

# 2<sup>ND</sup> BRADFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

13–19 JULY 2026



**A FESTIVAL FOR THE CURIOUS  
EXPLORE, LEARN AND CELEBRATE**

**BRADFORD HERITAGE CONNECTION**

# CLASSROOMS & COMMUNITIES:

## BRADFORD'S EDUCATION JOURNEY

### Mechanics Institute Festival Hub

*Thursday 16 July, 10.30am-3pm*

**FREE DROP IN**

Step back into the buzz of the classroom, the thrill of student societies, and the proud legacy of Bradford's educational pioneers. Drop in to a day shaped by archives, small exhibitions, inspiring talks, and captivating film screenings – including newly digitised gems from the Bradford Grammar School Film Society (1960–1968), shown to the public for the very first time. For one day only, West Yorkshire Archive Service, University of Bradford Special Collections and Archives, Yorkshire Film Archive, the Mechanics Institute, the Saltaire Collection at Shipley College, Hanson Academy and Bradford Grammar School – will unite under one roof to celebrate the stories, spirit, and impact of education in Bradford.



Join us for a one-of-a-kind celebration of the people, places, and learning that shaped generations. Drop in all day:

**10.30am-13.30pm** – Open day featuring exhibitions, archive material, information stands

**11am-3pm** – ‘Create Your Own Exercise Book’ through bookbinding workshops – West Yorkshire Archive Service Timed activities (no need to book):

**11-11.45am** – Film Screening – Yorkshire Film Archive & Bradford Grammar School

**13:00-13:45** – Talk: ‘Creating a School Museum’ – Hanson Academy

**2-2.45pm** – Film Screening – Yorkshire Film Archive & Bradford Grammar School (Repeat of 11am screening)



## PARTNERS IN CRIME:

Dr Thomas Beaumont and the Origins of Policing in Bradford

Bradford Mechanics Institute & The Bradford Police Museum

**Monday 13 July, 10am-12.30pm, FREE**

The event begins with a short talk and refreshments (at the Mechanics Institute) before a guided walk and Victorian police station tour. Discover the story of Dr Thomas Beaumont, civic reform, and Bradford's early night watchmen in this special collaborative Heritage Festival event. Delivered in partnership between the Mechanics' Institute and The Bradford Police Museum.



## KNOW YOUR CITY!

Bradford Mechanics Institute

**13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 July,**

**9.30m-3.30pm**

**FREE DROP IN**

The Mechanics' Institute is celebrating 200 years at the centre of life in Bradford. Pupils, teachers, managers and Presidents of the Institute helped turn Bradford into the Wool Capital of the World. Explore displays on Floors 2 and 3 based on themes: Two Hundred Years of Educating Bradford and Looking after Bradford: Public Health and Public Safety.



## BINGLEY HERITAGE TRAIL

**13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 July**

**FREE**

**[bingleyheritagetrail.co.uk](http://bingleyheritagetrail.co.uk)**

Download the map and enjoy the wonderful Bingley Heritage Trail at your leisure. With 5 locations to explore plus bonus historic sites there is lots to keep everyone busy and interested

**SCAN ME**



**@Bingleyheritagetrail**  
**[Bingleyheritagetrail.co.uk](http://Bingleyheritagetrail.co.uk)**

**CHECK OUT THE FULL FESTIVAL PROGRAMME AT**

**[bradfordheritageconnection.co.uk](http://bradfordheritageconnection.co.uk)**

## STORIES ACROSS GENERATIONS

A creative family history workshop  
Keighley Local Studies Library

Monday 13 July,

10.30–12.30 & 4.30–6.30pm

FREE. Booking in advance required.

[ticketsource.com/bradfordlibraries](https://www.ticketsource.com/bradfordlibraries)

Explore your family history through scrapbooking and creative journaling. Discover how to begin tracing your ancestry using the library's archives and resources, then use your own photographs and memorabilia to create a personalised heritage journal page.



## “MODELLING THE CATHEDRAL” EXHIBITION

Bradford Cathedral

13 - 18 July, 10am-4pm

DROP IN, last entry 3.45pm

Visitors are invited to discover a newly -created, beautifully-detailed N Scale model of Bradford Cathedral by Michael Scott. Explore the building's architecture – from tower to transept – at a scale that reveals details often missed at full size. Compare the new model with one made in 1898, and view fascinating old photos and sketches of the building through the ages.



## PENISTONE HILL GUIDED WALK

Brontë Parsonage Museum

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 July,

2-3.30pm, FREE DROP IN

[bronte.org.uk/events/penistone-hill-guided-walk](https://bronte.org.uk/events/penistone-hill-guided-walk)

Parsonage visitors are invited to join us for a guided, moorland walk upon nearby Penistone Hill. We'll discover the landscape that inspired the Brontës and explore some remnants of its industrial past.



## GUIDED WALK WITH THE AIRE RIVERS TRUST / FRIENDS OF BRADFORD'S BECKS

**Meeting Point:** Car park in Cliffe Wood Avenue, off Bradford Road, BD18 3DD

**what3words:** market.sting.mining

**Tuesday 14 July, 1-3.30pm**

**FREE. Booking via QR code opposite.**

Join us for a guided walk of Bradford's Becks. Along the way you will learn about the natural and industrial heritage of these becks, and hopefully see some special wildlife along the way.



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

Celebrating the University's 60th anniversary.

**J.B. Priestley Library, University of Bradford**  
**Tuesday 14 July, 10am-12pm, FREE DROP IN**

Come for a behind the scenes tour of the University of Bradford's Special Collections and Archives, as the University celebrates its 60th year. Delve into the fascinating collections telling the story of the University from its 19th century beginnings as the Bradford Technical College to the University of Bradford of today. Discover how we care for and make collections available. Share your stories /photos / memorabilia of your time spent studying here and add to the University's memory.



## EXPLORING TRADITIONAL STAINED GLASS PAINTING

Studio 1, South Square Centre

**Wednesday 15 (SOLD OUT)**

**& Thursday 16 July, 1-4pm**

Booking in advance is required for this workshop, scan the QR code below.

This hands on workshop introduces the techniques of traditional stained glass painting used in medieval and historic stained glass. You will explore tracing, matting and shading with vitreous paint working directly onto glass.



## FROM ARCHIVE TO ANILINE: 170 YEARS OF MAUVINE

The SDC Textile Collection at the Society of Dyers and Colourists  
*Wednesday 15 July, 10am-4pm*  
**FREE DROP IN**

Join us at the SDC Textile Collection celebrating 170 years since William Henry Perkin's discovery of mauvine. Explore historic textiles, chemical innovation, and the birth of synthetic colour, with opportunities to view additional treasures from the archive alongside displays, stories, and expert insights on display.



## STORY TELLING WITH SOPHIA HATFIELD

Brontë Parsonage Museum  
*Wednesday 15 July, 10am-4pm*  
**FREE DROP IN. Suitable for all ages.**  
[bronte.org.uk/events/storytelling-with-sophia-hatfield](https://bronte.org.uk/events/storytelling-with-sophia-hatfield)

Listen to Sophia Hatfield's entertaining take on local stories and folklore – with music costume and props!



## BRADFORD PLAYHOUSE GUIDED TOUR

4-12 Chapel Street, Bradford, BD1 5DL  
*Wednesday 15 July, 12.30-1.30pm*  
Book online [bradfordplayhouse.org.uk](https://bradfordplayhouse.org.uk)  
**Pay As You Feel**

Step inside our historic Art Deco building and uncover its story from the 1920s through to today. You'll hear about the influence of Bradford-born writer J. B. Priestley and his belief in theatre that reflects real lives and communities. We'll also explore the legacy of Esmé Church, a pioneering director, actor and teacher who led the Bradford Civic Playhouse and helped establish professional theatre training in the North.

## ARCHIVE SESSION

4-12 Chapel Street, Bradford, BD1 5DL  
*Wednesday 15 July, 1.45-2.30pm*  
Book online [bradfordplayhouse.org.uk](https://bradfordplayhouse.org.uk)  
**Pay As You Feel**

Stay on for a deeper dive into our archives, with original programmes, photographs, and stories from nearly a century of theatre-making. From early productions to the Playhouse we know today, it's a chance to get properly stuck into the history – and the people – that built it. A lovely way to spend an afternoon whether you're into theatre, local history, or just fancy having a proper nose around.



## A HISTORY OF KEIGHLEY LIBRARY

Keighley Local Studies Library

*Wednesday 15 July, 2.30-4.30pm*

**FREE. No booking required.**

An illustrated talk on the history of Keighley Library, the first Andrew Carnegie financed library in England, which opened in 1904 – taking place in the library itself.



## THE COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

Bradford Local Studies Library,

Margaret McMillan Tower, BD1 1NN

*Wednesday 15 July, 4-6pm*

To reserve your place: Call 01274 433688

or email [local.studies@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@bradford.gov.uk)

Join us for a special celebration as we launch The Community Cookbook – a heart-warming collection of recipes. Enjoy an afternoon of stories, community spirit and a talk from The Cinderella Club, and their work to bring free school meals to Bradford. This intimate event takes place at Bradford Local Studies Library. Due to limited capacity in the building, booking is essential. Everyone who contributed a recipe will be invited, so remaining seats are limited.

## A SAUNTER ROUND THE SIGHTS (AND A CANTER UP THE COBBLES)

Brontë Parsonage Museum

*Thursday 16 July, 11am-12pm, 2-3pm*

[bronte.org.uk/events/saunter-round-the-sights](http://bronte.org.uk/events/saunter-round-the-sights)

The year is 1840. Join Tabbitha Ackroyd (Brontë servant and confidante) and John Brown (grave digger and tippler) for their tour of Haworth. See the sights and get the gossip. Be introduced to vicars and lady novelists, maiden aunts and sewage inspectors. Keep your eyes peeled and you might spot a Brontë...

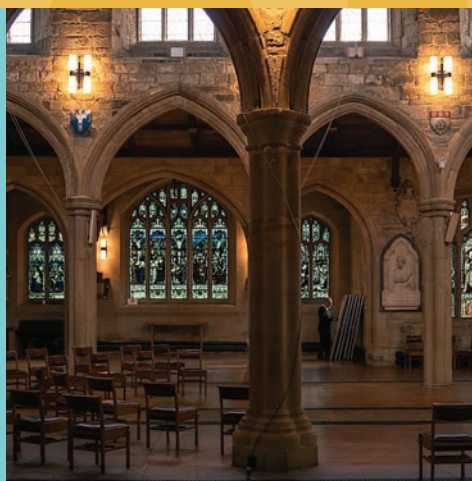
## ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF BRADFORD CATHEDRAL

Bradford Cathedral

*Thursday 16 July, 11am*

£7, [architectural-tour.eventbrite.co.uk](http://architectural-tour.eventbrite.co.uk)

A guided tour of the Cathedral's fascinating architecture, which includes Saxon stone fragments, medieval elements, Victorian changes and mid-20th century extensions by renowned architect Sir Edward Maufe. The tour will start outside but will mainly be based inside.



## TOPIC FOLK CLUB

Singers, musicians & performers evening  
The Castle, 20 Grattan Road, Bradford  
**Thursday 16 July**

**Doors 7pm, start 7.30pm, DROP IN**

The Topic are a hub for musicians' poets and story tellers to share their love of live performance and a stepping stone for many folk into the world of live music and shows. Providing a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. Tonight's theme is Bradford's Heritage. Come along bring your talent or just listen. All welcome.



## HERITAGE AT ST IVES: DRY STONE WALLING DEMO

St Ives Country Park, Bingley BD16 1AT  
**Friday 17 July & Saturday 18 July,**  
**11am-3pm**

**FREE DROP IN**

See local dry stone walling volunteers repair a section of heritage wall using the time-honoured craft skills that make the Yorkshire landscape so unique. Historical estate near Bingley with walks to Coppice Pond and Lady Blantyre's rock; characterful buildings and cafe, against a backdrop of stunning woodlands. (Wall location: beside Bettys Wood and above the lower car park).

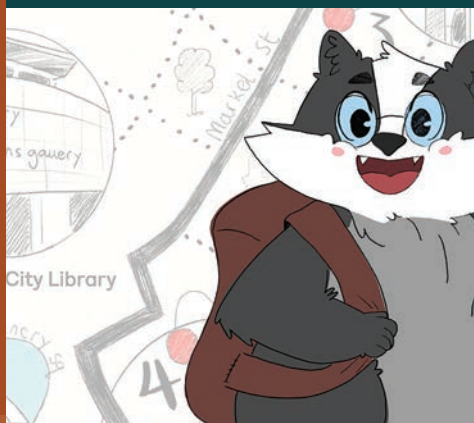


## BRADFORD STORY QUEST

Meet at Bradford Forster Square  
**Friday 17 July, 10.30am-12pm & 1-2.30pm**

Please confirm your attendance and the selected slot by emailing [Nabeelah.hafeez@literacytrust.co.uk](mailto:hafeez@literacytrust.co.uk)

The Quest begins at Forster Square Train Station before the trail begins. It takes around one hour and completes at Bradford City Library. Can you and the family help Benny uncover Bradford's Hidden History?



## MUSIC: IT'S A SIN

Attitudes and Practices of music during the English Civil War and the Interregnum 1640-1660.

Mechanics Institute Festival Hub

Friday 17 July, 11.30am

FREE. Please arrive for 11.20am

A turbulent era of rebellion, reinvention and forbidden pleasures comes to life as we explore the English Civil War and Restoration through the eyes—and ears—of the musicians who lived it. Discover the ballads, dances and soundscapes that carried people through a divided nation, from Playford's lively tunes to the melodies that stirred both Royalist and Parliamentary hearts.

## SHADOWS OF BRADFORD

The Corn Dolly Pub, Bolton Road, BD1 4DE

Friday 17 July, 6.30pm-8pm

FREE DROP IN. It will be busy arrive early to secure a seat.

Join historians Cat Stiles and Melissa Seims for a pint or two as they delve into three dark stories of Bradford's past. Expect witchcraft, plague, and occult discoveries from our city's hidden history.

Shadows  
of  
Bradford



AN EVENING OF DARK TALES & HIDDEN HISTORIES

## SALTAIRE SUMMER EVENING WALKING TOUR AND PERFORMANCE

Meet outside United Reform Church, Victoria Road, Saltaire

Friday 17 July, 6.30pm

Tickets £10 (£8 under 16 years)

All tickets/more info from

Joanna.edutainment@gmail.com

(Mobile) 07968095132

Jump aboard the time machine with Saltaire Victorian, Pollie Toothill. Travel back to when Sir Titus Salt was around. Become a village character, discover a scandal or two! See key buildings and houses. Learn about Titus's early life and why Saltaire? It's factual and fun!



## WORLD HERITAGE UNESCO SALTAIRE

Meet at Saltaire United Reformed Church, Victoria Road

Saturday 18 July, 10am, 11am, 12pm, & 1pm

FREE. Booking via QR code below.

Led by knowledgeable local historians, each tour includes the URC church's interior, the Salt family mausoleum and much more.



## WELCOME SOUNDS

National Science and Media Museum  
Saturday 18 July, 10am-4pm  
FREE DROP IN

Get your dancing shoes on for a free family party at the National Science and Media Museum. Join the Storywala caravan, test your music knowledge in a live family gameshow, get hands-on in creative workshops, party the afternoon away at a silent disco and more!



Join the Bradford South Asian Festival's storywala caravan and share your heritage stories and memories.

## SOUTH SQUARE HERITAGE WEEKEND

South Square, Thornton, Bradford  
Saturday 18 July, 10.30am-3pm  
FREE DROP IN

Head to South Square for a great mix of free events and exhibitions. See an heritage display in the Community Room and hear talks from the Thornton Antiquarian Society who will have an open studio for you to explore their archive. Plus, they'll be free demonstrations from Sue Tomkins, a member of StrawCraftsmen, showing you how to make your own Corn Dollies. Join the South Square Collage Club to learn how to make your own heritage themed collage. They'll be some photos from antiquarians archive, plus old Bradford maps to create your own artwork, so come along and have a go for free! This will be happening alongside exhibitions in the galleries including 'Costing the Earth', a partnership exhibition with Impressions Gallery, a solo exhibition in Plenty at the Square by Saima Kaur, who creates hand embroideries that are inspired by the textile" traditions of Punjab, India, and a pop-up exhibition by Thornton Beckfoot School students in the Community Room.



## COME AND MEET THE CONES

*Saturday 18 July*

Manningham Library, 10am-11am

Eccleshill Library, 1.30pm-2.30pm

**FREE DROP IN**

Meet the Cones and discover how they're helping to look after Bradford's brilliant city centre! Join us for a fun, lively reading of Cones and Transforming Bradford and explore the city's beautiful heritage buildings through the eyes of these colourful characters. With author Chris Madeley.



## AVENUE STORIES:

**A heritage coffee drop at the Horsfall**

*Saturday 18 July, 10am-2pm*

**FREE DROP IN**

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming Heritage Coffee Drop In at Horsfall Stadium, celebrating the rich history of Bradford Park Avenue. This informal gathering invites supporters of all ages to come together over a cup of coffee, share personal stories, browse historic programmes, and explore club archives. The event is designed to spark conversation, preserve memories, and connect generations of fans, offering a space where lifelong supporters and new followers alike can learn from one another. Rooted in the club's core value of belonging, the day aims to strengthen community ties and honour the shared identity that makes Bradford (Park Avenue) special.



## AN AUDIENCE WITH FLORENCE WHITE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNER

*Saturday 18 July*

**10.30am** Police Museum

**11.30am** Food Court Darley Street Market

**12.30pm** Mechanics Institute  
(15 minute interactive show)

Florence White an unsung hero of Bradford who campaigned tirelessly for equality in pensions amongst women and won!



## CREATIVE FUTURES: A WALKING TOUR OF LITTLE GERMANY

*Saturday 18 July, 11am-12.30pm*

Access note: Little Germany has uneven paving and high curbs. Max 20 people.

Booking via QR code below.

Join People's Property Portfolio on a tour of creative spaces present and future that are shaping Little Germany, starting from Festival Square, Little Germany, BD1 5BD. Hear how cultural projects are bringing new life to Bradford's famous conservation area, how creative and community organisations can save our heritage buildings, and how you can help shape these plans for our city.



## RAILWAY MUSEUM HERITAGE HUNT

Engine Shed Museum, Ingrow West Station on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway

*Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 July, 11am-4pm*

**FREE entry if you buy a Rover Ticket to travel on the KWVR. If not, you can buy a joint entry ticket to visit both the Engine Shed and Carriage museums (£6 adults, £5 concessions, £4 children) or a single museum entry ticket (£4 adults, £3.50 concessions, £3 children). Under 5s are FREE**

Visit the Engine Shed railway museum and hunt for items which help tell our story – prize for everyone who takes part.



## HERITAGE GAMES IN THE MARKET

Darley Street Market, Food Hall

*Saturday 18 July, 11am-2.30pm*

**FREE DROP IN**

Roll up, roll up! Take on our heritage carnival games – Roll-a-Coin, Ball-in-a-Bucket and Table Quoits – led by our very own Victorian Carnival Host. Step up, have a go, and claim your bragging rights. Also enjoy some live music and look out for historical character Florence White making an appearance.



## SHIPLEY SUMMER SPECIAL - HERITAGE AND SPORT

Locations across Shipley  
*Saturday 18 July, 11am-3pm*  
**FREE DROP IN**

Shipley Summer Special returns on 18 July with free family fun including markets, music, skateboarding, inflatables, a climbing tower and games across town. This year also highlights local heritage, featuring canal artworks, heritage trail ideas, and the naming of new sheep sculptures celebrating Shipley's history.

## BRADFORD SUFFRAGETTES

Bradford Mechanics Institute  
*Saturday 18 July, 11.30am-12.30pm*  
**FREE DROP IN. Booking via QR code below.**

Come to this fascinating talk by Jennie Kiff who will share Bradford's significant role in the suffragette campaign. Before the talk you are welcome to browse the MI's suffragette collection and at 12.30 join a short show (15 mins) showcasing the work of Florence White.

Reproduced by kind permission of Brian Russell at Hanson Academy.



## EXHIBITIONS AT ILKLEY MANOR HOUSE

Ilkley Manor House, Castle Yard,  
Ilkley LS29 9DT  
*Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 July,*  
*11.30am-4pm*  
**FREE DROP IN**

Coming to Ilkley Manor House, photoILKLEY is Ilkley's first photography festival that brings together emerging talent and important contemporary voices. Discover winning images from the Young Photographers Competition and compelling projects exploring identity, inequality and representation.

## A BINGLEY BYRON WALK

The George, Cullingworth  
*Saturday 18 July, 1pm*  
For on-line sales and more details go to [woollyfringe.com](http://woollyfringe.com)  
**£7pp Max 16 people**

A 3 mile walk celebrating the life & poetry of John Nicholson (1790-1843), Bradford's first famous poet, between 2 pubs he would have drunk in. Led by Bradford poet & stand up historian Glyn Watkins. Starts at The George, Cullingworth with a poem about beer. Then to Goit Stock Falls, where Nicholson wrote, & then The Malt Shovel, with more poems. Only suitable for sensible, capable, walkers in sensible shoes.



## SUFFRAGETTE COSTUME WALKING TOUR

From Saltaire to Shipley Glen.  
Includes a ride on the magical Shipley Glen Tramway.  
Meet outside United Reform Church, Victoria Road, Saltaire  
*Saturday 18 July, 1.45pm*  
Tickets: £12.50 (£10.50 under 16 years)  
All tickets/more info from  
[Joanna.edutainment@gmail.com](mailto:Joanna.edutainment@gmail.com)  
(Mobile) 07968095132

Join Bingley Suffragette Nell Kenney who will guide you from Saltaire to Shipley Glen up to the site of the Monster Suffragette Rally. Ride on the magical Shipley Glen Tramway up the glen, hear about the sacrifices and bravery of the suffragettes, ending with a morale boosting song on the glen!



## MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

Bradford Industrial Museum  
*Sunday 19 July, 2pm-3.30pm*  
FREE DROP IN

Join us at Bradford Industrial Museum to enjoy an afternoon performance by the wonderful Hall Royd Brass Band.



## BRADFORD MODEL ENGINEERS PUBLIC RUNNING DAY

Northcliff Woods, Shipley  
*Sunday 19 July, 1.30pm-4pm*  
FREE DROP IN, donations welcome

Why not bring the family to Northcliff Woods (not the park). Take a ride on our miniature railway through the woods. Bring a picnic and make a day of it.



## HATS GLOVES AND HIERARCHIES

Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road, BD18 3HJ  
*Sunday 19 July, 3-4pm*

[Joanna.edutainment@gmail.com](mailto:Joanna.edutainment@gmail.com)  
07968095132. Tickets: £7.50

A new performance featuring Catherine Salt, wife of Titus Salt Junior and her butler Gregory. Explore life in service, rules of etiquette, life upstairs and downstairs, Royal Visit to Milner Field and Titus Salt Junior's sad demise. Joanne Crowther and Adrian Slater play the key characters, with wit and audience interaction.



# LOVE THE FESTIVAL?

## NEED MORE HERITAGE

Bradford Through The Lens is a captivating YouTube channel that explores the quirky and often overlooked history of the Bradford District. Through engaging visuals and storytelling, it brings hidden gems, local legends, and unique heritage to life for curious viewers. Check out our vast content and consider subscribing (it's free).

[youtube.com/@bradfordthroughthelens](https://www.youtube.com/@bradfordthroughthelens)

Get a daily dose of Bradford Heritage on the brilliant **@Bradford Memories** Facebook page.

Just search Bradford Memories and join the 8,000 other enjoying sharing together.



**BRADFORD  
THROUGH THE LENS**

# 2<sup>ND</sup> BRADFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL



**CELEBRATE OUR SHARED HERITAGE  
TALKS, WALKS, AND WORKSHOPS  
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**

With Thanks to the  
Bradford Guild of Trust  
for their kind support



Bradford Heritage Festival is produced by Bradford Heritage  
Connection in partnership with Bradford Heritage Hub.

[bradfordheritageconnection.co.uk](http://bradfordheritageconnection.co.uk)

 Bradford Heritage Connection CIC