Oldham Histories Festival and heritage open days
6 September – 6 October 2018

Discover more about the people, places, buildings and stories across the borough
Welcome to Oldham Council’s Histories Festival and Heritage Open Days. This is your chance to find out more about the people, places, buildings and stories in your area. From talks to walks there’s plenty to discover, whether you’re interested in architecture or heritage or just curious about the history around you. All events are free, and there’s no need to book, unless otherwise stated in the event description.

Key: 🚶‍♂️-disabled access 🚗-parking ☕-refreshments ⌛️-toilets

**Oldham Local Studies and Archives**
Discover the fascinating history of the Oldham area and its people. Our archives date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects. Come along and take part in a range of talks, tours and special events.
84 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DN
Open: Mon and Thu 10am-7pm, Tue 10am-2pm, Wed and Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
T: 0161 770 4654
E: archives@oldham.gov.uk

**Family History Help Desk**
Want to trace your family history but don’t know where to begin? Our experts are here to get you started or help with any problems.
**Every Mon and Wed, 2–3.30pm**
Advance booking required

**The Story of My Street**
Mary Pendlebury shares the story of Coppice Street and some of its remarkable residents.
**Sat 15 Sept, 2–3.30pm**

**The Seven Holy Crosses of Oldham**
An exploration of the enigmatic medieval crosses that once defined the landscape of Oldham Edge and the quest for their location.
Presented by Oldham Historical Research Group.
**Wed 19 Sept, 7–8.30pm**

**Health in Oldham before the NHS**
A fascinating new display looking at medical provision in Oldham before the advent of the National Health Service in 1948.
Daily – see above for opening times

**Researching the First World War Soldier**
Want to find out the story of a WWI soldier but don’t know where to begin? Our experts are here to help start you on your journey.
**Sat 29 Sept, 10.30am–12noon**
Advance booking required
Oldham Town Centre
Mayor’s Parlour and Civic Silverware Tour
Take a tour of the Mayor’s Parlour and view the Trust Silver of the 10th Battalion Manchester Regiment. Central to this display are the silver drums and bugles purchased by the Ladies of Oldham in 1924 as a memorial to those who had fallen in the Great War.
Tours available from Thu 6–Fri 21 Sept (weekdays only)
0161 770 4012 for times and bookings
Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UJ

Oldham Parish Church
Built in 1830 the Oldham Parish Church of St. Mary with St. Peter is a Grade II* listed building. Explore the vast crypt containing vaults that belonged to many mill owners of the town. The legendary ‘Oldham Giant’ is also buried here! You can also view a memorial and exhibition to Oldhamers killed in the Spanish Civil War.
Fri 7 Sept, 11am–3pm, Sat 8 Sept 10am–3pm, Sun 9 Sept, 12noon–3pm
Rock Street, Oldham OL1 3UH

Building Stones of Oldham
A guided tour of Oldham Town Centre’s iconic buildings and the stones that made them. Meet at Oldham Local Studies and Archives.
Sat 8 Sept, 2–3.30pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham World War One Walk
Join Roger Ivens for a tour of World War One locations in Oldham and the stories behind them. Meet at Oldham Local Studies and Archives.
Sat 15 Sept, 10.30am–12noon
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

The United Reformed Church
200 Years of Town Centre Worship and Witness with guided tours at 10am, 12noon and 2pm
Sat 15 Sept, 10am-4pm
107 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DH

The Old Road Through Oldham
Follow the ancient medieval route through Oldham on an informative walk led by Jeremy Sutcliffe.
Tues 18 Sept, 11am–12.30pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Meet at the Peace Garden, corner of George Street and Union Street.

Oldham Lyceum
A guided tour of one of the most iconic architectural gems in Oldham Town Centre, which has had a fascinating and varied history.
Thu 20 Sept, 10.30–11.30am
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
95 Union St, Oldham OL1 1QG
Meet at the entrance to The Lyceum.
Oldham Town Centre
Ghost Walk
Uncover some of the ghostly goings-on in Oldham! A fun walk suitable for children 6 years and over accompanied by an adult.

Thu 20 Sept, 7–8pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Meet outside The Old Museum, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1DN

Union Street Walk
Take a guided walk along one of Oldham’s most famous streets.

Meet at the Peace Garden, corner of George Street and Union Street.

Tues 25 Sept, 11am–12.30pm

If I Should Fall
In 1916 Beattie is ahead of her time. A bombastic adolescent with a promising future and a talent for writing. At sweet 16, Billy Glover is Beattie’s first love. They live in letters sent across the battlefield. Over twenty years later, Beattie, like the rest of Britain, finds herself in another war. Only this time she’s got a failing marriage and an ageing mother to contend with. Living in memories, amidst the bombing, rationing and village gossip can Beattie survive and finally put Billy to rest? If I Should Fall explores what it means to be at war – then and now.

Fri 28 Sept, 7pm
Oldham Library, Greaves St, OL1 1AL
Tickets £5 or for details visit: www.oldham.gov.uk/liveatthelibrary

Oldhamers in World War One
An illustrative talk by Roger Ivens exploring the stories of local people in wartime to commemorate the end of the First World War.

Fri 28 Sept, 6pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Poets: The First World War in Verse
During the First World War both local newspapers, the Oldham Chronicle and the Oldham Standard, published a large number of poems written by soldiers at the front and civilians at home. Staged by Oldham Theatre Workshop, the story traces WW1 through these local poets.

Wed 3 Oct, 6pm
Performance Space, Oldham Library, Greaves St, OL1 1AL
**Gallery Oldham**
Uncover some of the unique items on display from our extensive social history collections. As well as historic items we are also home to many modern objects that reflect life in Oldham today.
Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL
Open: Mon to Sat, 10am–5pm
T: 0161 770 4653
E: galleryoldham@oldham.gov.uk

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**A Stroll Along the Oldham Panorama**
The Oldham Panorama is one of the best visual records of the transformation of North West England into an industrial powerhouse. This guided tour explores the buildings and people on show in this view of Oldham taken in 1876 by Squire Knott.
Thu 6 Sept, 1pm

**Oldham Microscopical and Natural History Society Open Day**
Find out more about the natural history of Oldham, with real specimens and historic microscopes. Includes tours of Gallery Oldham’s natural history collection at 11.30am and 2pm.
Sat 29 Sept, 9.30am–4pm

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**Chadderton**
**St Matthew and St Luke**
‘Simply Us’. Find out more about the life of this once small rural church which today finds itself in a large urban community. Additional activities include ‘Dong Our Church Bell’ on Saturday morning and a church cake café. Concluding with a song of praise on Sunday, 17.00 – 18.00.
Sat 8 Sept, 11am–1pm and
Sun 9 Sept, 1.30–6pm
Mill Brow, Chadderton OL2 1RT

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**The Changing Face of Business in Oldham**
Exploring the ever changing business landscape over the last 50 years.
Wed 12 Sept, 6-7.30pm
Manor Mill, Victoria Street, Chadderton OL9 0DD
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

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**Coldhurst**
**Holy Trinity Church**
Built by local firm, Emanuel Whittaker, and consecrated in 1848. The church houses Coldhurst’s World War One Roll of Honour and contains one of the earliest examples of Robert Thompson of Kilburn’s ‘Mouseman’ carvings.
Sat 15 Sept, 10am–3pm
Godson Street, Oldham OL1 2NZ

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**Crompton**
**Belgian Refugees in Oldham During the First World War**
Following the German invasion of Belgium in August 1914, many thousands of Belgian soldiers and civilians fled to Britain. This talk tells the story of those Belgian refugees who found sanctuary in Oldham.
Mon 1 Oct, 2pm
Crompton Library, 7 Farrow Street East, Shaw OL2 8QY
Delph

Castleshaw Roman Forts
A guided tour of the two Roman forts on the Chester to York military road. Tours include findings from the latest excavations in 2014, 2016 and 2017. Meet in the car park at Waterworks Road next to Castleshaw Outdoor Education Centre. No dogs allowed.
Sat 8 and Sat 15 Sept, 2–3.45pm
Castleshaw Outdoor Centre, Waterworks Road, Delph OL3 5LZ

Denshaw

Christ Church
The church and registers will be open for viewing, plus a dry stone walling demonstration in the graveyard as part of their Eco project.
Sat 8 Sept, 10.30am–2.30pm
Huddersfield Road, Denshaw OL3 5SB

Dobcross

Holy Trinity Church
Built in 1787 this Grade II listed ‘Pennine Auditory’ Chapel contains fine examples of original box-pews. Members of Focal Point Oldham will also be exhibiting a range of heritage themed photography.
Thu 6 to Sat 8 Sept, 10am–4pm,
Sun 9 Sept, 1–4pm, Mon 10 to Sat 15 Sept, 10am–4pm,
Sun 16 Sept, 1–4pm
Woods Lane, Dobcross OL3 5AN

Dorcross

St Thomas’s Church, Heights
This beautiful landmark 18th Century Church built on the Saddleworth hills, closed in 1960s and owned by the Churches Conservation Trust is open for the viewing of its stained glass windows, preaching gallery and original stencils from the 1930s.
Sat 8 and Sun 9 Sept, 1-4pm
Broad Lane, Delph, Saddleworth, OL3 5TX

Limited on-road parking

Failsworth

Daisy Nook Country Park
Guided walk at easy pace to hear about the important part the Droylsden to Hollinwood canal played in the area’s economic prosperity. Meet outside the café at Daisy Nook Country Park car park off Stannybrook Road, Failsworth M35 9WJ
Fri 7 Sept, 1–2.30pm and Sat 15 Sept, 1–2.30pm

Roman Road Independent Methodist Church
Open day with photographs and historical documents. Refreshments

Sun 16 Sept, 2pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Barry Street, Oldham OL1 3NG

area. The tour visits the headstones and monuments of some of the victims and people who involved in the events of the day. No dogs allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

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Daisy Nook Country Park
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Fri 7 Sept, 1–2.30pm and Sat 15 Sept, 1–2.30pm

Roman Road Independent Methodist Church
Open day with photographs and historical documents. Refreshments
and lunches served.

**Tue 11 Sept, 11am–2pm**
Roman Road, Failsworth M35 9JR

**The Failsworth and Woodhouses Comforts Society**
With the outbreak of the First World War large numbers of women and children came together at local churches to sew and knit socks, gloves and bandages for the soldiers in the front line. This talk tells the story of one such society based around a rare collection of personal archives.

**Wed 3 Oct, 6pm**
Failsworth Library, Oldham Road, M35 0FJ

**Gladwick**
**Alexandra Park**
A guided walk around looking at the history and architecture of this Grade II* listed park. The walk takes approximately one hour and although reasonably flat and DDA compliant some people will find the walk challenging. Please wear appropriate outdoor footwear and clothing. Meet at the car park on King’s Road. Call 0161 770 4067 to book in advance.

**Thu 6 Sept, 10am and Wed 12 Sept, 1pm**
Kings Road, Oldham OL8 2BH

**Greenacres**
**Greenacres Cemetery**
Take a guided tour with Roger Ivens of the cemetery’s World War One graves. Please wear sensible footwear.

**Thu 20 Sept, 2–3.30pm**
Greenacres Road OL4 3HT
Meet at entrance to the cemetery.

**Greenfield**
**Christ Church, Friezland**
Explore this Grade II listed Victorian Gothic Revival church with spire designed by local architect George Shaw. Church records free to view.

**Thu 6 Sept, 2pm-4pm, Sat 8 Sept, 10am–4pm and Sun 9 Sept, 12noon–4pm**
Church Road, Greenfield OL3 7LQ

**Hathershaw**
**Shri Radhakrishna Temple**
Learn more about the history and work of the Indian Association Oldham. Established in 1968, this year they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary throughout the year. Visit the temple and community centre and discover more about the Indian community of Oldham.

**Thu 20 Sept, 9.30–11.30am**
Schofield Street, Oldham OL8 1QJ

**Hollinwood**
**St Margaret’s Church**
Exhibition of artefacts, stained glass windows, fine vestments and parish registers dating back to 1769. Refreshments available. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Thu 6 Sept, 10am–4pm (9.30am Low Mass said), Fri 7 Sept,**
11am–5pm, Sat 8 Sept, 10am–4pm (12noon Sung Mass), Sun 9 Sept, 11.30am–6pm (10am Parish Mass, 5pm Solemn Vespers and Benediction)
Chapel Road, Hollinwood OL8 4QQ

**Asian Women in Business**
An afternoon exploring the history of Asian businesswomen in Oldham.
**Tues 25 Sept, 2.30pm**
Chambers Business Centre, Chamber Mill, Chapel Rd, Hollinwood OL8 4QQ
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.

**Lees**

**St Thomas’ Leesfield Church**
Open day with tea and toast served from 10.30am to 12noon. Tours and guide book are available.
**Sat 15 Sept, 10.30am–3pm**
West Street, Lees OL4 5AD

**Oldhamers and the Battle of the Somme**
The Battle of the Somme was one the defining moments of the First World War. In this talk John Fidler recounts his visit to the cemeteries of the Somme and reveals the stories of some of the Oldham men buried there.
**Thu 4 Oct, 11am**
Lees Library, Thomas Street, Lees OL4 5DA

**Moorside**

**St Thomas’s Church, Moorside**
Find out more about the history of the parish with the Moorside and District Historical Society. WWI parish database will be available, with local and school photographs on display. Any old images you have please bring them along. Tours of the bell and clock tower available, plus guided tours of the war graves in the churchyard at 11.30am and 2pm (suitable footwear - meet in the church).

**Sat 8 Sept, 10.30am–3pm**
St Thomas’s Church, Glebe Lane, Oldham OL1 4SJ

**Strinesdale Day and Sunday School**
An illustrated presentation by Moorside and District Historical Society of the history of this hill-side school near the Roebuck Inn.
**Mon 17 Sept, 7.30pm**
St Thomas’s Church Lounge, Glebe Lane, Oldham OL1 4SJ

**Royton**

**The First World War**
An illustrated talk by Roger Ivens looking at the stories of local people in World War One.
**Wed 26 Sept, 7.30pm**
Trinity Methodist Church, Radcliffe Street, Royton OL2 5QR
Admission £2

**Royton Soldiers and the end of the First World War I**
Based upon two unique sets of archives compiled after the end of the First World War this talk tells the stories of Royton soldiers from two different but intriguing angles. The first follows the Royton men who were taken prisoner by the Germans, while the second story looks at those who survived the war but who claimed a pension due to injuries sustained during the fighting.
**Fri 5 Oct, 2pm**
Royton Library, Rochdale Rd, OL2 6QJ
Shaw

Holy Trinity Church
Restored Victorian Gothic church with wonderful stained glass, mosaics and carvings. 15 Sept exhibition of paintings by Shaw Art Society, model railway exhibition by Nigel Tansley, and Francis Stott presents a talk on ‘Old Shaw’.
Fri 14 Sept, 10am–2pm and Sat 15 Sept, 12noon-4pm

Uppermill

St Chad’s Church, Uppermill
There has been a place of worship on the parish church site since 1215AD. Explore this Grade II* listed building through parish registers, church and graveyard tours, a WW1 exhibition, tours of the bell tower and rushcart pennants.
Fri 7 Sept, 10am–4pm, Sat 8 Sept, 10am–4pm, Sun 9 Sept, 1–5pm
Church Lane, Uppermill OL3 6L

Saddleworth Historical Society
Unravelling the Mystery of a Ruin: Revealing the Medieval Grange at Castleshaw, a talk by Norman Redhead.
Wed 12 Sept, 7.30pm
Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS

Saddleworth Museum
The museum explores objects and history relating to the area - from a Viking ring found in Greenfield to a loom made in Dobcross. See one hundred views of Saddleworth that have sadly disappeared.
Sun 16 Sept, 1–4pm
High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS

Conscientious Objection in Oldham
During the First World War, following the passing of the conscription act in 1916, many thousands of men across the country decided to resist compulsory military service, risking jail for their beliefs. This talk reveals the stories of some of the 150 conscientious objectors so far uncovered in Oldham.
Tues 2 Oct, 6pm
Uppermill Library, St. Chad’s, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6A

Waterhead

Holy Trinity Church
Heritage weekend. Please see the Holy Trinity Church website for times and more details.
Fri 28 Sept, Sat 29 Sept and 30 Sept
Church Street East, Oldham OL4 2JS

Heritage Walk
Explore the history of Waterhead with a guided tour led by Roger Ivens.
Thu 13 Sept, 2–3.30pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk
Meet at Waterhead Bus Terminus, Huddersfield Road, OL4 3NN

Werneth

Werneth Park
A guided tour of the park with Jeremy Sutcliffe. Werneth Park was created in 1936 from a 19th century estate.
Sat 22 Sept, 11am–12.30pm
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk
Meet at Werneth Park Study Centre, Frederick Street OL8 1RB
Events at a glance

**Thu 6 September**
- Alexandra Park
- A Stroll Along the Oldham Panorama
- Christ Church, Friezland
- Health in Oldham Before the NHS (and then daily)
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Mayor’s Parlour and Civic Silverware Tour (and until 21 September)
- St Margaret’s Church, Hollinwood

**Fri 7 September**
- Daisy Nook Country Park
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Oldham Parish Church
- St Chad’s Church, Uppermill
- St Margaret’s Church, Hollinwood

**Sat 8 September**
- Building Stones of Oldham
- Castleshaw Roman Forts
- Christ Church, Denshaw
- Christ Church, Friezland
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Oldham Parish Church
- St Chad’s Church, Uppermill
- St Margaret’s Church, Hollinwood

**Sun 9 September**
- Christ Church, Friezland
- Greengate Jamia Masjid Mosque
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Oldham Parish Church
- St Chad’s Church, Uppermill
- St Margaret’s Church, Hollinwood
- St Matthew and St. Luke, Chadderton
- St Thomas’s Church, Heights, Delph

**Mon 10 September**
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross

**Tue 11 September**
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Roman Road Independent Methodist Church

**Wed 12 September**
- Alexandra Park
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Saddleworth Historical Society
- The Changing Face of Business in Oldham

**Thu 13 September**
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Waterhead Heritage Walk

**Fri 14 September**
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Holy Trinity Church, Shaw

**Sat 15 September**
- Castleshaw Roman Forts
- Daisy Nook Country Park
- Holy Trinity Church, Coldhurst
- Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
- Holy Trinity Church, Shaw
- Oldham World War One Walk
- St Thomas’ Leesfield Church
• The Story of My Street
• The United Reformed Church, Oldham

**Sun 16 September**
• Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross
• Saddleworth Museum
• St James’ Church, Derker

**Mon 17 September**
• Strinesdale Day and Sunday School

**Tue 18 September**
• The Old Road Through Oldham

**Wed 19 September**
• The Seven Holy Crosses of Oldham

**Thu 20 September**
• Greenacres Cemetery
• Oldham Lyceum
• Oldham Town Centre Ghost Walk
• Shri Radhakrishna Temple

**Sat 22 September**
• Werneth Park

**Tue 25 September**
• Asian Women in Business
• Union Street Walk

**Wed 26 September**
• The First World War

**Fri 28 September**
• If I Should Fall - Oldhamers in World War One
• Holy Trinity Church, Waterhead

**Sat 29 September**
• Oldham Microscopical and Natural History Society Open Day
• Researching the First World War Soldier
• Holy Trinity Church, Waterhead

**Sun 30 September**
• Holy Trinity Church, Waterhead

**Mon 1 October**
• Belgian Refugees in Oldham During the First World War

**Tue 2 October**
• Conscientious Objection in Oldham During the First World War

**Wed 3 October**
• Oldham Poets: The First World War in Verse
• The Failsworth and Woodhouses Comforts Society

**Thu 4 October**
• Oldhamers and the Battle of the Somme

**Fri 5 October**
• Royton Soldiers and the end of the First World War

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![Image of soldiers in World War One]