

What's On at Stockport Museums and Libraries

July – December 2023



STOCKPORT TOWN OF CULTURE



About Stockport Libraries

Stockport libraries are about so much more than just books - even though we do plenty of those as well! With 16 libraries across the borough, your local library is a hub of your community offering safe, warm spaces to socialise, work and spend time.



There are lots of groups available to join, including Storytimes for under 5s (and parents!), Knit and Knatter groups and lots of seasonal events including things to do for families during the school holidays, usually at no cost. You can find out more about what's on by reading this guide.

Libraries also offer a place for you to access the internet, either on our computers or by bringing your own device and accessing free WIFI. Come visit us for a great place to work, whether you're studying or looking for an alternative to working from home.



Our libraries offer access to face to face information and advice. Library staff can support you with Council queries and you can access Citizens Advice.

Library services online

There are lots of library services that can be accessed online from the comfort of your home!

Did you know that through the Borrowbox app you can read hundreds of e-books and listen to audiobooks for free? The Borrowbox app is available to download via the Apple store or Android equivalent, and you can enjoy lots of titles free with your libraries membership.

From June 1st Borrowbox app has access to free magazines and newspapers. This is in a free add on app called E-Press. You will be able to keep up to date with the daily newspapers, or relax with the latest issue of Cosmopolitan; Ideal Home; or Gardener's World and many more. So there's no need to pay for your own subscriptions anymore! You don't have to do anything to sign up to this and from 1st June they'll display on your app.

For residents who cannot physically get to our libraries because of ill health, mobility or because you are a full time carer, you can access your library books via our Home Library Service. For more information please call **0161 474 5600**.

Sign up to our Libraries Newsletter to stay up-to-date with the latest news and events, and have the latest update from your local library drop directly into your inbox. Just use the QR code on the right!



If you want to find out more about what's on offer at your local library, read on or visit www.stockport.gov.uk/libraries.



Want to be up-to-date about what's on in our libraries? Visit our socials! Search for Stockport Libraries on Facebook and on Twitter we are @SMBC_Libraries

Newsletter sign-up



Libraries events July - December







1. Visit:

https://forms.stockport.gov. uk/list-subscription/signup

- 2. Enter your email address, then click 'subscribe'
- 3. Click allow marketing emails

Follow us on social media @SMBC_Libraries







Regular Activities



Storytimes

All our libraries offer weekly storytime sessions for families and pre-school children. This is a great chance to spend time in the library, join in with stories and songs and meet other parents & carers! For full details of our storytimes please visit www.stockport.gov.uk/ libraries or call into any of our local libraries.

Coffee Mornings

Join our regular Library coffee mornings. A great opportunity to drop in for a hot drink and some company!



Bramhall	Tuesday	1st of the Month	10:30am
Offerton	Tuesday	Weekly	1pm
Great Moor	Tuesday	1st of the Month	llam
Heatons	Wednesday	Weekly	10:30-11:30am
Bredbury	Wednesday	3rd of every month	2-3pm

Crochet. Knit & Craft Sessions

Drop in with your knitting, crochet or craft, meet fellow makers, and have a brew and a chat.

Great Moor Library

Monday lpm

Hazel Grove Library

Monday 2pm

Central Library

Tuesday

Edgeley Library

Wednesday

Heald Green Library

Monday 1pm

Reddish Library

High Lane LibraryTuesday
3pm

Heatons LibraryFriday 11.30am

2pm

Dice & Decks

Monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 4pm – 6:45pm. Central Library Upstairs. We have a great selection of tabletop games. Come join us.

Monday



Boredom Breakers

A collection of fun and relaxing activities on hand in your local library, ask staff for details.

Mindfulness Colouring - Relax and colour mandalas of nature and our world with affirmations and more. For both adults and children.

Puzzle Books - Sudoku, word search, dotto-dots, crosswords and more. Suitable for adults and children.



Lego - Have fun with the world's favourite brick. What will you build?

Jigsaw Puzzle – Help complete a communal jigsaw puzzle.

The more pieces the merrier!

Story Sack – Share a children's book with storytelling props. Fun for all the family.



Neurodiversity Sessions

An all-age inclusive Library drop-in session. Our Libraries are naturally non-judgemental spaces, but these sessions are to help relieve any social expectations to act a certain way. We welcome you just as you are. Sensory 'Bag books' storytime, Lego and more.

Brinnington Library - 2nd Thursday of each month, 3:30pm-5pm

13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December

Walthew House

A monthly reading group and audiobook showcase for the visually impaired, hosted by Walthew House, 112 Shaw Heath, Stockport SK2 6QS. First Tuesday of the month from 11am-12noon.

18th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December

We support Technical User Group at Walthew House on the second Thursday of the month 12:30 - 16:00

From **September 2023** Technical User group is every **Monday 12 - 3**



Special Activities and Events

Summer Reading Challenge - Ready, Set, Read!

Get ready for an adventure full of team spirit, sporty heroes, and lots of fun during the school holidays, with this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The goal is to read six books over the holidays, collect stickers and rewards along the way, with a certificate and medal awaiting you at the finish line! It's all free, so make sure you pick up your collector folder from your local library and check out all the extras at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk - kick off is July 8th!



Nature Trail Hunt-Edgeley Library - Wednesday 12th July

Discover the Stockport Climate Action Now activity calendar. July's theme is 'We CAN go for a nature walk' Stop in the Library to pick up your activity sheet. Return it to the library for a prize!

Book Bingo

Join our adult summer reading challenge. Pick up a bingo sheet from a library or online. Complete a bingo line by reading books that fit the descriptions. Hand in completed sheets by August 31 to be entered in the prize draw to win one of our fabulous prizes.



Fun Palaces -

Saturday 7th October, Brinnington Library and Central Library 10:30 - 13:30

Fun Palaces is an annual celebration of arts, science, craft, tech, heritage and more run by and for local communities.

Find out all about it on

www.funpalaces.co.uk

Wellbeing Workers' Networking Sessions

An informal session to share ideas and information for organisations and professionals in Stockport working to support people's mental health. Central Library 10:30am-12:30pm

17th July 2023 / 16th October 2023

Dragons in the Library

A Six-week series of Dungeons and Dragons style fantasy escapades for ages 7-11 years old. Places are limited and will be bookable via Eventbrite. Keep an eye on our social media for booking details.

Central Library Tuesdays after-school 4-6pm.

Dates 31st Oct, 7th Nov, 14th Nov, 21st Nov, 28th Nov. 5th Dec

Author Events

Join us for an evening with **Margaret Holbrook** as she introduces her hero Jack France - motor racing driver and amateur sleuth and hero of *Meet Jack France* and *Jack France* and *the Singapore Pearl* - shares readings, discusses her writing career, and more.

High Lane Library - Thursday, 20 July - doors 5:45pm for 6pm-7pm

Suspense and psychological thriller writers **Caroline England** and **Catherine Wimpeney** are touring their new books across Stockport. Find the date and library that's best for you.

Cheadle Library - Wednesday, 26 July - doors 6:45pm for 7pm-8pm

Central Library - Friday, 4 August - doors 6:45pm for 7pm-8pm

Hazel Grove Library - Thursday, 21 September - doors 5:45pm for 6-7pm

Cheadle Library - Thursday, 28 September - doors 5:45pm for 6-7pm



Margaret Holbrook

Caroline England



Catherine Wimpeney -



Sharing Stockport Voices

An anthology of original writing by you, Stockport residents, published as an eBook on the BorrowBox Library app. We collect short stories, poems, essays and more around a different theme throughout the year. Themes and dates of submissions are below:



'Stockport Mills' submissions by 31st August



'Radically Digital Stockport' submissions by 31st October

Send your pieces to healthandwellbeing.libraries@stockport.gov.uk

Black history Month October



The theme of Celebrating our Sisters / Saluting our Sisters / Matriarchs of Movements #WEMATTER highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities.

Please visit: www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

DigiTober -

Stockport libraries will be celebrating the GMCA's Digitober across the borough, look out online for activities and events.

Libraries Week 2023 -

2nd - 8th October - Green Libraries

We'll be hosting a variety of activities throughout the week. Look online for details.

Discover Health Online

Thursday 12th October 11am-12:30 Bramhall

Are you overwhelmed by NHS apps or ordering prescriptions? Join us for an information session to help you discover health information, apps and resources online. Run as part of Digitober.

Silent disco

listen to music on our provided headphones, switch between different radio channels to find your preferred tune and, if you're up for it, dance the time away. Our silent discos are free events, but booking is required. Keep an eye on our social media for booking details.

Family & Kids Silent Disco -

Saturday 22nd July 1pm - 3pm - Central Library

Kick off the summer with style at our family friendly silent disco.

Family & Kids Silent Disco -

Friday 27th October 2pm - 4pm - Central Library

Celebrating 100 years of Disney at our Family and Kids silent disco during half term. Fancy dress welcome. #digitober

Adults 16+ Silent Disco

Friday 24th November 5:30pm - 7:30pm -Central Library

Over 16s only, join us for an evening of great songs and dancing!

Half Term activities

23rd - 27th October

A range of activities across our libraries to engage your children.

Film Nights! Holiday!

It's the summer holidays and what better way to spend it than calling in at Central Library for our film night!

Friday 11th August at Central Library arrive from 6.30 and film starts at 7.15

Halloween Film Night

Join us at Central Library for an evening to celebrate Halloween with a chance for families to gather together under the dome at Central library to enjoy a Halloween family favourite!

Tuesday 31st October arrive from 6.30 and film starts at 7.15

Matriarchs of Movements

Adults 16+ Silent Disco -Friday 27th October 6pm - 8pm - Central Library

Celebrating Black History month and the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. #digitober

Its Christmas!!!!!

Calling all families! Come and join us for a festive film favourite at Heatons Library on Wednesday 20th December! Doors open at 6.30 for film starting at 7.15

Christmas Crime Night

Christmas Crime Night returns to Central Library this December 14th. Our annual night of all things crime fiction and festive fun is back for its seventh year. Which author will we feature this year?

Join us for an evening of readings, quizzes, minced pies, spiced apple cider, and more. It's lots of fun and there are always prizes to be won!

Tickets are free. Booking details coming in November.

Thursday, December 14, from 6:30pm-8pm at Central Library, Wellington Road S, SK1 3RS.

Families at Stockport Museums

We love welcoming families to our museums, and there's something for all ages and budgets. Come to Stockport Museum, which is free entry, and get handson in our family gallery. Step into Staircase House or Stockport Air Raid Shelters or Bramall Hall and explore the history of Stockport as a family. Kids go free at all venues, so a visit is great value. If you're looking for a completely free day out head to Stockport Museum where we will have an indoor picnic space during August 2023.

Keep up to date with special holiday activities and trails (charges may apply) by following our museums on Facebook at facebook.com/stockportmuseums and Twitter at @SMBC_Museums.

Bramall Hall

Bramall Hall is a superb example of a Tudor Manor House with origins dating back to the Middle Ages. The Hall, one of the most beautiful treasures of England, is of great national importance. The magnificent 16th Century wall paintings, striking Elizabethan plaster ceiling, the Victorian Kitchens and Servants' Quarters give this Hall its unique charm. The Hall offers unique insights into the families and servants who lived and worked here. It stands in about 70 acres of parkland designed in the Victorian Romantic style. It offers woodland walks with intriguing glimpses of the Hall itself and of the brooks and lakes.

Admission: Adults £6.50, Concessions £5.00.

Leisure Key and Under 16's FREE

Opening Hours:

Wed, Thur & Fri, 11am – 4.30pm, Sat, CLOSED, Sun, 11am – 4.30pm

Find us at:

Tel: 0161 474 2020 Bramhall Park, Stockport,





Staircase House

Discover Stockport's oldest town house situated in the Historic Market Place. The house and its rare Jacobean cage-newel staircase, have been beautifully restored. Come along and take an historic journey back in time to discover how our ancestors lived from the 15th to the 20th centuries.



Admission

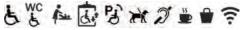
Adults £5.50, Concessions £4.00 Leisure Key and Under 16's FREE

Opening Hours

Wed - Thur 10am - 5pm, Fri 12 noon – 5pm, Sat 10am - 5pm Sun 11am - 4pm

Find us at

Tel: 0161 474 4444 30/31 Market Place, Stockport, SK1 1ES



Stockport Museum

Time-travel from Palaeolithic to present day Stockport to experience the town's entire history under one roof. Explore the fantastic finds from Mellor Iron Age hilltop settlement, life in medieval times, the thriving textile industry of the Victorian era as well as the impact of World War I. If you have the kids with you, don't forget to spend some time in our interactive family gallery.

Admission

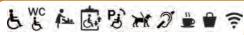
FREE

Opening Hours

Tue - Sat 10am - 5pm Sun 11am - 4pm

Find us at

Tel: 0161 474 4444 30/31 Market Place, Stockport, SK1 1ES





Air Raid Shelters

Stockport's intriguing network of underground tunnels offers visitors unparalleled insight into life in 1940s wartime Britain. When the Shelters opened in 1939, with room for 3,850 people, they were the largest purpose built civilian shelters in the country. An audio-guide, information panels and authentically recreated settings illustrate the thoroughness of Stockport's air raid precautions for life on the home front.

Admission



Adults £5.50, Concessions £4.00 Leisure Key and Under 16's FREE

Opening Hours

Tue - Fri 1pm - 5pm, Sat 10am - 5pm Sun 11am - 4pm

Find us at

65 Great Underbank, Stockport SK1 1NE Tel: 0161 474 1940



Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery

Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery presents an inspiring programme of temporary exhibitions showcasing the work of local and regional artists. The Hall of Memory is a fitting tribute to the men and women of Stockport who gave their lives during times of conflict.

Admission

FREE

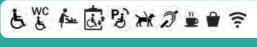
Opening Hours

Thurs - Fri 1pm - 5pm, Sat 10am - 5pm Sun 11am - 4pm

Find us at

Tel: 0161 474 4453

Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK3 8AB







Hat Works

Visit our Factory Floor to discover the grizzly history of the fur trade, why Stockport was the perfect place to make hats and see our Victorian hatting machines in motion. More images, archive footage and objects are now on display than ever before.

Opening Hours:

Factory Floor: open for booked tours and special events.

Gallery of Hats: Currently closed for refurbishment

Shop: Thursdays, Fridays and alternate Saturdays 10am – 4pm

Info and booking for all tours, activities and events:

https://stockport-museums.arttickets.org.uk/

Find us at:

0161 474 2399

Wellington Road South SK3 0EU



Museum Activities & Events



Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 July

The Curious Curiosity Shop by The Tangled Dance Company

A 2022 creation with a cast of dancers and actors. A live sitespecific dance theatre performance journeying through an old curiosity shop as it creeks back to life. Each storeroom revealing

more extraordinary, antiquated collection, and the unfolding of memories. The piece includes a dance for film collaboration created with the Manchester community and in

collaboration with Howl Creative.





Choreography: Amy Hallam,
Compositions: Craig Frangleton

Performances throughout the day

Tickets from:

https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on-beta/Stockport/ Bramall-Hall-Bramhall-Park-Stockport.-SK7-3NX/The-Curious-Curiosity-Shop/36300261/

Sunday 23 July

Elizabethan Dance at Bramhall Hall presented by White Rose Early Dance

The programme will include social dances and demonstration dances as done by the nobility in the period 1580 - 1610. These dances are found in English, French and Italian manuscripts, and the common types are Bransles, Almaines, Pavans, Galliards, Corantos, and Balletti. The music for these will be played by The Leeds Waits. If

the weather permits, dancing will take place in the courtyard and there will be opportunity for audience participation in some of the easier

dances, for which instructions will be given.

FREE, The dance sessions will run in the Courtyard from 12.00 - 1.15pm and from 2.00 - 3.15pm.

Wednesday 26 July - Sunday 3 September

The Nevill Bear Trail

Join us for an exciting adventure inside the Hall and see if you can follow the clues to find Nevill Bear's hiding place. Along the way you may meet some other famous bear friends and learn a few facts about bears too! If you find Nevill you will be awarded an exclusive

'Bear Finder' badge.

Summer holiday fun for our younger visitors age 3-10 years.

During standard opening hours: 11am - 4.30pm £3 per trail (Standard admission applies to accompanying adults)

Tickets available from: stockport-museums.arttickets.org.uk and from our Shop & Visitor Centre.







Wednesdays: 2, 9,16,23, 30 August

Interactive Family Tours with Mrs Bell

Looking for something to keep your family entertained this summer? Come and join Mrs Bell, the Victorian Housekeeper at Bramall and take a tour of the building. She will have some tasks for you along the way!

Suitable for Children 5+ - 10.45am

Children £5, Adults £2 (for capacity reasons we can only admit x1 accompanying adult per child).







Sunday 6 August

Silver School of Arms at Bramall Hall

Silver School of Arms are a Western Martial Arts group that research, study, teach and practise historical fencing and Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) from fighting manuals and treatises. They specialise in the Elizabethan period and will be at Bramall Hall in period kit giving people chance to handle weapons and delivering weapons displays, weather permitting, throughout the day. This is the perfect day out for budding young and old knights!

11am - 4.30pm with weapons displays at: TBC o'clock.



Standard admission applies.
Suitable for all ages

Tickets available from: stockport-museums. arttickets.org.uk and from our Shop & Visitor Centre.



Friday 25 August

OUTDOOR THEATRE:

David Walliams's Bad Dad by Heartbreak Productions

Blurb to be supplied by Heartbreak. Blurb to be supplied by Heartbreak.

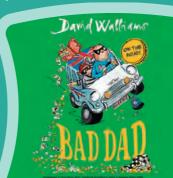


Running time approx.: 2hrs 20mins (Including 20min intervals)

Recommended from age x+

£14 per person







Thursday 21 September

HISTORIC TALK:

Charles II by Dr. Gareth Williams

King Charles was 12 when civil war broke out and found himself having to fight furiously alongside his father. Becoming skilled in the arts of war and leadership he was commander of his own troops at just 14 years of age. He fled into exile in 1646 setting foot in France and then in Holland.

King Charles I was executed and Charles II was proclaimed King. He led a hopeful army into England in 1651 but was defeated, hid in an oak tree and escaped dressed as a servant to France. After the death of Cromwell. Charles was restored and crowned in Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1661. As King he now intended to live life to the full. He married Katherine of Braganza who sadly produced only three stillborn children.

However, his eight official mistresses produced at least 16 children between them. He was much loved and described as "The Merrie Monarch". As a great supporter of the early scientists and all the arts, he did much to encourage learning and brought England's glory on wonderfully well. You will see King Charles II come to life.

7pm. £14pp







Sunday 15 to Sunday 29 October

The Witch's Potion Trail

This is a spooktacular spotting trail within the Hall. Batilda our resident witch fell from her broom, scattering ingredients in every room! Find them all, get them right, to make a potion for Halloween night! There is a small prize if you find all the ingredients and you might even meet Batilda, our slightly scary witch!

October holiday fun for our younger visitors aged 3-10 years.

During standard opening hours: 11am - 4.30pm



£3 per trail (Standard admission applies to accompanying adults)

Tickets available from: stockport-museums.arttickets.org.uk and from our Shop & Visitor Centre.





Thursday 23 November

HISTORIC TALK:

Nell Gwynne by Lesley Smith

Nell Gwynne was the mistress of Charles II and for many people, that is all she was known for – other than for selling oranges!

The real Nell Gwynne is a victory for English womanhood, showing great courage against the background of the bloodiest civil war in English history and the poverty that followed for many of the population. Against all the odds Nell became a star of the London stage and the greatest comic actress of her day, and won the hearts of theatregoers and the king himself. Her rags to riches story may have inspired the story of Cinderella, but even after she caught her handsome prince, Nell was no stranger to tragedy. You will have a chance to meet pretty, witty little Nell in fantastic costume and have chance to both laugh and cry with her.

7pm. £14pp







Wednesday 15 November 2023 - Sunday 8 January 2024

Bramall Hall dressed for Christmas - Claret & A sprinkle of Champagne

Come and see Bramall Hall beautifully dressed for Christmas. This year's theme is Claret & A sparkle of Champagne. Our wonderful team of floral design volunteers have delivered again. The Hall is draped in sumptuous reds and gold, a scheme that is guaranteed to evoke that

Christmas spirit for all that visit.

During standard opening hours.

Standard admission applies: Adults £6.50, Concessions £5, Under 16s FREE



Wednesday 15 November 2023 - Sunday 8 January 2024

Bramall Hall Elf Trail

The elves are up to their tricks again! Bramall Hall is fully decorated for Christmas, which means our cheeky elves have visited once again! Discover our tinsel tinkerers and earn yourself a little festive treat. Snippet, Jingel, Cranberry and Squire are just a few of our Christmas crew that are looking forward to meeting you! Tickets are also available at our Visitor Centre/Shop during our standard opening times.

Christmas holiday fun for our younger visitors aged 3-10 years. (Suitable (but not exclusive) for ages 3 and over.

During standard opening hours: 11am - 4.30pm



£3 per trail (Standard admission applies to accompanying adults)

Tickets available from: stockport-museums. arttickets.org.uk and from our Shop & Visitor Centre





Sunday 3 & Sunday 10 December

Father Christmas Experience at Bramall Hall

A magical visit from Father Christmas at Bramall Hall. An experience with lots of festive trimmings! Young visitors will go on a magical journey around the Hall dressed in Artic Sparkle. Along the way, they will enjoy our fabulous Elf spotting trail, make a Christmas tree decoration, and write a letter to Father Christmas. Before leaving, children will have an audience with Father Christmas in the Great Hall and collect a special gift.

Suitable for children age 3+. Each ticket admits one child and one accompanying adult only. All children must have a prebooked ticket or the full party may not be allowed entry (except for babes in arms). Additional adults can purchase tickets on arrival from the Visitor Centre (opposite the Hall) for £5 – please allow extra time to purchase tickets as latecomers may not be allowed entry.

Suitable for children age £3+. £17, each ticket admits one child and one accompanying adult only.

Additional adults £5.
Tickets available from:
stockport-museums.arttickets.org.uk

Friday 15 December

Carols in the Courtyard

courtyard for carols around the Christmas tree, led by The Gallery Choir. The courtyard will be lit with fairy lights to create a wonderful ambiance in the night. Bring a camping chair, a blanket, a lantern or some fairy lights and are for an evening of open air carols in the sparking and Hall Courtyard. NO seating will be provided: E. Chart ket includes a viewing of Bramall Hall dressed for a streng before the Carol Concert. This year's the carol Caret & Champagne. Your ticket will include a course mince pie and a glass of warm mulled wine the interval. This event is guaranteed to evoke the spirit of Christmas for all that take part.

Wrap up warm and join us in the Bramall Hall

£10. 7pm (Doors open at 6.20pm for viewing of the Hall)

Bring your own seating, NO seating will be provided.

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 December

Figgy Pudding in Concert (TBC)

A sparkling evening of festive music and storytelling. Enjoy Christmas inspired songs and prose around the piano, with a rich recipe of old and new, traditional and contemporary, humorous and nostalgic music, served up with lashings of merriment. Tickets include a glass of mulled wine, a delicious mince pie and the chance to see the hall decked out for Christmas. We recommend approximately 30-40 minutes to view the decorations.

This concert suitable for adults and children 10+. Please note that seating is unreserved.

(Doors open at XXpm for viewing of the Hall)

£25, True ts available from: stockportmuseums attickets.org.uk







