Light Night, please get in touch

[rachel.wood@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.wood@oldham.gov.uk)



# What's On: March

## Small Cinema: World Book Day The Iron Giant (U)

**Saturday 1 March, 2pm, £3.30 per person,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Free, drop in themed crafts from 12noon, followed by the screening.

## Art Club

**Saturday 1 March, 1.30–3.30pm, free, bookable  
via Eventbrite**

Join our monthly art session for 10 – 16 year olds to explore a new craft and work with an artist.

## World Book Day – Draw Along With Illustrator Gillian Flint

**Saturday 1 March, 1–2pm free, booking essential  
via Eventbrite, Oldham Library**

**Thursday 6 March, 4–5pm free, booking essential  
via Eventbrite, Oldham Library**

Become an artist with upcoming Illustrator of the Woodland Explorers books, Gillian Flint.

## Family Photo Booth

**Saturday 8 March, 10.30am – 12noon, £9 per family,  
booking essential via Eventbrite, Oldham Library**

Ahead of Mother's Day and to celebrate all families this is the perfect opportunity to have your family portrait taken. Each ticket includes one printed image.

## Celebrating International Women's Day

**Author Talk –  
Bonnie Meekums  
A Kind of Family  
Saturday 8 March, 1–3pm,  
Oldham Library, £3**

Meet Bonnie, a local author as she launches her new book. A Kind of Family challenges traditional ideas of what constitutes family.

It explores the raw emotions of grief and finds hope in the connections that help us heal.



## Women's Health Festival

**Thursday 27 March, various times, Oldham Library**

Join us in March as we mark International Women's Day and Women's History month with events including author talks, female health information stalls, wellbeing walks, art for wellbeing and much more.

Free, booking essential for some activities.

# What's On: April

## Small Cinema: Wall-E (U)

Saturday 5 April, 2pm, £3.30 per person,  
bookable via Eventbrite

Free, drop in themed crafts from 12noon,  
followed by the screening.



## Art Club

Saturday 5 April,  
1.30–3.30pm,  
free, bookable  
via Eventbrite

Join our monthly  
art session for  
10 – 16 year olds  
to explore a new  
craft and work with  
an artist.



## Collab Lab

10, 11 and 17 April, 1.30-3.30pm, free, booking  
essential via Eventbrite

Sessions for young people aged 10 – 16. Learn, test and  
explore your creative skills with other people. **Easter**

## Easter Holidays GO! Buzz

Wednesday 16 April, 1–3pm, free,  
booking essential via Eventbrite, Gallery Oldham

In this interactive workshop Beekeeper Damson  
will teach you how to make a bee hotel.



## Adventure Walks

Thursday 17 April, 11am, free, booking essential  
via Eventbrite, Crompton Library

Thursday 17 April, 2pm, free, booking essential  
via Eventbrite, Alexandra Park

Come outdoors to create a unique story with our intrepid  
explorer and storyteller Adam Blake.

# What's On: **Regular sessions**

Don't miss these regular sessions that are on throughout the year.

## **GO! Baby**

**Thursdays, 10.30am–12noon, term-time only  
Gallery Oldham, free, no booking required**

Take part in our fun and relaxed sensory exploration and play sessions for under 2's and their families.

## **GO! Explorers**

**First Saturday of each month, 10.30am-12noon  
(no sessions 7 December and 4 January), Gallery  
Oldham, £4 per child, no booking required**

The perfect messy sensory play for confident walkers – 4-year-olds and their families.

## **Extra Small Cinema**

**Thursday 7 November, Saturday 7 December,  
Wednesday 5 March, 10–11am, 11.30am–12.30pm,  
£2 per person, all adults and children require a ticket,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Our baby cinema screenings are the perfect introduction to the magic of cinema for little ones. Expect comfy seating, sensory play materials, dimmed lighting and quieter volumes.

## **Baby Photobooth**

**Wednesdays 20 November and 18 June,  
10am–12noon, Oldham Library, £9 per child,  
bookable via Eventbrite**

Baby Photobooth is the perfect opportunity to have your little one's portrait taken. Each ticket includes one printed image and the opportunity to purchase more directly from the photographer.

## **Bounce and Rhyme**

**Various times and locations across Oldham, check:  
<https://hla.oldham.gov.uk/> for up to date information.  
Free, no booking required**

Enjoy songs, stories and rhymes, musical instruments and sensory play in weekly sessions that are perfect for bumps and babies.

## **Baby Art Studio**

**Tuesday 12 November, Royton Library, 10am,  
Tuesday 12 November, Chadderton Library, 1.30pm,  
Saturday 16 November, Oldham Library, 10.30am  
£9 per child, bookable via Eventbrite**

Work with an artist to make your very own handmade gift, perfect as a present for someone you love or a treasure to keep forever. Pay for your creations at the session.



# What's On: Regular sessions

## Bedtime Stories

**Second Tuesday of every month, 5.30–6.30pm, free, bookable via Eventbrite**

Pop on your cosiest PJ's and bring your teddy to these wonderful Bedtime Stories sessions for under fours and their families. Explore six new stories and vote for your favourite.

## Little Reads

**Last Friday of each month, 10–11am, Oldham Library, free, no booking required**

Little Reads is a fun, interactive workshop using drama, dance, songs, play and craft to explore children's picture books. Perfect for under 4's and their families.

## Mindfulness Walks

**Mondays 11 November, 27 January and 10 March 10.30–11.30am, Failsworth Library, free, booking essential via Eventbrite**

A friendly, relaxed mindfulness walking group led by Kim Harrison, a nature based mindfulness guide.

## Reading Friends Low Vision Group

**Last Wednesday of the month, 11am–12.30pm, Oldham Library, free, drop in**

Our Reading Friends Low Vision Group meet once a month at Oldham Library. Come along to this friendly, informal group to meet others and take part in craft and wellbeing activities.



## Vibrant Voices

**Every Friday, 1.30–3.30pm, Gallery Oldham, free, drop in**

If you like a good sing-along then join our Vibrant Voices choir for those living with dementia, stroke survivors, Parkinson's, and their friends, family and caregivers. No previous singing or musical experience needed and a Brew and Biscuit Provided.



## Get involved

### Take Part: Volunteering Opportunities



For anyone interested in volunteering at Oldham Heritage, Libraries and Arts please register with Take Part Oldham to view the available opportunities. Visit:

<https://takepartoldham.volunteermakers.org>



### Friends of Gallery Oldham

Join our Friends group to support the gallery, receive a regular newsletter and take part in a series of events and behind-the-scenes tours specially for members.

For more information find us on Facebook or contact [fogoldham@aol.com](mailto:fogoldham@aol.com)

### Oldham Artist Network

Oldham Artist Network is a meeting place for creative people to gain advice and network with others. Look out for our meeting dates on the HLA website. You can also sign up to join our artist database and receive the quarterly Creativity and Culture newsletter. It is packed with funding advice and creative opportunities.

<https://hla.oldham.gov.uk/get-involved/creative-industries/>

### Oldham Music Network

Are you involved in Oldham's thriving live music scene, and want to connect with venues, promoters, musicians, and other industry professionals? Then join us in the Oldham Live Music Network over on Facebook.

<https://bit.ly/OldhamMusicNetwork>

### Lonely Arts Club Oldham

**Wednesday 23 October, 4–7pm, Gallery Oldham**

A new social meet for creatives. Come create, collaborate, share ideas and experience. An open-door event, where everyone is welcome. It doesn't matter about your level of experience, skill or what artform you work in, we encourage newcomers and veterans to stand shoulder to shoulder, chat, drink brews, experiment creatively and have some fun.





# Oldham Local Studies and Archives

The amazing collections at Oldham Local Studies and Archives can help you uncover the stories of the places and people that make Oldham so unique. Whether it's family or local history you're interested in, we have resources that bring the stories of the past to life.

We are open to everyone. Find us in our temporary home on the ground floor at Oldham Library.

**T: 0161 770 4654**

**E: [archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk)**

## Family History and Local History

Our digital resources are available as usual, alongside microfilmed resources and a small selection of books. Enjoy free access to family history websites including Ancestry and FindMyPast where you can search the Census from 1841 to 1921 plus other sources that support your research. Our friendly team are here to help with family and local history advice on a drop-in basis.

Oldham Historical Research Group has a wealth of information about the history of Oldham on their website <http://www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg>

Look out, too, for items from the archives in the displays and exhibitions at Gallery Oldham.



Image – Oldham Centenary trip to Blackpool Winter Gardens, 1949

## Looking forward to 2025

We expect our new home at Spindles to be completed in Summer 2025. It will take time to move our collections into the new store and the date for our re-opening hasn't been set yet. We are not able to accept new donations of archives or local studies material or provide access to our physical collections until we are fully open to the public.

# Oldham Theatre Workshop

Join our community of young performing artists and unlock your creative potential.

If you are aged 6 to 25 years and interested in devising and performing original theatre then Oldham Theatre Workshop is the place for you.

We offer a range of high quality activities from one off workshops to large scale productions at our studios in the centre of Oldham.

All our activities are inclusive, enjoyable, exciting and of a high quality. Our approach is to encourage and involve the individual in their self-development while respecting differing preferences and needs.

For more information visit our website:  
[www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk](http://www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk)



## Spotlight on our work

Oldham Theatre Workshop returned to the Queen Elizabeth Hall this Summer with another piece of epic theatre made and performed by some of Oldham's finest Young People.

'The Not Forgotten' comprised contemporary movement, large scale projections and inventive storytelling. If you missed it live, you can watch a film of the show on our website. Just follow the link below  
[www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk/tnf](http://www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk/tnf)



## Schools

Schools can bring groups to any library and Gallery Oldham for library skills introductions, tours and workshops.

For more information, please visit:

<https://hla.oldham.gov.uk/schools/>

or contact us by emailing

[librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk)

or calling **0161 770 4643**.

If you would like your school to take part in these visits, please complete this booking form:

<https://www.oldham.gov.uk/class-visit>

We also offer loans boxes which are available to book:

<https://www.oldham.gov.uk/loans-box>

### World Book Day School Workshops

Thursday 6 March, 10am–12noon and

12.30–2.30pm, £50, bookable by email:

[librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk)

#### Oldham Library

Susan Brownrigg, who writes historical adventures for ages 8 to 12, will be running two school workshops inspired by her books such as the Gracie Fairshaw detective series set in 1930s Blackpool.

Workshops will include a mixture of history and a writing exercise.

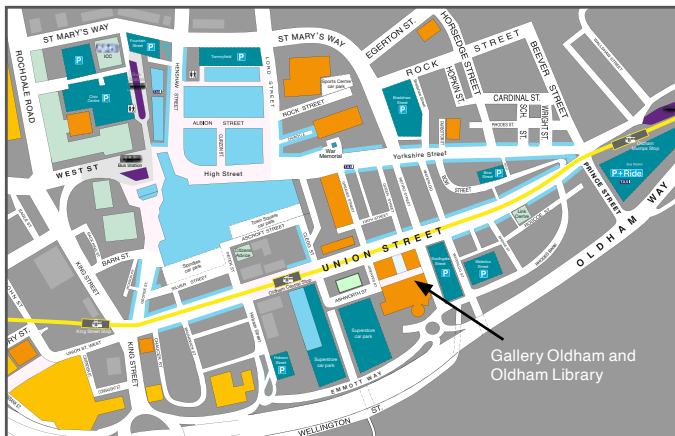


## Visit us

Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library are part of Oldham's Cultural Quarter, OL1 1AL

The nearest Metrolink tram stop is Oldham Central on Union Street.

Oldham's main bus station is a 10 minute walk away. The nearest car park is Southgate Street.



For directions to any of Oldham's branch libraries please visit [hla.oldham.gov.uk/libraries/local-libraries](http://hla.oldham.gov.uk/libraries/local-libraries)



## Opening times

Gallery Oldham: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm

Oldham Library: Monday to Thursday 9am – 8pm,  
Friday to Saturday 9am – 5pm

Both are closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

## Access at the Cultural Quarter

There are two disabled car parking spaces on Greaves Street and several spaces on Southgate Street car park.

Our buildings have large lifts, accessible toilets, baby changing facilities and a baby feeding room.

## Filming and photography

Filming and photography (including the recording of your voice) may take place in our buildings and be used across our marketing media for promotional purposes.

More information regarding how your personal data is used can be found in our privacy notice here:

[www.oldham.gov.uk/HLAprivacy](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/HLAprivacy)

## Visit our website

For a host of features and images, the latest visitor information, and an up to date What's On calendar please visit

[hla.oldham.gov.uk](http://hla.oldham.gov.uk)

