Oldham Histories Festival
and heritage open days
9 September – 5 October 2019
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 it is otherwise stated.**

Cover image: Saddleworth Gone But Not Forgotten (page 7)

**Key:** 🚁 disabled access 🚗 parking ☕️ refreshments ⚰️ toilets

**Mon 9 – Fri 20 September (weekdays only)**
**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.

**Civic Centre,**
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UJ
T: 0161 770 4012 for details

**Mon 9 – Sat 21 September**
**From Waterloo to Peterloo**
An exhibition exploring what life was like in 1819 in Oldham around the time of the Peterloo Massacre. Includes a selection of images from a new graphic novel about Peterloo.

**Gallery Oldham,**
Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL
Open: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm

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Mon 9 Sept – Sat 5 Oct
Ben Brierley
A display looking at the life of the writer and poet who was born in Failsworth.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Open: Mon and Thu 10am–7pm, Tue 10am–2pm, Wed and Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 10am–4pm

Monday 9 September
Family History Advice 2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Tuesday 10 September
Made in Oldham
Launch event, Manor Mill, 5.30–7pm
This year’s Histories Festival launch event features ‘Made in Oldham’, celebrating the past, present and future of Oldham’s business community. Manor Mill, Victoria Street, Chadderton OL9 0DD.
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Wednesday 11 September
A Stroll Along the Oldham Panorama 1–2pm
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.
Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL

Family History Advice 2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

The American Civil War: Lancashire and the Cotton Famine 7.30pm
Saddleworth Historical Society, Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS.

Alexandra Park Walk 11am–12noon
A guided walk 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.
Booking required on 0161 770 4067
Kings road, Oldham, OL8 2BH
Thursday 12 September

**History and heritage of Waterhead Church** 10am–4pm
Explore the church and activities for children; books and booklets for sale
**Holy Trinity Church**, Church Street East, Waterhead, Oldham OL4 2JQ

**Building Stones of Oldham**
Oldham Town centre 2–3.30pm
A guided tour of Oldham Town Centre’s iconic buildings and the stones that made them. Meet at Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
**Booking required** on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Parish Church, 11am–3pm
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. Admire the historic East Window and Elliot and Hill organ. You can also view a memorial and exhibition to Oldhamers killed in the Spanish Civil War.
**Rock Street, Oldham OL1 3UH**

Friday 13 September

**St Margaret’s Church**
Hollinwood 10am–4pm
Exhibition of artefacts, fine vestments and Parish Registers dating back to 1769. Family activities and refreshments available. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
**Chapel Road, Oldham OL8 4QQ**

**History and heritage of Waterhead Church** 10am–4pm
The Church will be open. Display activities for children; books and booklets for sale
**Holy Trinity Church**, Church Street East, Waterhead, Oldham OL4 2JQ

**Daisy Nook Canal history Walk**
1—2.30pm
A guided walk, at easy an pace, looking at some of the historic features of the Droylsden to Hollinwood canal. Discover the important part the canal played in the area’s economic prosperity; illustrated with old photographs. Meet outside the café at **Daisy Nook Country Park** car park off Stannybrook Road, Failsworth M35 9WJ
Saturday 14 September
St Margaret’s Church
Hollinwood 10am–4pm
Exhibition of artefacts, fine vestments and Parish Registers dating back to 1769. Family activities and refreshments available. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Chapel Road, OL8 4QQ

History and heritage of Waterhead Church 10am–4pm
Explore the church and activities for children; books and booklets for sale
Holy Trinity Church,
Church Street East, Waterhead, Oldham OL4 2JQ

Moorside Church Heritage Day
10.30am–3pm
Explore the history of Moorside church and community; photographs and historical folders; WW1 database; tours of the bell and clock tower; rolling presentation: ‘The Sholver Plane Crash of 1936’; You can bring along any old photographs of the village you may have.
St Thomas’s Church,
Glebe Lane, Oldham OL1 4SJ

Oldham Microscopical and Natural History Society
Open Day 9.30am–4pm
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.
Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL

Oldham Parish Church 10am–3pm
Built in 1830 the 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. Admire the historic East Window and Elliot and Hill organ. You can also view a memorial and exhibition to Oldhamers killed in the Spanish Civil War.
Rock Street, Oldham OL1 3UH

Funny You Should Say That: The origins of everyday things
2pm
Talk by Peter Watson presented by the Oldham Branch Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society
Gallery Oldham,
Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL.

Castleshaw Roman Forts 2–3.45pm
A guided on behalf of The Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts. The site was once a Roman fort on the Chester to York military road. Tours include findings from the latest excavations in 2014, 2016 and 2018
Castleshaw Outdoor Centre,
Waterworks Road, Delph OL3 5LZ
Meet in the car park outside the centre. No dogs allowed.
Sunday 15 September

History and heritage of Waterhead Church 10am–4pm
Explore the church and activities for children; books and booklets for sale display; activities for children; books and booklets for sale
Holy Trinity Church, Church Street East, Waterhead, Oldham OL4 2JQ

St Margaret’s Church Hollinwood
12noon–6pm
Exhibition of artefacts, fine vestments and Parish Registers dating back to 1769. Family activities and refreshments available. Solemn Vespers and Benediction at 5pm. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
Chapel Road, Oldham OL8 4QQ

Failsworth Cemetery 2.30pm
With tour guide Les Garner. Please wear sensible footwear. Meet at the entrance to the cemetery on Cemetery Road, Failsworth M35 0RS

Oldham Parish Church
12noon–3pm
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! Admire the historic East Window and Elliot & Hill organ. You can also view a memorial and exhibition to Oldhamers killed in the Spanish Civil War.
Rock Street, Oldham OL1 3UH

Monday 16 September

Writing Life Stories 2–4pm
Workshop with Joss Carpreau from ‘Elephant Memoirs’ who specialises in writing life stories. Find out how to capture personal histories and preserve them for friends, family and future generations.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

World War One – 1919 7.30pm
An illustrated presentation by Moorside and District Historical Society on the homecoming of local servicemen.
St Thomas’s Church Lounge, Glebe Lane, Oldham OL1 4SJ

Wednesday 18 September

Alexandra Park 1–2pm
A guided walk 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.
T: 0161 770 4067 to book in advance.
Kings road, Oldham, OL8 2BH
Peterloo – The Aftermath 7– 8.30pm
Explore what happened after Peterloo with Shelia Goodyear. Presented by Oldham Historical Research Group
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN

Thursday 19 September
Oldham Lyceum 10.30–11.30am
A guided tour of one of the most iconic buildings in Oldham Town Centre 95 Union St, Oldham OL1 1QG
Meet at the entrance to the Lyceum on Firth Street. Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Saddleworth Gone but not Forgotten 1.30–4pm
The museum apart from being able to enjoy the museum exhibitions we will have a continuous picture show, ‘Saddleworth Gone but not Forgotten’ with photographs that have recorded buildings long gone, landscapes that have disappeared under water, fields covered by housing etc. Though the area still retains its character people will be amazed what has gone. The picture show will be repeating continuously during opening hours. Normal museum charges apply.
Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS

Friday 20 September
Saddleworth Gone but not Forgotten 1.30–4pm
The museum apart from being able to enjoy the museum exhibitions we will have a continuous picture show, ‘Saddleworth Gone but not Forgotten’ with photographs that have recorded buildings long gone, landscapes that have disappeared under water, fields covered by housing etc. Though the area still retains its character people will be amazed what has gone. The picture show will be repeating continuously during opening hours. Normal museum charges apply.
Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS
Saturday 21 September
Church Open Day Christ Church Denshaw From from 9am
The church will be open with displays of historical records and tours of the graveyard. As part of an Eco Friendly project there will be a Dry Stone Walling demonstration. Morning prayer service will take place at 10.30am. Refreshments available 10am–2pm.
Booking required for Dry Stone Walling demonstration, Huddersfield Road, Denshaw, OL3 5SB

Christ Church Friezland
10am–4pm
Explore this Grade II listed Victorian Gothic Revival church with spire designed by local architect George Shaw. Church records free to view. Church Road, Greenfield OL3 7LQ

St Thomas’ Church Lees 10am–4pm
Heritage, History and Habitats. Tours and activities throughout the day, with lots for children to do.
10am – Welcome and guided tour
11am – Introduction to bellringing
12noon – Lunch
1pm – Windows tour
2pm – History and monuments
3pm – Our churchyard environment
Guide books for adults and children and histories are available.
West Street, Lees, Oldham, OL4 5DA

St. Matthew and St. Luke
10.30am–1pm
Come and explore a rural church which finds itself in an urban setting. Informal guided tours, church bells, church cake café, treasure hunt, bulb planting and much more.
Mill Brow, Chadderton OL2 1RT
Oldham From Above 10.30am–3pm
See aerial photographs of Oldham and District from the 1960s and 70s from the Oldham Chronicle collection
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN

Werneth Park Walk 11am–12.30pm
Take a guided tour of the park with Jeremy Sutcliffe. Spread over nine hectares Werneth Park was created in 1936 from a 19th century estate
Booking required on T: 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Meet at Werneth Park Study Centre, Frederick Street OL8 1RB

Waterloo to Peterloo 1–2pm
Explore the Waterloo to Peterloo exhibition with social history curator, Sean Baggaley
Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL

Daisy Nook Canal History Walk 1–2.30pm
Guided walk at easy pace looking at some of the historic features of the Droylsden to Hollinwood canal. Discover the important part the canal played in the area’s economic prosperity; illustrated with old photographs.
Meet outside the café at Daisy Nook Country Park car park off Stannybrook Road, Failsworth M35 9WJ

Sunday 22 September
Christ Church Denshaw, Church Open Day from 9am
The church will be open with displays of historical records and tours of the graveyard. As part of an Eco Friendly project there will be a Dry Stone Walling demonstration. Morning prayer service at 10.30am. Refreshments available 11.30am–3pm. Booking required for Dry Stone Walling demonstration.
Huddersfield Road, Denshaw, OL3 5SB
Christ Church Friezland
12noon–4pm
Explore this Grade II listed Victorian Gothic Revival church with spire designed by local architect George Shaw. Church records free to view. Church Road, Greenfield OL3 7LQ

St. Matthew and St. Luke Chadderton 12.30am–6pm
Come and explore a rural church which finds itself in an urban setting. Informal guided tours, church bells, church cake café, treasure hunt, bulb planting and much more. Songs of Praise and Sing for Joy, 5-6pm
Mill Brow, Chadderton OL2 1RT

Castleshaw Roman Forts 2–3.45pm
A guided tour for and on behalf of The Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts. The site was once a Roman fort on the Chester to York military road. Tours include findings from the latest excavations in 2014, 2016 and 2018
Castleshaw Outdoor Centre, Waterworks Road, Delph OL3 5LZ
Meet in the car park outside the centre. No dogs allowed.

Monday 23 September
Family History Advice 2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives
84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

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84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Tuesday 24 September
Roman Road Independent Methodist Church Failsworth 10am–2pm
Open day to look round the building, view historical photographs and documents and have lunch.
Roman Road, Failsworth M35 9JR

Union Street Walk 11am–12.30pm
Take a guided walk along one of Oldham’s most famous streets. Meet at the Peace Garden, corner of George Street and Union Street.
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Wednesday 25 September
Family History Advice  2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives
84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Mills Reborn  4–5.30pm
A guided tour of the once derelict Chamber Mill, now transformed into a thriving business centre.
Chambers Business Centre, Chapel Rd, Hollinwood OL8 4QQ
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Thursday 26 September
George Street Chapel  11am
Tour of George Street Chapel
58 George street, George street, Oldham OL1 1LS
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Town Centre Ghost Walk
7–8pm
Uncover some of the ghostly goings-on in Oldham. A fun walk suitable for children 6 years and over accompanied by an adult. Meet at The Old Museum, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Saturday 28 September
Shree Swaminarayan Temple
10.30am–12noon
See inside this unique Hindu temple
270 Lee Street, Oldham OL8 1BG

Holy Trinity Church Coldhurst
10am–3pm
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. Includes Fun Day and Barbecue organised by Explorer Scouts
Godson Street, Oldham OL1 2NZ
Saturday 28 September
The Old Road Through Oldham
11am–12.30pm
Follow the ancient medieval route through Oldham on an informative walk led by Jeremy Sutcliffe. Meet at Oldham Local Studies and Archives 84 Union Street, Oldham
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Monday 30 September
Family History Advice 2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block. Oldham Local Studies and Archives 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Peterloo – The Aftermath 7pm
Sheila Goodyear explores the aftermath of Peterloo and how the massacre influenced the path of reform through the following decades. Oldham Library, Performance Space, Cultural Quarter, Greaves St, Oldham OL1 1AL
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk

Tuesday 1 October
Conscientious Objection in Oldham 11am
A talk by John Fidler examining conscientious objection in Oldham during WW1 Crompton Library, 7 Farrow Street E, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8QY
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk
Activism in the Archives 2–3pm
Caroline Knight delves into Oldham’s archives to bring to light the stories of Oldham’s activists. See original documents telling the story of Oldham activists’ contribution to history.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Wednesday 2 October
Oxfam in Oldham 11am
Mary Pendlebury tells the extraordinary story of Oxfam in Oldham.
Uppermill Library, St Chad’s, High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6AP
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Family History Advice 2–4pm
Family history advice for beginners and those with a genealogy stumbling block.
Oldham Local Studies and Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Thursday 3 October
The Red Cross in Oldham During the First World War 11am
During the First World War hundreds of people in Oldham volunteered their time to assist the Oldham Red Cross, from working in Red Cross Hospitals to knitting comforts, driving ambulances and fundraising. This talk by Roger Ivens explores the contribution made by Oldham men and women much of which has been long forgotten.
Failsworth Library, Oldham Road, Failsworth M35 0FJ
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Women Citizens Association 2pm
In the period leading up to the First World War the Oldham Womens’ Suffrage Society actively campaigned for votes for women. But what happened once this objective had been met? Shelia Goodyear explores what the women of Oldham did after they were given the vote in 1918.
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or email: archives@oldham.gov.uk
Crompton Library 7 Farrow St E, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8QY

Friday 4 October
Activism in Oldham 11am
Steve Roman has been an activist in Oldham for many years. Hear his compelling account of his involvement across a multitude of voluntary organisations in Oldham. From Saddleworth Peace Movement to Oldham Unity, Steve has played an exemplary part in promoting diversity and anti-racism across Oldham.
Lees Library, Thomas Street, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA
Booking required on 0161 770 4654 or archives@oldham.gov.uk
Lees Library
Thomas Street, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA

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Events at a glance

A Stroll Along the Oldham Panorama, 11 September
Activism in Oldham, 4 October
Activism in the Archives, 1 October
Alexandra Park Walk, 11 and 18 September

Building Stones of Oldham, 12 September
Ben Brierley, 9 September – 5 October

Castleshaw Roman Forts, 14 and 22 September
Christ Church, Denshaw, 21 and 22 September
Christ Church, Friezland, 21 and 22 September
Conscientious Objection in Oldham, 1 October

Daisy Nook Canal History Walk, 13 and 21 September

Failsworth Cemetery Walk, 15 September
Family History Advice, 9, 11, 23, 25 September
From Waterloo to Peterloo, 9 – 21 September

George Street Chapel, 26 September

Holy Trinity Church, Coldhurst, 28 September
Holy Trinity Church, Waterhead, 12 – 15 September

Made in Oldham, 10 September
Mayor’s Parlour and Civic Silverware Tour, 9 – 20 September (weekdays only)
Mills Reborn, 25 September
Moorside and District Historical Society Heritage Day, 14 September

Oldham From Above, 21 September
Oldham Lyceum, 19 September
Oldham Microscopical and Natural History Society Open Day, 14 September
Oldham Town Centre Ghost Walk, 26 September
Oxfam in Oldham, 2 October

Peterloo, 30 September
Peterloo – the Aftermath, 18 September
Events at a glance

Roman Road Independent Methodist Church, 24 September

St Margaret’s Church, Hollinwood, 13 – 15 September
St Matthew and St. Luke, Chadderton, 21 and 22 September
St Thomas’ Church, Leesfield, 21 September
Saddleworth Historical Society, 11 September
Saddleworth Gone But Not Forgotten, 19 and 20 September
Shree Swaminarayan Temple, 28 September

The Old Road Through Oldham, 28 September
The Origins of Everyday Things, 14 September
The Red Cross in Oldham during the First World War, 3 October

Union Street Walk, 24 September

Waterloo to Peterloo, 21 September
Werneth Park Walk, 21 September
Women Citizens Association, 3 October
World War One Servicemen from Moorside, 16 September
Writing Life Stories, 16 September