

Bolton Library and Museum Services

What's On

January to June 2025



Bolton
TOWN OF CULTURE

Bolton
Council

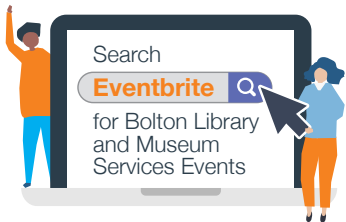


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libraries across
the borough for
residents, visitors,
students and
workers.

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





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

Welcome

Bolton Central Library, Museum, Aquarium and Archive is housed in a Grade II Listed building on Le Mans Crescent at the heart of Bolton town centre's cultural quarter.

It also holds an internationally acclaimed Egyptology collection with thousands of objects and a full-sized recreation of the tomb of Thutmose III.

In January, Bolton Central Library is marking a year since the completion of the major refurbishment. Please come along and join us on Sat 18 January for a family-friendly birthday party.

The library 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.

Our nine other Libraries across Bolton remain to be the anchors in the communities, and they too offer a wide range of services, support, activities and events, which you can find out more about on our website.



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



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 I 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.



National Storytelling Week

Smithills Ghost and History Tour

Thurs 6 February, 7pm to 9pm

As part of National Storytelling Week, hear the ghostly tales of the Historic Hall. Led by an experienced guide, let's see if you experience any spooky happenings of your own.



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

£10

16+



Come along for a fun-themed craft session

11am to 12.30pm on the following Fridays

21 Feb **11 Apr** **30 May** Suitable for ages 4 to 11

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

Nature Walks at Smithills Hall

Thurs 10 April, 1pm
Thurs 29 May, 1pm

Free drop-in activity



Meet 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. **Please meet at the entrance of Smithills Hall.**



Smithills Hall Fun Dog Show

Sun 11 May, 12pm to 4pm

Are you ready for another year of woof-tastic fun at Smithills Hall Dog Show?

The show will have many classes and there'll be lots of stalls and refreshments for everyone.

Free admission for visitors to the show and charges will be applicable for the dog competition, stalls, activities and refreshments.

Dog Show registration details will be available on Eventbrite from 14 March.



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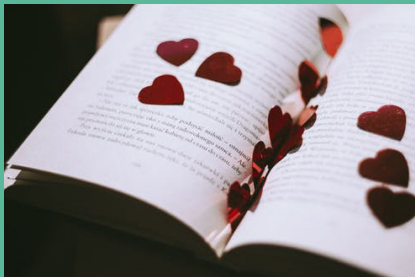
Adults' events

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.



Prof Joann Fletcher



Book Speed Dating at the Art Gallery

Pride in Nature Stores Tour

Sat 8 February, 1pm

Thurs 20 February, 1pm



This LGBTQ+ History Month, join our Curator of Natural History to explore the collection and learn all about the diversity of nature.

Suitable for adults and children.

Meet in the Nature Gallery.

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

£5

Book Speed Dating

Thurs 13 February,

5.45pm to 7pm

Bolton Museum art gallery

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 four minutes?

Book your free ticket on Eventbrite, call **01204 332853** or ask a member of staff.

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

Free

16+

Our theme is Egyptology, and we've got some excellent events...

Women's History Month and International Women's Day

'The Earl and the Pharaoh' From the Real Downton Abbey to the Discovery of Tutankhamun'

A talk by Lady Carnarvon

Friday 7 March, 10.30am to 11.30am

We welcome the Countess of Carnarvon to talk about her recent book 'The Earl and the Pharaoh' that documents the relationship between Lord Carnarvon, archaeologist Howard Carter, and Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun, and how the world's most famous discovery was directed from her home Highclere Castle, aka Downton Abbey. A book sale and signing of 'The Earl and the Pharaoh' will take place after the lecture.

[www|eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite) £5 adult £3 child

All proceeds to the Mayor's Charities



'The Queens of Ancient Egypt'

A talk by Prof Joann Fletcher

Sat 8 March, 11am to 12.30pm

Join Prof Joann Fletcher as she takes us on a journey through some of the most famous women in ancient history – the Queens of Ancient Egypt. She explores some of the first Dynasty royal women, through to powerful female Pharaohs like Hatshepsut and ending with Egypt's last queen, Cleopatra.

[www|eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite) £5 adult £3 child

Bolton's Egypt Winter Study event celebrates International Women's Day

Sat 8 March, 10.30am to 7pm

Join us for a hands-on day as we mark International Women's Day by focussing on ancient Egyptian Queens. Following our sold-out Summer Study Day in 2024, we are again working with internationally renowned experts, Prof Joann Fletcher and Dr Stephen Buckley to allow you to get up close with real ancient Egyptian objects.

[www|eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite) £40 inc. lunch

Bookable through Eventbrite or the Museum Shop. Look out for full-day details in January 2025. Check out the Museum and events page for more exciting talks.

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.



Open Mic event


★ World Book Night: Poetry and Prose Open Mic

Thurs 24 April, 6pm to 7pm

Come and join us for an evening of poetry and prose as we celebrate World Book Day. This year, we're hosting an Open Mic event at Bolton Central Library with an open invitation to the public to sign up and perform a short piece of writing or poetry.

Whether you're a seasoned poet or a first-time performer, this is the perfect opportunity for you to showcase your talent and connect with other creatives in the community.

★



Slots to perform will open on Thurs 6 February via Eventbrite, so make sure to sign up early to secure your spot.

★

Free **No booking** **14+**

★



Mental Health Awareness Week

Thurs 15 May, 2pm to 3.30pm

As we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week, why not take time out to come along to our 1.5-hour interactive and engaging workshop, exploring the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'.

We will discuss the differences between physical health and mental health and wellbeing. Plus, we will look at five different ways in which you can begin to support your own wellbeing.

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



Dementia Action Week - Down Memory Lane

Little Lever Library, Fri 23 May, 1pm to 2pm

Westhoughton Library, Sat 24 May, 1pm to 2pm

As part of Dementia Action Week, join us for a trip down Memory Lane. We'll be looking at bygone objects and reminiscing about memories of growing up.

Family events

Come along to Bolton Library and Museum Services venues for a whole host of exciting and inspiring events for all the family.

Families are all different, and we want you to come and enjoy your visit, so if there is anything that we can do, please just get in touch on **01204 332853** or email **askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk** **www.boltonlams.co.uk**

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Happy Birthday

Bolton Central Library

Sat 18 January, 11am to 3pm

It's party time as we celebrate the first year since Bolton Central Library opened its doors following the major refurbishment project.

Come along and join us as it promises to be a day full of fun activities, engaging storytelling sessions and a chance to explore all the wonderful resources our library has to offer.

Hope to see you there!

National Storytelling Week for under 5s - Tiny Tales

Sat 8 February, 10am to 12pm

Come and join us for this REAL event (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) for National Storytelling Week, aimed at inspiring families with children under five to join in with fun literacy events. We'll have story time, a logo hunt and rhyme time, all crafted to ignite imagination and a passion for storytelling. Discover how to recreate the magic at home with low-cost literacy ideas.

Free drop-in sessions for families with children under 5.





School's out!

Bolton Central Library and Museum,
11am to 1pm and
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Join us for an exciting family adventure during the school holidays, where endless fun and discovery await you.

Dive into a world of creativity with a variety of activities, engaging storytelling sessions, exploratory trails, and captivating film screenings.

Underwater Worlds **Sat 15 February to Sat 22 February**

Come and join us for a half-term adventure inspired by the wonders of Bolton Aquarium.

Awesome Ancient Egypt **Sat 5 April to Sat 19 April**

Travel back in time with our Egypt-themed activities.

Books! Books! Books! **Sat 24 May to Sat 31 May**

Celebrate the magic of literature with our book-themed activities, designed to inspire a love for reading for families.

Free

No booking
unless otherwise stated

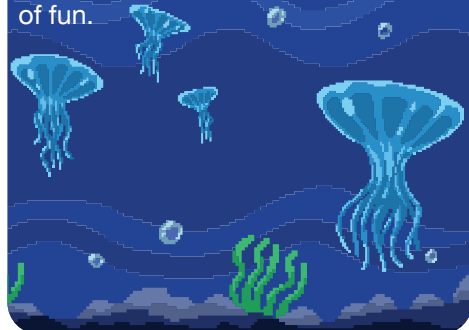
Digital Family Fun Day

Tues 18 February, 10am to 3pm

Dive into a world of creativity and discovery at our underwater-themed Minecraft Education, Lego Robotics and Scratch coding event for children.

Young adventurers will explore the deep sea by building vibrant coral reefs and mysterious underwater worlds in Minecraft, whilst learning valuable STEM skills. They'll bring sea creatures to life by designing and programming underwater robots with LEGO We Do and even create their own underwater-themed games in Scratch coding.

This hands-on experience blends technology, creativity and teamwork, offering children a fun and educational way to develop problem-solving skills whilst having a splash of fun.



Family events

Come along to Bolton Library and Museum Services venues for a whole host of exciting and inspiring events for all the family.

Families are all different, and we want you to come and enjoy your visit, so if there is anything that we can do, please just get in touch on **01204 332853** or email **askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk** **www.boltonlams.co.uk**

Tales from the Lighthouse Theatre Show

Thurs 20 February, 11am and 2pm



Join us for an unforgettable underwater adventure. 'Tales From The Lighthouse' is a captivating show for children aged 5+ and their families.

Through storytelling, traditional music, original songs, and enchanting puppetry, it tells the story of a lighthouse keeper who overcomes his fear of the sea with the help of a mysterious stranger.

This magical performance is perfect for those who love myths, magic, and folklore.

[www|eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite)

£5

£15 family of four

5+

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.



World Book Day Bedtime Stories Thurs 6 March, 6.15pm Bolton Central Library

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.



Bedtime Stories at the Community Libraries

Tues 4 March, 6pm to 6.30pm

- Brightmet
- Bromley Cross
- Farnworth
- Harwood
- High Street
- Horwich
- Little Lever
- Westhoughton

Thurs 6 March, 6pm to 6.30pm

- Blackrod Library

To celebrate World Book Day, come along for a bedtime-story session. Dress up in your pyjamas if you wish.

Free

No booking

2+

Exhibitions

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



Tony working on Neon Creations exhibition



Sam working on Neon Creations exhibition

Neon Creations, Bright Ideas

**Sat 30 November 2024 to
Sun 23 February 2025**

This exhibition showcases the amazing glass neon signs of local company, Neon Creations. Founded in 2005, Neon Creations specialise in custom-made neon signs and have worked with many well-known companies, such as Netflix, the BBC, Sony, and Coronation Street.

Some of the company's most stunning creations feature in the exhibition as well as specially commissioned pieces, including a recreation of the neon sign that once adorned the Ritzy Night Club in Bolton.



Neon Creations workshop



Documenting Your Community

**A Photography Project with
British Culture Archive Inspired
by the Work of Don Tonge**

**Sat 15 March to
Sun 15 June 2025**

Documenting Your Community is an open exhibition that invites photographers of all levels to capture images of life, people, and events in Bolton.

The exhibition will showcase the highlights of submissions from contemporary photographers alongside Don Tonge's celebrated photographs of Bolton in the 1970s.

If you'd like to participate in this photography project, please send your photograph to: **ingrid@britishculturearchive.co.uk**

**Submissions open on Monday
18 November 2024 and close on
10 January 2025.**

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:**

22 Jan 22 Feb 19 Mar 19 Apr 21 May 28 Jun

Surprises from the Natural History Stores

Explore the natural world by getting up close to the natural history collections at the museum not currently on public display. Meet Lauren, who looks after the animals, plants, insects, rocks, and fossils, and learn what a Natural History Curator does whilst learning more about the specimens.

**Free drop-in, 1pm to 3pm on
the following Saturdays:**

25 Jan 22 Mar 19 Apr 31 May 28 Jun

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The story of Reebok and local running clubs



Come along to the History Centre for a series of sessions exploring the history of Reebok, founded in Bolton in the 1900s, and local running clubs. We would love to hear your stories as we plan our big summer exhibition celebrating the linked history of Reebok, Norman Walsh Footwear and local running clubs and athletes.

Free drop-in sessions, 1pm to 3pm

Tues 4 March - History of Reebok and Norman Walsh Footwear

Tues 1 April - Bolton United Harriers, Horwich Harriers and well-known athletes from Bolton

Tues 6 May - Local and Community History Month event: Memories of the First Bolton Marathon 1981



*Bolton Marathon 1981.
Image courtesy of the Bolton News*

Hatshepsut Exhibition Tours

Tours at
11am &
2pm
30-40mins

Join our Curator of Egyptology, Ian Trumble, as he takes you on a tour of the temporary exhibition 'In the Temple of the Female Pharaoh: Howard Carter and Hatshepsut'. Suitable for all ages. Free, no need to book. **Meet in the Museum Foyer, 1st Floor, on the following Wednesdays:**

5
Mar

2
Apr

7
May

4
Jun

Curatorial Tuesday Talks

The Queens Series, 1pm to 1.30pm

28 Jan What is a Queen in Ancient Egypt?

25 Feb Old Kingdom Royal Women

25 Mar Sobekneferu - First Female King

22 Apr Hatshepsut - Daughter of Amun

20 May Nefertiti - Queen or Pharaoh?

17 Jun Cleopatra - Egypt's Last Queen

Join our Curator of Egyptology, Ian Trumble, as he takes you on a six-part journey through some of the most famous women in ancient history: the Queens of Egypt. Each talk stands alone, so don't worry if you can't make them all!



Free

No booking

Young Naturalists Club

Free
11am-
1pm

Join Lauren, our Curator of Natural History, and Russ from Nature Talks and Walks to develop your skills as a young naturalist. We'll get up close with the museum collections, and each session explores the fun ways you can learn about and connect with the natural world all around you.

Mammals, Fri 21 February

There are lots of wild mammals that share our green spaces and even urban locations in Bolton. Learn who and what you might spot and how to identify these animals, via footprints, sight, and even the stuff they might leave behind (poo!)

Birds, Mon 7 April

Many birds are recognisable to us as we see them every day, but do you know their names, how to tell them apart and even the differences in their songs?

Insects, Tues 27 May

There are insects and minibeasts of all shapes and sizes that you might be able to spot if you look close enough; we will learn how to identify them and find out just how amazing they are. The museum has insects from all over the world too, and you will meet the museum's resident Madagascar hissing cockroaches.



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Library events and 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

Bolton Central Library regular events

Mah Jong

Tuesdays, 1pm to 3pm

Singing for Health

First and third Tuesdays of each month, 2pm

City of Sanctuary Writing group

Wednesdays, 9.30am to 11.30am

Precious Gems - Arts and Crafts

Wednesdays, 12pm to 2pm

Scrabble Group

Thursdays, 1pm to 3pm

Poetry Appreciation Group

Third Thursday of each month, 11am

Babytime

Tuesdays, 10:30am



Reading Group
Third Thursday of each month,
6.15pm

Reading Friends
Second Friday of each month, 2pm
to 3pm

Lego Group
Fourth Saturday of each month,
10am to 11am

Graphic Novel Group
Fourth Saturday of each month,
3.30pm



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, Wed and Fri, 11.30am

Digital skills

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

Digital Skills Job Club at Bolton Central Library

Come along every Thursday from
10am to 12pm to the Job Club
and you can...

- Get help with digital skills to search and apply for jobs
- Learn how to update and upload your CV
- Find training and learning opportunities online
- Access basic digital skills to get started on your journey

Free

No booking



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DIGITAL
Bolton

A way of life...

Just a click away

Digital one to ones
Various days and times, including
Saturdays at libraries across Bolton.

Get tailored support to use a
smartphone, tablet or laptop from our
friendly Digital Helpers. Learn basic
digital skills, including:

- Registering and using the NHS app
- Searching and applying for jobs
- Microsoft Word and Excel
- Setting up and using emails
- Using social media
- Buying and selling online

Booking required - speak to a member
of staff at your local library, call **01204**
332853 or email **des@bolton.gov.uk**

Greater Manchester
Databank Free Drop-in
Bolton Central Library,
every Fri, 2pm to 4pm

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 in with your smartphone
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.

Join us for a free cuppa and get support to use your smartphone, tablet or laptop from one of our friendly Digital Helpers.

- 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



Smartphone Photography Workshop Thurs 13 February, 10am to 12pm

Giving business owners the confidence to promote their products (or the face behind those products!) with images taken on any smartphone!

Build A Business
in GM Libraries



Build a Business FREE Accounts and Tax Clinics

Free drop-in sessions with a fully qualified accountant at the Business Centre of the library, each date below from 12pm to 2pm.

- **Thurs 26 January**
- **Thurs 20 February**
- **Thurs 20 March**
- **Thurs 8 May**

And we have the regular Wednesday Bolton Business Support Hub each Wednesday 10am to 12pm.

For more info, email businessbolton@bolton.gov.uk

Calendar of events

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Find out more at www.boltonlams.co.uk



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Visitor Information

The Crescent

Le Mans Crescent, BL1 1SE
01204 333173

Ask Bolton Libraries

01204 332853
askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk

Smithills Hall

Smithills Dean Road, 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, email addresses, events, and activities.

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 by emailing askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk, or if you are a school, email sims@bolton.gov.uk

Stay in touch! 'Like' our Facebook pages to get the latest alerts:

 www.facebook.com/boltonlibraryandmuseumservices

 www.facebook.com/smithillshall

Follow us on X to stay in the know:

 [@BoltonLMS](https://twitter.com/BoltonLMS)

Follow us on Instagram:

 [@Bolton_Library_Museum](https://www.instagram.com/Bolton_Library_Museum)



Bolton
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