

Heritage, Libraries and Arts

What's On in Oldham

October 2023 – April 2024





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Gallery Oldham

4 – 11

We've got a fantastic range of exhibitions over the next few months. You can celebrate the work of local artists, view a newly commissioned film by the renowned artist Bani Abidi or find out more about the inhabitants of prehistoric Oldham. Gallery Oldham's permanent displays of collections can be found in our foyer and throughout the building. Don't miss our programme of associated gallery talks too.

live@thelibrary

12 – 16

The latest season of performance and spoken word is now booking. From gothic scares to hilarious monologues, from silent cinema to family favourites, there really is something for everyone. One festive highlight is the story of The Wrong Reindeer which is guaranteed to be a Christmas treat for all the family.

Get involved

17 – 21

Get hands on, get creative and unlock your inner artist with our range of activities to suit all ages. Find out about volunteering or join our Creativity and Cultural forum. We offer a range of craft activities for children in the school holidays. And there are adult art classes including batik workshops and our popular life drawing sessions.

Oldham's Heritage, Libraries and Arts

22 – 27

Find out more about the full range of services available from Oldham's Heritage, Libraries and Arts. The Christmas Parade gets the festive fun started and the popular Illuminate Light Night returns in February. From Oldham Theatre Workshop to Oldham Local Studies and Archives, from author talks at the library to bargains at the gallery shop, there's plenty of reasons to get involved.

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

Oldham Stories: Encounters with our Collections

A Permanent Gallery

Oldham Stories brings together our best loved objects, alongside some things which might surprise you. The display features a selection from our Natural History, Social History and Art collections.

Our featured painting over the winter will be L.S. Lowry's 'Going to the Match', on loan from The Lowry in Salford. This will be on display from 2 December 2023 – 24 February 2024.

Explore the wide range of local habitats and creatures in our Oldham's Wildlife section, from the tiny wood mouse often seen in our gardens to the majestic birds seen above our moors.

You can also see a selection of Rugby League objects linked to Oldham players, as well as stories about well-known Oldhamers such as campaigner and pioneering politician Marjory Lees.

Image: Peregrine Falcon



Points of View by Saddleworth Group of Artists

16 September – 2 December

The Saddleworth Group of Artists was formed in 1950 by Ellis Shaw, with fellow artists who had studied in evening classes at Oldham Art School. Exhibitions were held in an old weaving loft in Uppermill where L.S.Lowry was a frequent visitor. Today the group has 40 members, whose preferred subjects range from abstract and still life, to landscape and figures.

This exhibition celebrates the wealth of artistic talent we have in the area and will be an opportunity to buy some original art by some of our best-known artists. We will be running a programme of events alongside this exhibition. For full details please check our website.

Join us for a celebration event 2–4pm on Saturday 16 September when we will officially open the exhibition.

Image: Annie Kenney by David Ralston, lino print.



Carboniferous Monsters: 150 Million Years before the Dinosaurs

21 October 2023 – 27 January 2024

Step back to the Carboniferous period. Visit tropical forests and swamps teeming with bizarre and ferocious ancient monsters, some of which had larger teeth than Tyrannosaurus rex! Meet the dinosaurs' distant ancestors, the very first reptiles, the largest creepy-crawlies ever to live, and prehistoric animals unlike anything you've ever seen before.

This blockbuster national touring exhibition features stunning 350 million year-old original fossils, reconstructed giant prehistoric animals, and skeleton casts from museums around the world, many of which have never been displayed in the UK before.

This exhibition shows what Oldham was like 300 million years ago and explores how the remains of these prehistoric plants were the source of the carbon which eventually formed coal. Suitable for prehistoric monster fans of all ages!

Image: Edaphosaurus



Wild Colour

9 December 2023 – 9 March 2024

This exhibition uses beautiful images to examine colour in the animal kingdom. From the stunning blue plumage of the hyacinth macaw to the multicoloured iridescence of a jewel beetle there are many reasons why colour is so important in nature.

Discover how colours such as red, yellow and green affect the way animals live and communicate and also how patterns and changing colours can be beneficial in the animal world. Some colouration has evolved to provide protective camouflage. Other topics explored include biological variations such as the absence of pigment in albinism and the black-form colouration in melanism.

Species featured in the photographs include a mandrill, an hourglass treefrog, a scarlet ibis, an oleander hawkmoth caterpillar and a panther chameleon. Complimentary colourful specimens from Gallery Oldham's own natural history will be displayed alongside these stunning images.

Image: Burchell's Zebra



In Which Language Do We Dream?

10 February – 11 May

We are all familiar with news headlines and images of the so-called ‘refugee crisis’. But what happens to those people displaced by war as they try to rebuild their lives? What about personal stories, and new relationships formed with friends and neighbours? And how do people hold on to loved ones and a past life that they have had to leave behind?

In Which Language Do We Dream? offers fresh insights into these issues through the eyes of the al-Hindawi family, who were forced to flee Syria due to the ongoing civil war. Rescued family photos are presented alongside contemporary photographs by Rich Wiles, and by al-Hindawi family member Ruba and her children. There is also a specially commissioned film of Whats App photos sent by their extended family.

An Impressions Gallery touring exhibition.

Image: Ruba, Flamborough, East Yorkshire, December 2020 © Rich Wiles



The Song by Bani Abidi

23 March – 1 June

Bani Abidi is a Pakistani artist who works with video, photography and drawing. She studied fine arts at the National College of Arts in Lahore and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2011, she was invited to the DAAD's Berlin Artists-in-Residence Programme and has lived in Berlin ever since.

The Song draws on Bani Abidi's interest in sound and migration, and on what it means to be acoustically displaced. An older man, who is a recent arrival to Europe, confronts the silence of his allotted Berlin apartment, finding his own way to settle down.

Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Contemporary Art Society, John Hansard Gallery and Salzburger Kunstverein. Supported by Arts Council England. Presented by Contemporary Art Society to Gallery Oldham.

Image: Bani Abidi, The Song, 2022, film still.
Courtesy of the artist and Film and Video Umbrella.



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 for more details.

Your Home, Your Voice, Your Place by Manchester Histories

16 September – 2 December

Manchester Histories and Great Places Housing Group Oldham explore the history of social housing in Primrose Bank, Crossley, Fitton Hill and Westwood. Contributions from locals, artists and historians inform the story of living in these communities throughout the years.



Places Nowhere by Lee Cooper

9 December 2023 – 9 March 2024

Oldham-born Lee Cooper has travelled the world capturing the mundane snippets of life in all their glory and wonder, through his photography. From Blackpool to Las Vegas, his work focuses on the moments of existential loneliness in the humdrum moments of life in a societal system that appears to be crumbling away.



Melting Pot by Soleil Dee

23 March – 1 June

Explore the joy of African fabrics in this colourful exhibition by Oldham based artist EvaD Ould-Okojie. Using traditional textile techniques such as Adire and Batik, EvaD explores her Nigerian heritage to create a range of beautiful artworks.



Gallery Talks

Our monthly talks are free, informal and last around 40 minutes. No booking required. All talks start at 2pm.

Wednesday 11 October,

Annie Kenney, Marjory Lees, Mary Higgs and Olive Claydon changed lives for the better. Join archivist Jan Hicks in our Oldham Stories gallery to discover how. Meet in Oldham Stories gallery.

Saturday 4 November,

Join prize-winning painter, Peter Davis MAFA, for his talk “Painting the zeitgeist”, where he’ll look back to the work of Edward Hopper, and the themes in his own work, to discover why documenting the here and now is important for many artists. Meet in Oldham Stories gallery.

Wednesday 22 November,

Explore the exhibition Carboniferous Monsters: 150 Million Years before the Dinosaurs. You can also get hands on with some fossils specially brought out from our stores by our Natural History Curator. Meet in Gallery 2.

Wednesday 20 December,

Celebrate our exhibition Wild Colour with our Natural History Curator and take a closer look at some of the Gallery’s colourful animal specimens. Meet in Gallery 3.

Wednesday 17 January,

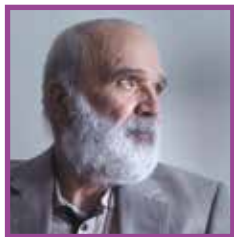
Claire Stewart, curator of the Lowry Collection in Salford, will offer an in depth look at L. S. Lowry’s Going to the Match. Meet in Oldham Stories gallery.

Saturday 10 February,

Join photographer Rich Wiles as we celebrate the opening of In Which Language Do We Dream? Take a look in depth at the al-Hindawi family experiences of settling into life in the UK after fleeing Syria. Light refreshments. Meet in Gallery 2.

Saturday 23 March,

Find out more about Bani Abidi’s work, with a focus on her new piece ‘The Song’ that explores themes of migration and displacement. Meet in Gallery 3.



Donations and Enquiries

Gallery Oldham is currently unable to accept new object donations and are facilitating a reduced enquiries service. This is so that we can focus on getting our collections ready for the move out of our existing stores. Whilst we undertake this essential work, we will only be acquiring new objects in exceptional cases.

live@thelibrary: **Drama**

Discover a world of comedy, drama, new writing, family theatre and storytelling. Tickets for all live@thelibrary events are available from:

www.oldham.gov.uk/liveatthelibrary

Crowd of 2 Theatre presents

Collectors

Wednesday 4 October, 7pm, Oldham Library £6

Tired of 9-5? Looking for a challenge? Prepared to go the extra mile? Then come and meet the team at the Agency. Written by Russell Kennedy.

Nosferatu

Thursday 19 October, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6

Nosferatu (1922) is notable as the first cinematic interpretation of Bram Stoker's Dracula. Just as powerful and unsettling today, this screening is enhanced with live music performed by Chris Green.

Don't Go Into the Cellar presents

Victorian Gothic

Tuesday 14 November, 7pm, Uppermill Library, £6

An anthology stage show based on a classic trio of nineteenth century thrillers, "The Body Snatcher", "The Monkey's Paw" and "Lot No.249". Dramatic storytelling at its best!

Romiley Little Theatre presents

Love Letters

Wednesday 24 January, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6

Love Letters is a tender, tragi-comic, and nuanced examination of the shared nostalgia, missed opportunities, and deep closeness of two lifelong, complicated friends.

Image: Nosferatu



live@thelibrary: **New Work**

Oldham Theatre Workshop Writers Group presents

Scratch Night

Saturday 28 October, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6

A script-in-hand evening of drama from Oldham Theatre Workshop Writers' Group. See excerpts from plays currently being developed by Oldham Writers. Refreshments included.

In Parallel Productions presents

You Can't Have It All Can You?

Friday 3 November, 3pm, Oldham Library, £5

In Parallel Productions are bringing an exciting one hour sharing and Q&A of work inspired by the opinions, views and observations of the community, in relation to their biological clocks and the pressures they face in society.

Tickets via www.inparallelproductions.co.uk

Live@theLibrary Open

We are offering support for new and emerging work through our new Live@Open programme. We are offering up to £500 and three days rehearsal space to help support an artist in the development of their work. To receive more information on the selection criteria and how to apply for this opportunity contact **katie.maden@oldham.gov.uk**

Image: Oldham Theatre Workshop scratch night



live@thelibrary: **Family**

British Black Ballet presents

Island Movements: An epic tale of a Windrush family

Tuesday 24 October, 1.30pm, Oldham Library, free

Join us for a short, moving ballet that tells the story of a young soldier in WW2 and follows him and his family through their life in the UK.

English Touring Opera presents

Under the Little Red Moon

Friday 10 November, 10.30am, Oldham Library, free

Join Lulu, Monty and their friend Tom on a vibrant and colourful journey in English Touring Opera's new opera for babies "Under the Little Red Moon". Suitable for ages 6–24 months.

Oldham Theatre Workshop in association with
Oldham Coliseum Theatre presents

The Wrong Reindeer

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

A town where there's nothing to look forward to. A donkey that wishes they were a reindeer and a child who can't wish at all. As the winter sets in, and Christmas draws close, an unlikely friendship is formed, and an adventure begins that will remind everyone of the true meaning of kindness.

Oliver Sykes

Fishing for Rainbows

Friday 23 February, 10.30am, Oldham Library, £5

Since Kezia's mum passed away, her family has fallen into a strict routine. The boys and dad go out fishing while she stays at home to tidy and cook. But Kezia has a plan that could transform her from a modern-day Cinderella to a super cool fisher-girl. Ages 5+

Image: The Wrong Reindeer



LGBTQ+ History Month

Transparency

Saturday 10 February, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6

Dive into the everyday life of a transgender male through the relatable, hilarious and brutally honest lens of a northern working-class family. Created and written by Jaden Adams, a trans-male actor, who grew up in Oldham. Age advisory 14+. The show contains swearing and may be triggering around body dysphoria and gender.

Women's History Month

Ayse Balko, Canine Teeth

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

On the eve of International Women's Day we present a story which has not been heard before. Ayse Balko's tale takes place against the backdrop of a Turkish society obsessed with marriage and women.

Dangerous2know Theatre

On Me

Thursday 14 March, 7pm, Oldham Library, pay what you can.

Shona and Christian are two actors working on a "gritty" true crime docudrama. As the pair develop feelings for each other, they must navigate the challenges of being role models, allies, spontaneous romantics and potential victims all at once when chasing love in the post – #MeToo era.

The Ladies that Monologue

Tuesday 26 March, 7pm, Oldham Library, £6

The Ladies That Monologue offer an evening of hilarious, moving, thought-provoking new writing performed by women over 40.

Image: Transparency



The Small Cinema



Join us for regular screenings of some of the latest and greatest films, both new and classic. Down at Oldham Small Cinema you'll find something for everyone's tastes and you can join us for our free children's craft session from 12noon before all kid's film screenings.

Upcoming screenings

Hocus Pocus (30th Anniversary screening) (PG)

**Saturday 21 October,
2pm, Oldham Library
Performance Space, £3**

Two teenagers, a young girl, and a cat must end three witches' reign of terror once and for all at Halloween.



Night at the Museum (PG)

**Saturday 4
November, 2pm,
Oldham Library
Performance Space,
£3.30**

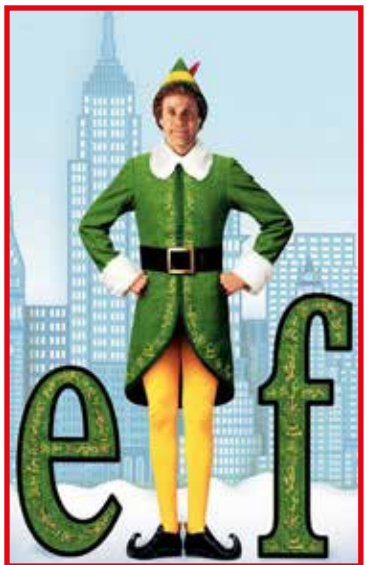
A security guard at the Museum of Natural History, gets help from the exhibits who come alive at night to stop the theft of a magic tablet.



ELF (20th Anniversary screening) (PG)

**Saturday 2 December,
2pm, Oldham Library
Education Suite, £3.30**

Buddy, a human, is raised amongst elves at the North Pole. When he discovers that he is not an elf, he travels in search for his father.



Small Cinema dates for 2024

**Saturday 20 January
Saturday 3 February
Saturday 2 March
Saturday 6 April**

Tickets are available to book via Eventbrite, with a very limited number available to buy on the door on the day of screening.

For more information go to **bit.ly/OldhamSmallCinema** or scan the QR code.



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 volunteering opportunities for the entire borough. Alternatively, please complete our online form to register your interest in a regular volunteering position.

For more details visit:

<https://takepartoldham.volunteermakers.org>

Creativity and Cultural Forum

Oldham Creativity and Cultural Forum is 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.

Our next meeting is 11 September, 6pm – 8pm, Oldham Library.

Creativity and Culture Newsletter

Are you an artist or creative with a link to the local area? Sign up to join our artist database, and receive the quarterly Creativity and Culture newsletter to find out about all the latest funding advice and creative opportunities. **For more information about the forum or the newsletter contact nick.duke@oldham.gov.uk**

Holiday Activities

Don't miss our fantastic range of holiday activities. Check our website for dates across the network of branch libraries.

GO! October

Story Time with Mama G

Tuesday 24 October, 1pm, Failsworth Library, free, booking required

The Queen of storytelling, Mama G shares her spooktacular stories.

The Magic Bookmark

Tuesday 24 October, 5.30pm, Oldham Library, free, booking required

'Everyone's favourite pantomime dame', Mama G, will be putting on a show full of love, laughter, and fun.

The Big Draw

Wednesday 25 October, 1pm, Gallery Oldham, free, booking required

The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over four million people back to the drawing board since 2000. Come and have a go!

GO! with Henshaws

Friday 27 October, 1pm, Gallery Oldham, free, booking required

A partnership with Henshaws to deliver an interactive arts session bringing our exhibitions to life. Suitable for visually impaired users and open to all.

Holiday Activities

GO! February

Illuminate Lantern Making Workshops

Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 February, 10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4pm, Saturdays 10 and 17 February, 1–4pm
Gallery Oldham, free, bookable via Eventbrite from 2024

Take part in Illuminate with our family lantern making workshops.

Family Fun Nights

Family Silent Discos

Thursday 14 March, 4pm, Crompton Library, free, drop in

Thursday 21 March, 4pm, Failsworth Library, free, drop in

Get a rave on with the whole family as you boogie amongst the bookshelves.

GO! Easter

Wednesdays 3 and 10 April, 1–3pm, Gallery Oldham, free, no booking required

Family friendly activities themed around our exhibitions.

Thursdays 4 and 11 April, 1–3pm, Oldham Library, free, booking required

Enjoy time with friends and family at our interactive holiday sessions.

Earth Day

Saturday 20 April, 10.30am, Gallery Oldham, free, bookable via Eventbrite from March 2024

Make reusable food wrap from old vinyl banners to keep your food fresh with Plastic Shed, a Community Benefit Society.

GO! Saturdays

Sensory Silent Disco

Saturday 25 November, 1pm, Gallery Oldham, free, booking required

Boogie and bop your way through our creative spaces at our festive family Silent Disco – suitable for all!

ROARsome

Saturday 20 January, 1pm, Gallery Oldham, free, drop in

A ROARsome show exploring animals' connections to their prehistoric relatives linked to our exhibition of Carboniferous Monsters.

British Science Week

Saturday 16 March, 1pm, Gallery Oldham, free, drop in

A British Science Week themed interactive session that will bring our Carboniferous Monsters exhibition to life.

Early Years

GO! Baby

12 and 26 October, 9 and 23 November, 14 December, 11 and 25 January, 8 and 22 February, 14 and 28 March, 11 and 25 April, 10.30 – 12noon, 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

Saturdays 7 October, 4 November, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April, 10.30am – 12noon, Gallery Oldham, £4 per child, no booking required

Messy sensory play for confident walkers. Suitable for 2 – 4 year-olds and their families.

Extra Small Cinema

Saturday 2 December and Friday 1 March, 10 – 11.30am, Oldham Library, £3.30 per child, adults are free, bookable via Eventbrite

Baby cinema screenings to introduce the magic of cinema for little ones. Expect comfy seating, sensory play materials, dimmed lighting and quieter volumes.

Baby Photobooth

Thursday 16 November, 10.30 – 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.

Baby Art Studio

Saturdays 25 November and 17 February, 10.30am – 12noon, £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.

Bedtime Stories

Tuesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 November and 5, 12 December, 5.30 – 6.30pm, free, bookable via Eventbrite

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



Little Reads – new from September 2023

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 4s and their families.

Young People

Collab Lab: Easter Special

Tuesdays 2 and 9 April, 1-4pm, Gallery Oldham, free, bookable via Eventbrite. Priority bookings for young people eligible for free school meals.

Explore Gallery Oldham's collections and exhibitions in this special Easter Collab Lab for 11-16 year olds, learn new techniques and work with an artist to create your own artworks.

Art Club

Saturdays 7 October, 4 November, 2 December, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Gallery Oldham, Free, bookable via Eventbrite. Join our monthly mini-series of workshops to learn, test and develop your creative skills with others. Suitable for ages 11–16.



Schools

For more information or to book a Gallery Oldham or Oldham Libraries' school workshop, self-guided visit, or loans box, go to:

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

A Portal to Oldham's Industrial Past

Available to book on Mondays and Tuesdays in term time, £100 for up to 35 pupils, Gallery Oldham

Pupils will learn about the industrialisation of Oldham in this interactive KS2 workshop. Meet famous Oldham photographer Squire Knott in 1876 through a time portal and find out how we became the biggest cotton spinning town in the world.



World Book Day

Thursday 7 March, 10am and 2.30pm, free, Oldham Library, bookable by email: librariesandgallerieschools@oldham.gov.uk

Venessa Taylor, author of bestselling Baller Boys books about football crazy best friends Shay and Frankie, will be running workshops for Oldham schools which include role play and a writing activity.

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 October, 9 November, 14 December, 11 January, 8 February, 14 March, 11 April, 6.30 – 8.30pm, £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 14 October, 10.30am – 12.30pm
£35 per person (Class and starter kit supplied)
£15 per person (Class only), Gallery Oldham
Learn embroidery technique and start to create your very own thread journal.

Lino Printing: Christmas Workshop

Saturday 25 November, 10.30am – 12.30pm
£15 per person, Gallery Oldham
Join Hunton for a beginners Lino course. Print your own Christmas cards and Christmas wrapping this year, to really stand out.



Animal Watercolour: 3 week course

Saturdays 13, 20 and 27 January, 10am – 1pm, £60 per person, Gallery Oldham
Create your very own work of art, using vivid watercolours in a fluid fun style. This workshop will focus on an image selected from the Wild Colour exhibition.



Batik Greeting Cards with Soleil Dee

Thursday 28 March, 6.30 – 8.30pm
£20 per person, Gallery Oldham
Batik is the art of creating beautiful designs on fabrics using resist techniques. In this new workshop you will work with an artist to design and create your own greetings cards.

Batik Workshop with Soleil Dee

Saturday 13 April, 10.30am – 1.30pm
£35 per person, Gallery Oldham
Learn Batik techniques and work with an artist to design and create your own textile pieces.

Special Events: Christmas

Christmas Parade and Switch On Spectacular

**Saturday 18 November 12noon – 6.30pm, free,
Oldham Town Centre**

12noon New Christmas Parade

**12.30 – 5pm Festive entertainment across
the Town Centre**

**5.30pm Switch On Spectacular featuring ‘The
Wrong Reindeer’ and firework finale**

Join us to celebrate the start of the festive season as we welcome the Christmas Parade. Hundreds of performers, local bands and community groups will showcase their Reindeer Parade creations, performances and much, much more.

The parade is followed by a jam-packed afternoon of festive performances and music for all the family. As we head into the evening don't miss the annual Switch On spectacular. This year's show is the magical tale of 'The Wrong Reindeer' created by Oldham Theatre Workshop with amazing pyrotechnic finale from Fantastic Fireworks.



Christmas Books and Bobs Fair

**Saturday 18 November, 11am – 4pm, free,
Oldham Library**

Kickstart the festive season with a stroll around stalls from brilliant small, local businesses selling gorgeous, handcrafted gifts and be inspired for your Christmas presents. For stallholder enquiries email

farrah.ashraf@oldham.gov.uk

Brass Monkeys Festival

Saturday 9 December, 11am – 3pm

**Hilton Square, Tommyfield Market Hall, Oldham Parish
Church and Spindles Shopping Centre**

Oldham's annual winter festival of brass returns this December. Come along and listen to the very best local and national brass bands play side by side and provide the perfect musical backdrop for your Christmas shopping.

From traditional brass to funky street bands... there's a bit of brass for everyone. Including:

- Grimethorpe Colliery Band
- Hackney Colliery Band
- Fat Cat Brass
- Oldham Music Service Band and many more...

Special Events: Illuminate

Illuminate

**Saturday 24 February 2024, free
Across Oldham Town Centre, Gallery
Oldham and Oldham Library**



See Oldham in a new light as our late-night light arts festival returns for its sixth year. Explore the illuminated townscape of mesmerising installations and dazzling performances by the very best local, national and international light artists.

Don't miss the Illuminate Parade – a river of giant illuminated creatures and hundreds of community lanterns that will open the evening. Follow the trail of light to explore the spectacular installations and performances in surprising spaces across Oldham Town Centre.

Fancy taking part and being a part of Illuminate 2024?

Whether you want to make a lantern, join the Illuminated parade or just want to try your hand at light art visit our event page to book for one of our many Illuminate workshops across February.

www.oldham.gov.uk/Illuminate



Illuminate at Northern Roots

**Sunday 25 February 2024, free
Northern Roots, Kings Road, OL8 2BJ**

Explore Northern Roots by night for this specially created illuminated experience that will light up the landscape in a way that delights and surprises visitors of all ages on the site of what will become the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park.

www.northern-roots.uk



Oldham Theatre Workshop

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

If you are aged 6 to 25 yrs 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

Spotlight on our work

This year Oldham Theatre Workshop produced three short animated films. The films are the result of a partnership project called You. We worked with Oldham's Children In Care Council and Oldham's Virtual School for Children Looked After.

All three films have been created using actual recorded conversations with young people talking about their own lived experience. No actors were used and no scripts were made. The films will be used to help ease the transition into the care system for Children and Young People in Oldham.

www.oldhamtheatreworkshop.co.uk/you



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 archives, photographs, books, maps and newspapers that bring the stories of the past to life. Oldham Local Studies and Archives exists to preserve the past, serve the present and safeguard the future. We do this by collecting and looking after the unique documentary heritage of our region and we are open to everyone.

T: 0161 770 4654
E: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Family History

Enjoy free access to family history websites including Ancestry and FindMyPast, as well as to the 1921 Census online. We also have copies of the Census going back to 1841 and other sources to support your research. If you have questions about family history, call in for expert advice every Monday and Wednesday, 2–4pm.

Local History

As well as the collections held at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 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.



Exciting new plans for Oldham Local Studies and Archives

In preparation for our new home at Spindles the service will close at 84 Union Street on 30 November 2023. A temporary service will operate from Oldham Library in 2024 until the Spindles site is ready. We will not be able to accept new donations or provide access to physical archives during this time. Our digital resources will be available as usual.

Love Oldham's Libraries

National Poetry Day

**Writer's Day with Comma Press,
Thursday 5 October, Oldham Library,
free event, book via the Comma Press
Eventbrite page**

A day of events for writers focussing on a variety of techniques for how to write poetry and get published, featuring sector experts from Comma Press, an award-winning independent Manchester based publisher.

Green Libraries Week

**Saturday 7 October, 10.30am and 1.30pm,
Oldham Library, free, drop in**

This year's Libraries Week is focused on sustainability and climate change so Fair and Funky will teach you how to turn old library books into eye-catching bunting and hanging mobiles.

Harry Potter Book Night

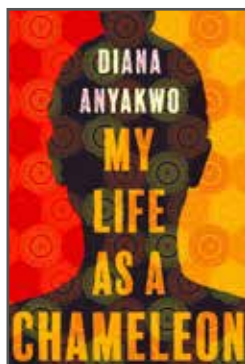
**Thursday 12 October, 5pm, Oldham Library, free,
booking required**

A magical night of storytelling, quizzes, and crafts to celebrate Harry Potter Book Night 2023. Costumes encouraged.

Diana Anyakwo, My Life as a Chameleon

**Saturday 14 October, 1pm,
Oldham Library,
free, booking required,
ages 13+**

Lily returns to her birthplace, Nigeria, to reunite with her family for the anniversary of her father's death. Diana Anyakwo talks about her new book and journey as a writer.



Creative Writing Workshop with Diana Anyakwo

**Saturday 14 October, 2.30pm, Oldham Library,
free, booking required**

A fun and interactive creative writing workshop which will explore how to use your own experiences to write original and compelling fiction.

Jennifer Joyce, Our Last Summer

Tuesday 17 October, 6.30pm, Oldham Library, £2
Local author Jennifer Joyce, a writer of romantic comedies, will be launching her new book "Our Last Summer".

Cultureword's Black and Asian Writers Conference

**Friday 17 November, Billingtons and
Saturday 18 November, HackOldham**

Free Event booking via www.culturewords.org.uk
Celebrating black and Asian writers with a series of panel discussions, stalls, performances and interviews, featuring Jay Mitra, JJ Bola, Cheryl Martin, and Cherrelle Rosario.

Love Oldham's Libraries

World Book Day Costume Making with Author Sharon Davey

Saturday 2 March, 1pm and Monday 4 March 4.30pm, Oldham Library, free, booking required.

Author and illustrator Sharon Davey will help you make a unique World Book Day character costume.

All resources provided.

World Book Day

Thursday 7 March, 4pm, Oldham Children's Library, free, drop in

Venessa Taylor, author of bestselling Baller Boys books about football crazy best friends Shay and Frankie, will be hosting a reading and book signing for families to celebrate World Book Day.

World Book Day

Thursday 7 March, 3.30pm, Failsworth, Fitton Hill, Limehurst and Northmoor Libraries, free, no booking required

Celebrate World Book Day at your local library.

Murder Mystery Night – The Death of the Great Detective

Thursday 18 April, 6.30pm, Oldham Library, £6, booking required

**The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes is dead!
Or is he?**

The game is afoot with the hilarious Highly Suspect as Chief Inspector Lanyard is found shot, stabbed and strangled.



Special events

Healthy New Year Festival 2024

Friday 26 and Saturday 27 January 11am – 3pm, free, Oldham Library

Free exercise classes, health checks, author talks, information stalls, baby fair and family activities.

Join us for a fantastic start to 2024 and a Healthy New Year.

Women's Health Festival

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 March, various times, Oldham Libraries

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, crafts for wellbeing and much more.

Mindfulness Walks

Monday 13 November, Monday 15 January, Monday 25 March. 10.30 – 11.30am, Failsworth Library/ Moston Brook. Free, booking essential.

Nature is full of wonder and inspiration. Our friendly, new walking group starts and finishes at Failsworth Library. Join us for a gentle paced walk along Moston Brook canal. This walk is led by Kim Harrison – One Heart Nature Connection, Moston Brook Project team and Oldham Libraries. To book your free place visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/615518651857>

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 we do.

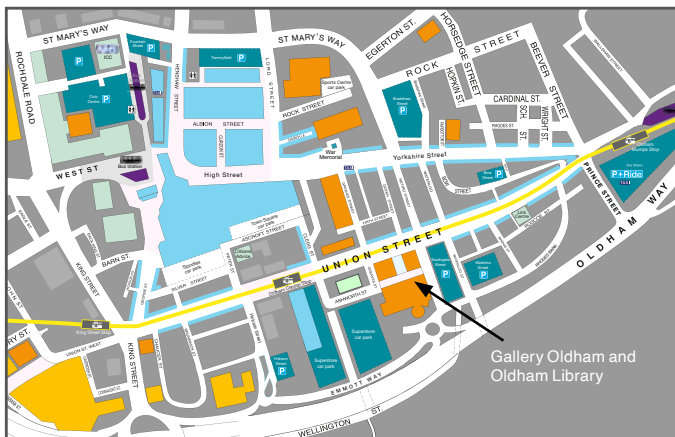
You can also shop online with **Art UK**. Over 300 images from our collections are available to buy as prints or as merchandise such as cards, coasters and mugs. Visit artuk.org

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 www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200395/find_a_library



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.

Get Creative

OLDHAM
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