

# Halifax Heritage Festival

September 2017

## Heritage Festival Returns to Halifax

**HALIFAX  
HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL**

The Halifax Heritage Festival is taking place between Thursday 7th September and Sunday 10th September 2017 across the town

centre, local villages, and local market towns.

Coordinated by Halifax Business Improvement District, there will be approximately 20 heritage sites hosting events and activities during the festival with over 60 walks, talks, tours, viewings, exhibitions and live music events taking place.

Most events are free of charge to attend, a limited few have a small cost

or donation requirement, with nothing costing more than £5 per person.

Visitors can expect family activities, children's events, evening talks and lunch time walks, with historical lectures, ghostly tales, hidden gems, and uncovered tombs being included in the weekend.

Running alongside the already renowned Heritage Open Days, the Halifax Heritage Festival offers many unique events taking place, there's something for all ages.

There will be opportunity to wander around sites that aren't usually open to the public, looking at some of the finest buildings and architecture in the North of England, offering the chance to interact with the past.



# The Piece Hall - Now Open!



## Yorkshire's Most Important Secular Building

The Grade I listed Piece Hall is a rare and precious thing, an architectural and cultural phenomenon which is absolutely unique. It is the sole survivor of the great eighteenth century northern cloth halls, a class of buildings which embodied the vital and dominant importance of the trade in hand woven textiles to the pre-industrial economy of the West Riding of Yorkshire, from the Middle Ages through to the early nineteenth century.

Dating from 1779, it was built as a Cloth Hall for the trading of 'pieces' of cloth (a 30 yard length of woven woollen fabric produced on a handloom), The Piece Hall was the most ambitious and prestigious of its type and now stands in splendid isolation as the only remaining example.

When it was built, The Piece Hall was a highly visible statement of the great wealth, pride and ambition of the cloth manufacturers. Although built for trade, it also embodied the most cultured sensitivities of the Enlightenment; these bluff northern manufacturers deliberately chose a design for their building which adapted the neo-classical orders of

architecture derived originally from the Romans.

## Family Heritage Tour

**Date: Saturday 9th September and Sunday 10th September 2017**

**Times: 11am, 2pm and 3.30pm**  
(Tours will meet at the Welcome Centre)

**Cost: Free (places limited)**

Meet John Caygill, a Georgian Gentleman, for a tour of The Piece Hall.

## Heritage Tours

**Date: 7th to 10th September 2017**

**Time: 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm**

**Cost: Free**

**Max number: 25 places per tour**

Come and join us for a guided tour of The Piece Hall's fascinating heritage. Meet your guide at the Welcome Centre.

## Get Creative!

**Date: Saturday 9th September 2017**

**Times: 10.30am - 3.30pm**

**Cost: £3**

Make a Georgian statue or character from the past and spend time in our story corner.



# Hidden Gems of Halifax

## Take a tour and uncover Halifax's Hidden Gems

**Date: Thursday 7th to Sunday  
10th September 2017**

**Cost £5**

**To book please contact Halifax  
Minster office on 01422 355436**

Halifax's hidden gems are set to be revealed in all their historic glory thanks to a special tour. The tour - either by foot or bus - has been organised by Halifax Minster with the support of busienses and heritage sites from across Halifax.



They will allow those taking part to delve into the fascinating history of the town and perhaps uncover some surprise along the way.

The walking tours, which take around two hours, begin at Halifax Town Hall and finish at the Minster with a welcome cup of tea or coffee - and an optional climb to the top of the Minster tower!

## Hidden Tales of Halifax Minster Churchyard

**Halifax Minster**

**Date: Friday 8th and Saturday 9th  
September 2017**

**Time: 11am**

**Cost: £3 (pay on arrival)**

Come along and find out - Where was the secret tunnel? Who was the murdered vicar? Where is the ancient Masonic tombstone? Which mother and daughter both ran away to marry? Who sang in the choir at Versailles? Which woman had 24 children? What was the scandal attached to the last of the Waterhouses? Where was the old vicarage? Who paid for the Minster porch? Discover many other fascinating local history facts, too!

**Hidden Gems  
Bus Tour**

**Saturday  
14:00, 15:00  
Sunday  
14:00, 15:00**



## Halifax Music Heritage Trail

**Date: Sunday 10th September  
2017**

**Time: 2pm**

**Cost: £5**

The second of only two guided tours of the Halifax Music Heritage Trail taking place this year. Lead by Michael Ainsworth & Trevor Simpson, you'll hear about the fascinating and surprising history of Halifax from the mid 1950s onwards. Expect to hear tales of Shirley Bassey, Dusty Springfield, Donovan, The Kinks, Pulp, The Jacksons, John Grant and many more as we visit many of the venues of yesteryear.

[www.musictrailuk.com](http://www.musictrailuk.com)

**Hidden Gems  
Walking Tours**

**Thursday  
11:00, 14:00, 15:00**

**Friday  
11:00, 14:00, 15:00**

**Saturday  
10:00, 11:00, 14:00, 15:00**

**Sunday  
11:30, 13:30, 14:30, 15:00**

# Museums

## Shibden Hall

**Date:** Thursday 7th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September 2017

**Time:** 11am-5pm

**Free Entry**

**Tour:** Sunday 10th September 2017 at 2pm

For over 300 hundred years Shibden Hall was the home of the Lister family, but the house itself is even older, first built in about 1420. Many generations of people and their families have lived and worked here, and all have left their mark on its history.



### Special Events at Evokesomm Wine Bar

7th & 10th September - Yorkshire Gin Days

8th September - Live Music - In Echoes 7pm

9th September - Free Wine Tasting 3pm-4pm



## Bankfield Musuem

**Date:** Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th September 2017

**Time:** 10am to 4pm

**Free Entry**

**Tours:** Friday 8th September and Saturday 9th September 2017 at 11am & 2pm

Bankfield Museum is set in the attractive surroundings of Akroyd Park and the Akroydon village conservation area. This Victorian mansion was the home of local mill owner, philanthropist, MP and founder of the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Colonel Edward Akroyd. Bankfield is steeped in history and has been a museum for over 100 years. There is also the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum covering over 300 years of the regiment since 1702.

## Calderdale Industrial Museum

**Date:** Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September 2017

**Time:** Saturday 1:30pm - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm

Celebrating the reopening of this great museum, visitors are invited to explore at their leisure.

The museum contains a unique collection of industrial machinery associated with the local textile industry, including steam engines, carpet looms, fulling stocks, wire-drawing machinery and not forgetting the toffee-wrapping machine.



Le Munch Bunch

Free mini Yorkshire Parkin loaf with the purchase of a hot drink.

Only available 7th-9th September.

Must bring voucher, no photocopies and can not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

# Out and About



Square Church

## Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel

**Date: Saturday 9th and Sunday  
10th September 2017**

Visit Pepper Hill Chapel to admire their beautiful Art Deco windows, along with tea and cakes.

## All Souls Haley Hill

**Date: Saturday 9th and Sunday  
10th September 2017**

**Time: 11am-4pm**  
**Tour: Sunday 10th September  
2017 at 11am**

The Churches Conservation Trust is working with a local watercolour artist named Jane Austin who is putting together an exhibition to be held at the church over the weekend. During the exhibition Jane will also

be performing demonstrations for those who wish to observe.

## Woolshops Shopping Centre

**Date: Thursday 7th to Saturday  
9th September 2017**  
**Time: 10am to 3pm**

The Woolshops derives its name from its unique history within the town, where in medieval times the street was known for buying and selling wool from the nearby farmers, which was then sold to cottage weavers, to be later sold as pieces of cloth, in the historic Piece Hall.

Call in to see an exhibition of photos of Woolshops through the ages, a great display of photos from years gone by.

## Lister Lane Cemetery

**Date: Sunday 10th September  
2017**

**Time: 12.30pm to 4pm**  
**Tours: 1pm and 2.30pm**

Halifax's General Cemetery is the last resting place of nearly 20,000 past local residents and others from the 1840s to 1963. These include Mill owners, Chartists, Waterloo Soldiers, Great War fatalities, Nurses, nonconformist clergy, organ builders, and even murder victims. This year there will be a focus on Sir Francis Crossley and his family, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth in 1817. The cemetery also celebrates the 175th an-

niversary of its first burials in 1842, and the oldest tombstone will be highlighted. Digital Family History information concerning all the cemetery's burials will be available to consult.

## Yorkshire Alms- Houses

**Waterhouse Homes, Harrison  
Road**

**Date: Sunday 10th September  
2017**  
**Time: 2pm**

The Mayor of Calderdale will unveil a plaque commemorating Halifax's Great Benefactor, Nathaniel Waterhouse 1686-1645, following which the annual Halifax Civic Trust Lecture will be given in the Community Room on site. This year's subject is "Yorkshire Alms-houses" and will be presented by expert Helen Caffrey.

# Theatre

## Halifax Playhouse

**Date: Sunday 10th September 2017**

**Time: 11am - 4:30pm**

Tours of the theatre, displays and history of the building and society. Talk to stage builders, director and cast. Visit the technical area and see how a set is lit and sound effects recorded as well as looking at props, set dressing and costumes.

## Victoria Theatre

### 1 hour tours of the Victoria Theatre

Have a look around the oldest and largest theatre in Halifax still in operation and hear all about the fascinating heritage surrounding this building.

**For tour dates and times please contact the Victoria Theatre:**  
01422 351156  
victoriatheatremarketing@calderdale.gov.uk

## Historical Drama

**Sans Illuminaire - Halifax Minster**  
**Date: Friday 8th September 2017**  
**Time: 7.30pm**  
**Cost: £5**

Characters from our town's past will return to life for an evening at the Minster during Halifax Heritage Festival, on Friday 8th September from 7.30pm. Twelve costumed former citizens will each say something



Original artists impression of The Victoria Theatre.

about their lives and their connection with the building. There will be musical interludes. A magical, candlelit evening, directed by David Glover. Light refreshments available.

Tickets in advance from the Minster office, 01422 355436.

# Central Library

## What did the Great War ever do for us?

**Halifax Great War Heritage Society**

**Friday 8th September 2017**  
**Time: 11am**

**Meeting Room, Second Floor, Central Library & Archives, Halifax (just through the new east gateway of the Piece Hall)**

David Millichope and Rob Hamilton, of Halifax Great War Heritage Society, will introduce briefly their HLF project to create an online database of information from local newspapers concerning the impact of the First World War on communities in Calderdale. With reference to the locality, they will then go on to answer the question, 'What did the Great War ever do for us?'



Imperial Crown Hotel, Halifax  
£55.00 bed & breakfast  
Call today on 01422 342342  
quoting "HERITAGE OFFER".  
The rate will be valid between  
Thursday 7th September &  
Sunday 10th September 2017  
only.

Admission is free of charge but a ticket must be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre in the Central Library (old or new) or ring 01422 368725



15% off at White Swan Hotel,  
Halifax  
Call today on 01422 355541  
quoting "HALIFAX HERITAGE".  
The discount will be valid  
between Thursday 7th  
September & Sunday 10th  
September 2017 only.

## Square Roots - Round and About the New Central Library & Archives

**Date: Friday 8th September 2017**  
**Time: 2pm**

Join Anne Kirker, of Calderdale Heritage Walks, for a walk around the locality of the New Central Library. Find out about the history of this area, taking in Square Chapel, Square Church, the Industrial Museum site, Caygill's Square and Woolshops.

Meet at the entrance to New Central Library & Archives (just through the east gateway of the Piece Hall) in

time to start the walk at 2pm.

**The walk will last about an hour. It will be free of charge but a ticket must be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre in the Central Library (old or new) or ring 01422 368725**

## Square Roots - A self-guided heritage tour in the New Central Library and Archives

### During opening hours

Pick up a leaflet in the library and walk round at your leisure, getting to know the new library along with the history of the site and its immediate surroundings.

# Halifax Town Hall

## Town Hall Tours

**Date: Thursday 7th & Friday 8th  
September 2017**  
**Time: 10am & 2pm**

### The last major commission of Sir Charles Barry.

Built in a North Italian Cinquecento style, with a grand tower and spire, the interior includes a central hall similar to that at Bridgewater House.

Visit Halifax Town Hall and enjoy a FREE tour of the Grade II\* listed

building. It is a building of immense architectural significance and was designed by Sir Charles Barry. See inside Victoria Hall and the Council Chamber where Calderdale Councillors still make decisions to this day.

Book online [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) searching for Halifax Town Hall



Halifax Town Hall

## Halifax in the 1930s

**Halifax Town Hall**  
**Date: Thursday 7th September  
2017**  
**Time: 6.30pm**

A brand new slideshow with amazing nostalgic photos of Old Halifax from many decades ago, presented by David Glover at Halifax Town Hall. Photos include: Tramline laying in King Cross Street, building Bull Green House, laying out Pellon New Road, widening Salterhebble railway bridge, the Beacon Hill Road landslide, and Siddal's new Public Conveniences!

