

Heritage, Libraries and Arts

What's On in Oldham

April – October 2026





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Gallery Oldham p4-11

Our restored 1883 galleries are now open and the displays of our collections continue to evolve. And our programme of changing exhibitions sees the return of the popular Oldham Open in September. Don't miss our programme of associated craft sessions and gallery talks too.

Live@theLibrary p12-14

The latest season of performance and spoken word is now booking. From children's drama to hard hitting 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 p15-23

We run a huge range of activities to suit all ages - including film shows, wellbeing sessions and baby fairs - so come along and get involved.

This year we are celebrating The National Year of Reading with special events, author talks, reading groups and more!



Even more to explore p24-27

There is a huge selection of services available from Oldham's Heritage, Libraries and Arts. Find out more about Oldham Theatre Workshop and visit Oldham Archives at their new purpose-built site at Spindles.

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. You can also shop online with over 300 images from our collections available to buy as prints or as merchandise such as cards, coasters and mugs. Visit artuk.org

If you are a local artist and would like to find out more information about how to apply to sell your products in our shop please email: GalleryOldhamShop@Oldham.gov.uk

Cover image: Starlings from Oldham Wakes! exhibition, see p7
Opposite page: Visit the restored 1883 art gallery, see p4

Explore our Collections

Restoration work has transformed our neighbouring building – the original Oldham Library, Art Gallery & Museum. Visitors can once again cross the bridge from Gallery Oldham to see our collections displayed in these restored gallery spaces.

In these new exhibitions you will find a range of stories about Oldham's history and the town's links with people and places across the globe. The restored 1883 art gallery space houses a selection of paintings and artworks that includes a mix of visitor favourites alongside some of our latest acquisitions.

Explore the Gallery foyer and other spaces throughout the building for even more encounters with our Natural History, Social History and Art collections, including a new display in Oldham Library to celebrate the Year of Reading.

Wednesday 20 May, 2pm

Explore a behind the scenes tour of the art store. Limited capacity. **Please book on Eventbrite.**

Wednesday 12 August, 2pm

Find out more about Ferranti, the company which built the first commercial computer. Free, no need to book.

Wednesday 2 September, 2pm

A chance to hear about the Oldham Panorama photograph which was taken 150 years ago. **Free, no need to book.**



Women Portraits: Trades and Professions by Charlotte Hodes

until 9 May

This exhibition, by artist Charlotte Hodes, is engaged with the representation of trades and professions. It focuses on the contributions made by women from the Oldham and Manchester regions from the late 1800s, a period of increasing demand for equal rights for women, through to the present day.

The exhibition takes the form of ornate vases and intricate large-scale papercuts. It proposes alternative, imagined representations of women identified through the tools associated with their professions.

Charlotte Hodes celebrates the very real and often-invisible contribution that women have made to the many trades and professions. Underpinning this exhibition is a call for optimism in the face of global societal and economic challenges, with the desire to celebrate women's enfranchisement and autonomy.



Once Upon a Time

until 5 September

Once Upon a Time... there was an amazing exhibition filled with beautiful art by five incredible illustrators: Gillian Flint, Gillian Hibbs, Holly Sterling, Jarvis, and Sharon Davey. Each of them creates magical worlds to spark imaginations and celebrate the joy of storytelling.

Once Upon a Time is a family-focused, fun-filled space where everyone can enjoy brilliant books and special stories. With cosy corners for reading, colourful artwork to explore, and hands-on activities to dive into, it's a place where creativity comes to life.

When you've finished exploring the exhibition, head over to Oldham Library to borrow some of the books featured in the show.

Wednesday 2 June, 2pm

Join illustrator Sharon Davey as she chats about the life of an illustrator and her drawings featured in the Once Upon a Time exhibition.

Free, no need to book

Image: Beanstalk (detail) by Sharon Davey



Oldham Wakes! by Sophie Tyrrell

23 May – 5 September

Taking inspiration from the seasonal traditions of Old Lancashire holiday festivals, rush carts and processions, Oldham based artist Sophie Tyrrell populates the gallery with a fabulously colourful and deeply political handmade carnival installation. Sophie's giant festival-bright endangered species artworks are poised between ecological grief and hopeful imagination.

Above this weirdly joyful spectacle, a magnificent murmuration of paper starlings made by local schoolchildren signals that 'the starlings are in trouble'. Original music from Manchester Folk Collective 'Brown Wimpenny' underscores the scene. You are invited to experience wonder, to dress up, and be merry, in a celebration of the radical power of collective joy.

Saturday 30 May, 2pm

Exhibition launch event with members of 'Brown Wimpenny' and children from Burnley Brow Primary School.

Wednesday 3 June, 2pm

Sophie Tyrrell will share some of her practice and her favourite pieces in Gallery 2.

Free, no need to book.

Image by Studio 9 Oldham



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Our Beautiful Oldham

A new permanent display

Opens on Saturday 27 June

Our Beautiful Oldham is a brand-new permanent exhibition celebrating the nature, wildlife, and landscapes right on our doorstep. It's packed with hands-on interactives and playful activities to spark young imaginations. Swim underwater with a shimmering shoal of fish, curl up with a story in the nook of a tree, or listen out for a singing bird as you explore.

Inspired by Mary Higgs' question from nearly 150 years ago — "Beautiful Oldham, why not?" — the exhibition invites you to journey through Parks and Gardens, Woods, Meadows, Water, and Moors. Discover the insects and animals that call these habitats home and learn how Oldham's landscape has changed over time through an immersive projection created with Early Years families.

Developed in partnership with Early Years families, Northern Roots, and Oldham Family Hubs, and supported by Art Fund.

Saturday 27 June, 10am - 2pm

Exhibition launch. Join us to celebrate with an Extra Small Cinema of *The Gruffalo*, storytelling and craft activities. **Free, no need to book.**

Wednesday 22 July, 2pm

Find out more about the natural history and habitats on display in Our Beautiful Oldham. **Free, no need to book.**

Art Fund_



The Oldham Open

19 September – 14 November



It's that time again...the Oldham Open is here. This exhibition showcases the extraordinary range of talented artists living, working or studying in the borough of Oldham.

There is always a wide variety of artists and styles, across drawing, painting, photography, ceramics and sculpture. Work is for sale, so it's a great opportunity to pick up some Christmas presents while supporting artists in our area.

There is a **£5 non-refundable charge** for each entry. **Visit our website for details.** You can also email galleryoldham@oldham.gov.uk or call **0161 770 4653** for more information on how to enter.

Gallery One

Gallery One 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 katie.maden@oldham.gov.uk for more details.

All Around the World by Linda Edwards

21 March – 30 May

This exhibition is a vivid journey through colour and culture — from Brazil's warmth to Arctic stillness, crowned by Northern Lights over Saddleworth. Immersive paintings and suspended globes invite wonder, designed to stir the senses and awaken a longing to explore.



Waterfall of Kites

27 June – 29 August

This exhibition is a vibrant cascade of colour and movement, part of Khushi Festival 2026. Led by Manasamitra and Sue Warpole, three Oldham artists and communities have created 100 kites suspended like a waterfall, inspired by South Asian heritage and shared traditions.



Wild Lives

by Anne Bardsley

5 September – 7 November

This exhibition celebrates the beauty, character and vulnerability of animals. Anne's mixed media and oil portraits are full of colour, energy and personality. The collection features endangered wildlife, working animals and often overlooked species.



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

Natural History

Patricia.Francis@oldham.gov.uk

Social and Local History

Karen.Heatley@oldham.gov.uk

Adult Art & Craft

We offer a range of creative sessions for adults.

Booking via Eventbrite is essential.

Please check our website for details.

Create Your Own Leather Wallet

Saturday 11 April, 10.30am

£30 per person,

Gallery Oldham

Join us for a relaxing and rewarding experience where you'll craft your own leather wallet using high-quality, upcycled leather off-cuts. No previous skills are needed – you'll be guided step-by-step through traditional leather working techniques, with plenty of time to learn, create and enjoy.



Sam Wise Garden: Embroidery

Saturday 9 May,

10am–12noon,

£35 per person,

Gallery Oldham

Create your own embroidered picture inspired by the classic JRR Tolkien book, *The Hobbit*. With expert guidance from Stephanie Evans. All materials provided.



Learn To Draw: Buildings

Saturday 20 June,

10am–12noon,

£26 per person,

Uppermill Library

Learn new drawing skills using one of our most beautiful libraries as inspiration.



Book Binding

Saturday 26 September, 10.30am-12.30pm,

£26 per person,

Gallery Oldham

Celebrate The National Year of Reading by getting crafty and creating your own bound books. Using a variety of materials including vegan leather.



One Tenth Human Presents

So Unfair

Wednesday 1 April, 11am and 2pm,
Oldham Library Theatre Space, £5

Welcome to our interactive science demo with a twist! We need YOU to take on some big challenges. How can we make things fairer? What could go wrong if we don't? A brand-new show for 7–10-year-olds and their grown-ups.



Dare To Know Theatre Presents

Smoke and Mirrors

Thursday 9 April,
7.15pm, Gallery
Oldham, £12-£15
via Oldham Coliseum
Theatre

All Frankie wants to do, is make great art, but what does it take to make great art? Can you be happy and make great art, do you have to have experienced trauma to make great art?
Ages 12+



William Ash and Tony Mooney Presents

Vanya

Wednesday 8 April
and Thursday 9 April
7pm, Oldham Library
Theatre Space, £6
Chekhov's classic tale
is adapted by Simon



Stephens to be performed by a solo actor. Vanya explores the kaleidoscope of human emotions harnessing the power of the intimate bond between actor and audience to delve deeper into the human psyche.

live@thelibrary

Let's All Dance Ballet Company Presents

Fairytale Ballet

Wednesday 27 May, 1pm and 3pm,
Oldham Library Theatre Space, £5

This gorgeous compilation explores the most beloved Fairytale Ballets, including Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella and Alice in Wonderland! This stunning show combines fabulous dancing, stunning costumes and sumptuous music to engage boys and girls of all ages.



Stand and Be Counted Theatre Presents

Do You See What I See?

Monday 15 June, 2.30pm,
Gallery Oldham Creator Space, Free (Ticketed)

To celebrate Refugee Week 2026, join Stand and Be Counted Theatre for the launch of their new photobook, a collection of images from the point of view of their Soap Box Oldham group. Refreshments and a warm welcome will be provided!



Teepee Productions Presents

Tell Me Where It Hurts

Tuesday 21 July, 7pm, Oldham Library
Theatre Space, £6

This powerful comedy-drama follows Chrissy, a dedicated drama teacher navigating life with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD). She also mentors Annie, a talented yet troubled student. Both women wrestle with the feeling of being unheard and misunderstood by the world around them. For Ages 14+.



Ray Bubbles Presents

The Ultimate Bubble Show

Tuesday 28 July, 11am, 1pm and 3pm,
Oldham Library Theatre Space, £5

Ray Bubbles, International Bubbleologist and Guinness World Record holder creates a volcano bubble, a soap bubble carousel, a bubble ghost, and even a tornado inside a bubble!



Ragged Edge Productions Presents

The Mystery of the Pirate Lagoon

Saturday 19 September, 2pm, Oldham Library
Theatre Space, £5

Join the crew of The Prospero on an adventure to find out. Will we find the treasure? Can we escape from the evil Captain Starkers? This daft and entertaining show gives you the chance to release your inner pirate. For ages 8+.



Yarnbird Arts Presents

Footy Fairy Tales

Saturday 19 September, 2pm, Oldham Library
Theatre Space, £5

Watch a talented striker 'Cindy-Ella' chase the ball and find her spark, help Little Red Riding Hoodie stick to the right path and defeat a terrible troll who says, 'No Ball Games Allowed!' With live music and storytelling, this performance will have the whole family cheering. Perfect for children aged 5-11 and their families.



What's On: April/May

GO! Family Sophie Tyrrell Workshops

Wednesday 1 April &
Wednesday 8 April, 1-3pm
Free, drop-in, Gallery
Oldham

Join local artist Sophie Tyrrell in one of 2 workshops inspired by her current exhibition at Gallery Oldham.



GO! Family Dave Draws with You

Thursday 2 April, 2-4 pm
Free (booking essential via Eventbrite),
Gallery Oldham

In this workshop you'll learn how to draw like Dave Draws and create an artistic map of your community.

Khooghi

Tuesday 7 April, 1pm and 5pm, Oldham Library,
Book at Coliseum.org.uk.

Khooghi brings a 153-year-old dove's tale to life with puppets, Punjabi songs, and storytelling. Part of Khushi Festival, it's a joyful, family-friendly journey of culture, hope, and hands-on crafts.

Collab Lab (10-16 years)

Thursday 9 April, 1.30-3pm
Free (booking required via Eventbrite),
Gallery Oldham

Explore Gallery Oldham's collections and exhibitions in our hands-on creative activities and work alongside professional artists.

Author Talk: Shahnaz Ahsan

9 May, 12pm, Oldham
Library
Free, booking essential
via Eventbrite.

The Jackfruit Chronicles is a heartfelt memoir that delves into the unique flavours and captivating history of Bengali food.



Bedtime Stories

Wednesday 13 May, 5.30-6.30pm
Free (no booking required), Oldham Library
In honour of Deaf Awareness Week, wear your favourite pjs and join @ElizaSays for singing, signs, rhymes, and a snack.

What's On: May

Mind Matters

11 – 24 May, Oldham Library

Take some time for your mind this Mental Health Awareness Week and Dementia Action Week.

Join us at Oldham Libraries for health and wellbeing

sessions including singing for the soul, armchair exercise, mindfulness sessions and dance.



Supernova ⁽¹⁵⁾

Saturday 16 May 2026, 11am-1pm

Free (Booking essential via Eventbrite)

Oldham Library

Sam (Colin Firth) and Tusker (Stanley Tucci), partners of twenty years, are travelling across England in their old camper van. Since Tusker was diagnosed with dementia two years ago, their time together is the most important thing they have. Shown as part of Dementia Action Week.



Half Term Craft for Festival Oldham

25–30 May, all Oldham Libraries

To celebrate this year's Festival Oldham, we have some BLOOMing good self-led crafts. Head to your local library and ask a member of staff for the materials to get creating.

GO! Family with illustrator Gillian Flint Draw-a-long & Book Launch

Wednesday 27 May, 1-3pm

Free (Booking essential via Eventbrite)

Gallery Oldham

Celebrate the launch of the latest book in the

Woodland Explorers Club series -Trix's Treehouse.

With a passion for drawing and creating characters for as long as she can remember, Gillian's amazing work is displayed in our current Once Upon a Time Exhibition.

Learn from a master with a drawalong and book launch in one session!



Festival Oldham

Saturday 30 May

12 noon - 4pm

Oldham Town Centre

FREE

Oldham's free annual outdoor arts festival, celebrating arts, culture, community and place.

This year the festival will B:LOOM with the very best local, regional and national street theatre, music, dance and visual arts, and watch as it transforms spaces across Oldham town centre.



Visitors on the day will have a choice of performances and activities across a full afternoon that will be jam packed with fun stuff for all the family, plus it's free!

So, if you are looking for something to do with the kids, we've got you covered.



What's On: June

Pride Month

Drop in and check out our information stalls and themed book displays with books on queer love, identity, history, and culture.



Festival of Libraries

10–14 June, various times and venues, free, bookable via Eventbrite

Manchester city of Literature's Festival of Libraries returns in 2026 with a series of events linked to wellbeing, creativity and reading. Oldham Library will be hosting comic creating workshops, a Comic Lab exhibition and much more.

Baby Photobooth

Wednesday 17 June, 10am - 12noon

£9 per child (Bookable via Eventbrite)

Oldham Library

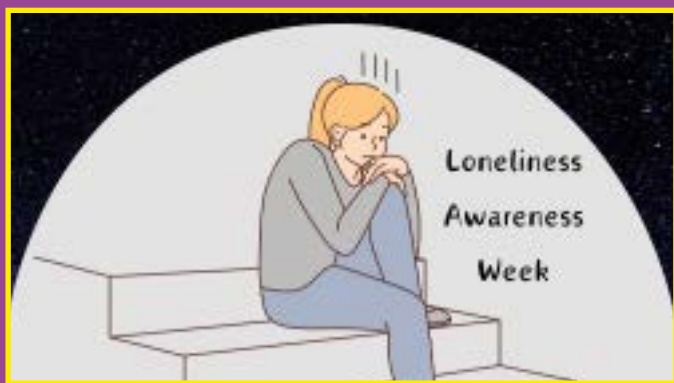
Baby Photobooth is the perfect opportunity to have your little one's portrait taken. Each ticket includes one printed image and the opportunity to purchase more directly from the photographer.

Loneliness Awareness Week

15 – 21 June

We all get lonely; it's time to talk about it.

Loneliness Awareness Week is dedicated to raising awareness of loneliness and getting people talking about it. Come along to one of our Chatty Crafts sessions, have a cuppa and chat to others while taking part in a craft activity. Free (Booking essential via Eventbrite)



An Evening with Chris McDonald

Wednesday 23 June, 6pm

Free (Booking essential via Eventbrite),

Oldham Library

Author Chris McDonald will be sharing an insight into his upcoming book *The Wrong Man*. A new PI series. A dead rockstar. A tangled web of secrets.

What's On: July / August

Sign Up @ Oldham StoryFest

Saturday 11 July, 11am – 3pm

Free (no booking required), Oldham Library

Be part of Oldham's annual children's story festival and sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge as we fill Oldham library with inspiring children's authors, illustrators and activities.



Summer Reading Challenge Read to the Beat

Various dates and times throughout the summer holidays – check our website for up to date information

This year's music themed

Summer Reading Challenge promises to be our best yet. Children can set their own personalised reading goals, helping everyone discover the joy of reading at their own pace.



We'll also be hosting a range of exciting events and activities throughout the summer — plenty of chances to turn the page and turn up the volume as we celebrate reading in rhythm.

Tiny Nature Explorers at Northern Roots

Monday 27 July and 10 August, 10.30-11.30am

Bring your Tiny Nature Explorer (2-4 year old) to Northern Roots and connect with nature through creativity, activities and stories! **Free, book your place via Northern Roots Eventbrite page.**

Khushi Festival 2026

1 August, all day

Oldham Library Gardens and Gallery Oldham

Get ready for a joyful celebration of colour, culture and creativity. Khushi Festival 2026 brings South Asian arts to life with music, performances, crafts, a scavenger hunt and a spectacular Waterfall of Kites exhibition.



What's On: August

Gillian Hibbs – Errol's Garden (ages 2-5)

Friday 7 August, 11am and 12 noon

Booking essential via Eventbrite

Meet illustrator and children's author Gillian Hibbs whose work is featured in our Once Upon a Time exhibition. Use your imagination to grow some magic flowers and have a go at making a collage. Gillian's enthusiasm will help you to see that magic and adventure can be found wherever you live!



Small Cinema: Sing 2 (U)

Wednesday 12 August, 2pm

£3.50, Theatre Space,
Oldham Library

(All adults and children require a ticket, bookable via Eventbrite)

Can-do Koala Buster Moon and his all-star cast of animal performers prepare to launch their most dazzling stage extravaganza yet. This is a

sensory friendly screening with non-restricted seating and softer lighting. Free crafts from 12:30pm.



Collab Lab

Thursday 30 July, 6 August and 13 August

1.30-3pm

Explore Gallery Oldham's collections and exhibitions in our hands-on creative activities and work alongside professional artists.



What's On: September / October

Extra Small Cinema Snail on the Whale

Friday 11 September, 10am and 11.15am

£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.



Oldham Histories Festival and Heritage Open Days

Friday 11 – Sunday 20 September

Look out for the Histories Festival brochure and further details on our website.

GO! Artists - Oldham Art Fair

Saturday 17 October, 10am-4pm

Gallery Oldham

Celebrate Oldham's local artists and makers at this annual art fair, featuring original artworks and handcrafted gifts. Meet the makers and enjoy a day that supports Oldham's artistic community. Organised by the Friends of Gallery Oldham.

Small Cinema: Wish (U)

Saturday 24 October, 2pm

£3.50, Theatre Space,
Oldham Library

(All adults and children require a ticket, bookable via Eventbrite)

Asha makes a powerful wish that is answered by a cosmic force called star. Together they must take on the King to save her community.

This is a sensory friendly screening with non-restricted seating and softer lighting. Free crafts from 12:30pm.



Half Term Halloween Crafts

26 – 31 October.

Head to your local library for some spooky self-led craft activities. Just ask a member of staff who will provide the materials.

What's On: Regular Sessions

Gallery Oldham and Oldham Libraries run regular sessions with stories, rhymes and sensory play. GO Baby and GO Explorers are perfect for making new discoveries and our Bounce and Rhyme sessions in all libraries promote language and social development. We also have regular Baby Days for babies and parents to socialise as well as important health information. Follow us on social media or visit our website for up-to-date information.

GO! Baby

**Thursdays, 10.30am-12noon,
term-time only
Free (no booking required),
Gallery Oldham**

Fun and relaxed sensory exploration play sessions for under 2s and their families.



Play and Weigh

**Thursdays, 12noon-2pm
Weekly (including school holidays)**

Come along to this free session, have your baby weighed, play in a relaxed environment and get some helpful information and advice.

GO! Explorers with Toddler Sense

**Saturday 2 May, 6 June & 4 July,
10.30am-12noon, Bookable via
oldham@toddlersense.co.uk,
Gallery Oldham**

Toddler Sense have taken over Go Explorers, blending adventure play and structured activities to help children develop key skills.



Bounce and Rhyme

**Various times and locations across Oldham libraries
Check the HLA website 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.

Little Reads

**Last Friday of each month –
24 April, 29 May, 26 June,
21 July, 28 August, 25 September
10–10.30am and 11-11.30am
Free (no booking required),
Oldham Library. Little Reads is a**



fun, interactive workshop using drama, dance, songs, play and craft to explore children's picture books. Perfect for under 4s and their families. In partnership with Manchester Literature Festival.

What's On: Regular Sessions

Don't miss these regular sessions for adults that run throughout the year

Chatty Crafts

**Meeting once a month,
Various dates and times
Free (booking essential via
Eventbrite), Oldham Library**

Feeling lonely from time to time is something we all experience. Are you interested in connecting with new people in a friendly and welcoming environment? Join us for our new Chatty Crafts session, where you can dive into creativity while enjoying a chat and a warm cuppa! We meet in the foyer at Oldham Library.



Menopause Cafe

**Every Tuesday,
10:30am-12:30pm
Free, drop in, Oldham Library**

Join us in a relaxed and friendly space to chat about menopause. Our only agenda is to share knowledge and expertise to empower women around their own health and wellbeing. No pressure, just open supportive conversations. All ages and genders welcome.



Reading Friends Low Vision Group

**Fourth Wednesday of the month, 11:00am – 12:30pm
Free, drop in, Oldham Library**

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.

Reading Friends Anglo West Indian Group

**Third Thursday of the month, 1:00- 3:00pm
Free, drop in, Oldham Library**

Come along and join our group, make new friends, learn new skills, take part in our wellbeing and craft activities.

Mindfulness Walks

**Various dates, 10:30-11:30am
Free (booking essential via
Eventbrite), Meeting at Failsworth
Library**

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



Little French Cinema

Oldham Library, various dates

We will be showing an eclectic mix of classic and modern subtitled films. Tickets from Eventbrite or Facebook for littlefrenchcinema

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 tours specially for members. Membership now gives a discount in the Gallery shop!

For more information visit the Friends website

<http://www.gofriends.org.uk>

Oldham Artist Network

A meeting place for creative people to gain advice and network with other professionals working in the creative industries. Local artists and makers, voluntary and community sector workers and individuals with an interest and passion to work creatively in their local community are all welcome.

Meeting Dates:

Monday 13 April, 6-8pm, Oldham Library

Monday 13 July 6-8pm, Oldham Library

Monday 12 October 6-8pm, Oldham Library



Artist's Newsletter

Are you an artist or creative with a link to the local area? Sign up to join our artist database and receive the monthly artist newsletter to find out about all the latest funding advice and creative opportunities.

To sign up, head to:

hla.oldham.gov.uk/get-involved/creative-industries/

Artist Advice and Support

Our Creativity and Culture team aims to support you and to help bring your creative ideas to life. For a one-to-one advice session or to discuss project proposals please get in touch.

For more information please email:

Culture.Team@oldham.gov.uk



Oldham Archives

The amazing collections at Oldham Archives can help you uncover the stories of places and people that make Oldham unique. If you have anything you would like to donate that would help to tell the story of the Oldham area and its people, please email us.

Visit us in our new home at Spindles. Our entrance is on Ascroft Street – we're just across the road from Billingtons.

Monday-Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 10am-1pm

T: 0161 770 4654

E: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Family History and Local History

At Oldham Archives, we have resources that bring the stories of the past to life. As well as archives, photographs, books, maps and newspapers, we provide free access to digital resources including Ancestry and FindMyPast. Our friendly team can provide advice to help you find your place in history.

Talks

On **Wednesday 22 April, 2pm** join the Northern Roots Heritage Champions for a talk at Oldham Archives about the history of the site, their research roles and their personal heritage journeys. Limited capacity.

Please book on Eventbrite.

Displays

We will have two archives displays in our search room over the summer. Check the online HLA What's On guide for more information.

Northern Roots – Our Heritage Stories

4 April - 30 June

90 Years On – Oldham and the Spanish Civil War

17 July - 30 September

Oldham Histories Festival and Heritage Open Days

Friday 11 – Sunday 20 September 2026

This year's theme is Everyday Histories, exploring the jobs, people and places that make up working life. Our programme will include talks, walks and behind the scenes tours that reveal the everyday history around us.

Look out for the festival brochure.



Oldham Theatre Workshop

Be part of a creative community where young people make bold, original theatre and develop their skills as performers. If you're aged 6–25 and excited by devising, collaborating and performing new work, Oldham Theatre Workshop offers a welcoming place to explore your creativity.

We deliver a wide range of high-quality opportunities, from one-off workshops to ambitious, large-scale productions, all based in our studios in the newly refurbished JR Clynes building.

Our work is inclusive, inspiring and professionally delivered. We support each individual's creative journey, encouraging personal growth while recognising and valuing different interests, abilities and needs.

Find out more at:

www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk



Spotlight on our work

Following a highly successful run of family performances at Oldham Library Theatre, we're pleased to share a FREE filmed version of our recent professional production of Hansel & Gretel for anyone who was unable to attend.

When Hansel and Gretel find themselves lost in the woods, survival depends on quick thinking, mutual trust and a healthy dose of determination. Along the way, they navigate a world full of curious characters and unexpected twists, discovering that resilience, and a sense of humour, can make all the difference.



This striking reimagining of the classic fairytale was presented by Oldham Theatre Workshop in the atmospheric Library Theatre space, showcasing the quality, ambition and professional standards that underpin all of our work. Productions like this sit alongside our year-round programme for children and young people, offering inspiration, insight and pathways into theatre-making.

Watch Hansel & Gretel here:

www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk/hanselandgretel



Schools

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

For more information, please visit:

hla.oldham.gov.uk/schools

Or contact us by emailing

librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk

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

www.oldham.gov.uk/class-visit

Gallery Oldham helps schools enhance their teaching of Key Stage 1 and 2 Art, English, History and Science through workshops, self-guided visits and loans boxes which are available to book:

www.oldham.gov.uk/loans-box

Oldham Schools Linking Project

Children from different geographical, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds work together to explore identity, celebrate diversity, champion equality and promote community.

Participating schools visit Gallery Oldham and Castleshaw Education Centre as well as visiting their linked school and hosting a visit to their school.

For more information, please visit:

hla.oldham.gov.uk/schools/schools-linking-project/

If you would like to join Oldham Schools Linking Project, please email librariesandgalleryschools@oldham.gov.uk

Primary School Steer Network

Our School Steer Network meets three times a year and is an opportunity to build a partnership approach to the programmes that we deliver. Opportunities for teachers include free CPD, author events, workshop trials and lots more.

For more information and to join email

lauren.massey@oldham.gov.uk



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 Waterloo Street.



For directions to any of Oldham's branch libraries please scan the QR code or visit 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.

Oldham Library / Gallery Oldham has an Eating Space where you can eat your own food.

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

Visit our website

For all our latest information and an up to date What's On calendar please visit hla.oldham.gov.uk

