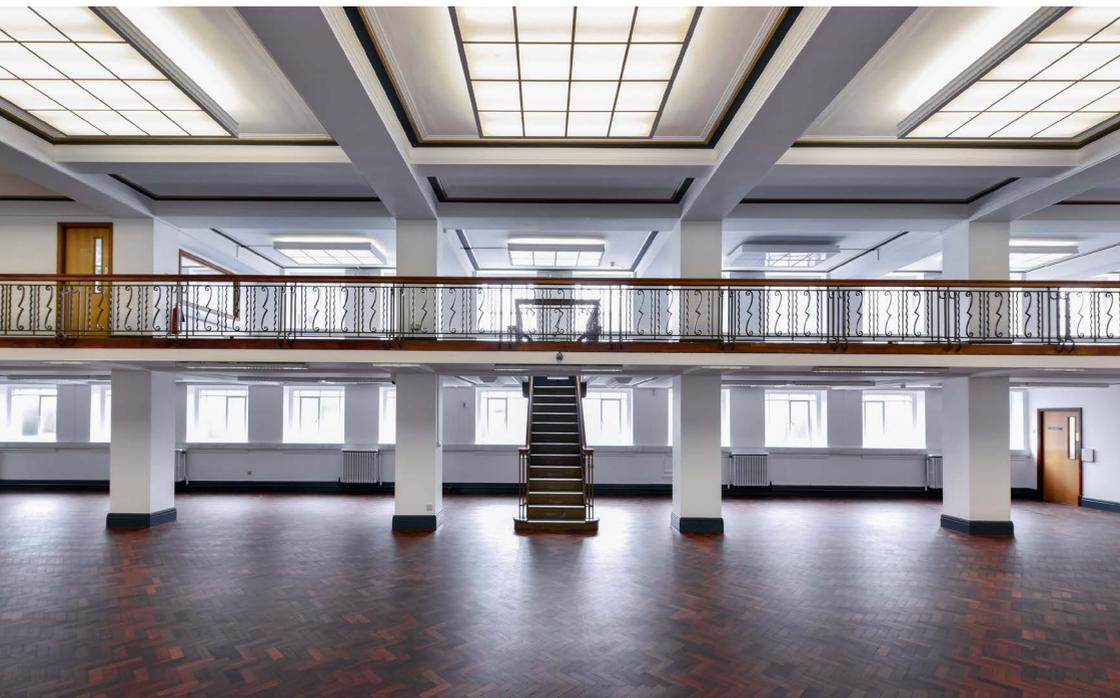


Bolton Library and Museum Services

What's On

January to June 2024

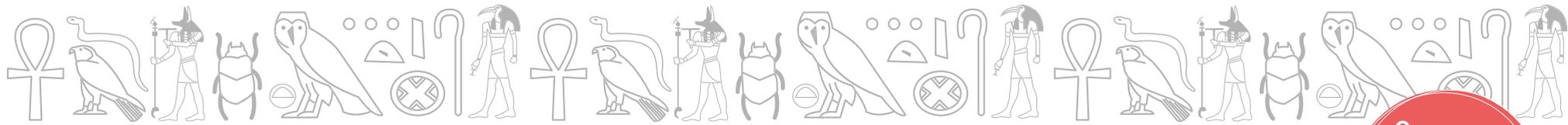


Imagination

Curiosity

Wonder

Bolton
Council



Come along and see your new-look library, hope to see you soon!

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10 libraries across the borough for residents, visitors, students and workers.

For a fun family day out and inspiration for all, Bolton's Museums and Libraries are the places to go

For more updates visit www.boltonlams.co.uk or follow Bolton Library and Museum Services on socials.



Welcome

New year, new library, new opportunities

In January Bolton Central Library is set to reveal its new look after a £4.43m renovation project.

After being closed for over a year, the refurbished library will be opening its doors once again on Friday 19 January 2024 and will celebrate with a family fun day on Saturday 20 January, from 11am to 3pm.

Not only has the building has been stripped back to reveal many of the original features, but an expanded children's area, improved social spaces, updated digital facilities and a brand-new café will be unveiled.

The new space has been designed to reflect the changing way in which communities use their local libraries, with an added emphasis on reading, creativity and digital inclusion.

The new mezzanine floor provides a welcoming space for a variety of local community and wellbeing groups and for other groups who visit and wish to use the building.

Children and their families can look forward to visiting the new Children and Young Peoples' Library as the space is created especially for them.

This space is split into three areas for young people of different ages. With a section for under-fives including

dedicated areas for play and exploration, the second and third spaces are for older children and young people. Giving opportunity to develop their experience and joy of reading whilst also being a place to spend time in the town centre.

A full programme of activities and events will take place for children and young people. Plus, this area will be one of the main venues for school sessions.

The newly named Café Crescent will offer a feast of exceptional high-quality snacks, meals, ice creams, hot/cold drinks, cakes, and confectionery at a reasonable price.

The renovations also include Changing Places Toilets. Part of a campaign to make it so that anybody can use a toilet regardless of their disability, these toilets have extra equipment and space.

Small businesses are also being supported in the Build A Business area that will deliver workshops, events and one to one advice sessions to help support new businesses and entrepreneurs.



Adults' events

Come along to Bolton Central Library and Museum for a whole host of exciting and inspiring events.

Events are free and no need to book unless otherwise stated.



LGBTQ+ Silent Disco at the Aquarium



Matt Cain at Bolton Central Library

Meet author Matt Cain

Sat 3 February, 2pm

Join us for our first author event at the new Bolton Central Library with Best Selling author Matt Cain speaking about his new book, 'One Love'. Get a chance to hear directly from the Boltonian author about his creative process and inspirations.



[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) Free

Live Literature

Spring Live Literature

In partnership with the University of Bolton's English and Creative Writing department there will be a season of exciting live literature events featuring award-winning readers and performers across fiction, poetry and drama.

Here are the dates and look out for speakers on our socials.

Tues 13 February, 6pm to 7.30pm

Tues 12 March, 6pm to 7.30pm

Tues 16 April, 6pm to 7.30pm

Free No booking

Book Speed Dating

Thurs 15 February, 5.30pm to 7pm, Bolton Museum

Fall in love with a book at our Book Speed Dating event. Can our book lovers persuade you of the charms of their favourite book in three minutes?

[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) Free 16+

LGBTQ+ Silent Disco

Fri 16 February 6pm to 9pm

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to party at the most unique and all-welcoming bash of the year! At our LGBTQ+ silent disco at the Aquarium, you can let your hair down and boogie with a crowd of kind-hearted people all evening.

[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) £5 18+

Shakespeare in Bolton

Bolton Central Library

Tues 23 April, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Celebrate World Book Night where you'll have the unique opportunity to see our replica first folio and learn about this amazing book that saved Macbeth. The library will also be showcasing some of the amazing Shakespearean artwork from the Bolton Art Gallery collection.

Free No booking 16+

The History of Bolton Markets

Sat 18 May 2023

To celebrate Love Your Local Market 2024 join us in the archives to look at the history of Bolton's markets.

Free tours at 11am, 1pm and 3pm



[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) Free

Graphic Novel Celebration Day

Sat 15 June 11am to 3pm

Attendees can expect a variety of activities such as cosplay, trivia contests and live drawing demonstrations by local artists. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a newcomer to the graphic novel world this event is for you!



Free No booking

National Crime Reading Month with Bolton Archives

Fri 21 June, 11am, 1pm and 3pm

Our knowledgeable archivist will guide you through the wealth of information available, allowing you to delve into the intriguing past of local criminals.

[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) Free

Childrens' events

Bolton Central Library and Museum for a wide range of events to spark the imagination and curiosity for the whole family.

Events are free and no need to book unless otherwise stated.



National Storytelling Week at Bolton Central Library Sat 3 February, 11am and 2pm

Our experienced storytellers will be celebrating National Storytelling Week with some of their favourite interactive stories.

Free **No booking**

Book Club for Super Spies Sun 11 February, 11.30am and 2pm

Marvellous leader Mirabel Merryweather and freshly initiated Claude Pringle have been invited to the library as someone has been ripping the happy endings out of the books!

The Super-Spies will be looking for new recruits to help them solve the mystery of the lost happy endings. Book Club for Super-Spies is full of music, mystery, mindfulness and mayhem. Age 5 to 11 year olds and their adults.

[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) **£4 per child**

This event is funded by the Government through the UK Shared prosperity Fund.

More info in January 2024

Early Explorers Festival

Thurs 14 to Sat 16 March

Looking for an exciting event for your little ones? This event is dedicated to young children's learning and play. Let your child explore and enjoy a diverse range of activities including arts and crafts, storytelling, and interactive performances.

Don't miss out on the SEND children's day on Thurs 14 March.

This event is funded by the Government through the UK Shared prosperity Fund.

World Book Day Bedtime Stories

Thurs 7 March 6.15pm

Round off your World Book Day, dressed in your pyjamas with classic stories told by our storytellers with a special guest appearance from our Library Bear.



School's out!

Bolton Central Library and Museum, 11am to 3pm

Come along during the school holidays and there'll be fun activities, storytelling, trails and film screenings. Events are usually free and no need to book unless otherwise stated.

Sat 17 to Sun 25 February

Discover more about stories around the world.

Sat 30 March to Sun 14 April

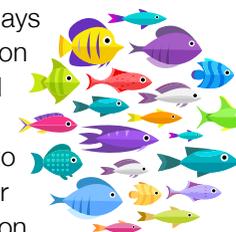
Find out more about the Special Effects Making Models for Film and TV exhibition.

Sat 25 May to Sun 2 June

Explore how nature features in so many Fairytales and the museum's new exhibition 'Nature into Art'.

Fish Feeds

During the school holidays there will be fish feeds on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 1pm. Join our Aquarium experts to find out more about our Freshwater fish collection.



Free **No booking**

Smithills Hall

Smithills Hall is one of Bolton's original family homes. It is set in land on the edge of the West Pennine Moors and is one of the oldest and best preserved manor houses in the North West of England. It is a Grade 1 listed building and on your visit to the historic hall you'll uncover lots of history and its drama from the past.

Smithills Hall is free to visit and open Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 12pm to 4pm.



Ghost and History Tour at Smithills Halls

Thurs 1 February, 7pm to 9pm

For National Storytelling Week hear the ghostly tales of the wondrous Smithills Halls led by an experienced guide. You never know you might create your own spooky tale.

This tour is for adults, +16 only.

[www | eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) £10 16+

School holiday crafts at Smithills Halls

Come along for a fun themed craft session at Smithills Hall on the following school holiday dates:

- Fri 23 February**
- Fri 5 April**
- Fri 12 April**
- Fri 31 May**

[www | eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) £3

Nature Walks

Join our Curator of Natural History to explore the nature surrounding Smithills Hall. We'll be hunting for insects, learning about trees, and looking for signs of other wildlife in the gardens.

Thurs 22 February, 1pm
Thurs 4 April, 1pm

Free **No booking**



Family Fun Day and Dog Show Sun 19 May, 12pm to 4pm

The Dog Show will have lots of classes and there will be family friendly activities too.

Free admission for visitors. Charges will apply for dog classes, stalls, activities and refreshments.

Dog Show registration details will be available on Eventbrite in March.

[www | eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Exhibitions

As well as permanent museum galleries we also have temporary exhibitions which change during the year.

Upcoming ones are...



Standard Collective image © Andy Smith. From the Solid Air Series, 2023

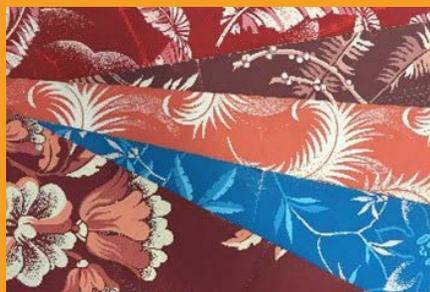


Image of Painted patterns from the Joseph Johnson Collection

Standard Art Collective: Lines in the Sand Sat 17 February to Sun 31 March Temporary Gallery

Formed in 2016 through their time at the University of Bolton, Standard Collective present their seventh group show. Featuring a wonderfully eclectic mix of artistic styles and processes, the exhibition will explore a range of subjects, from the mundane to the monumental.

Archive Stories: An exhibition of new textile art inspired by the Joseph Johnson Collection Sat 13 April to Sun 26 May Temporary Gallery

This exhibition presents new artworks created in response to the fabric and patterns in the archive of one of Bolton's most successful cotton manufacturers, Joseph Johnson Ltd. Donna Claypool's innovative art, textiles and history exhibition will also explore the stories of people who worked in the company's mills.

If you know someone who worked in a Joseph Johnson mill, we would love to hear their story.
Email: collectionenquiries@bolton.gov.uk

Family fun day
Sat 13 April, 11am to 3pm

Join us to celebrate the opening of Archive Stories with playful pattern making activities, a History Explorers session for budding historians and storytelling.

Free **No booking**

Nature into Art Sat 25 May to Sun 29 September Up Close Gallery

Discover the natural world as seen through the eyes of British artists including William Henry Hunt, Michael Landy, Gwenda Morgan, John Nash, and J.M.W. Turner.



May Blossom and Hedge-Sparrow's Nest, 1845 by William Henry Hunt

Special Effects Model Making for Film and TV at The University of Bolton Mon 11 March to Sun 12 May, Up Close Gallery

The University of Bolton's Special Effects Model Making for Film and TV degree is a unique programme developed and taught by industry professionals, that explores a wide range of specialist skills for the creation of physical and digital effects for film and television.

From alien spaceships and automated robots to ancient statues, model and prop making is used to create physical artefacts to support the action, as well as provide a sense of place, time and atmosphere for actors and audiences to respond to.



Museum Events

Dug It - Archaeology ID Days

Found something in the flower bed? Discovered something on a dig?

Show what you have uncovered to our expert archaeologist for identification.

Drop in from 11am to 3pm on:



- 27 Jan
- 14 Feb
- 23 Mar
- 10 Apr
- 18 May
- 12 Jun

Suprises from the Natural History stores

Become a nature detective and explore the natural world by getting up close to the natural history collections at the museum not currently on public display.

1pm on the following Saturdays:

- 27 Jan
- 23 Mar
- 20 Apr
- 18 May

Bolton Egypt Gallery tours

Tours at 11am & 2pm
30-40mins

Join our Curator of Egyptology, Ian Trumble, as he takes you on a series of tours around the Bolton's Egypt galleries. Each tour takes a different theme to explore some of the 2000 objects on display!

24 January - The infamous Amarna Period

21 February - Gods of Egypt

20 March - Ancient textiles

17 April - 5,000 years of ancient Egyptian art



The Mummy Series, 1pm to 1.30pm

On a six-part journey through mummification and the mummies that Bolton Museum cares for. Each talk stands alone, so don't worry if you can't make them all! The series will culminate in an interactive mummy study day in summer 2024.

Please note that these talks use imagery of human remains, attendee discretion is advised.

30 January - Guide to Mummification

27 February - The Mummy Party - Rolling, Rolling, Rolling

26 March - The Unknown Man - A Ramesside Mystery

23 April - The Young Child

21 May - Animal mummies and where to find them

25 June - The Mummies of Peru

History Explorers at Bolton Museum



In these monthly family-friendly sessions, we will explore the people, places, and events that make up Bolton's history.

Each session will focus on a different topic - from the history of the toilet to textile pattern design - and will end with a creative activity. Age 7+.

11 am to 12.30pm on the following Saturdays:

- 20 Jan
- 17 Feb
- 16 Mar
- 13 Apr
- 11 May

Free No booking 7+

Free No booking

Digital skills

Digital Bolton Council –
A way of life...just a
click away



A way of life...
Just a click away

Digital one to ones

Various days and times throughout
the week.

These **free** sessions are provided by
volunteers in our libraries to help people
gain confidence with digital skills.

We provide help with a wide range of
areas including using the internet, social
media, setting up email, downloading
apps, saving money and buying and
selling online. We also offer support
with online job searching and how to
create a CV.

To book a one hour session, ask a
member of staff at your local library or
call **01204 332853**.

If you are interested in becoming a
Digital Helper, please visit our
volunteering webpage at
www.boltondes.org.uk



Greater Manchester Databank

If you're 18+ and on a low income you
could be eligible for a free data, calls and
texts SIM card from the National Databank.

Call
01204 332853
or email digitalhelp@bolton.gov.uk
to find out more!



Call in to one of our monthly drop-in sessions at
your local library to get help with your digital device.

Have a chat and a cuppa with one of our friendly team to find out more
about how being online and learning digital skills can help you.

Bolton Central Library, every Thursday
Farnworth Library, third Monday of the month
Harwood Library, second Tuesday of the month
Horwich Library, last Monday of the month
Little Lever Library, last Thursday of the month
Westhoughton Library, last Friday of the month

No need
to book,
just turn up!
2pm-4pm

Library and Museum events and activities

Community Library regular activities

Bolton's libraries host free regular activities for adults and families including reading groups, art classes, writing groups, Toddler Tales, parent and baby groups, crafts and more.

For more information about these activities contact:

askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk

01204 332853

www.boltonlams.co.uk



Reading Friends Bolton Central Library, Second Friday of every month 2pm to 3pm

Join us to enjoy conversations about reading. Becoming a Reading Friend is a chance to take time out, meet new people and share stories.

Reading Friends is a national initiative co-ordinated by The Reading Agency and funded by The National Lottery and Arts Council England.

Relaxed weekends @ Museum First Sunday of each month 2.30pm to 4pm Third Saturday of each month 9am to 10am

Relaxed openings are designed for visitors who would prefer a quieter visit to our buildings, for people with autism, learning disabilities or sensory and communication disorders, along with their families. Touch, feel and smell some of our fascinating objects!

We will put our lights on full and turn off all the sound effects so it's a less overwhelming environment. You'll still be able to visit all the galleries, but there will be no dark areas and no sudden sounds. There is seating provided around the museum, and a quiet space will be available should you need it.

Saturday Club, 1pm to 3pm Bolton Central Library and Museum

Join us every week at Saturday Club for free self-led activities from crafts to games and object handling to trails there's always something different every week! There will also be a storytelling session from 3pm.

Saturday Stars 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Fortnightly Saturday Family Fun drop-in activity sessions aged 4 to 11 at our community libraries.

Under 5's

We have a wide range of fun and creative learning events and activities throughout our libraries and museums for under 5's and their families.

Babytime!

Calling all babies and their families! Babytime - a fortnightly group for babies and their families every other Tuesday, 10.30am at Bolton Museum.



Contact any Bolton library for further details.

Toddler Tales

Free storytelling sessions for young children and their mums, dads and carers, ideal for toddlers.

Sessions take place at all Bolton libraries throughout the week see below for details:

- Blackrod Library, Thurs, 10.30am
- Brightmet Library, Wed, 10.30am
- Bromley Cross Library, Thurs, 2.30pm
- Farnworth Library, Tues, 11am
- Harwood Library, Mon, 10.30am
- High Street Library, Mon, 10.30am
- Horwich Library, Thurs, 10.30am
- Little Lever Library, Fri, 10.30am
- Westhoughton Library, Fri, 10.30am
- Bolton Central Library, Fri, 11.30am

Calendar of events

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19	Family Fun Day and Dog Show	9
21	The Mummy Series	13
25-31	June School holiday activities	7
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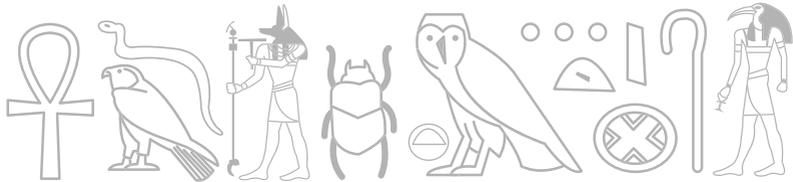
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1-2	School holiday activities	7
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Find out more at www.boltonlams.co.uk





Visitor Information

The Crescent

Le Mans Crescent, BL1 1SE
01204 333173

Smithills Hall

Smithills Dean Rd, BL1 7NP
01204 332370

Blackrod Library

Church St, Blackrod, BL6 5EQ
01204 332380

Brightmet Library

Brightmet Fold Lane, BL2 6NT
01204 332352

Bromley Cross Library

The Crescent, Toppings Estate
BL7 9JU 01204 332354

Farnworth Library

Market St, Farnworth, BL4 7PG
01204 332344

Harwood Library

Gate Fold, Harwood, BL2 3HN
01204 332340

High Street Library

High St, Bolton, BL3 6SZ
01204 332358

Horwich Library

Jones St, Horwich, BL6 7AJ
01204 332347

Little Lever Library

Market Street, Little Lever, BL3 1LP
01204 332360

Westhoughton Library

Library St, Westhoughton, BL5 3AU
01942 634640

Please see www.boltonlams.co.uk for opening times and email addresses.

Group visits:

If your group is planning to visit us we would love to see you so please let us know when you intend to come.

Join our monthly e-newsletter mailing list and receive regular updates about events, exhibitions and museum news. Please email museum@bolton.gov.uk or visit www.boltonlams.co.uk

Stay in touch!

'Like' our Facebook pages to get the latest alerts:

 www.facebook.com/boltonlibraryandmuseumservices

 www.facebook.com/smithillshall

Follow us on Twitter to stay in the know:

 [@boltonlms](https://twitter.com/boltonlms) [@askboltonlibs](https://twitter.com/askboltonlibs)

Follow us on Instagram:

 [bolton_library_museum](https://www.instagram.com/bolton_library_museum)



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