

Bolton Library and Museum Services

What's On

September to December 2023



Imagination

Curiosity

Wonder

Bolton
Council



Welcome

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

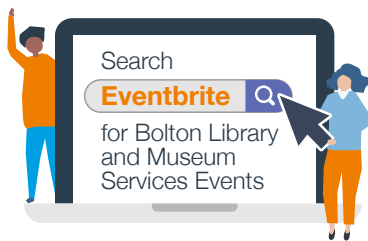
Visit our museum galleries; including the spectacular, Bolton's Egypt, with its amazing, full-scale recreation of the tomb of Thutmose III. There is also the family friendly Bolton's Nature, Bolton's Art and Bolton's History to see plus much more.

Open since 1941, the Bolton's Aquarium is the only one of its kind in Greater Manchester; it has a stunning display of freshwater fish from all over the world.

Take a trip back in time and visit Smithills Hall. The historic hall dates right back to the 14th century and reveals amazing secrets about its history.

Bolton's 10 free libraries provide services for residents, visitors, students and workers in the town. Each library has computers with free internet access and a wide range of online services.

The £3.7m refurbishment of Bolton Central Library, funded through the Towns Fund, is progressing and lookout for more details later this year.



Find out more at www.boltonlams.co.uk

Contents

Smithills Hall	4
Family events	6
Spooktastic Halloween events	8
Put Big Light On Festival	10
Christmas events	12
Exhibitions	14
Curatorial talks	16
Bolton Central Library and Museum events and activities	18
Digital and business events	24
Calendar of events	26



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.



Fantastic Fridays at Smithills Halls

11am to 12.30pm

This half term come along for a themed activity session on Friday 27 October.

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

Smithills Halls guided tours

Find out more about Smithills Hall with a guided tour of this magnificent building.

Tickets cost £6 adults and £4.50 concessions. Tours are available on specific dates so please call **01204 332377** to book in advance, you can pay by cash or debit/credit card at Smithills Hall.

£6 adults **£4.50 concs**



FREE! Join us and discover more about Smithills Hall

Celebrate Heritage Open Day at Smithills Hall

Wed 13 September, 11am and 2pm

You can take a free guided tour of Smithills Hall during this year's Heritage Open Day!

The Hall opened to the public as a museum in 1963 but its history dates back to the 14th century.

Today, much of the Hall has been restored to its original splendour and

you can see rooms and displays from across the centuries.

Join us and discover more about Smithills Hall with a tour of this beautiful building.

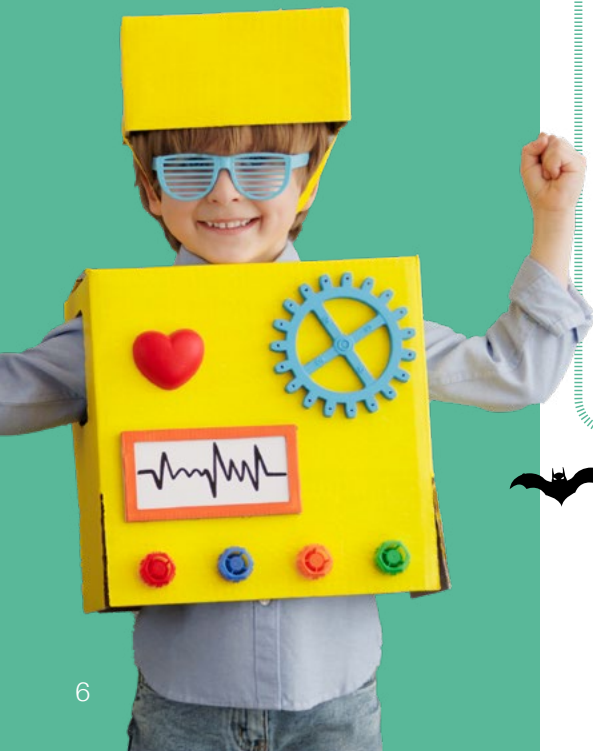
Free No booking



School's out!

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

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



October half term

**Sat 21 October to
Sun 5 November
11am to 3pm in the Museum**

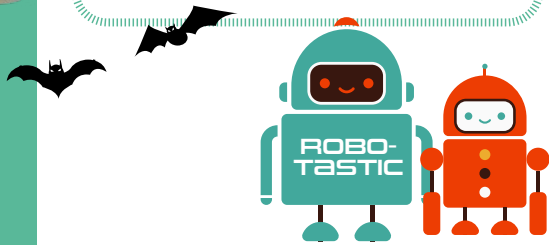
The half term fun spans across two weeks this October!

Take a look around our excellent new 'Robots' exhibition and join in the fun stories, crafts, trails and activities with a Sci-Fi theme.

Plus from Monday 30 October to Sunday 5 November there'll be some spooktacular activities as we want to have some Halloween fun!

On Tuesday 31 October, there will be some spot prizes for those who visit us in their Halloween costumes and some fun activities too!

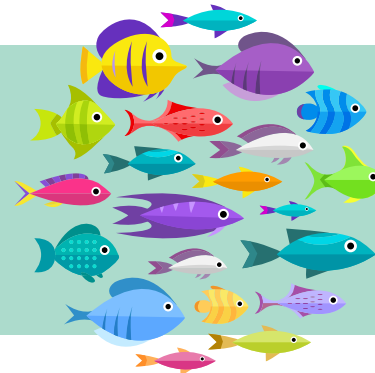
All free, all fun and no need to book just turn up between 11am and 3pm.



Christmas holidays daily activities

**Sat 23 December to
Sun 7 January**

Enjoy the seasonal holiday with us as we'll have activities, storytelling and trails at Bolton Museum.



Fish feeds at 1pm

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.

Spooktastic Halloween events

Haunted family fun day, spooky stories, ghost tours, scary costumes and much more...

Smithills Hall Halloween Spooktacular

**Tues 31 October
11am to 3pm**

Join us for a Family Fun Halloween Spooktacular at Smithills Hall. There will be spooky story time, silent disco, Halloween crafts and much, much more!

Come in your most scary (or fun!) costume, where you can explore and decide for yourself if Smithills Hall is haunted!

We can't wait to see you there!

Free

No booking



After Dark

**Smithills Hall Halloween Haunted Family Fun Ghost Tours
Tues 31 October,
from 5pm**

Ever wondered if there are haunted happenings at Smithills Hall? Join us at the Hall after dark as we take you on a guided tour filled with spooky stories! You never know, you just might see a ghost or two yourself!

This is a ticket only event, tickets must be purchased in advance via Eventbrite available from Tuesday 12 September.

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

**Age
7+**

**Not suitable for children in prams/
buggies**





Join us for a festival of light, as Bolton is transformed for six magical evenings

- Thurs 30 November**
- Fri 1 December**
- Sat 2 December**
- Thurs 7 December**
- Fri 8 December**
- Sat 9 December**

This winter you'll get to experience the mysterious Northern Lights over Victoria Square, see the moon up close and immerse yourself in a world of colourful and interactive artwork.

There will be installations created by artists from around the world including Borealis by Dan Acher, Museum of the Moon by Luke Jerram and Evanescent by Atelier Sisu.

A full programme for both weekends will be released in October.



Borealis
Dan Acher

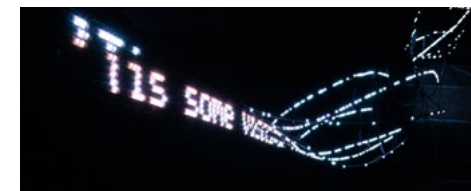
Borealis brings the magical mystery of the Northern Lights to any city, using layers of light and particle clouds to create the illusion.

Museum of the Moon
Luke Jerram

Measuring six metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

Evanescent
Atelier Sisu

Evanescent is a multi-award winning artwork that has been exhibited in 24 different cities in 18 different countries. Evanescent bridges the gap between art and architecture, existing within the realm of 'art-chitecture'.



Stringed
Gijs Van Boon

At once sculptural and textual, this installation strings together words, which in turn form sentences, which in turn flow into text. Seemingly suspended and scattered in mid-air, waves of animated light dots converge at the last moment into a narrative that passes out of sight just as soon as it arrives.



© Carolyn Eaton

Sound Intervention, Projector Bikes
Dan Fox

Sound Intervention's amazing interactive off-grid audio visual machines will be illuminating the town centre streets during this year's festival. These electric trikes travel along projecting colourful animations with accompanying soundscapes.

Christmas events

We're so excited for Christmas and have got some cracking events for your family and you to enjoy...



The Father Christmas Experience at Smithills Hall

Sun 3, 10 and 17 December

10am to 4pm

For all children
(tickets on sale Fri 15 September)

Sat 16 December

10am to 4pm

For all children with additional needs and their families
(tickets on sale Wed 20 September)

Tues 19 December

12 noon to 6pm

For all Teen/Adult Believers and their families and carers
(tickets on sale Fri 22 September)

For our Sunday events, we have teamed up with our tea room Bake and Roast who will provide festive drinks and treats for the children in the Elf Waiting Room.

For our events for children with additional needs and for Teen/Adult believers, we will instead have a more chilled out Waiting Room, including bubbles and a sensory space for those children who may need a quieter atmosphere.

All the events will include a gift from Santa, Christmas decoration, Elf Storytime, Festive Trail and the chance to write a letter to Santa to get a reply via Elf Post!



This is a ticket only event and must be booked in advance via Eventbrite. **Tickets cost £17.50 per child.** Extra tickets for family members can be purchased separately at a cost of **£2.50** per ticket.

There are a limited number of tickets per half hour time slot to help us operate a smooth queue free system.

Tickets for these events are non-refundable, change of date will only be accommodated if availability allows.



Exhibitions

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

Upcoming ones are...



Portraits of Our Future: Bolton and Kitwe.
© University of Bolton



Westhoughton Tower Bellringers
© Marge Bradshaw

Portraits of Our Future

**Sat 16 September to
Sun 5 November 2023**
Up Close Gallery

Portraits of Our Future showcases a unique creative community project carried out by staff and students from the University of Bolton and their partner the Sotambe Film Institute in the city of Kitwe, Zambia.

Through striking photographs, the exhibition which will be running during Black History Month, explores the diverse urban cultures of Kitwe and Bolton, capturing the essence of today's global youth and their journey into the 21st century.

Why We Ring:

**A Portrait of the Westhoughton
Tower Bellringers** by Photographer
Marge Bradshaw
**Sat 18 November 2023 to
Sun 14 January 2024**
Up Close Gallery

This exhibition presents work by photographer Marge Bradshaw made in collaboration with the Westhoughton Tower Bellringers in 2022 and 2023.

Through portraiture and documentary photography, Bradshaw goes behind the scenes to explore the contemporary story of bellringing and reveal spaces never usually seen by the public.



The Robots are coming!

Sat 21 October 2023 to Sun 28 January 2024
Temporary Gallery

This exciting exhibition showcases some of the most memorable and iconic robots from Science-Fiction movies and TV shows, highlighting their role in storytelling and exploring how they represent our changing relationship with technology.

Visitors will have the chance to get up close and personal with a cast of full-size heroic robots, vintage tin toys, and sculptures in all shapes and sizes from comics, books and the silver screen over the past 40 years.

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:

23 Sept **8** Oct **18** Nov **16** Dec

Suprises from the Natural History stores

Each month at 1pm there will be different natural history objects for you to get up close. You'll learn more about these items which are not currently on public display.

14 Sept **9** Oct **24** Oct **5** Dec

Monthly Tuesday talks at 1pm

Curatorial talks

Discover more about Bolton Museum's collections with a range of exciting talks led by Bolton Museum's team.

12 September Display creation at Bolton Museum Aquarium

Find out how a new exhibit is imagined, planned, assembled and managed.

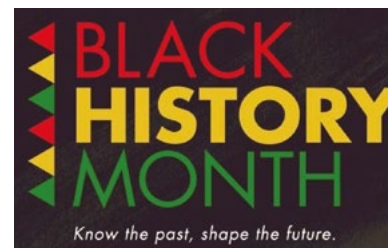
3 October Innovating: The inventions that changed Bolton

This talk will explore the civic, social and industrial innovations that shaped Bolton's history.

7 November The Unknown Man, and other Mummies

Resting in a place of honour in the museum's replica Egyptian tomb is 'The Unknown Man'. The identity of this mummified man is still uncertain, but one theory is that he is a son of Ramesses II. We'll explore the story of 'The Unknown Man' as well as other mummies linked to the collection.

Free **No booking**



Black History Month October

Black History Month is a nationwide celebration that recognises the achievements and contributions of black people to British society.

The Bolton Libraries and Museum Service will be hosting a range of displays and events during October to celebrate BHM. Look out for displays, online content, family craft sessions and more.

Incredible Athletes

Highlighting stories of talented athletes with a link to Bolton such as Rugby player Des Drummond and George Oghani, the first black player to play in the Bolton Wanderers first team.

We will also be doing a call out for your stories of black women and men in sports who have a connection to Bolton. Do you have any stories? If so please email: collectionenquiries@bolton.gov.uk

Collecting World Connections display tours Bolton libraries

The Collecting World Connections project ran during 2021 and 2022, working with Bolton's communities with African, South Asian and Caribbean heritage.

Participants explored the museum's World Cultures collections and objects from their own lives to discover what those objects meant to them.

Previously displayed as part of the Collecting World Connections exhibition at Bolton Museum, these objects, with their participants and stories, are touring Bolton's community libraries.

Sun 1 October to Wed 18 October

Bromley Cross
Blackrod
Brightmet
Little Lever
Bolton Central Library at the Crompton Place Shopping Centre

Thurs 19 October to Fri 3 November

Horwich
Westhoughton
Harwood
Farnworth High Street

Activities and events



National Poetry Day Thurs 5 October, 6pm to 7.30pm

Come and join us for an evening of poetry as we mark National Poetry Day. This year, we're hosting an Open Mic event at Bolton Museum, opening with poets from The Door's Open, followed by an open invitation to the public to sign up and perform. **Slots to perform will open in mid-September on Eventbrite.**

We are also calling out to local poets to submit poems around this year's theme for National Poetry Day, Refuge. The top entries will be displayed at Bolton Central Library. If you would like to submit a poem of no more than 50 lines, please send to askboltonlibraries@bolton.gov.uk before **Tues 19 Sept.**

Free **No booking**

Celebrate Poetry! Family Fun Day Sat 7 October, 11am to 3pm

To celebrate National Poetry Day join us for a celebration of poetry with workshops, crafts and a poetry trail around Bolton Museum.

The day will include two fabulous performances from family poet Dommy B with his show 'Make some noise', perfect for children 5+ and their grownups.

Free **No booking**

Singing together for health Tues 5 September, 2pm to 3pm

Discover the joy of singing, joining a choir can be a fun and rewarding experience, providing opportunities to meet new people, improve vocal skills, and enjoy the benefits of group singing.

Come along to a taster session at Bolton Central Library at the Crompton Place Shopping Centre. All abilities welcome. The free sessions will continue fortnightly.

Free **No booking**

Writing about Nature Panel Sat 16 September, 1.15pm



Join experienced nature writers Yvonne Reddick, Gaia Holmes and Anita Sethi for a panel discussion on writing about nature.

The talk will take place in Bolton Central Library's Lecture Theatre, Le Mans Crescent.

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



Pictures of Hindu Gods © Madeleine Waller

Diwali Family Celebration Day Sat 11 November, 11am to 3pm

Join us for a family-friendly day of activities to celebrate this year's Hindu festival of Diwali.

The museum will be busy with stories, music, dance performances and making activities for all our visitors to enjoy.

Free **No booking**

Children's Activities

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.

Baby time!

Calling all babies and their families! Baby time - a weekly group for babies and their families every Tuesday, 10.30am at the Library in the Crompton Place Shopping Centre.

Free

No booking



Under 5's Messy Play with Sugar Lumps

Sat 23 September, 2pm
Sat 7 October, 2pm
Sat 11 November, 2pm
at Bolton Museum

Families with young children, don't miss out on the opportunity to join us for creative messy play with Sugar Lumps!

Please note that booking is essential, tickets will go live a week before each session on Eventbrite.

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



The Lightbulb Princess Sun 3 December, 11.30am and 2pm

'The Lightbulb Princess' is a fun-filled show with catchy songs, perfect for families with children aged 4 and up. Help our intrepid explorer and her friends solve an unexpected problem and illuminate the world again, while learning about the science behind electricity. The show is performed by Tutti Frutti Productions and One Tenth Human.

£4
adults

£4
children

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

Book from Friday 1 September.

Bolton Library Theatre

Watch family fun theatre performances by Bolton Library and Museum Services!

Explore many stories through engaging family theatre and storytelling.

The performances will take place in Bolton Central Library's Lecture Theatre, Le Mans Crescent.



Luna Loves Library Day Wed 1 November and Thurs 2 November, 11am and 2pm

Experience an enchanting musical adventure with Luna and her Dad as they discover magic and mystery among the library shelves.

Luna Loves Library Day is a delightful show for families with children aged 3+, featuring original songs by David Gibb and based on the beloved children's book by Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers. Performed by Little Seeds.

Children under 12 months go free.

£4
adults

£4
children

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



Community and partner events

Films for all tastes!

Bolton Film Festival Wed 4 October to Sun 8 October

Bolton International Film Festival returns to The Light Cinema (The Market Place).

Screening 300 short films across the five days, the festival is a BAFTA and BIFA accredited festival and one of the "Top 10 Best Reviewed" festivals from over 12,000 worldwide.

Last year's festival included seven films that went on to the OSCARs and nine that went on to the BAFTA's - including the winner of both awards!

Some of the film screenings will take place in Bolton Central Library's Lecture Theatre, Le Mans Crescent.

Tickets to the individual screenings are on sale at www.boltonfilmfestival.com or for best value there are day passes and full festival passes that offer entry for the whole festival.



World Mental Health Day Tues 10 October, 10am to 11.30am Crompton Library

This is a 1.5 hour interactive and engaging workshop, exploring the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

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

Live Literature



Live Literature returns!

The University of Bolton's English and Creative Writing department are proud to again partner with Bolton Library and Museum Services for a new season of Live Literature. The exciting events will feature award-winning readers and performers across fiction, poetry and drama.

Here are the dates for your diary and look out for speakers on our socials. Live Literature

Tues 10 October, 6pm to 7.30pm
Tues 7 November, 6pm to 7.30pm
Tues 5 December, 6pm to 7.30pm

Free No booking

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

Contact any Bolton library for further details.

Toddler Tales

Free storytelling sessions for young children and their mums, dads and carers, ideal for toddlers aged 2 to 5.

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, 2pm
- 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

Digital skills

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



A way of life...
Just a click away

Monthly Digital Drop-ins

Call in to one of our monthly drop-in sessions at your local library to get help with your device. Our friendly team will be on hand to guide you. There's no need to book, just turn up! The frequency of the drop-ins for each location are listed below.

- » **Blackrod**, first Monday of every month, 2pm to 4pm
- » **Farnworth**, third Monday of every month, 2pm to 4pm
- » **Harwood**, second Tuesday of every month, 2pm to 4pm
- » **Horwich**, last Monday of every month, 2pm to 4pm
- » **Little Lever**, last Thursday of every month, 2pm to 4pm
- » **Westhoughton**, last Friday of every month, 2pm to 4pm

Digital One to Ones

Bolton Library and Museum Services offer free one-to-one support to help you get the most from your laptop, tablet and smartphone.

Whether you need help with online forms and shopping, applying for jobs or downloading our free e-books and e-audiobooks, our Digital Helpers are on hand to support you.

There are a variety of time slots available including Saturday. To book your session please call **01204 332853** or email **digitalhelp@bolton.gov.uk**

Code Club!

Are you aged between 7 and 11?
Interested in learning simple coding while having fun?

We run Code Clubs throughout the year!

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

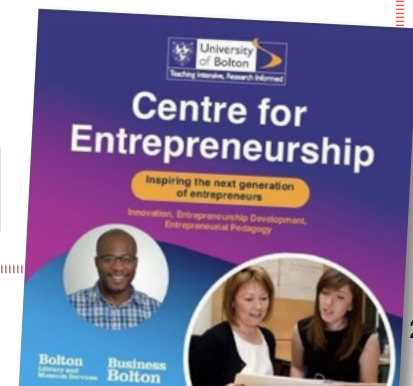


Workshops and events...
lookout for dates!

Build a Business in Bolton

Useful, friendly help for small businesses and hopeful entrepreneurs in Bolton and across Greater Manchester. Over the next six months there will be a range of workshops and networking events.

For more information about Build A Business and workshops go to:
www.buildabusinessgm.org



Calendar of events

September

		Page
5	Singing together for health	19
13	Heritage Open Day	5
23	Dug It - Archaeology ID Day	16
12	Creation of Aquarium display	16
14	Surprises from the Natural History store	16
16	Writing about Nature Panel	19
23	Messy Play with Sugar Lumps	20

October

		Page
3	Innovating: The Inventions that changed Bolton	16
4-8	Bolton Film Festival	22
5	National Poetry Day	18
7	Messy Play with Sugar Lumps	20
7	Poetry Family Fun Day	18
8	Dug It - Archaeology ID Day	16
9	Surprises from the Natural History store	16
10	World Mental Health Day	19
10	Live Literature	23

November

		Page
1/2	Luna Loves Library Day	21
7	Egypt talk	16
7	Live Literature	23
11	Messy Play with Sugar Lumps	20
11	Diwali family celebration day	19
30	Put Big Light On Festival 2023!	10-11

December

		Page
1/2/7/8/9	Put Big Light On Festival 2023!	10-11
3	The Lightbulb Princess	21
3/10/17	Father Christmas Experience	12-13
5	Surprises from the collections	16
5	Live Literature	23
16	Father Christmas Experience for children with additional needs	12-13
16	Dug It - Archaeology ID Day	16
19	Father Christmas Experience for teen/adult believers	12-13
23 Dec to 7 Jan	Seasonal holiday activities	7



21 Oct - 5 Nov Half term

		Page
24	Surprises from the Natural History store	16
27	Fantastic Friday	4
31	Halloween funday	8
31	Haunted Family Ghost Tours	9

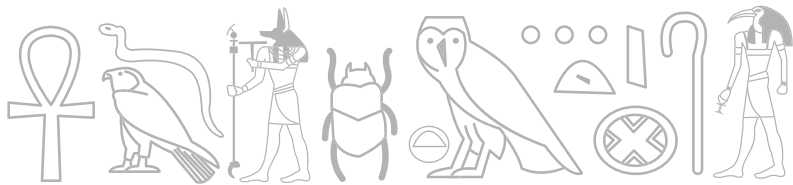


Funded by UK Government

GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

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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