



BRADFORD  
LITERATURE  
FESTIVAL

**27 June - 6 July 2025**  
explore words, discover worlds

• ART • LITERATURE • HISTORY • FILM • MUSIC • DEBATE • POETRY • COMEDY •





**AWARDS & PRIZES**

**BOOK LAUNCHES**

**CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES**

**CONFERENCES**

**DEBATES**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**FILMS & SCREENINGS**

**GIGS & NIGHTS OUT**

**IN CONVERSATION**

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**LECTURES**

**MASTERCLASS**

**PANEL**

**PODCAST RECORDINGS**

**RECEPTIONS**

**SALONS**

**SLAM HEATS**

**TALKS**

**TOURS**

**WALKS**

**WORKSHOPS**



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## TICKETS START FROM JUST £5

Free tickets are available through discounts and concessions – see page 148

**FREE  
FAMILY  
FUN DAYS**

Please note some event details may change. Visit the website for the latest listings and details.

## BOOKING INFORMATION



**01274 044 140**

Pre-festival: Monday–Friday, 09.30–16.30  
During Festival: Daily, 09.30–Last Show



**BRADFORDLITFEST.CO.UK**



**BOXOFFICE@BRADFORDLITFEST.CO.UK**



**IN PERSON**

In person from the Festival Hub, City Park, up to 30 minutes prior to the start of the event (subject to availability)

Tickets for Bradford Literature Festival (BLF) events are sold on an individual event basis, therefore tickets must be purchased separately for each event that you wish to attend. You can buy tickets online, in person at the Box Office or over the phone.

The price of tickets may vary and will be clearly stated against each individual event listing. All ticket prices are inclusive of VAT and booking fee. Discounts and concessions apply.



# A WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR



Welcome to Bradford Literature Festival 2025! I invite you to take a little time to browse the pages of this programme. I am confident that, whatever your age or background or interests, you will find things here to stimulate your mind and your imagination. Every since it was launched (a mere 11 years ago), BLF has celebrated not just the written word but culture in a broader sense, in partnership with great writers, artists and musicians - and with the passionate participation of so many people who share our belief that literature and culture have the power not only to improve lives but to change society.

This year, we are especially proud to celebrate Bradford's designation as the UK City of Culture 2025 making Bradford the hot topic of 2025, an accolade reflecting the vibrant cultural landscape and creative energy that BLF has helped to nurture and shape over the years. In honour of this milestone, our programme brings together internationally renowned names alongside exciting new voices, offering conversations that will make you laugh, cry, challenge your assumptions, and, we hope, make you think.

So won't you come and join us this summer? BLF, as you will know if you have visited before,

is unlike any other literature festival. It is young and edgy, rooted in its community but reaching out to audiences across the country and beyond. That is its purpose and also its subject matter - things that are important to Bradford but also big ideas that are being discussed across the globe.

Last year we attracted more than 150,000 visitors to around 700 events during the ten days of the festival. There were conversations galore, but also exhibitions and music and dance, just as there will be this year. And we know from talking to these visitors that they shared our enthusiasm for BLF, not simply for its festival programme but also for its values - its emphasis, in particular, on access and education.

Bradford is one of the youngest cities in the UK, measured by the age of our population, and also one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse in all of Europe. So, while you see from the pages of the programme that there are things here for everyone, you will also notice that our focus on youth and diversity is reflected in the priority we attach to those constituencies.

Let me close with sincere thanks to our sponsors and supporters. Your generosity and belief in the festival's mission are the foundation on which BLF stands. Thanks to your support, nearly 90% of last year's attendees were able to enjoy events free of charge. I would especially like to acknowledge Arts Council England, our long-standing partner, and say how delighted we are that Doha Debates—a project of Qatar Foundation—is returning for a second year; your support is helping to expand the reach and resonance of the festival in powerful new ways.

Heartfelt thanks, finally, to my brilliant predecessor, Sir Richard Lambert, and to our inspiring Director, Syima Aslam, whose idea this festival was and who, with the support of her terrific team, never ceases to amaze me.

**John Makinson**  
Chair of BLF Board



# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th edition of Bradford Literature Festival (BLF) — a celebration of ideas, imagination, and the power of words to bring us together.

Now more than ever, as our world faces deepening polarisation and global uncertainty, we are reminded that culture is not a luxury, it is a necessity. It is the glue that binds us in times of fracture, offering us space to reflect, reimagine, and reach across divides. Through poetry and politics, storytelling and song, we build urgently needed understanding and empathy.

BLF was founded on the principle that access to culture should never depend on where you live or what you earn. Over the past decade, the festival has become one of the UK's most distinctive cultural events — international in scope, proudly rooted in Bradford, and shaped by the communities we serve. Our mission remains the same: to offer exceptional cultural experiences that are inclusive, bold, and deeply relevant to the world around us.

Whether you're drawn to literature, politics, science, faith, music or philosophy, you'll find space here for collective joy and inquiry, for curiosity and connection.

Our programme reflects the complexities of the times we live in, with events on artificial intelligence, climate justice, geopolitics, faith, and identity, while also offering moments of joy, beauty, and celebration. From TikTok readers to

classical scholars to children and young people, all are welcome. BLF is designed to be a place of wonder, a space where aspiration and imagination are nurtured side by side.

Crucially, we remain committed to breaking down financial and social barriers to participation. Our ethical ticketing policy, our free-to-access events, and our deep community engagement work are all part of our belief that culture should be a public good, not a private privilege.

BLF is proud to stand as the most inclusive and diverse festival in Europe. Often described as both disruptive and innovative, the festival is rooted in a simple yet powerful idea: that representation matters, and that everyone deserves to see themselves reflected in the cultural life of this country.

We are honoured to be working with partners who share this vision, your support enables us to keep this space open, inclusive, and thriving. Our sincere thanks go to Arts Council England, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, the University of Bradford, Pears Foundation, Rayne Foundation, El-Hibri Foundation, Avicenna Foundation, British Council, and Islamic Relief.

We are especially pleased this year to deepen our international collaborations — with a returning partnership with Doha Debates, a project of Qatar Foundation. These global connections reflect the festival's growing role as a platform for dialogue across borders and cultures.

As Bradford takes its place on the national stage as the UK's City of Culture, we are proud that BLF continues to represent the spirit of this city: diverse, imaginative, fiercely independent, and globally connected. We hope you find something in this year's programme that moves you, challenges you, or simply stays with you long after the festival ends.

This is your space and we look forward to welcoming you.

**Syima Aslam**  
CEO & Artistic Director



# FUNDERS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS

## Funded By



## Book Partner



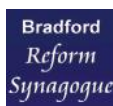
## Community Broadcast Partner



## Hotel Partners



## Venue Partners





## Cultural Partners







# OPPORTUNITY AWAITS. YOU READY?

Choose from over 70 courses. Learn from academic experts in industry-standard facilities.

Find a subject that excites you and apply:

👉 [bradford.ac.uk/study](https://bradford.ac.uk/study)



UNIVERSITY of  
BRADFORD





# EDUCATION PROGRAMME



**Thursday 26 June –  
Friday 4 July 2025**

Bradford Literature Festival (BLF) has developed an expansive, free education programme that invites leading writers, performance poets, illustrators, scientists, historians, journalists, among many others, to share their skills through live shows, performances and interactive workshops.

Each day features exciting events, following a curriculum-targeted theme, aimed at Key Stages 2, 3, and 4, championing an inclusive curriculum that fosters different perspectives on taught topics.

**The programme is free to all non-fee-paying schools, education groups, and home educators across the North.**



## Free Lesson Plan Library

As part of BLF's Digital Education Programme, an online library of free lesson plans and resources is now available.

Visit our website to access videos, lesson plans, and worksheets:  
[bradfordlitfest.co.uk/education-programme](http://bradfordlitfest.co.uk/education-programme)

BLF's resources cover Key Stages 2, 3, and 4, scaffolding and building on curriculum learnings.

Each lesson has been designed for a specific year group but can easily be adapted for younger or older learners.

**Book your place now: [bradfordlitfest.co.uk/education-programme](http://bradfordlitfest.co.uk/education-programme)**





## ART OF INTEGRATION

📍 **Broadway Shopping Centre** ⌚ 9:00 - 19:00

**Keighley Airedale** ⌚ 9:00 - 18:00

**Shipley Underground Market** ⌚ 9:00 - 17:00

🗣️ Exhibitions

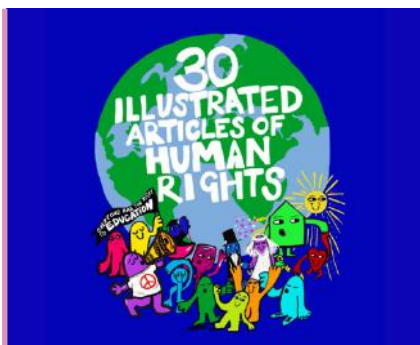
ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

The Art of Integration is a poignant photography exhibition by world-renowned artist Peter Sanders, celebrating the richness and diversity of Muslim life across Britain. Through powerful, intimate imagery, Sanders presents a moving visual narrative of faith, culture, and everyday moments - capturing the humanity, spirituality, and harmony at the heart of British Muslim identity. With warmth and sensitivity, his work invites reflection on belonging and the shared values that connect us all.

Displayed in public spaces - Broadway in Bradford, Airedale Shopping Centre in Keighley, and Shipley Market - the exhibition transforms everyday venues into galleries of insight and understanding, making art accessible to all.

Alongside the exhibition, see our programme for a special talk exploring Sanders' acclaimed book *The Art of Integration: Islam in Our Green and Pleasant Land*. This conversation deepens the themes of the exhibition, offering personal insights and stories that challenge stereotypes and highlight the enduring connection between faith, identity, and British life.





## 30 ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

📍 **Keighley Library**  
**Shipley Library**  
**Manningham Library**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 ALL FESTIVAL

Visit library websites for daily opening times. | **FREE** (Drop-in)

Presented by RFK Human Rights UK, this powerful exhibition brings the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to life through a series of 30 vibrant illustrations by artist, Emma Evans.

Each artwork interprets one of the Declaration's articles, combining bold visuals with accessible language to highlight the universal rights and freedoms we all share. Designed to educate, engage, and inspire, the exhibition offers a fresh, creative lens on justice, equality, and dignity.

Suitable for all ages, it invites viewers to reflect on the relevance of human rights in today's world and the ongoing struggle to uphold them.



## RIDING TIME

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 9:30 until last shows of the day

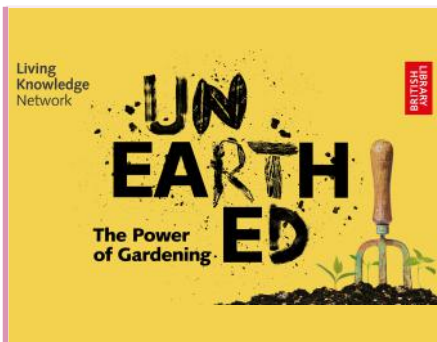
ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

The exhibition, *Riding Time*, drawing from the documentary *Neza Bazi Stables*, presents striking still images from the film directed by Farhaan Mumtaz and Roopa Gogineni, exploring the ancient South Asian cavalry sport of tent pegging within Bradford's Pakistani British community.

Accompanied by multilingual poetry drawn from the filmmakers' research, the display offers thoughtful reflections on identity, migration, and heritage. Explore the cultural importance of the sport and its ties to tradition and community.

Join us for a special screening of *Neza Bazi Stables* featuring a Q&A with co-directors Farhaan Mumtaz and Roopa Gogineni and participants from the film. See page 42 for further information.





## UNEARTHED: THE POWER OF GARDENING

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 9:30 until last shows of the day

ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

Gardens have always been more than beautiful spaces. They are places of power, protest, and possibility.

*Unearthed: The Power of Gardening*, a major exhibition at the British Library, uncovers the radical history of gardening and its profound influence on culture, identity and social change.

From private sanctuaries to communal plots, it explores how gardening has served as an act of resistance, a tool for healing and a means of reimagining the future.

This *Unearthed* pop-up display from the British Library's Living Knowledge Network brings a taster of the exhibition to Bradford, and links to the Library's *The Future of Gardening* panel event on 5 July.



## AL-QASWA: WITNESS TO SACRED HISTORY

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 9:30 until last shows of the day

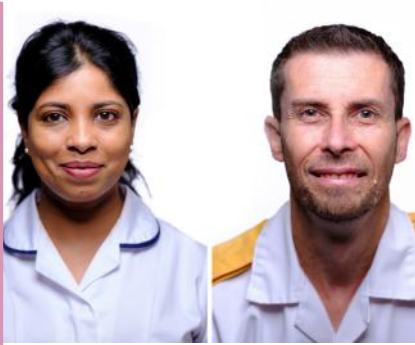
🕒 ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

Explore the life of Al-Qaswā', the beloved she-camel of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, in this unconventional, yet thoughtful exhibition curated by the House of Islamic Arts and Professor Abdullah Alkadi.

The exhibition traces Al-Qaswā's journey - from the Hijrah to the Farewell Hajj. Al-Qaswā' embodies the Islamic values of mercy and compassion as a witness to revelation and a symbol of loyalty.

Drawing from decades of research on the Hijrah Route, this exhibition invites visitors to reflect on sacred history through the quiet presence of this noble companion.





## THROUGH THEIR EYES - AN AUDIO-VISUAL STORY OF OUR PEOPLE BRADFORD TEACHING HOSPITALS

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 9:30 until last shows of the day  
ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

With its roots in the Bradford Dispensary, which opened in 1825, Bradford Teaching Hospitals has been serving our community for almost 200 years.

The story of this institution is not just one of bricks and mortar, it is a story of its people. These intimate portraits and audio testimonies, part of Bradford Teaching Hospitals' Belonging series, provide an insight into the life and work of colleagues across Bradford's hospitals.

From porters and midwives to volunteers and medical secretaries, their stories reveal the deep sense of belonging that drives their work serving the people of Bradford.



## SMOKE AND MIRRORS

📍 **One City Park, Reception Area**

🔊 Exhibitions

🕒 10:00- 17:00

ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

*Smoke and Mirrors* is a powerful photographic exhibition by award-winning photojournalist Seamus Murphy, featuring an extended photo essay centred on the West Bank city of Nablus.

Captured during the second intifada while working on the acclaimed Palestinian feature film *Paradise Now* in 2004, Murphy's images explore how the carefully staged scenes on set often echoed the real-life tensions and rituals playing out on the streets of Nablus.

His new photographs, taken this summer in Nablus, reflect on the ongoing realities of occupation and the strength and endurance of the Palestinian people.

Visitors are invited to explore this compelling visual narrative that bridges past and present with raw emotional depth.






## MILLS TRANSFORMED

**Neil Horsley**

 **City Park, Festival Hub**

 Exhibitions

 9:30 until last shows of the day

ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

Across the North of England, textile mills once stood as the engines of the Industrial Revolution, shaping communities and skylines alike. Today, many of these historic structures have found new life, repurposed into homes, studios, cultural spaces, and more.


In *Mills Transformed*, photographer Neil Horsley documents the remarkable regeneration of over 30 such mills. Through striking images and compelling narratives, the exhibition celebrates the visionaries who have reimaged these spaces, blending heritage with innovation.


This exhibition offers a unique reflection on the region's industrial past and its evolving future. It stands as a testament to resilience, creativity, and the enduring spirit of northern communities.



## MAKE MINE MANGA

 **Unit 1, The Imagination Station**

 Exhibitions

 9:00 - 18:00

ALL FESTIVAL | **FREE** (Drop-in)

Step into the exciting world of manga, the vibrant art form that has captured imaginations across the globe.

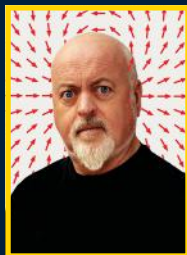
*Make Mine Manga* is an exhibition celebrating the creativity, skill and storytelling behind Japan's iconic comics. Learn how manga is made, see stunning artwork from legendary Japanese artists, and discover how British creators are making manga their own.

Curated by comics expert Paul Gravett, this exhibition invites visitors of all ages to enjoy the bold visuals, unforgettable characters, and powerful stories that make manga such a unique and exciting part of today's visual culture.





# BRADFORD LIVE



## BILL BAILEY

SAT 30 AUG

COMEDY



## SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW

THU 27 -  
SUN 30 NOV

FAMILY



## THE PRAT PACK BRADLEY WALSH BRIAN CONLEY SHANE RICHIE JOE PASQUALE

SUN 31 AUG

MUSIC & COMEDY



## ROB BRYDON AND HIS FABULOUS BAND

WED 10 DEC

MUSIC & COMEDY



BRADFORD LIVE & LAUGHING

## PHIL WANG ED GAMBLE LOU SANDERS LUCY BEAUMONT JONNY PELHAM

SAT 4 OCT

COMEDY



## ELF THE MUSICAL

MON 22 &  
TUE 23 DEC

FAMILY



## STEVE BACKSHALL'S DEADLY LIVE!

SAT 31 OCT

FAMILY



## DIVERSITY SOUL TOUR

WED 29 APR 2026

DANCE

TICKETS [BRADFORDLIVE.CO.UK](https://bradfordlive.co.uk)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



BRADFORD 2025  
UK City of Culture





## CREATIVE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft Auditorium, Norcroft Centre** | 🗣️ Conference

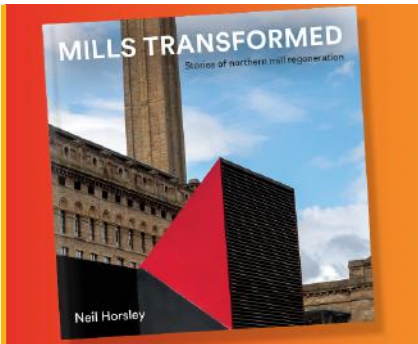
🕒 09:30 (Full Day) | **Free (Ticketed)**

This cross-sector conference brings together leaders in culture, business, policy, and innovation to explore the future of the UK's creative economy.

From industrial strategy and AI, to skills, access to finance, and creative entrepreneurship, the event highlights West Yorkshire's strengths and national relevance. Featuring policymakers, innovators and sector pioneers, sessions include high-tech cluster case studies, creative business showcases, and insights into how culture drives economic growth.

Whether you're shaping policy, scaling a business or investing in new ideas, this conference offers a space for fresh thinking, practical insight, and meaningful collaboration across the creative and economic landscape.





## MILLS TRANSFORMED: REBUILDING BRADFORD'S PAST

Neil Horsley

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join Neil Horsley for an inspiring illustrated talk based on his stunning new book, *Mills Transformed*, which documents the regeneration of Northern England's iconic textile mills, focusing especially on the evolving landscape of Bradford.

Drawing on his evocative photography and compelling personal interviews, Horsley captures the transformation of the city's once-thriving mills into spaces for living, working, and creativity.

Featuring case studies from Bradford and the surrounding region, the event offers a behind-the-scenes look at how these historic buildings are being reimagined for the 21st century.

Make sure to also visit the exhibition of Horsley's photographs in BLF's Festival Hub (page 12).



## LUNCH BITE: LITERATURE THAT HAUNTS

Clare Shaw

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | £7

In this compelling lunchtime session, poet and writer Clare Shaw explores the psychological power of haunted literature through classics like Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* and Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*.

These are stories where the supernatural meets the subconscious, and where fear lives not just in shadowy corridors, but in the human mind.

Unpicking themes of repression, trauma, and ambiguity, this session invites you to rethink what it means to be haunted. Perfect food for thought over lunch





## LOST MILLS AND GHOST MANSIONS

**Alan Dix and Izzie Smith**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

509 Arts have spent two years recording the stories and experiences of Bradford's last generations of textile workers. From mill owners and spinners to weavers and lorry drivers, the testimony of people who worked in the final years of mass textile production in the district has become an invaluable resource.

Students, teachers, historians, researchers, and interested individuals can explore over 80 hours of recorded and documented stories through the Lost Mills Learning Zone.

Join 509 Arts' Artistic Director, Al Dix, and Producer, Izzie Smith, as they share their favourite extracts from the archive and reflect on Bradford's textile legacy.



## AN EVENING OF COMEDY

**Jessica Fostekew, Kyrah Gray, Tez Ilyas and Scott Bennett**

📍 **St George's Hall**

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 19:30 (2 hours) | **£15**

Join us for BLF's annual comedy evening, featuring some of the best comedians in the UK, all set to bring the laughs.

Headlining is TV's brilliantly funny Jessica Fostekew and a stellar lineup of rising comedy stars. This year's host is Bradford's own Tez Ilyas, bringing his signature wit to the stage.

Celebrate the weekend with this sure-fire night of hilarity - this is an event not to be missed!

**The recommended age for this event is 16+.**





## DRAMATIC READINGS AND GHAZALS: A TRIBUTE TO FAIZ

**Adeel Hashmi, Mira Hashmi  
and Priti Kaur**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

**Concerts & Performances**

**19:30 (2 hours 20mins) | £7**

Join Adeel Hashmi and Mira Hashmi, renowned actors and grandchildren of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, for a powerful evening honouring the legendary Urdu poet. The first half features dramatic readings of Faiz's poetry and letters, interwoven with live musical renditions of his verses by acclaimed ghazal artist Priti Kaur.

In the second half, Kaur leads a mehfil-style performance, presenting a curated selection of Faiz's ghazals and others reflecting his poetic vision. Known for her emotionally rich interpretations and deep command of the genre, Kaur brings Faiz's work to life in a moving tribute rooted in tradition, artistry, and reverence.



## A LIT NIGHT OUT: DJ SIMZ

**DJ Simz and Jae Depz**

**Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery**

**Gigs & Nights Out**

**21:00 (4 hours) | £7**

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with the hottest fusion of Bollywood beats, Bhangra rhythms, hip hop and R&B, brought to you by TikTok star - DJ Simz.

Expect a perfect blend of traditional rhythms with contemporary club sounds to keep you moving all night long as she brings the vibes to Bradford

Mark your calendar, gather your crew, and hit the dance floor for an electrifying club night like no other.

**This event is 18+. You may be asked to provide proof of age at the door.**



# SATURDAY 28 JUNE

Get ready for a super-powered Family Fun Day at City Park. Join us for a heroic adventure packed with free activities, from face painting and walkabout characters to thrilling live performances. It's a day designed to spark imaginations, delight all ages, and celebrate the superhero in every member of the family!

## FILM SCREENING

Pictureville,  
National Science &  
Media Museum

Join us for a fun-filled screening of **The Lego Batman Movie**. A hilarious, action-packed adventure that redefines the Dark Knight in colourful, brick-built brilliance. Perfect for all ages.

**11:00 | FREE | Book Online**

**Age Restriction: PG**

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Imagination Station,  
City Park  
& Broadway  
Shopping Centre

Calling all superheroes – come along and let's get making! With three brilliant craft activities to make – all inspired by your favourite heroes. Zoom over to our City Park Imagination Station and Broadway shopping centre to get involved.

**10:00-16:00 | FREE | Drop in**

## STORYTELLING

Imagination Station,  
City Park

Join us for epic superhero storytelling. Tales of bravery, powers, and daring adventures to spark every young hero's imagination!

**Gav Cross** 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:00 | 14:30

**Beth Guiver** 10:30 | 12:00 | 13:30 | 15:00

**Sophia Hatfield** 11:00 | 12:30 | 14:00 | 15:30

**FREE | Book Online**





# FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS

## PERFORMANCES

**City Park**

Be part of the experience as our vibrant performances take over City Park throughout the day. Featuring an energetic brass band, lively bhangra dancing, and the rhythmic beats of dhol drums - celebrating culture, music, and community in full swing!

**10:30 | 12:00 | 13:45 | 15:15 | FREE**

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Waterstones**

Join **Noor Yusuf** for a super-special reading of *Adventures with the Awliya* featuring Jem, Mikael, and Munira's magical adventures. Explore friendship and courage tales in a warm, family-friendly setting.

**15:30 | FREE | Book Online**

## SHADOW PUPPET MAGIC

**1st Floor, City  
Library, City Park**

Experience the magic of traditional shadow puppetry with Karagöz and Hacivat! This captivating performance brings ancient Turkish folk tales to life through enchanting storytelling and mesmerising shadows.

**14:30 | FREE | Book Online**





## HOCKNEY GALLERY TOUR: SALTS MILL

📍 **Salts Mill, Hockney Gallery**

🗣️ Tour

🕒 09:45 (1 hour) | **£7**

Bradford-born painter, printmaker, and photographer, David Hockney, is among the greatest and most influential artists alive today.

The iconic Salts Mill, in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire, is home to one of the world's largest collections of his art, including his famous Arrival of Spring collection, much of which he created on his iPad.

This tour will cover Hockney's earliest pieces from his days at Bradford College of Art, through to his printmaking work and portraits.

Please meet the tour guide in the ground floor foyer at the main entrance (with the sliding glass doors) to Salts Mill. The tour will start promptly.



## SILK ROAD SLIPPERS WRITING MASTERCLASS

**Alex von Tunzelmann, Faiza S Khan and Alexandra Pringle**

📍 **Bright Building, University of  
Bradford, Teaching Room**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 10:00 (2 hours) | **£15**

Join Silk Road Slippers for an inspiring two-hour writing workshop, open to writers of all levels. Led by bestselling historian and screenwriter Alex von Tunzelmann and editor and consultant Faiza S Khan, the session covers the essentials of storytelling, character development, and editing.

Through practical exercises and tailored feedback, you'll gain valuable tools to sharpen your craft. Held in an intimate, supportive setting, the workshop offers space to explore your voice and connect with fellow writers.

Whether you're beginning a first draft or refining a manuscript, this session provides expert guidance to help you take the next step on your writing journey.





## MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN: WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £7

What does it mean to belong in modern Britain? In this powerful and timely event, historian Kieran Connell draws on his own upbringing in one of Birmingham's most diverse neighbourhoods to explore the layered histories of multicultural Bradford.

Taking the question 'Where are you from?' as a starting point, Connell invites us to see multiculturalism not as an abstract concept, but as a lived experience - shaping our families, friendships, food, music, and daily lives.

In a time of growing division, this conversation asks how we can honour the past while imagining a more inclusive, hopeful future.



## YIN YOGA

**Rebecca Riley**

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft  
Lounge, Norcroft Centre**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £5

Spend an hour relaxing your body and restoring your feeling of equilibrium. Yin Yoga offers a series of gentle, passive stretches to ease the body and mind – it is suitable for all bodies and levels of experience.

Rebecca Riley of Yoga Limba will lead a 60-minute session, the benefits of which will stretch far beyond flexibility – reducing anxiety, boosting immunity, and helping you wind down after a busy and stimulating week at Bradford Literature Festival.

Participants will need to bring their own yoga mat.

**This event is suitable for 16+.**






## EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP

**Shamim Rehman**

 **University of Bradford, Room D01.25,  
Horton D Building**

 Workshop

 10:30 (2 hours) | **£10**

Join holistic healer and certified trainer Shamim Rehman for a powerful collective EFT-Matrix experience.



This interactive workshop offers more than just an introduction—it's a hands-on opportunity to experience EFT-Matrix first-hand and feel the shift it creates in your body and mind. Through guided tapping sequences and group healing, you'll explore how this simple yet profound technique can release emotional stress, restore balance, and reconnect you to your inner calm.


The practice of EFT dates back to the 1960s and is now used in a variety of settings, including healthcare, pain management, and general wellbeing. Come with curiosity—and leave feeling lighter, clearer, and more empowered.



## J. B. PRIESTLEY: A LIFE IN OBJECTS

**Irene Lofthouse, Julie Parry and  
Mark Goodall**

 **University of Bradford, Special  
Collections Reading Room, Floor 01,  
J.B Priestley Library** |  Workshop

 10:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£7**

Join us for a rare opportunity to explore the J. B. Priestley Archive, one of the richest collections in the University of Bradford's Special Collections.

Discover the life and legacy of this literary icon through original play scripts, film and TV treatments, personal letters, theatre programmes, press clippings, and evocative photographs. You'll even encounter Priestley's signature pipes.

This intimate session offers unique access to material rarely seen by the public, perfect for fans, scholars, and the curious alike. Step behind the scenes and experience Priestley's world like never before.





## MANGA DRAWING WORKSHOP

**Eira Richards**

📍 **University of Bradford, Room D01.29,  
Horton D Building**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 10:30 | 13:30 (2 hours) | **£5**

Join comic artist and graphic novelist, Eira Richards, for a fun, hands-on workshop exploring the art of manga. Known for her bold, character-led style and expressive storytelling, Eira will guide you through the essentials of manga drawing - perfect for beginners and manga fans of all ages.

Learn how to create dynamic characters, draw expressive faces and poses, and experiment with the visual techniques that make manga such a powerful storytelling form.

No prior experience is needed - just bring your imagination and creativity. All materials provided.

## CURTIS BROWN

### MEET THE AGENT: CURTIS BROWN

📍 **University of Bradford,  
Red Teaching Room, Bright Building**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 11:00 | 11:15 | 11:30 | 11:45 | 12:30 | 12:45 |  
13:00 | 13:15 (15 mins) | **£5**

Join Curtis Brown, one of the UK's leading literary agencies, for a focused session on the art of pitching your work to agents and publishers.

In these one-to-one consultations, you'll gain expert insights into crafting the perfect pitch, understanding what agents look for, and how to approach the submission process. Whether you're new to the publishing world or looking to refine your pitch, this session will provide invaluable tips on presenting your manuscript professionally and confidently.

Learn how to make your work stand out and increase your chances of success in the competitive literary market.

CURTIS BROWN





## PAUL ROGERS: THE WORLD IN 2030

**Paul Rogers**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

With war in the Middle East, Donald Trump's return to the White House, and a new Labour government in the UK, 2025 has brought dramatic political shifts. These come alongside rising climate urgency, widening global inequality, and disruptive advances in AI and biotechnology.

In this timely talk, Professor Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies, explores the key trends shaping our world.

Drawing on decades of expertise in international security, he considers the challenges and opportunities that may define the second half of this turbulent decade - and asks whether a more peaceful, sustainable future is still within reach.



## AL-QASWA

**Abdullah Alkadi, Hamza Yusuf and Asad Tarsin**

📍 **St George's Hall**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Professor Abdullah Alkadi shares the remarkable story of Al-Qaswā', the beloved she-camel of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Faithfully accompanying the Prophet across the Hijaz, the western region of the Arabian Peninsula, Al-Qaswā' is mentioned numerous times in hadith literature, from the Hijrah to the Farewell Hajj.

Joining Professor Alkadi for an engaging discussion is Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, President of Zaytuna College, California. Together, they will explore the Islamic emphasis on compassion, care, and the ethical treatment of animals.

This heartwarming account uncovers a story many have yet to hear, filled with anecdotes that reflect the compassion and spiritual depth of Islam.






## SALTAIRE MODEL VILLAGE: HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

**Maria Glot**

 **Saltaire United Reformed Church**

 Tour

 11:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£7**

Take a step back in time with our guided tour of Saltaire, the historic model village surrounding West Yorkshire's iconic Salts Mill and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Opened in 1853, the mill was the brainchild of manufacturer and philanthropist, Sir Titus Salt, complete with an adjoining model village to house its many workers. Today, Salts Mill is home to one of the world's largest collections of David Hockney art.

Discover what life was like living and working in Saltaire during Salts Mill's industrial heyday on this popular tour. Comfortable footwear and weather appropriate clothing is essential.




## REVEAL AND READ: TAROT CARD WORKSHOP

**Sharon Lambert**

 **City Hall, Reception Room 1**

 Workshop

 11:00 (2 hours) | **£10**

Step into the mysterious world of tarot with this engaging, hands-on workshop led by the enigmatic Sharon Lambert.

Whether you're a curious beginner or looking to deepen your connection with the cards, this workshop is your gateway to understanding tarot's rich history, symbolism, and practical use.

Learn how to interpret the cards, explore their storytelling power, and develop your intuitive reading skills in a supportive environment. You'll also have the chance to put your new knowledge to the test with practice readings. No crystal ball required, just bring an open mind and a dash of curiosity.

**Please note, you will need to bring your own Rider Waite Smith Tarot Deck, available at most stockists.**





## GAZA 2040: IMAGINING THE FUTURE

**Loading Bay**

Panel

11:30 (1 hour) | £7

Amid destruction and dispossession, what does it mean to dream forward? In this powerful conversation, three Palestinian voices look beyond the present crisis and toward the year 2040.

They consider what Gaza might become, the kind of freedom, rebuilding, and renewal that could take shape - and how we begin the journey there.

Gaza 2040 invites us to imagine not just survival, but sovereignty, culture, and healing. Because every movement for justice begins with a vision. And to chart a path from rubble to return, you must first dare to imagine the land whole again.



## FEEDING THE FUTURE

**Stuart Gillespie**

**City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

Talks

11:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join Stuart Gillespie, a leading expert on global nutrition and food security, for an insightful discussion on the challenges and opportunities in feeding the world's growing population.

Drawing from his extensive research, Gillespie explores the links between food systems, climate change, and health, and examines innovative approaches to ensuring sustainable food for future generations.

From addressing hunger in conflict zones to promoting nutrition in everyday diets, this event will provide a deep understanding of how we can all contribute to a healthier, more secure future through thoughtful food practices.






## LOST WATERS, HIDDEN WORDS: A WALKING TRAIL OF BRADFORD BECK

**Barney Lerner**

 **City Park, Festival Hub**

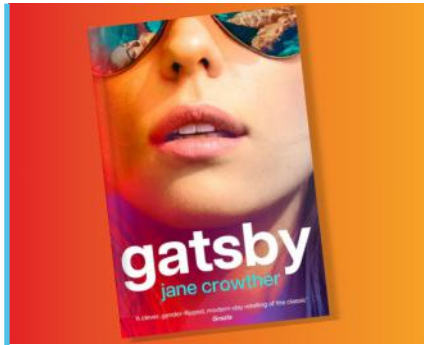
 **Tour**

 **11:30 (2 hours) | £7**

Hidden under Bradford's bustling streets flows the Bradford Beck, a river rich in history and mystery. Follow a trail of 15 striking dark slate plaques marking its secret path, each one offering a poetic clue to the beck's story.

As you walk the trail, look out for two lines of a beautiful poem included on each plaque, and uncover the lyrical story of Bradford's buried waterway. It's part scavenger hunt, part history walk, and part poetic adventure, perfect for curious minds and city explorers alike.

This tour calls for sturdy footwear and weather-ready clothing.




## MODERN DAY GATSBY

**Jane Crowther**

 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

 **Talks**

 **11:45 (1 hour) | £7**

One hundred years after the publication of *The Great Gatsby*, author Jane Crowther brings a bold, glittering twist to F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic tale. In this sharp, stylish reimagining, the story is gender-flipped and thrust into the heart of the 21st century where ambition, obsession, class inequality, and curated online lives collide.

Join Crowther for a conversation about her scandalous, glamorous summer novel and how it speaks to the enduring power, and startling modernity, of Fitzgerald's original.

From Jazz Age parties to Instagram-perfect illusions, this is *Gatsby* as you've never seen it before.





## THE GREAT UNRAVELLING: DEMOCRACY & DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGE OF POPULISM

**Mark Malloch Brown, Sir Andrew Mitchell and Nabeela Rasheed**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

Panel

12:00 (1 hour) | £7

What happens when the institutions built to support democracy and global development begin to unravel? As populism reshapes politics and international cooperation retreats, long-standing frameworks for aid, diplomacy, and democratic support are being hollowed out or dismantled.

In this urgent conversation, Mark Malloch Brown and Andrew Mitchell explore the consequences of weakened global partnerships, shrinking civic space, and the erosion of trust in democratic values.

Can the democratic project survive in an age of polarisation and retreat - or are we witnessing the end of an era? And if so, what must take its place?



## IN-POWER-HER: RECLAIMING YOUR INNER POWER

**Ana Mattos**

**University of Bradford, Room D01.25,  
Horton D Building**

Workshop

12:00 (2 hours) | £10

Join us for a reflective, empowering workshop that invites you to look inward, recognise limiting beliefs, and release what no longer serves you.

Through meditation, breath work, and inspiring group sharing, you'll reconnect with your authentic self and explore how to live more truthfully within your family and culture.

This is a space for deep reflection, where you'll feel supported, heard, and safe. Together, we'll uncover your voice and reclaim your power, so you can move forward with clarity, confidence, and joy. Come as you are and leave feeling uplifted, connected, and in your power.

**Please note this is a women-only event.**





## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: WHO GETS TO SPEAK?

**Burhan Sönmez**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

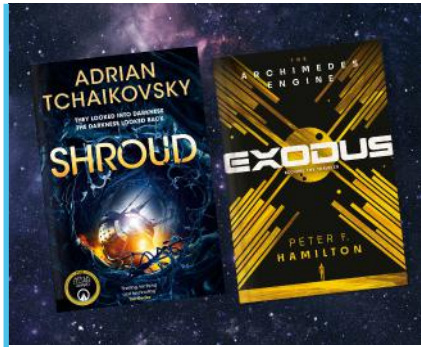
🗣️ Talks

🕒 12:15 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

What does freedom of expression mean in 2025? From hate speech and identity politics to digital censorship and protest bans, the boundaries of free speech are more contested than ever.

This timely event explores the forces shaping public debate today: the line between speech and harm, the influence of tech platforms, and how power and privilege shape who gets heard.

Join our panel as they ask: Are our freedoms under threat? Who decides what can be said - and what must be silenced? And how do we safeguard free expression while building a fairer, more inclusive society?



## OUT OF THIS WORLD WITH TCHAIKOVSKY AND HAMILTON

**Adrian Tchaikovsky, Peter F. Hamilton and Antony Johnston**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 12:30 (1 hour) | £7

Step into the far future with two of the most visionary minds in science fiction: Peter F. Hamilton, author of *Exodus: The Archimedes Engine*, and Adrian Tchaikovsky, author of *Shroud and the Children of Time* series.

In this unmissable conversation, they join forces to explore the big ideas, bold worlds, and moral questions at the heart of their work, discussing how science fiction helps us imagine the possibilities, and dangers, of humanity's future.

Chaired by author and screenwriter, Antony Johnston, this event celebrates the genre's power to stretch the imagination and ask what it means to be human.





## ORWELL VS PRIESTLEY

**Jean Seaton**

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

🗣️ **Panel**

🕒 **13:00 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7**

The summer of 1945 marked two landmark moments in British literary history: the premiere of J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* in July, and the publication of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* in August.

Though shaped by very different upbringings - Priestley, a grammar school boy from Bradford and Orwell, public school-educated and Eton-trained - both writers shared a fierce commitment to social justice and a belief in literature's power to shape society.

In this timely and insightful conversation, Professor Jean Seaton, Official Historian of the BBC, explores the lives, legacies, and occasional frictions between two of the 20th century's most influential literary voices.



## SURVEILLANCE STATES

**Jake Hurfurt - Big Brother Watch,  
and Hassan Ugail**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ **Talks**

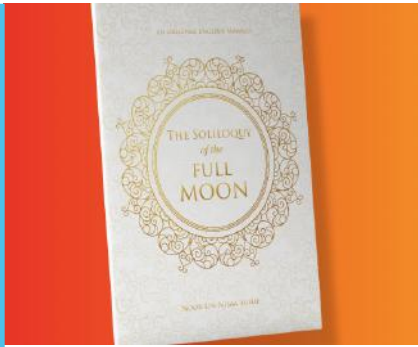
🕒 **13:00 (1 hour) | £7**

In an age where artificial intelligence is transforming the landscape of security and surveillance, this compelling discussion brings together two leading voices at the heart of the debate.

Dr Hassan Ugail, a renowned AI and biometrics expert, offers deep insight into the power and potential of facial recognition technology. Joining him is Jake Hurfurt, a prominent civil liberties campaigner who has led national efforts to expose the unchecked use of facial recognition.

Together, they will explore the complex balance between public safety and personal privacy, questioning where we draw the line in a world of increasing digital oversight.





## SOLILOQUY OF THE FULL MOON

Asim Yusuf and Noor Yusuf

📍 Loading Bay

🔊 Talks

🕒 13:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Author Noor Yusuf and Shaykh Dr. Asim Yusuf explore *The Soliloquy of the Full Moon* - the first English language Mawlid of its kind.

Written by Yusuf, at just 15, *The Soliloquy of the Full Moon* is an epic poem composed over twelve nights in Rab al-Awwal 1436H. The poem spans over a thousand lines, celebrating the life and virtues of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) ﷺ.

With its Barzanjian form and Shakespearean rhythm, the work weaves classical style with spiritual depth. Yusuf will reflect on the poem's significance, highlighting themes such as the Prophet's birth, early signs, revelations, and the night journey, offering a fresh lens on prophetic devotion.



## JANE AUSTEN: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE WORDS

Caroline Sanderson, Helena Kelly, Lizzie Dunford

📍 Bradford Live, Ballroom

🔊 Panel

🕒 13:30 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

250 years since her birth, step into the world of one of English literature's most beloved authors, Jane Austen. Her wit, social critique, and unforgettable characters have captivated readers for over two centuries, but who was the woman behind *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Emma*?

Join Caroline Sanderson, Helena Kelly, and Lizzie Dunford as they explore Austen's life, legacy, and literary brilliance. From her sharp observations of class and gender to the personal experiences that shaped her novels, this event offers fresh insight into Austen's world.

Discover how her quiet defiance and enduring relevance continue to inspire, and gain a deeper understanding of the woman who redefined the novel and remains a literary legend.






## FROM CIVILISATION TO CIVIL WAR: A HISTORY OF SYRIA

**Saeed Khan**

 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

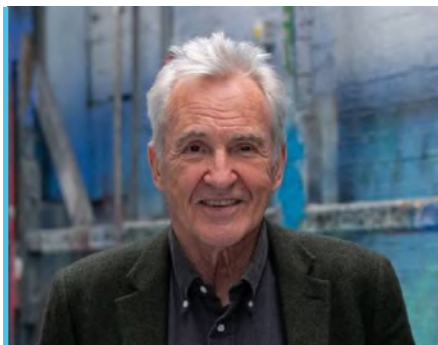
 **Talks**

 **14:00 (1 hour) | £7**

For millennia, Syria has stood at the heart of global history - from the Bronze Age cities of Ebla and Ugarit to Roman Antioch and Umayyad Damascus. A land of prophets, poets, and empires, it was shaped by Persian, Greek, Roman, Islamic, and Ottoman rule.


This talk explores Syria's extraordinary past: a centre of faith, culture, and commerce where civilisations met and ideas flourished.

As we trace its path through colonialism and independence to the early years of the Assad regime, we uncover the deep historical layers that continue to shape one of the world's most complex nations.



## LARRY LAMB IN CONVERSATION WITH DUNCAN PRESTON

 **St George's Hall** |  **In Conversation**

 **14:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Join acclaimed actors Larry Lamb and Duncan Preston for a candid and engaging conversation about their careers, craft, and experiences in the world of theatre and television.

With decades of performances between them, they share behind-the-scenes stories, insights into their roles, and reflections on the evolving landscape of acting.

This event is a must for fans of British drama and anyone interested in the art of performance, offering a unique opportunity to hear from two beloved figures in the industry in a relaxed and intimate setting.





## KATIE PIPER IN CONVERSATION

**Katie Piper**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Turning 40 can stir up a whirlwind of emotions, but for Katie Piper, it marks a powerful celebration of life, resilience, and growth.

In this inspiring conversation, Piper reflects on the journey that shaped her unique perspective: surviving an acid attack aged just 24 and emerging with an unwavering appreciation for the gift of ageing.

Drawing from her latest book, Piper challenges the cultural narratives that render women invisible as they grow older. With warmth and honesty, she invites us to embrace each passing year, and redefines what it means to age.



## A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BRADFORD: WALKING TOUR

**Nigel Grizzard**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🗣️ Tour

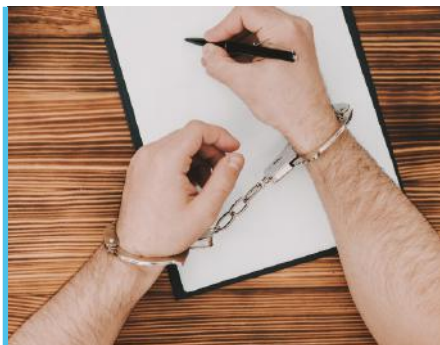
🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

For those curious about the history beneath your feet, this relaxed, one-hour walk is the perfect way to discover Bradford's hidden gems and rich heritage.

Starting at BLF's Festival Hub, you'll explore monuments, memorials, and curious landmarks. From Queen Victoria and J. B. Priestley to the legendary Brown Muff's sign, the Bradford Boar, and the secret path of the Bradford Beck.

Perfect for first-time visitors and long-time locals alike, the tour ends at Waterstones in the stunning Wool Exchange. No hills, just history, surprises, and stories waiting to be found.






## WHODUNNIT AND HOW TO WRITE IT

**J.M Hall**

 **City Hall, Reception Room 1**

 Workshop

 14:00 (2 hours) | **£10**

Join cosy crime author and playwright, J. M. Hall, for a lively and practical workshop that delves into the art of writing compelling, character-driven mysteries.

Drawing on his own experience of creating the beloved *A Spoonful of Murder* series, Hall will guide participants through the key ingredients of cosy crime: tight plotting, memorable sleuths, and just the right dose of mischief.

Whether you're working on your first whodunnit or dreaming up your next amateur detective, this workshop offers tips, techniques and insider insight to help bring your cosy crime story to life... no grisly gore required!




## SACRED SPACES: THE EVOLVING ARCHITECTURE OF MAKKAH

**Professor Adnan Adas**

 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

 Talks

 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Makkah's architecture has long reflected its mountainous terrain, arid climate, and unique role as the spiritual heart of Islam. In this illustrated lecture, Professor Adnan Adas traces the city's evolution from early Islamic settlements to a thriving centre of global pilgrimage.

As Makkah became a melting pot of cultures, its buildings adapted to meet the needs of worshippers and withstand the harsh environment. With its human-scale structures and organically developed public spaces, the city's urban form has continually expressed its sanctity and significance.

Discover how the city displays its spiritual symbolism through design rooted in history, resilience, and collective memory.





## WITCHY READS

**Kirsty Logan, Michael Stewart and Molly Aitken**

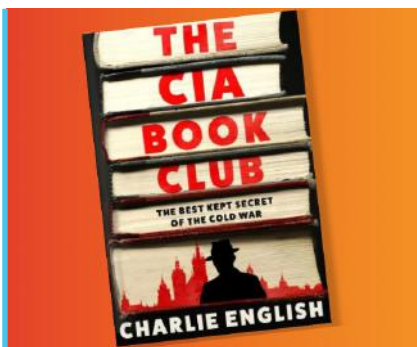
📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 Talks

🕒 14:15 (1 hour) | £7

Witches have long captured our imagination: feared figures of folklore, victims of persecution, and now, powerful symbols of resistance and transformation. In this captivating panel, authors Molly Aitken, Michael Stewart, and Kirsty Logan explore the spellbinding world of witchcraft in fiction.

From the legacy of the witch trials to the reclaiming of the witch as a feminist icon, they'll discuss how history, myth, and magic inform their work. Expect a rich discussion full of dark enchantment, ancestral echoes, and the enduring power of storytelling to challenge, heal, and inspire.



## THE CIA BOOK CLUB WITH CHARLIE ENGLISH

**Charlie English**

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

🔊 In Conversation

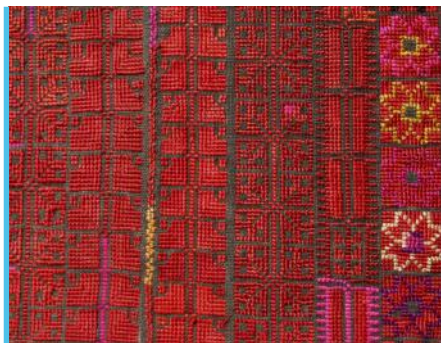
🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join author and journalist, Charlie English, as he reveals the astonishing true story behind *CIA Book Club*, a secret Cold War operation that used banned books to fight tyranny.

Led by CIA operative, George Minden, the programme smuggled millions of titles behind the Iron Curtain, from Orwell to Solzhenitsyn, aiming to spark dissent and challenge censorship.

English uncovers the daring efforts of underground publishers, operatives, and everyday couriers who risked everything to spread forbidden ideas. This event delves into the gripping tale of espionage, resistance, and the extraordinary power of literature to liberate hearts and minds.





## THREADS OF PALESTINE: A BRADFORD TATREEZ EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

**Bradford Tatreez**

📍 **University of Bradford, Room D01.25,**

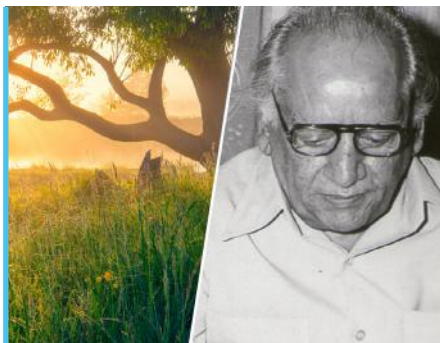
**Horton D Building** | 🗣️ Workshop

🕒 14:30 (2 hours) | £10

Join us for a calming, creative workshop celebrating the rich tradition of Palestinian embroidery. Guided by the skilled team at Bradford Tatreez, you'll cross-stitch your own beautiful bookmark while connecting with a centuries-old practice rooted in storytelling, resistance, and cultural memory.

Tatreez is more than embroidery - it's a visual language passed through generations of Palestinian women, expressing identity, heritage, and life on the land. In 2021, UNESCO recognised this remarkable art form by adding it to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Take a moment for mindful embroidery and choose your own design to begin (or continue) your own tatreez journey.



## THE POET AS MUSE: FAIZ AND THE VISUAL IMAGINATION

**Moneeza Hashmi, Salima Hashmi and Saeed Khan**

📍 **Loading Bay**

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 15:00 (1 hour) | £7

Renowned artist and curator, Salima Hashmi, joined by her sister, Moneeza Hashmi, explores how Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry has inspired generations of visual artists across the globe. Through a striking selection of artworks, this illustrated talk traces the creative dialogue between Faiz's verse and the visual arts.

The session also reflects on the artistic influences that shaped Faiz's sensibility, from miniature painting to revolutionary visual movements.

Chaired by Professor Saeed Khan, this conversation offers a rich portrait of creative exchange between word and image, influence and legacy, poetry and paint.





## SYRIA IN TRANSITION: WHAT COMES NEXT?

**Salman Shaikh**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🔊 Panel

🕒 15:15 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

More than a decade of war has reshaped Syria and the wider region. With Bashar al-Assad no longer in power and a fragile transitional government now in place under President Ahmed al-Sharaa, the country stands at a historic turning point.

This panel brings together leading experts to explore what the future holds for Syria: from rebuilding institutions and seeking justice to managing sectarian tensions, regional influence, and refugee return.

As Syria re-emerges on the international stage, what will it take to move from survival to stability - and can a lasting peace ever be built on the ruins of the past?



## HUSAM ZOMLOT

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 In Conversation

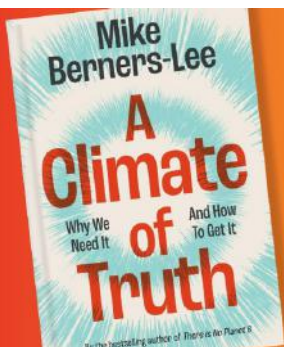
🕒 15:30 (1 hour) | £7

As the crisis in Gaza deepens and international concern mounts, Palestinian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Husam Zomlot, joins us for a timely and wide-ranging conversation.

Reflecting on current events, regional dynamics, and the international response, Dr Zomlot will offer insight into the political realities on the ground and the urgent humanitarian and diplomatic challenges ahead.

What needs to happen to move from devastation to justice — and from impasse to meaningful resolution? This conversation invites audiences to engage directly with one of the most pressing issues of our time.





## A CLIMATE OF TRUTH: WHY WE NEED IT AND HOW TO GET IT

**Mike Berners-Lee**

**The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

Lecture

15:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join renowned environmental researcher, Mike Berners-Lee, for a compelling presentation on his latest book, *A Climate of Truth*.

In this session, Berners-Lee will unpack the latest scientific insights on climate change, providing a clear-eyed look at the truth behind the crisis. Drawing on years of research, he will challenge common myths and offer practical solutions for individuals, businesses, and governments.

This event is an essential opportunity to engage with one of the leading voices in climate science and gain a deeper understanding of the actions needed to address the climate emergency.

**Age Restriction: 12+**



## WRITING CASTLEVANIA NOCTURNE

**Testament and Clive Bradley**

**University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building**

Panel

15:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join acclaimed writers, Testament and Clive Bradley, for an exclusive behind-the-scenes conversation about crafting the hit Netflix series *Castlevania: Nocturne*.

This gripping dark fantasy, based on the legendary video game franchise, brings together gothic horror, revolution, and richly layered characters in a blood-soaked, visually stunning world. In this special event, the writers discuss their creative process, how they approached adapting such an iconic universe, and what it means to reimagine classic tales for a global audience.

Expect insights into writing for the screen, character development, and what it takes to breathe new life into an undead legend.





## A LITERARY TRIBUTE TO FRANZ KAFKA

**Burhan Sönmez**

**City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

**Talks**

**16:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Marking the centenary of Franz Kafka's death, join award-winning novelist and PEN International President Burhan Sönmez for a profound literary tribute to one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century.

Blending personal reflection with literary insight, Sönmez explores Kafka's enduring relevance, from his themes of alienation and absurdity to his radical vision of power, identity, and resistance.

This evocative event invites readers and writers alike to rediscover Kafka not only as a literary giant but as a mirror for the anxieties and complexities of our age.



## THE POETRY OF RESISTANCE: FAIZ, NERUDA, DARWISH, AND QABBANI

**Loading Bay**

**Panel**

**16:30 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7**

This powerful session explores poetry as an act of resistance and a voice for the voiceless. At its heart are four towering literary figures: Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Pablo Neruda, Mahmoud Darwish, Preti Taneja and Nizar Qabbani, whose words transcended borders and became rallying cries for justice, dignity, and freedom.

Despite writing in different languages of Urdu, Spanish, and Arabic, these poets are bound by a common ethos: that poetry can confront power, nurture memory, and awaken hope.

Join us for a rich conversation on how language, beauty, and resistance remain deeply intertwined, and urgently relevant.





## HAUNTED HISTORIES: MAGIC, MEMORY AND THE SUPERNATURAL IN FICTION

**Genevieve Cogman and Shubnum Khan**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 16:45 (1 hour) | £7

What happens when myth and magic collide with history? In this spellbinding event, authors Shubnum Khan (*The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years*) and Genevieve Cogman (*Damned*) explore the power of fantasy to reshape the past and reimagine the present.

From an ancient djinn stirring in a ruined South African mansion to a vampiric plot unravelling in revolutionary England, both writers use the supernatural to confront buried stories, collective memory, and untold grief.

Join them for a rich conversation on folklore, fantasy, historical fiction - and why the past is never quite as distant as it seems.



## THE RISE OF THE FAR RIGHT: WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR THE WEST

**Nafeez Ahmed**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Panel

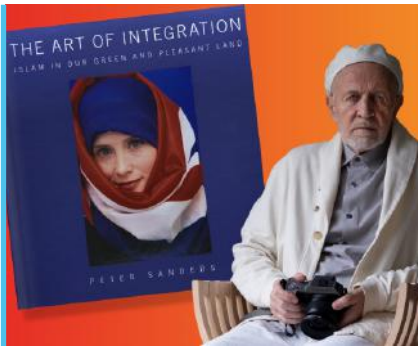
🕒 17:00 (1 hour) | £7

Across the West, far right movements are gaining ground - not just at the margins, but in the mainstream. From fiery rhetoric to policy influence, they're reshaping the way we talk about identity, belonging, and power. What's fuelling this rise, and why now?

Join us for a timely and urgent discussion as our experts explore the deeper forces at play - from economic anxiety and online radicalisation to political polarisation and cultural backlash.

In this discussion we consider what this could mean for the future of democracy, free speech and how can we respond before the tide turns further.





## ART OF INTEGRATION

**Peter Sanders**

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 17:00 (1 hour) | £7

Discover the rich tapestry of British Muslim life through the lens of world-renowned photographer Peter Sanders, as we explore his acclaimed work *The Art of Integration: Islam in Our Green and Pleasant Land*.

This event offers a powerful visual narrative that challenges stereotypes and celebrates the everyday lives, contributions, and spiritual depth of Muslims in the United Kingdom. Through compelling imagery and storytelling, *The Art of Integration* presents a side of British society often overlooked - one where faith and identity harmoniously coexist within the broader national landscape.

An inspiring encounter with photography, identity, and the power of visual storytelling to foster greater understanding.



## BRIDGING DIVIDES: SOCIAL COHESION IN POLARISED TIMES

**Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyyah and  
Adam Kelwick**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 17:00 (1 hour) | £7

As political tensions rise and communities grow increasingly fractured, how do we rebuild trust - and who leads the way?

His Excellency Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyyah, Secretary General of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, joins Muslim chaplain Adam Kelwick and other experts to explore how we move beyond fear and suspicion towards dignity, dialogue, and shared belonging. We look at online or offline, in institutions or daily life, how do we hold space for difference - and strengthen the threads that bind us together.

This timely panel brings together voices with deep experience in bridging divides and fostering connection in challenging times.







## NEZA BAZI STABLES: SCREENING + Q&A

**Farhaan Mumtaz, Roopa Gogineni**

**The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

**Films & Screenings**

**19:00 (1 hour) | £7**

*Neza Bazi Stables* is a compelling documentary that explores tent pegging, an ancient South Asian cavalry sport taken up by British colonial officers, now thriving in a British Pakistani community in the North of England. Filmed over three summers at a Bradford stables, the film follows young tent peggers as they navigate tradition and modernity.

Join us for a screening followed by a Q&A with co-directors Farhaan Mumtaz and Roopa Gogineni.

**Age Restriction: 12+**



## SUFIYANA KALAAM

**St George's Hall**

**Concerts & Performances**

**19:30 (2 hours 30 mins) | £20**

A much-anticipated annual festival tradition, Sufiyana Kalaam returns for an evening of devotional music and spiritual reflection.

Rooted in a 700-year-old legacy, Qawwali continues to move hearts and minds through its powerful fusion of poetry, rhythm and voice. This year's performance will transport audiences through the timeless words of Sufi masters such as Rumi, Hafez, and Bulleh Shah, brought to life through the captivating sounds of this rich and deeply spiritual art form.


Join us for an unforgettable night that celebrates the beauty of divine love, mysticism, and the enduring power of song.






## LYRICAL MEHFIL

 **Loading Bay**

 Concerts & Performances

 19:30 (2 hours 30 mins) | **£10**

Join us for our annual celebration of lyrical poetry at this year's edition of the ever-popular Lyrical Mehfil.

Mehfils are traditional gatherings of courtly entertainment performed for small audiences in the homes and palaces of South Asian nobility, and the assembly of talent at this event is fit for a king.

This year, a dazzling line-up of poets reflecting some of the most innovative international voices will descend on Bradford, bringing a range of poetic styles and voices to this intimate event.





## NORTHERN NOIR AT THE BAR

**Daniel Sellers, David Mark, Nina Bhadreshwar and Liz Mistry**

**Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery**

**Panel**

**19:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | £10**

Some say 'it's grim up north', but these Northern crime writers have kept us on the edge of our seats with their gritty thrillers. Find out why our region has become such a compelling creative muse to so many crime writers at this intimate evening event.

Grab yourself a drink and join crime authors, Daniel Sellers, David Mark, and Nina Bhadreshwar, chaired by Liz Mistry, for an evening of noir readings, conversation, and guaranteed black humour.

This event is 18+. You may be asked to provide proof of age at this event.

Tickets include one free drink. Due to the nature of this event, no discounts or concessions apply.



## AN EVENING OF ROMANI MUSIC

**Ando Glaso Collective, Čilagos and Zor**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

**Gigs & Nights Out**

**20:30 (2 hours 30 mins) | £15**

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the richness of Romani musical traditions. Featuring three exceptional Roma ensembles - Zor, Ando Glaso Collective, and Čilagos - the concert blends traditional sounds with contemporary flair.

From energetic youth to seasoned performers, this unique showcase highlights the power and diversity of Roma music across Europe. Presented in partnership with Connecting Roma, the event also marks the end of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, a nationwide celebration of GRT culture and identity.

Experience the vibrancy, complexity, and reinvention of Romani music, performed live by some of today's most exciting artists.



# 15 Jul – 7 Sep

# The Railway Children

E. Nesbit's

Keighley & Worth  
Valley Railway

Adapted by Mike Kenny  
Conceived and Directed  
by Damian Cruden

Presented with:

**Y**ORK  
THEATRE  
ROYAL

In partnership with:

WORTH VALLEY

Travel by steam train  
to see the much-loved  
classic story – live



Tickets £15-£55  
Children half price\*

\*Under-16s half-price with price bands A and B.



**BRADFORD 2025**  
UK City of Culture

[bradford2025.co.uk](http://bradford2025.co.uk)

Photo by Guy Farrow



# SUNDAY 29 JUNE

Fall down the rabbit hole into a whimsical Alice in Wonderland Family Fun Day at City Park. Enjoy a fantastical world of free activities, from curious face painting and walkabout characters to enchanting performances. It's a magical day of adventure and imagination for the whole family. Don't be late for this very important date!



## FILM SCREENING

Pictureville,  
National Science &  
Media Museum

Join us for a whimsical screening of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* (2010) for a fantastical journey down the rabbit hole filled with magic, adventure, and unforgettable characters. Perfect for all ages.

11:00 | FREE | [Book Online](#)



## ARTS & CRAFTS

Imagination Station,  
City Park

Step into another realm with our wonderland-themed arts and crafts! Create curious keepsakes inspired by the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and more in a colourful, imaginative workshop for all ages.

10:00-16:00 | FREE | [Drop in](#)



## STORYTELLING

Imagination Station,  
City Park

Dive down the rabbit-hole into enchanting *Alice in Wonderland* storytelling where curious tales and whimsical adventures spark the imagination and bring the weird and wonderful to life for all ages.

**Gav Cross** 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:00 | 14:30  
**Ilaria Passeri** 10:30 | 12:00 | 13:30 | 15:00  
**Ursula Holden Gill** 11:00 | 12:30 | 14:00 | 15:30  
FREE | [Book Online](#)











## LITTLE GERMANY: HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

**Nigel Grizzard**

 **Merchants House, Little Germany  
Heritage Tour**

 Tour

 10:00 (1 hour 45 mins) | **£7**

Take a step back in time and see Bradford as it was during the Victorian era, when it was the wool capital of the world.

This atmospheric walking tour of Little Germany, led by local historian, Nigel Grizzard, is packed with fascinating stories. Discover how the booming wool industry shaped the area and learn about the rich heritage of what is now Bradford's vibrant cultural quarter.

Discover streets steeped in history on this outdoor tour. Please wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.




## TAI CHI

**Yorkshire Tai Chi**

 **City Park**

 Workshop

 10:00 (1 hour) | **£5**

Reinvigorate your mind and spirit with this special Tai Chi session, led by an expert practitioner from Yorkshire Tai Chi.

The art of Tai Chi was a closely-guarded secret, with its mysterious origins debated for centuries, but it is thought to date back to the practice of a 14th-century Taoist monk.

Thanks to its health benefits being promoted by several famous names in the 20th century, it developed a global following, with its focus on gentle movements bringing a sense of clarity and calm.

Please note this event will take place outside, so please wear suitable and comfortable clothing.





## INTRODUCTION TO GRECO-ISLAMIC HERBAL MEDICINE

**Shaykh Atabek Shukurov**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 10:00 (2 hours) | **£5**

Led by Shaykh Atabek Shukurov, this session explores the foundational principles of Greco-Islamic herbal medicine, drawing on the legacy of figures such as Plato, Galen, Ibn Sina, and Ibn Nafis.

Rooted in the classical text *Urjoozah* by Ibn Sina, the discussion covers key concepts including the elements, humours, organs, and the natural balance essential to health. Attendees will gain insight into how herbs impact the body, with applications in both preventative care and treatment.



## DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

**Farhaan Mumtaz and Roopa Gogineni**

📍 **Bright Building, University of  
Bradford, Teaching Room**

🔊 Masterclass

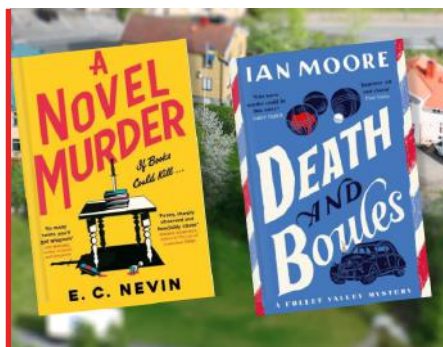
🕒 11:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£10**

Join directors Farhaan Mumtaz and Roopa Gogineni, creators of *Neza Bazi Stables*, as they take you on a candid journey from idea to screen.

Discover how they build trust with film participants, navigate funding challenges, and collaborate with creative partners. In the second half of the session, we'll break into small groups to workshop your own documentary ideas. By the end, you'll have the opportunity to practise pitching your projects in a supportive environment.

Perfect for those who have always dreamed of making their own documentary, but didn't know where to begin.





## COSY CRIME: MURDER IN THE [...]

**E.C. Nevin and Ian Moore**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for a delightfully devious discussion as two masters of cosy crime, Ian Moore, author of *Death and Boules*, and E. C. Nevin, author of *A Novel Murder*, come together to explore the charm, humour, and suspense of the genre.

From eccentric sleuths to picture-perfect villages hiding dark secrets, discover what inspires their twisty plots, how they build tension with a light touch, and the literary influences that shape their stories.

Whether you're a lifelong fan of the genre or simply love a clever whodunnit, this is an unmissable chance to hear from two of its freshest voices.



## THE EUROPEAN GENOCIDE: REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

**H.A. Hellyer, Salman Shaikh**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Panel

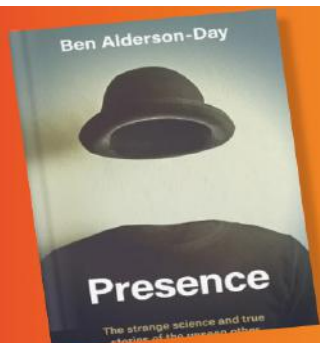
🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

In July 1995, over 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys were murdered in Srebrenica - the worst atrocity on European soil since the Second World War.

This event explores how genocide unfolded in the heart of Europe, the silence that enabled it, and the urgent need to remember. Through testimony, history, and reflection, we examine the legacy of Srebrenica: from international failure and justice efforts to rising nationalism and denial today.

As anti-Muslim rhetoric resurfaces across Europe, remembering Srebrenica is not just about the past. We explore what allowed this to happen, if it could happen again, and what remembrance demands of us now.





## PRESENCE: THE STRANGE SCIENCE OF THE UNSEEN OTHER

Ben Alderson-Day

📍 City Hall, Banqueting Suite

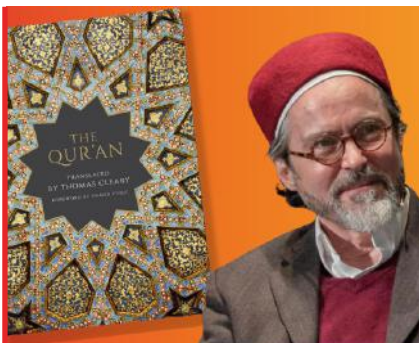
🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

What does it mean to sense something that isn't there? Join psychologist and author, Ben Alderson-Day, for a fascinating exploration of the unseen - from voices heard by people with psychosis, to the invisible companions of children, and the deeply felt presences reported in spiritual or paranormal experiences.

Drawing on his acclaimed book *Presence*, Alderson-Day blends cutting-edge neuroscience with compelling case studies to examine how the brain constructs our sense of reality.

This thought-provoking event asks where perception ends and imagination begins, and what these blurred boundaries reveal about the mysteries of the human mind.



## SOAKING THE SOUL IN THE RECITAL

Aisha Subhani, Hamza Yusuf and Asad Tarsin

📍 St George's Hall

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

To mark Sandala's publication of the late Dr. Thomas Cleary's translation of the *Qur'an*, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, reflects on Cleary's remarkable rendering of God's Final Testament.

Known for its clarity and depth, the translation presents the *Qur'an* as a living text - inviting both Muslim and non-Muslim readers into its ethical, spiritual, and contemplative dimensions.

Shaykh Hamza, President of Zaytuna College, Dr Aisha Subhani, and Dr Asad Tarsin will discuss the power of translation, the significance of this work and the enduring relevance of the *Qur'an's* guidance in our time.







## UNDERCLIFFE VICTORIAN CEMETERY: HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

**John Jackson and Irene Lofthouse**

📍 **Undercliffe Cemetery, Undercliffe  
Cemetery**

🗨️ Tour

🕒 11:00 (2 hours) | £7

Step back in time to Victorian Bradford with local historian, John Jackson, and writer-performer, Irene Lofthouse, as they lead a captivating walking tour through Undercliffe Cemetery.

Throughout this eye-opening 'toddle round the tombs', Jackson and Lofthouse will share captivating insights into the cemetery's rich history, from its opening in 1854 to the present day.

An engaging experience for historians and curious locals alike, this atmospheric walking tour will forever change your understanding of Undercliffe Cemetery and all who rest there.

Please note, this is an outdoor walking tour; please wear comfortable footwear and dress appropriately for the weather.



## KAAROBAAAR-E-SHAAM - THE POETIC WORLD OF HAFEEZ JOHAR

**Basir Sultan Kazmi, Imran Hafeez,  
Ishtiaq Mir and Saud Usmani**

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft  
Lounge, Norcroft Centre**

🗨️ Book Launch

🕒 12:00 (1 hour) | £7

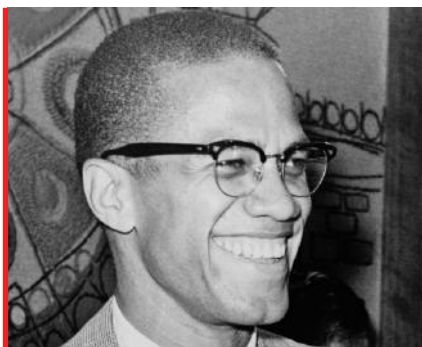
Join us for a poignant event in celebration of *Kaarobaar-e-Shaam - The Complete Poems* by the late Hafeez Johar, one of the first generation of Urdu poets to emerge from Bradford's vibrant mushaira scene.

Nearly two decades after his untimely passing, this landmark collection gathers Johar's powerful verses from his notebooks, rare family photographs, and biographical reflections that together tell the story of a writer profoundly rooted in the city he called home.

Through conversation and readings, we'll reflect on the man, the poetry, and the deep labour of love that brought this remarkable collection to life.

**Please note this event is in Urdu.**





## THE REAL MISSION OF MALCOLM X

**Kehinde Andrews**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 12:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Malcolm X is one of the most powerful, and often misunderstood, figures in political history. Too often reduced to myth, his radical legacy has been softened, co-opted, or erased.

In this timely conversation, academic and author, Kehinde Andrews, reclaims Malcolm's revolutionary message, drawing on his new book, *Nobody Can Give You Freedom*. Marking 100 years since Malcolm X's birth, Andrews explores the activist's true philosophy – one rooted in transformation, resistance, and justice.

Join us for a compelling event that repositions Malcolm X for today's world, and reminds us what it means to demand true liberation.



## WOMEN WHO KILL

**Asia Mackay and Katy Brent**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 12:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join authors, Asia Mackay and Katy Brent, for a thrilling conversation exploring the rise of female killers in fiction. From slick assassins to unexpected murderesses, their novels dive into the darkly compelling world of women who take matters into their own hands, with wit, style, and deadly intent.

Explore why readers are so fascinated by fictional women who kill, and what makes these characters so powerful, subversive, and fun to write.

Expect sharp dialogue, bold characters, and behind-the-scenes insight into creating killer stories that challenge expectations and keep readers hooked until the final twist.






## PETRYKIVKA: TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN PAINTING WORKSHOP

**Olha Zhydetska**

 **Bright Building, University of Bradford,**  
**Teaching Room**

 Workshop

 12:30 (2 hours) | **£10**

Experience the rich tradition of Petrykivka painting, a UNESCO-recognised Ukrainian folk art, through this uplifting, hands-on workshop with artist and cultural organiser, Olha Zhydetska.

Originally from Kyiv, Zhydetska came to the UK as a refugee following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Now living in West Yorkshire, she channels her deep love of traditional art into community building and cultural exchange.

With roots in 18th-century village life, Petrykivka is known for its joyful floral motifs and symbolic detail. Under Zhydetska's expert guidance, you'll learn its techniques and meaning while creating your own decorative artwork.

No experience necessary. All materials provided.




## JEWISH MANNINGHAM: HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

**Nigel Grizzard**

 **Bradford Reform Synagogue,**

 Tour

 13:00 (2 hours) | **£7**

Explore the rich cultural history of Bradford's Jewish community on this fascinating walking tour of Manningham, once home to the city's vibrant Jewish Quarter. Arriving in the 1820s, German Jewish merchants helped transform the area into a centre of trade and stunning architecture.

Led by local historian, Nigel Grizzard, the tour shares stories of influential figures like war poet, Humbert Wolfe, and artist, Sir William Rothenstein.

Starting inside Bradford Synagogue, the tour covers approximately two miles. This is an outdoor tour; please wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.





## GREAT FAITH: STORIES OF SACRIFICE AND CONTRIBUTION

Nizam Uddin and Arabella Dorman

📍 Loading Bay

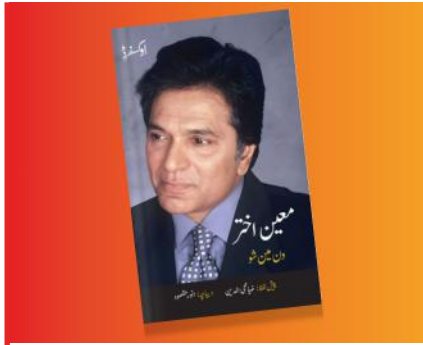
🗣️ Talks

🕒 13:00 (1 hour) | £7

Discover the forgotten histories of Muslim servicemen and women who fought for Britain in *Great Faith: Stories of Sacrifice and Contribution*, an illustrated talk and panel with Nizam Uddin OBE featuring renowned military portrait artist Arabella Dorman and special guests.

Featuring a screening of the powerful short film from the *Great Faith* project and a moving exhibition of portraits by Arabella Dorman, this event shines a light on the courage, faith and sacrifice of those who served in conflicts from the First World War to the present day.

Through archival material, personal stories and striking visual art, Uddin highlights the fact that the armies that fought in both World Wars looked much more like the Britain of 2025 than the Britain of 1914 or 1940. Muslims, along with Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and others, served side by side to build the modern foundations of this nation and to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.



## MOIN AKHTAR: ONE MAN SHOW - THE UNTOLD STORY

Mehjabeen Ghazal Ansari  
Ishtiaq Mir and Madiha Moin

📍 University of Bradford, Norcroft  
Lounge, Norcroft Centre

🗣️ Book Launch

🕒 13:30 (1 hour) | £7

Moin Akhtar was one of Pakistan's most beloved performers. Fourteen years after his passing, the long-awaited autobiography of legendary Pakistani artist Moin Akhtar is finally here.

*Moin Akhtar: One Man Show* began as a manuscript he was writing before his death in 2011. His children discovered notes that revealed the shape he had imagined and have completed the story he had started to tell.

Join contributors to the book, close friends, and collaborators as they reflect on his life and career, share untold stories, and celebrate the legacy of a true icon of Pakistani entertainment.

**Please note this event is in Urdu.**





## JOHN SIDDIQUE: THE PRIZE 20 YEARS ON

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room;**

🗣️ **In Conversation**

🕒 **13:30 (1 hour) | £7**

Often accused of thinking too much, feeling too deeply, and saying the wrong thing at exactly the right time, John Siddique's quiet arrival with his Forward Prize-nominated collection, *The Prize*, marked a bold 'hell yes' to it all.

It also signalled the beginning of a literary journey rooted in humanity, truth, and a relentless curiosity about the unseen and unheard.

In this wide-ranging and intimate conversation, Siddique sits down with poet Jo Bell to explore the lasting resonance of *The Prize* and the personal and cultural ripples that continue to radiate from this brave, perception-shifting collection of poems.



## MOTHERBOARD: SCREENING + Q&A

📍 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🎬 **Films & Screenings**

🕒 **14:00 (2 hours) | £7**

Join filmmaker and author Victoria Mapplebeck for a special Q&A session following the screening of *Motherboard*, a complex, personal, funny, and unsentimental portrait of a mother-son relationship from birth to adulthood.

Mapplebeck becomes pregnant after a very short relationship. She realises that bringing up her son is not compatible with her job as a BBC director and so leaves to raise Jim and convince the father that he is indeed the father. As a compulsive filmmaker she records her struggles.

A rare opportunity to engage directly with the filmmaker, delve deeper into the powerful themes of the film, and discuss the impact of technology on our family lives.

*Thanks to Tull Stories for this special preview before the film goes on release in the UK.*

**Age Restriction: 15**





## ISRAEL-PALESTINE: UNDERSTANDING THE CRISIS, EXPLORING THE FUTURE

**Daniel Levy**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 14:00 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

The conflict between Israel and Palestine continues to dominate global headlines - raising urgent questions about justice, power, and the future of the region.

In this event we explore the facts on the ground, and how they have changed in recent months. How are regional actors and global powers shaping the course of events? What role does international law play, and where does diplomacy stand?

With implications that extend far beyond the immediate conflict - affecting regional stability, global alliances, and public opinion worldwide - this event explores the stakes of the current crisis and what a path forward might look like for all involved.



## DOUGLAS ADAMS: THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

**Arvind Ethan David and Sanjeev Bhaskar**

📍 **St George's Hall** | 🗣️ Panel

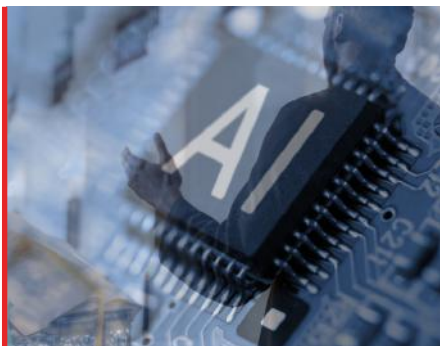
🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

25 years after his death, Douglas Adams' brilliant imagination and the iconic answer '42' continue to captivate new generations.

Join Arvind Ethan David, author of the new audiobook *Douglas Adams: The Ends of the Earth*, in conversation with contributor and comedian, Sanjeev Bhaskar. Together, they explore Adams' razor-sharp satire, unexpected wisdom, and prescient takes on everything from AI and the internet to politics and conservation.

Featuring never-before-heard archive audio and interviews with friends and fans, Stephen Fry, Lucy Cooke, David Baddiel and more, this is a witty, heartfelt tribute to a truly visionary writer.





## AI AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY: WHEN MACHINES PREACH, WHO LEADS?

**Zeshan Zafar & Dr Shoaib Malik**

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft  
Auditorium, Norcroft Centre**

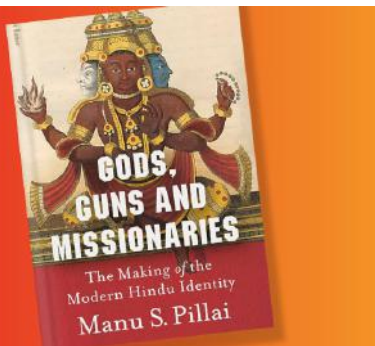
🗣️ Panel

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

As AI begins generating sermons, answering theological questions, and even issuing automated fatwas, sacred authority faces a new test. Can machine logic align with religious wisdom - or are we witnessing its quiet transformation?

In this multifaith panel, Dr Shoaib Ahmed Malik, Lecturer in Science and Religion at the University of Edinburgh, joins other experts to explore how AI is entering spaces once reserved for spiritual counsel.

From Islamic chatbots to the Vatican's ethical concerns, we examine how faith traditions are responding. Chaired by Zeshan Zafar, Executive Director of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace.



## GODS, GUNS AND MISSIONARIES: THE MAKING OF MODERN HINDU IDENTITY

**Manu S. Pillai**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Talks

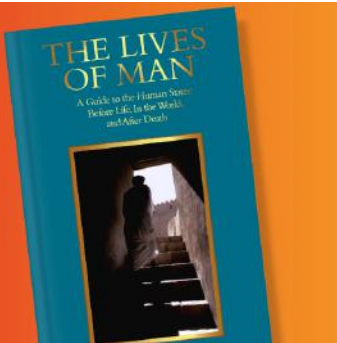
🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join historian and author, Manu S. Pillai, for an illuminating talk on his latest book, *Gods, Guns and Missionaries*.

Drawing on rich historical research, Pillai explores the complex interplay of religion, colonial power, and armed conflict in shaping the Indian subcontinent's past. Through compelling narratives, he reveals how faith, force, and imperial ambition intertwined to influence culture, politics, and society.

This event offers a unique opportunity to engage with one of today's most insightful historians as he sheds light on the turbulent forces that have shaped modern India's history and identity.





## DESTINY DEFINED

Mohammed Isaaq

📍 **University of Bradford, Horton Barn,  
Horton D Building**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (2 hours) | £7

In this transformative session, Mohammed Isaaq draws from Imam al-Haddad's *The Lives of Man* to present a powerful framework guiding participants through the key stages of existence: pre-existence, worldly life, Barzakh, resurrection, and the eternal abodes.

Offering both spiritual insight and practical guidance, the session helps align daily living with divine purpose. Through engaging reflection and discussion, participants will explore life's deeper meaning, its fleeting nature, and the lasting impact of their choices.

This is a unique opportunity to reconnect with essential truths and approach the human journey with renewed clarity, purpose, and spiritual awareness.



## EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP

Shamim Rehman

📍 **University of Bradford, Room D01.25,  
Horton D Building**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 14:00 (2 hours) | £10

Join holistic healer and certified trainer Shamim Rehman for a powerful collective EFT-Matrix experience.

This interactive workshop offers more than just an introduction—it's a hands-on opportunity to experience EFT-Matrix first-hand and feel the shift it creates in your body and mind. Through guided tapping sequences and group healing, you'll explore how this simple yet profound technique can release emotional stress, restore balance, and reconnect you to your inner calm.

The practice of EFT dates back to the 1960s and is now used in a variety of settings, including healthcare, pain management, and general wellbeing. Come with curiosity—and leave feeling lighter, clearer, and more empowered.





## WRITING THE NORTH

Liz Mistry, Marcia Hutchinson

📍 University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

What does it mean to write from - and about - the North? Join authors Marcia Hutchinson and Liz Mistry for a conversation exploring Northern identity, representation, and storytelling rooted in place.

From crime fiction to memoir, their work brings the voices, landscapes, and complexities of the North to life, challenging stereotypes and championing diverse perspectives. Together, they'll discuss how geography shapes narrative, the publishing industry's Southern bias, and why Northern stories matter now more than ever.

Whether you're a reader, writer, or proud Northerner, this event offers an illuminating journey through the literary landscapes of the North.



## INSIDE THE MIND OF MICHELANGELO

Michael Fitzgerald

📍 Loading Bay

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

Marking the 550th anniversary of Michelangelo's birth, Professor Michael Fitzgerald offers a fresh perspective on the artist, not just as a Renaissance Master, but as a profoundly complex and possibly neurodivergent individual.

Renowned for 'David' and the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Michelangelo also showed traits such as obsessive focus, emotional intensity, and social withdrawal, leading some scholars to suggest links to autism or OCD.

Blending art history with psychological insight, this talk invites us to consider how Michelangelo's inner world may have fuelled his creative brilliance and enduring legacy.





## CAN YOU SOLVE THE MURDER? LIVE

**Antony Johnston**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

Step into the world of crime-solving with bestselling author, Antony Johnston, in this thrilling interactive event inspired by his new book, *Can You Solve the Murder?*

Designed especially for group sleuthing, this unique experience invites you to play detective: examining clues, questioning suspects, and piecing together evidence to crack the case. Guided by Johnston himself, you'll be immersed in a gripping whodunnit where your decisions shape the investigation.

Perfect for mystery lovers and puzzle-solvers alike, this is your chance to put your sleuthing skills to the test. Will you be the one to solve the murder?



## ILLUMINATING URDU POETRY: IN CONVERSATION WITH NAEEM HAIDER

**Naeem Haider, Tasneem Hassan**

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft  
Lounge, Norcroft Centre**

🔊 Book Launch

🕒 15:00 (1 hour) | £7

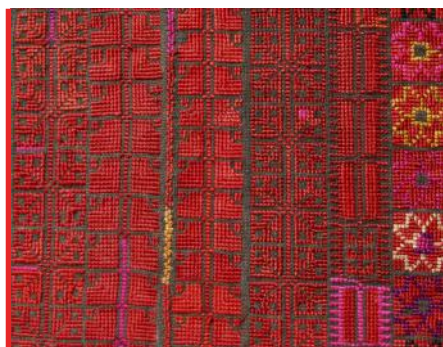
Naeem Haider, poet, composer, and vocalist, joins us to mark the publication of his latest Urdu poetry collection, *Aey Chiragh-e-Ishq* (*O Lamp of Love*).

Naeem is known for his lyrical style and deep connection to the Urdu poetic tradition. He'll share poems from the new collection and talk about how poems take shape, how emotion finds its form in language, and how tarannum, the melodic a cappella tradition of sung verse, weaves through his practice as a poet.

Whether you're a lifelong reader of Urdu poetry or discovering it for the first time, this is a chance to hear from a distinctive and resonant voice in contemporary literature.

**Please note this event is in Urdu.**






## THREADS OF PALESTINE: A BRADFORD TATREEZ EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

**Bradford Tatreez**

 **Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room**

 Workshop

 15:00 (2 hours) | **£10**

Join us for a calming, creative workshop celebrating the rich tradition of Palestinian embroidery. Guided by the skilled team at Bradford Tatreez, you'll cross-stitch your own beautiful bookmark while connecting with a centuries-old practice rooted in storytelling, resistance, and cultural memory.

Tatreez is more than embroidery - it's a visual language passed through generations of Palestinian women, expressing identity, heritage, and life on the land. In 2021, UNESCO recognised this remarkable art form by adding it to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List.


Take a moment for mindful embroidery and choose your own design to begin (or continue) your own tatreez journey.



## THE TRUTH ABOUT ANTISEMITISM: RACHEL SHABI IN CONVERSATION

 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

 In Conversation

 15:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

What does antisemitism really look like today - and how is it misunderstood, politicised, and weaponised? In this urgent and wide-ranging conversation, journalist and author Rachel Shabi discusses her powerful new book, *Off-White*, which explores the shifting landscape of antisemitism and its place within wider struggles for justice.

Drawing on her own British-Iraqi Jewish identity, Shabi challenges simplistic narratives and asks how we can build genuine solidarity in a fractured political climate.

Timely, provocative, and deeply human, this event invites us to rethink race, identity, and belonging in a world increasingly divided by them.





## BEYOND THE HEADLINES: UNDERSTANDING THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

**Salman Shaikh**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🔊 Panel

🕒 15:30 (1 hour) | £7

Sudan is facing one of the world's most devastating - and least reported - crises. Since April 2023, brutal conflict between rival military factions has torn the country apart, displacing millions and unleashing a humanitarian catastrophe.

In this urgent and illuminating panel, we explore the roots of the conflict, the toll on civilians, and the silence surrounding Sudan's collapse.

What led to this war? Why has the international response been so limited? And what hope remains for peace, justice, and the future of a country on the edge?



## ANCESTRAL WISDOM AND THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

**Joycelyn Longdon, Dr Pedi Obani**

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

🔊 Talks

🕒 16:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join environmental activist, Joycelyn Longdon, and scholar, Dr Pedi Obani, for an insightful discussion on the urgent need to reconnect with ancestral knowledge in addressing the climate crisis.

Drawing from indigenous wisdom, Longdon and Obani explore how traditional practices can offer sustainable solutions for the future of our planet. From preserving biodiversity to fostering a deeper sense of environmental stewardship, this conversation highlights how ancient wisdom can guide contemporary efforts for ecological healing and sustainability.

Explore the powerful intersection of heritage, ecology, and the future of our shared world.





## BLAKE AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Stephen F. Eisenman and Jason Whittaker

📍 University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building

🗣️ Talks

🕒 16:00 (1 hour) | £7

What does the radical poetry and art of William Blake say about the promises and failures of the American Dream?

Join art historian and political columnist, Stephen F. Eisenman, and Blake scholar, Jason Whittaker, for a provocative exploration of Blake's revolutionary vision, its surprising relevance to American ideals of freedom, and its actual practices of power. This illustrated lecture and discussion uncover how the artist and poet's work resonates with today's struggles over citizenship, immigration, race, and gender.

This will be a fascinating conversation at the crossroads of art, politics, dreams, and nightmares, challenging us to reimagine what a new American Dream could mean today.



## MORE SENSE & LESS SENSIBILITY

Hamza Yusuf and Aisha Subhani

📍 St George's Hall

🗣️ Talks

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

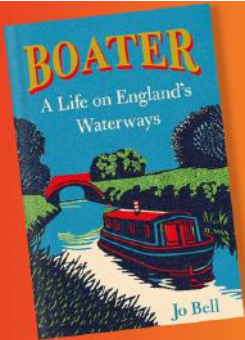
In an age of feeling and emotional excess, what enduring guidance can we find in the novels of Jane Austen?

President of Zaytuna College, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, will explore how Austen's moral clarity, subtle social critique, and focus on character formation offer a compelling response to the instability of modern life.

Drawing on both the Islamic tradition and the Western literary canon, Yusuf reflects on the enduring relevance of sense over sensibility and how cultivating inner balance, ethical restraint, and self-knowledge remains vital and constant in an ever-changing world.







## BOATER: A LIFE ON ENGLAND'S WATERWAYS

Jo Bell

📍 City Park, Festival Hub

🔊 Talks

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join poet and former Canal Laureate Jo Bell as she discusses her memoir *Boater* - a smart, funny, and deeply personal account of life on England's inland waterways.

For over twenty years, Jo has travelled the canals, meeting extraordinary people and navigating a world shaped by history, community, and quiet adventure. In *Boater*, she explores the joys and challenges of life afloat, from biscuit-fuelled mornings to navigating heartbreak and the treacherous Bristol Channel.

This is a celebration of an alternative nation on water - rich in character, charm, and resilience - and a rare glimpse into a life lived always at home, always on the move.



## THE DAY THAT CHANGED BRITAIN: TWENTY YEARS SINCE 7/7

H. A. Hellyer

📍 Bradford Live, Ballroom

🔊 Panel

🕒 16:45 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

The 7/7 attacks were a defining moment in modern British history - shaping public policy, media narratives, and how communities experience the state. Two decades on, the effects are still unfolding.

In this event we will discuss how counterterrorism laws and surveillance reshaped civil liberties, the impact on British Muslim identity, trust, and belonging, and how the framing of 7/7 continues to shape the way Islam is spoken about in public life.

As Islamophobia intensified and far-right politics gained traction, what role did the media and state play? This event asks what we've learned - and what kind of society we want to be now.





## GHOST EMPIRE MAURITIUS-CHAGOS: SCREENING + Q&A

**Susan Thomson**

**The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

**Films & Screenings**

**17:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7**

Join anthropologist and author, Susan Thomson, for a screening of *Ghost Empire Mauritius-Chagos*, a powerful documentary exploring the complex history and ongoing struggles of the Chagos Archipelago and its displaced communities.

The film delves into colonialism, forced evictions, and contested sovereignty in this remote Indian Ocean territory. Thomson will also discuss how colonial sodomy laws continue to impact former colonies like Mauritius and the Chagos Islands, complicating their fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

Following the screening, Thomson will lead a Q&A on human rights, resilience, and the ongoing quest for justice and equality.

**Age Restriction: PG**



## WEAPONS OF INFLUENCE: CHINA, THE WEST, AND THE NEW GLOBAL FLASHPOINTS

**City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

**Panel**

**17:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Rising tensions between India and Pakistan are once again drawing global attention - but they're also part of a much bigger story. As China and the West compete for influence through military technology, strategic alliances, and shifting defence deals, regional conflicts like the one over Kashmir are becoming flashpoints in a wider struggle for global power.

We explore the roles China and the West are playing behind the scenes. Our experts discuss how their rivalry is reshaping not just diplomacy and security, but the military and economic order itself.

This timely event explores how today's conflicts are part of a deeper contest to define the world's next chapter.





## MEMOIRS OF FOOD: ANGELA HUI & CANDICE CHUNG

Angela Hui and Candice Chung

📍 City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room

🗣️ Talks

🕒 17:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join authors Angela Hui (*Takeaway*) and Candice Chung (*Chinese Parents Don't Say I Love You*) for a conversation exploring the deep ties between food, memory, and identity.

Hui reflects on growing up in a Chinese takeaway in rural Wales, while Chung explores reconnect-ing with her estranged parents through shared meals. Both memoirs reveal how food becomes a powerful language of love, heritage, and belonging - especially in families shaped by migration and silence.

This event offers a moving exploration of how what we eat, cook, and share can tell the stories we struggle to say aloud.



## A PROPHECY: WILLIAM BLAKE REMIXED

Testament, Matthew Bourne, and Dave Lynch.

📍 Loading Bay

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 19:30 (1 hour) | £7

Experience the visionary world of William Blake like never before in this electrifying live performance and conversation with rapper, beatboxer, and playwright Testament, genre-defying pianist Matthew Bourne, and visual artist Dave Lynch.

*Blake Remixed: A Prophecy* blends spoken word, experimental music, and visuals to reimagine Blake's radical poetry through the lens of hip-hop, jazz, and digital art. This unique collaboration explores themes of revolution, identity, and creative resistance, bridging 18th-century mysticism with 21st-century sound and vision.

Join the artists as they perform *Blake Remixed* for one night only, celebrating the enduring power of Blake's work to provoke, inspire, and transform.





## JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE: SCREENING

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🎬 Films & Screenings

🕒 19:30 (1 hour 40 mins) | **£7**

Agathe, hopelessly clumsy yet charming, and full of contradictions, dreams of experiencing love akin to a Jane Austen novel.

Instead, she finds herself single, spending her days working in the legendary British bookshop in Paris, Shakespeare & Co, rather than pursuing her ambitions of becoming a novelist. But when an unexpected invitation to the Jane Austen Writers' Residency in England lands in her lap, Agathe is ready for an eye-opening and life-changing experience.

*Jane Austen Wrecked My Life* is an uplifting and heart-warming throwback to classic romance, with a modern sensibility, marking the directorial debut of acclaimed screenwriter Laura Piani.

**Age Restriction: 15**



## BOLLYWOOD GOLD: NAVIN KUNDRA LIVE IN CONCERT WITH THE 515 CREW

**Navin Kundra and The 515 Crew**

📍 **St George's Hall**

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 20:00 (2hours 30 mins) | **£20**

Experience the unforgettable sound of Bollywood in this spectacular live concert celebrating the greatest film songs ever written.

Led by award-winning singer Navin Kundra and backed by the dynamic 515 Crew, *Bollywood Gold* brings timeless melodies, soaring vocals, and powerful rhythms to the stage. From romantic ballads to iconic dance anthems, this is a night of music that will move your heart and lift your spirit.

Whether you know every word or just love great live performance, join us for an evening of pure musical magic - a celebration of Bollywood's golden sound.





## LUNCH BITE: U3A CREATIVE WRITING GROUP ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

**U3A Creative Writing Group**

**City Park, Festival Hub**

📖 Book Launch

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | £7

Join the Bradford u3a Creative Writing Group for a special reading as they launch their brand-new anthology - a vibrant collection of poetry and prose showcasing the diverse voices and imaginations of its members.

The anthology is the result of years of creative collaboration, with monthly writing sessions inspired by prompts provided by the group.

Expect an eclectic mix of themes, tones, and stories, brought to life by the writers themselves in this intimate reading session.



## DIGGING UP BRADFORD'S HISTORY

**Nick Toczek**

**City Park, Festival Hub**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join poet, writer, and metal detecting enthusiast, Nick Toczek, to explore what's been buried, forgotten, and found, right beneath Bradford's streets.

In this fascinating talk, Toczek digs into extraordinary objects he's unearthed around Bradford, each one offering a glimpse into a different chapter of the city's past, from a 1687 silver threepence to a World War II bullet.

With vivid images and local insights, Toczek brings history to life through the thrill of discovery. As 'The Yorkshire Detectorist' and columnist for Britain's best-selling metal detecting magazine, he knows how to turn rust and relics into rich storytelling.





## HISTORIC TOWNS TRUST: MAP OF BRADFORD

**Giles Darkes**

📍 **City Hall, Foyer Balcony Left**

🗨️ Exhibition

🕒 Available while BLF events are taking place in City Hall | **Free (Drop-in)**

Historic Town's Trust presents a map of Bradford, a richly detailed view of the city's development, focusing on the city centre and the conservation areas of Manningham and Little Germany. Based on extensive archaeological and historical research, the map brings together diverse sources to trace Bradford's transformation over time. It reveals how the city's streets, landmarks, and communities have evolved, offering insights into its cultural and architectural heritage.

This exhibition invites visitors to explore the layers of Bradford's past and gain a deeper appreciation of the forces that have shaped one of the UK's most historically vibrant urban centres.



**PAUL MELLON CENTRE**  
for Studies in British Art



## THE BRONTËS' JOURNEY TO THORNTON

📍 **Thornton, Brontë Birthplace**

🗨️ Talks

🕒 18:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Discover the true Brontë love story of a man from Emdale, Ireland and a lady from Penzance, Cornwall.

In this talk you will join Patrick and Maria on their journey from a chance meeting at Woodhouse Grove School to their happiest years, as parents to the future Brontë writing phenomena, in Thornton.

Find out how the minds that shaped the Brontë sisters fell in love and what motivated them to move to the Brontë Birthplace.





## BRADFORD MAP LAUNCH WITH HISTORIC TOWNS TRUST

Giles Darkes, Ian Roberts and Jerry Brotton

📍 City Hall, Banqueting Suite

🗣️ Talks

🕒 18:30 (2 hours) | £7

Join us for the official launch of the *Bradford Map*, a beautifully crafted historical map developed by the Historic Towns Trust. Hosted in the elegant surroundings of Bradford City Hall, this special evening event will feature a display of the map, mingling over drinks and nibbles, and a series of engaging talks.

The evening will include a welcome from Bradford Literature Festival and the Historic Towns Trust, followed by talks from Ian Roberts, local archaeologist and project lead; Giles Darkes, the Trust's Cartographic Editor and expert mapmaker; and Jerry Brotton, Bradford-born historian and author of *Four Points of the Compass*.



 PAUL MELLON CENTRE  
for Studies in British Art



## GRACE DENT & NISHA KATONA: IN CONVERSATION

Grace Dent and Nisha Katona

📍 St George's Hall

🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 19:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Join acclaimed food writer and broadcaster Grace Dent and restaurateur and author Nisha Katona for an engaging discussion at the launch of *The Big Tasty Read*, a national celebration of food, culture, and storytelling.

As ambassadors for the campaign, Dent and Katona will explore the powerful connection between food and literature, sharing insights into how meals and memories shape narratives.

This event marks the beginning of a nationwide initiative to inspire reading through the universal appeal of food, bringing communities together to celebrate diverse stories and shared experiences.



BRADFORD 2025  
UK City of Culture







## THE WAR OF THE WORLDS: A NEW ABRIDGED PERFORMED READING

**Gav Cross**

 **Loading Bay**

 **Concerts & Performances**

 **19:30 (1 hour 40 mins) | £7**

H.G. Wells' sci-fi classic takes on urgent new meaning in this gripping solo performance by Gav Cross. Delivered in the intimate style of a Victorian parlour reading, this event plunges audiences into a world torn apart by a merciless Martian invasion.

With a haunting original soundtrack by Chris Bastock, this powerful reimagining blends timeless storytelling with contemporary resonance, echoing themes of war, fear, and flight that remain deeply relevant today.

Following a sold-out debut, *The War of the Worlds* returns with Gav Cross's bold, chilling performance for an unforgettable evening of grown-up storytelling.





## LUNCH BITE: 50 YEARS AFTER SAIGON

**Saeed Khan**

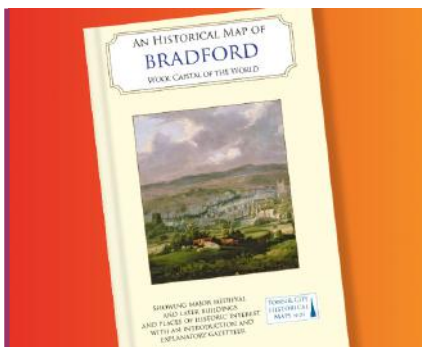
📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | **£7**

Join us for a thought-provoking talk with Professor Saeed Khan as we mark 50 years since the fall of Saigon, the event that ended the Vietnam War on 30 April 1975.

Known in Vietnam as Reunification Day, it reshaped the political and cultural landscape of Southeast Asia. Professor Khan will explore the global impact of the war's conclusion, the legacy of U.S. involvement, and how its memory continues to influence contemporary geopolitics.

A concise, insightful session that offers historical reflection and fresh perspective - perfect for your lunch hour.



## MAPPING BRADFORD'S HISTORY

**Giles Darkes, Ian Roberts and Sarah Rees Jones**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join the team from Heritage Towns Trust (HTT) as they present a fascinating talk on the creation of a unique map of Bradford. Using an early Ordnance Survey map as its foundation, this project charts the city's transformation from a small medieval town to a world centre of industry and trade in the 19th century.

Discover how historic and contemporary features come together to reveal Bradford's rich narrative, showcasing its rapid rise during the wool and cotton boom. HTT will share incredible stories from their research, blending history, technology, and cartography, while exploring the map's creation and the project's ambitious vision.



**PAUL MELLON CENTRE**  
for Studies in British Art





## **LOUD POETS SLAM HEAT**

📍 **Loading Bay** | 🎤 **Slam Heat**

🕒 **19:00 (2 hours 30 mins) | £7**

The prestigious Loud Poets Slam Series comes to Bradford Literature Festival! Watch Bradford's top poets compete in one of 10 heats taking place across Scotland and England for the biggest prize in UK slam poetry.

The winner will take home £200 and qualify for the 2025 Grand Slam Final in Edinburgh, with a £3,000 cash prize! Featuring a guest poet, this slam heat will be an electric celebration of the very best of spoken word.

I Am Loud is Scotland's premiere spoken word poetry organisation. Since February 2014, they have produced award-winning spoken word poetry events - including showcases, slams, open mics, touring shows, and workshops - across Scotland, the UK, and Europe. Their 2023 Loud Poets Slam Series won the Saboteur Award for Best Regular Spoken Word Event in the UK. In addition to live programming, their YouTube channel features hundreds of poems, podcasts, workshops, and other resources.

**Sign up to take part in the Slam via [iamloud.co/slam](https://iamloud.co/slam).**





## COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!: SCREENING

📍 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🎧 Films & Screenings

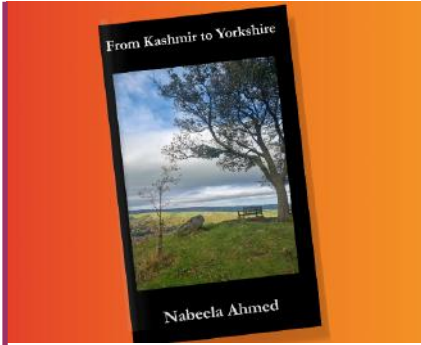
🕒 19:00 (1 hour 40 mins) | £7

Join us for a screening of *Coexistence, My Ass!*, a compelling documentary that follows Israeli-Jewish comedian and activist Noam Shuster-Eliassi as she develops a one-woman show addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the struggle for equality.

The film captures Shuster-Eliassi's journey from a UN diplomat to a stand-up comedian, using humour to challenge audiences with uncomfortable truths about coexistence. A mix of live performances and personal footage, offering an intimate look at her evolving perspective amidst the region's complexities, paralleling the rise in street protests in Israel.

Please note this screening is in English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Farsi, with English subtitles.

**Age Restriction: 12+**



## FROM KASHMIR TO YORKSHIRE

**Nabeela Ahmed and Imran Hafeez**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🎧 Book Launch

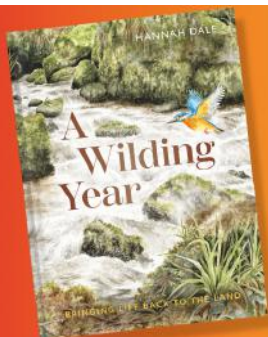
🕒 19:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join Bradford-based poet Nabeela Ahmed for the launch of her debut poetry collection, *From Kashmir to Yorkshire*.

Blending English, Pahari, and Urdu, Ahmed's poems reflect on identity, language, family, and place - shaped by the labels she's carried and the landscapes she's called home.

She'll read from the collection, talk about what inspires her writing, how she works across languages, and why poetry is the form she keeps returning to.





## LUNCH BITE: A WILDING YEAR

**Hannah Dale**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | £7

Join us for a captivating Lunch Bite exploring *A Wilding Year*, Hannah Dale's inspiring account of rewilding her Lincolnshire farm.

Through this year-long journey, Dale welcomes back skylarks, polecats, and a rich array of wildlife, while rediscovering artistic inspiration in the natural world. Part journal, part sketchbook, *A Wilding Year* is a beautifully illustrated celebration of seasonal change and ecological renewal. Dale's story is a moving testament to the resilience of nature and the deep connection between creativity and the wild.

This event offers a refreshing pause in the day, inviting you to reconnect with the beauty of the outdoors.



## BRADFORD'S FIRST MUSLIM BURIAL

**Fozia Bora**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

In 1904, 57 Somali Muslim men, women, and children came to Bradford for the city's Great Exhibition, living in a model village and 'performing their culture' for six months. But how did they experience this display?

In this talk, Professor Fozia Bora uncovers Somali perspectives, exploring subtle acts of resistance and the subversion of the colonial gaze.

Focusing on individuals like Halimo Abdi Bedel, who died during the exhibition and was buried in Scholemoor Cemetery, this session traces a powerful, overlooked story linking Bradford's colonial past to its multicultural present.





## OCEAN: SCREENING, TALK AND Q&A WITH DIRECTOR, COLIN BUTFIELD

**Colin Butfield**

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Pictureville**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 19:00 (3 hours) | £7

Join Colin Butfield, co-creator of *David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet*, for a special screening and discussion of *Ocean*, a powerful new documentary exploring the critical threats facing our seas.

Blending stunning visuals with urgent environmental insight, the film reveals how climate change, pollution, and overfishing are transforming marine life. The talk will include exclusive clips from Sir David Attenborough, as Butfield shares behind-the-scenes stories from their collaborations and reflects on the future of ocean conservation.

A timely and moving event for anyone concerned about the planet's most precious, and vulnerable, ecosystem.



## AN EVENING WITH GRIFF RHYSS JONES

**Griff Rhys Jones**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 In Conversation

🕒 19:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for an evening with Griff Rhys Jones, the beloved comedian, actor, writer, and presenter, as he reflects on a remarkable life in the spotlight.

From his breakout role in *Not the Nine O'Clock News* to award-winning travel documentaries and passionate advocacy for heritage and the environment, Rhys Jones's career spans decades of laughter, insight, and exploration.

With trademark wit and warmth, he'll share stories from stage, screen, and the great outdoors - offering a candid, entertaining glimpse into the experiences that have shaped him. A unique opportunity to spend time in the company of one of Britain's most versatile talents.





## POETRY WITH A PUNCH

**Joelle Taylor**

📍 **St George's Hall** | 🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 19:30 (2 hours 30 mins) | **£10**

Join us for our annual explosion of political poetry and unflinching wordplay, exploring social issues and the state of the world through high-octane performances designed to inspire, challenge, and provoke.

A fantastic line-up of sharp-tongued poets and spoken word artists will each bring their own brand of poetic mastery to the stage.

Combining exciting up-and-comers with established names working at the top of their game, this larger-than-life event promises to be powerful, dynamic, and packed full of new perspectives.





## SYMPOSIUM: JAMEEL PRIZE 7

**Daniel Lowe, Évar Hussayni, Jill Iredale, Shahed Saleem, Sofia Karim and Soraya Syed**

📍 **Cartwright Hall, Cartwright Hall Art**

**Gallery** | 🗣️ Panel

🕒 10:00 (6 hours) | £5

To accompany the exhibition *Jameel Prize: Moving Images* on display at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery (23 May – 17 August).

Four speakers, including architect, author and academic Shahed Saleem and artists Évar Hussayni and Soraya Syed speak to curators Daniel Lowe (Arabic Collections, British Library) and Jill Iredale (Bradford District Museums & Galleries) on the contemporary influences of Islamic art and architecture.

The day concludes with a workshop for participants with artist and activist Sofia Karim.

A light lunch and viewing of the exhibition are included.



## THE BRADFORD SUFFRAGETTES

**Jennie Kiff**

📍 **City Park , Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join professional archivist and heritage consultant, Jennie Kiff, for a powerful and illuminating talk that brings to light the forgotten women of the suffragette movement.

Based on her PhD research, Kiff has uncovered hundreds of women whose names have been left out of the official histories - ordinary individuals who played extraordinary roles in the fight for women's rights.

Drawing on stories from across the West Riding, this event sheds new light on how local women, through everyday acts of courage and defiance, helped to transform the course of British history.





SURAH QAF

## REFLECTIONS ON SURAH QAF

**Haroon Hanif**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

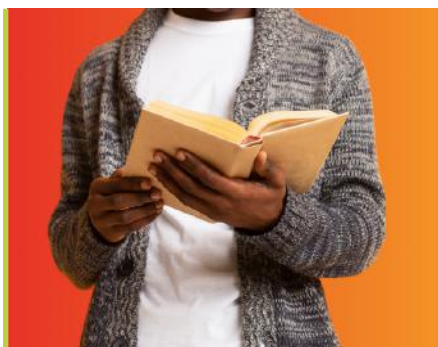
🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

Surah Qāf, the 50th chapter (*surah*) of the *Qur'an*, offers a powerful reminder of the transient nature of life, the reality of death, and the certainty of resurrection.

In this session, Shaykh Haroon Hanif will guide attendees through key themes of the Surah - its structure, rhetorical power, and spiritual depth - drawing from classical commentary and spiritual insights to illuminate its relevance today. With its vivid imagery and profound message, it calls the listener to awaken the heart and return to the remembrance of Allah.

A moment to reflect on the journey of the soul and the ultimate return to the Divine.



## LUNCH BITE: POETRY

**Kate Fox**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Panel

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | £7

Pop along for a literary lunch break filled with powerful poetry to feed your soul.

Our lineup features a tasty array of writers, who come to offer you dynamic readings and explorations of some of the biggest issues in the world today.

Join us for some clever wordplay that is sure to fill you with inspiration and creative energy for the rest of the day.





## BRADFORD'S LITERARY CONNECTIONS: MALACHI WHITAKER & J. B. PRIESTLEY

**Valerie Waterhouse**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Discover the fascinating connection between J. B. Priestley and Malachi Whitaker, two remarkable Bradford writers, in this insightful talk by Valerie Waterhouse, Whitaker's literary executor and first biographer.

Learn about Whitaker's acclaimed short stories, Priestley's literary legacy, and their famous 1930s meeting at Bradford's Midland Hotel.

Waterhouse, a PhD researcher at Salford University, recently wrote the afterword to the new edition of Whitaker's memoir *And So Did I* and brings unique insight shaped by her West Yorkshire roots. A must for fans of literary history and forgotten voices worth rediscovering.



## SEEN & UNSEEN LIVE PODCAST: BELIEF IN THE AGE OF CRISIS

**Belle Tindall**

📍 **University of Bradford, Norcroft Auditorium, Norcroft Centre**

🎧 Podcast Recording

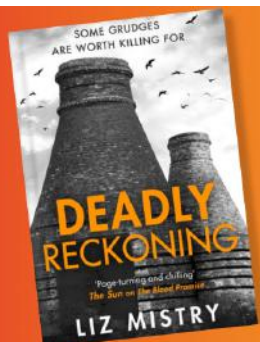
🕒 19:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

In a world marked by uncertainty and division, what does it mean to believe - in faith, in ourselves, in one another?

Join Belle Tindall, host of the *Seen and Unseen* podcast, for a live recording with Lamorna Ash, Chine McDonald, and Francis Spufford. From surviving personal crisis to questioning cultural myths and navigating religious tradition, these acclaimed writers explore how belief shapes our identities, communities, and hopes for the future.

This thought-provoking conversation moves between the personal and political, asking: in fractured times, how do we make sense of belief, and where might it lead us next?





## BOOK LAUNCH: LIZ MISTRY – DEADLY RECKONING

**Liz Mistry**

📍 **City Park , Festival Hub**

🔊 Book Launch

🕒 19:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join acclaimed crime writer, Liz Mistry, for the launch of *Deadly Reckoning*, the next gripping instalment in the Solanki and McQueen crime series.

Set against the dark undercurrents of Scottish policing, *Deadly Reckoning* sees DS Jazzy Solanki drawn into a chilling new case. As a missing child, a vengeful stepsister, and buried family secrets collide, Solanki must confront a sinister threat that feels dangerously close to home.

Don't miss this thrilling event with one of the rising stars of UK crime fiction, perfect for fans of Stuart MacBride, Val McDermid, and Marion Todd.



## HOW TO BUILD A LIBRARY: SCREENING

📍 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 19:00 (1 hour 50 min) | **£7**

Join us for a screening of *How to Build a Library*, a compelling and inspirational documentary that follows Kenyan writer Shiro Koinange and publisher Angela Wachuka as they embark on a mission to restore the McMillan Memorial Library in downtown Nairobi.

Once a whites-only institution, the library had fallen into disrepair and neglect. Through their initiative, Book Bunk, Shiro and Wachuka work to transform the space into a vibrant, inclusive cultural hub that reflects Kenya's diverse heritage.

Directed by Maia Lekow and Christopher King, this film captures their journey of resilience, community engagement, and the challenges of confronting colonial legacies in post-independence Kenya.

**Age Restriction: 12+**





## TALES FROM THE RABBI'S DESK: GROWING UP IN JEWISH BRADFORD

**Nigel Grizzard and Walter Rothschild**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join Rabbi Walter Rothschild and local historian, Nigel Grizzard, for a warm and reflective conversation exploring Bradford's rich Jewish heritage. Raised in the heart of the city's once-thriving Jewish Quarter, Rabbi Rothschild shares vivid memories of growing up in a community whose roots stretch back over two centuries.

The discussion will weave together personal stories, historical insight, and reflections on Rothschild's life as a rabbi, alongside readings from his book *Tales from the Rabbi's Desk*.

This is a rare opportunity to hear lived history brought to life with humour, warmth, and deep cultural memory.



## LUNCH BITE: INSPIRED BY HOCKNEY WITH SAMUEL SHARP

**Samuel Sharp**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🔊 Talks

🕒 12:00 (45 mins) | £7

Join artist Samuel Sharp for an engaging exploration of his creative practice, influences, and new work.

Reflecting on the enduring impact of David Hockney, Sharp will discuss how observation, place, and process shape his distinctive visual style. He'll also introduce his new book, *The Long Look*, which delves into themes of time and attention in art.

This event offers a first look at brand new pieces, with Sharp sharing the stories behind his latest work. An inspiring event for art lovers, fans of Hockney, and curious minds alike.



**Irene Lofthouse**

 **City Park, Festival Hub**

 Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Discover how Bradford was once known as 'Broad Ford', a name born from the wide river crossing that gave rise to the town. From Stott Hill to Church Bank, Ivegate to Westgate, and mysterious wells like Jacob's Well and Sunbridge, Lofthouse explores how these names offer fascinating clues to the people, landscapes, and lives of the past.

Illustrated with old maps, sketches, and vivid storytelling, this talk reveals forgotten corners of Bradford's early history.





## 40 YEARS ON: THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE MINER'S STRIKE

**Craig Oldham, Emily P Webber**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🔊 Panel

🕒 18:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for a powerful conversation reflecting on the 40th anniversary of the 1984-85 miners' strike, one of the most pivotal events in Britain's industrial and political history.

Featuring Emily P. Webber, author of *Mining Men: Britain's Last Kings of the Coalface*, and Craig Oldham, author of *In Loving Memory of Work*, the event explores the strike's lasting impact on working-class identity, community, and resistance.

Through personal stories, visual archives and historical insight, the panel will examine how media narratives shaped public perception, and how ideas of masculinity, solidarity, and sacrifice were forged and fractured in the fight for survival.



## THE INVENTION OF CHARLOTTE BRONTË

📍 **Thornton, Brontë Birthplace**

🔊 Talks

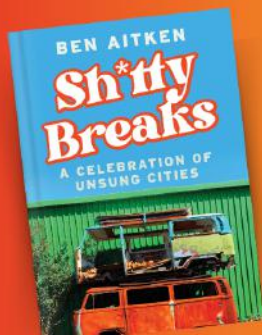
🕒 18:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join Graham Watson, in the Brontë Birthplace, for his fresh take on one of the most fascinating women from literary history, Charlotte Brontë.

The *Invention of Charlotte Brontë* is a darker take on one of the most famous women writers of the nineteenth century, showing Charlotte to be a strong but flawed individual.

Watson challenges the established narrative to reveal the Brontë family as they've never been seen before.





## SHITTY BREAKS: A CELEBRATION OF UNsung UK CITIES

**Ben Aitken**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 19:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join bestselling author Ben Aitken for *Shitty Breaks: A Celebration of Unsung UK Cities*, a wry and warm-hearted look at the places most travel guides skip.

Based on his latest book, Aitken takes us on a journey through some of Britain's most maligned towns and cities, from Slough to Stoke, uncovering their overlooked charm, humour, and resilience.

Blending social commentary with sharp observational writing, Aitken challenges our assumptions about class, identity, and what makes a place worth visiting. This event is a joyous tribute to the unloved corners of the UK and the people who live there.

## The Beehive Poets



## ANTHONY JOSEPH & THE BEEHIVE POETS

**Anthony Joseph**

📍 **City Library, 1st Floor**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 19:00 (2 hours) | **£7**

Join award-winning Trinidad-born poet, novelist, academic, and musician Anthony Joseph for a spellbinding evening of poetry and storytelling, shared alongside the brilliant Beehive Poets collective.

Joseph will perform selections from his acclaimed poetry, including work from his T. S. Eliot Prize-winning collection *Sonnets for Albert* - a luminous exploration of family, memory, and identity. This will be followed by a reading of his evocative and richly textured short stories, bringing his celebrated narrative voice to the stage.

A rare opportunity to experience the full range of one of contemporary literature's most dynamic voices, alongside some of Bradford's finest local poets.






## JOHN COOPER CLARKE IN CONVERSATION

**John Cooper Clarke**

 **University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building**

 In Conversation

 20:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join us for an unforgettable evening with legendary punk poet and cultural icon, John Cooper Clarke, as he reflects on a life lived at full tilt.

In this candid and captivating in-conversation event, Clarke will explore the journey that took him from the backstreets of Salford to the world stage - through the rise of punk, the countercultural whirlwind of the '70s and '80s, and his place today as one of Britain's most distinctive literary voices.

Expect wit, wisdom, and plenty of stories from the man who has inspired generations with his biting verse and brilliant humour. To close the evening, Clarke will take to the mic for a live reading, bringing his unmistakable voice and electric presence to a selection of his most celebrated work.



# SATURDAY 5 JULY

Blast off into adventure at our space-themed Family Fun Day at City Park. Enjoy a galaxy of free activities, from cosmic face painting and interstellar walkabout characters to out-of-this-world performances. It's a day of discovery and imagination that's fun for the whole family - get ready to explore the universe together!

## FILM SCREENING

Pictureville,  
National Science &  
Media Museum

Join us for *Treasure Planet* - a thrilling Disney adventure where classic pirate tales meet outer space! Epic journeys, daring heroes, and stunning animation make this a must-see for all ages.

11:00 | FREE | [Book Online](#)

Age Restriction: PG

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Imagination Station,  
City Park  
& Broadway  
Shopping Centre

Blast off into creativity with our space-themed arts and crafts! Create cosmic keepsakes inspired by stars, planets, and galaxies in a colourful, imaginative workshop that's fun for all ages.

10:00-16:00 | FREE | [Drop in](#)





**FREE  
FAMILY  
FUN DAYS**

## STORYTELLING

**Imagination  
Station, City Park**

Embark on an interstellar adventure with space-themed storytelling! Journey through stars, planets, and galaxies in imaginative tales that spark curiosity and transport young explorers to worlds beyond.

**Gav Cross** 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:00 | 14:30

**Kanika Simpson-Davis** 10:30 | 12:00 | 13:30 | 15:00

**Jumana Moon** 11:00 | 12:30 | 14:00 | 15:30

**FREE | Book Online**

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Waterstones**

Join author Pauline Brown for a heartwarming reading of *Diego's Team* - a joyful tale of kindness, courage, and friendship, perfect for children aged 4+ and families who love alpacas!

**14:00 | FREE | Book Online**

## PERFORMANCES

**City Park**

Joyful performances will take over City Park throughout the day, with lively bhangra dancing and the bold, brassy sounds of a street band - celebrating rhythm, movement, and community spirit in vibrant style! Don't miss the excitement!

**10:30 | 12:00 | 13:45 | 15:15 | FREE**





## BRONTË HERITAGE TOUR

**Christa Ackroyd**

📍 **The Midland Hotel, Bronte Heritage**

**Tour** | 🚶 Tour

🕒 09:00 (full day) | **£35**

Bradford Literature Festival's Brontë Heritage Tour returns for another immersive journey into the lives of the Brontë family.

Led by Brontë expert Christa Ackroyd, this specially curated event begins with a vintage coach ride to Thornton village, the siblings' birthplace, followed by lunch at The Lord Nelson pub, once favoured by Branwell Brontë. Along the way, enjoy stunning views of the moors that inspired *Wuthering Heights* and gain fascinating insights from your knowledgeable guide.

The tour includes admission to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, where the sisters wrote their iconic novels, and features an exclusive talk by museum staff. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. The tour departs from outside The Midland Hotel, Bradford.



The Brontë Society  
Brontë Parsonage  
MUSEUM



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BRONTËS: HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

**Michael Stewart**

📍 **The Old Bell Chapel, Bronte Stones**

🚶 Tour

🕒 10:00 (5 hours) | **£7**

Starting from The Old Bell Chapel, Thornton, follow in the footsteps of Yorkshire's most famous literary siblings, walking from the Brontës' birthplace in Thornton village to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth.

Your guide and Brontë Stones project creator, Michael Stewart, will share the stories behind the written responses of Carol Ann Duffy, Kate Bush, Jackie Kay, and Jeanette Winterson to the famous literary sisters, which were specifically commissioned by the festival in 2018.

A nine-mile, linear five-hour trek, this walking tour passes through narrow stiles, slippery surfaces, steps, and uneven ground.

Appropriate footwear and weather-durable clothing is essential. You will stop for a picnic halfway through your walk, so make sure you bring a packed lunch and plenty of water.





## MEET THE PUBLISHER: BLOOMSBURY

**Jasmine Horsey**

📍 **University of Bradford,  
Orange Room, Bright Building**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:45 | 11:30 | 13:30 |  
14:15 | 15:00 (30 mins) | **£7**

Discover the key to a successful publishing journey with Bloomsbury. In this one-to-one session with one of their editors, they will provide expert guidance on how to approach publishers and what makes your manuscript irresistible.

Participants will be asked to submit an example of their work beforehand to ensure a focused, constructive conversation. Get insider advice on navigating the publishing landscape, refining your pitch, and understanding what publishers are truly seeking in submissions.

This is a unique opportunity to get invaluable feedback and take your writing career to the next level.



## A TURN AROUND THE ROOM: REGENCY DANCE WORKSHOP

**Dance the Past**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Workshop

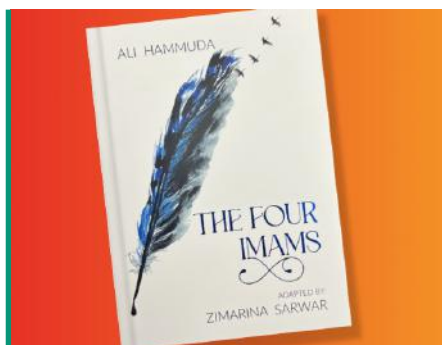
🕒 10:00 (2 hours) | **£10**

Whether you dream of dancing with Darcy or waltzing with Wickham, this delightful workshop invites you to step back in time and experience the elegance of a Regency-era ballroom.

Led by Lottie, historical dance specialist from Dance the Past, you'll learn the steps, etiquette, and social customs that defined the world of Jane Austen. From graceful waltzes to lively reels, this is your chance to explore the dances that once set hearts and fans fluttering across Georgian drawing rooms.

No previous experience is necessary - this session is perfect for both seasoned dancers and complete beginners. With expert guidance in a relaxed and friendly setting, you'll discover the joy, rhythm, and refinement that made Regency society sparkle. Don your dancing shoes, channel your inner Elizabeth Bennet, and prepare to be thoroughly swept off your feet.





## THE FOUR IMAMS

**Zimarina Sarwar**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

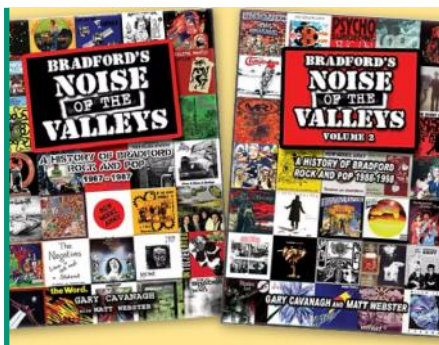
🗣️ Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join author Zimarina Sarwar to explore her latest book, *The Four Imams*, a profound examination of the lives and legacies of the four most revered Islamic scholars.

It is known that Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Shafi'i, and Imam Ahmad made contributions that have shaped Islamic jurisprudence and scholarship for centuries.

Through her compelling narrative style, Sarwar will bring to life the personal journeys, intellectual achievements, and spiritual wisdom of these eminent figures, offering both historical context and real-world applications of their teachings.



## BRADFORD NOISE OF THE VALLEYS

**Gary Cavanagh and Mark Goodall**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building**

🗣️ Panel

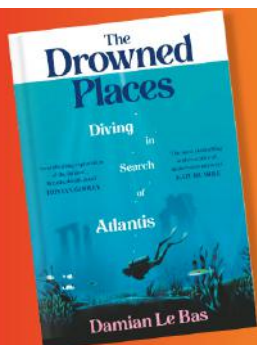
🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

Music historian and 1 in 12 Club founder Gary Cavanagh joins cultural commentator Mark Goodall to explore *Noise of the Valleys* - the definitive chronicle of Bradford's underground music scene.

Drawing on decades of research and lived experience, Cavanagh brings to life the city's rich sonic history, from punk and post-punk to folk, indie, and early rave. With *Noise of the Valleys: Volume Three* due for release this summer, the pair will discuss the bands, venues, and stories that shaped a city's sound.

A must for music lovers, this event celebrates Bradford's rebellious energy and creative legacy.





## THE DROWNED PLACES: DIVING IN SEARCH OF ATLANTIS

**Damian Le Bas**

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join award-winning writer and filmmaker, Damian Le Bas, for a mesmerising journey beneath the waves as he discusses his new book, *The Drowned Places*, a powerful exploration of myth, memory, and mysteries beneath the sea.

Blending travel writing, memoir, and cultural history, Le Bas traces humanity's fascination with lost cities, from Plato's Atlantis to the sunken ruins of Port Royal and Naples. Along the way, he confronts personal grief and the ocean's significance in his Romany heritage.

This is an unforgettable event about diving into the unknown, where ancient stories meet lived experience and submerged worlds resurface in unexpected ways.



## NEUROSCIENCE LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS WITH SMITA THAROOR

**Smita Tharoor**

📍 **Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 11:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£15**

Unlock the secrets of effective leadership through the lens of neuroscience with Smita Tharoor, an expert in brain science and leadership development.

In this transformative masterclass, Tharoor will delve into the latest research on how the brain influences decision-making, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal dynamics in leadership contexts. Learn practical tools and techniques to improve communication, increase resilience, and lead with empathy.

This session is designed for professionals looking to enhance their leadership capabilities by understanding the neuroscience behind high-performance, conflict resolution, and team cohesion.





## ST ANDREWS ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THEOLOGY

**Abdal Hakim Murad, Alexander Wain and Brendan Wolfe**

**University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

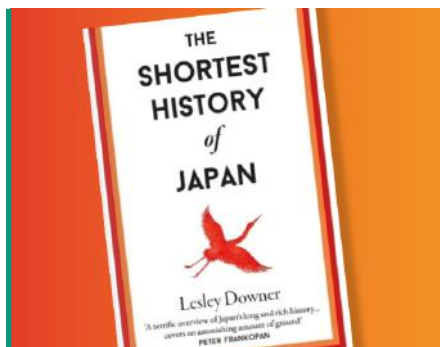
**Panel**

**12:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7**

Explore Islam's traditional intellectual legacy and its contemporary relevance alongside the vision behind the St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology - a groundbreaking, open-access platform committed to high-level, peer-reviewed scholarship across global theological traditions.

Join Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad, Dean of the Cambridge Muslim College, alongside Dr Alexander Wain, historian of Islam in Southeast Asia, and Dr Brendan Wolfe, principal editor of the St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology, for a thought-provoking conversation on Islamic tradition, theology, and the evolving landscape of contemporary scholarship.

This discussion promises an engaging conversation on the intersection of tradition, scholarship, and innovation with three leading voices in the field.



## THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF JAPAN WITH LESLEY DOWNER

**Lesley Downer**

**City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

**Talks**

**12:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Step into the rich and complex story of Japan with acclaimed writer and Japan specialist, Lesley Downer, as she brings to life key moments from her book, *The Shortest History of Japan*.

From samurai and shoguns to emperors, industrialists and pop culture pioneers, Downer unpacks the pivotal forces that have shaped one of the world's most influential nations.

Whether you're new to Japan's history or looking to deepen your understanding, this conversation offers a sharp, accessible journey through centuries of conflict, creativity and transformation, illuminating how Japan's past continues to shape its present and global identity.





## IZNIK TILE TALK

Gülsüm Edibe Altınbaş

📍 City Park, Festival Hub

🔊 Workshop

🕒 12:00 (1 hour) | £7

Explore the rich history and intricate artistry of Iznik tiles, a celebrated ceramic tradition of the Ottoman Empire. Renowned for their vivid colours, floral motifs, and geometric patterns, Iznik tiles adorned mosques, palaces, and manuscripts across the Islamic world.

This talk will delve into their origins, craftsmanship, and cultural significance, offering insight into the techniques and symbolism behind these iconic designs.

Perfect for anyone interested in decorative arts, architecture, or the enduring influence of Ottoman visual culture.



## CRIMEA: CONFLICT, CONQUEST AND CONSEQUENCE

Saeed Khan and Maya Petrovic

📍 City Hall, The Chamber

🔊 Panel

🕒 12:15 (1 hour) | £7

Long before it became a flashpoint in today's geopolitics, Crimea was the site of one of the 19th century's most consequential wars. This event revisits the Crimean War - a clash of empires, religion, and ambition that saw Britain and the Ottoman Empire allied against an expansionist Russia.

While Florence Nightingale and the Charge of the Light Brigade remain in public memory, the war's deeper geopolitical legacy is often forgotten.

What does this earlier conflict reveal about imperial rivalry, the shaping of Europe, and the long shadow Crimea casts over today's war in Ukraine?





## THE FUTURE OF GARDENING

Anna Tonkin Liu, Eelco Hooftman

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 12:30 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

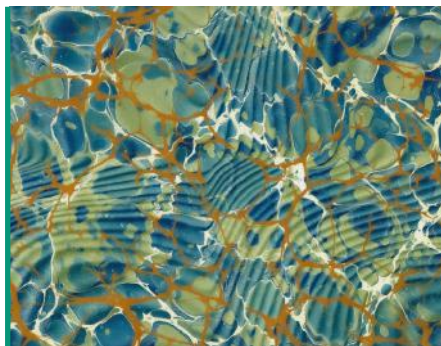
What does the future of gardening look like in an era of climate crisis, urban inequality and shifting notions of land and community?

Inspired by *Unearthed: The Power of Gardening*, a landmark British Library exhibition and the accompanying *Gardens of the Future* book, this dynamic panel brings together growers, writers, artists and activists to explore gardening as a tool for resistance, healing and transformation.

From diasporic garden traditions to rewilding movements and community allotments, the conversation will explore how gardens challenge inequality, spark joy and cultivate new ways of living. Rooted in both history and lived experience, this is a celebration of gardening as radical, restorative practice.

Co-produced by the British Library.

BRITISH  
LIBRARY



## PAPER MARBLING WORKSHOP

Dilara Karaağaç

📍 **Bright Building, University of  
Bradford, Teaching Room**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 13:30 (2 hours) | £15

Discover the art of traditional Turkish paper marbling (ebru) in this hands-on workshop led by artist Dilara Karaağaç.

Learn how to float pigments on water, create intricate patterns using combs and styluses, and transfer your designs onto paper.

With roots in Ottoman book arts, ebru is a meditative and expressive craft that blends colour, movement, and chance. Dilara will guide you through the process step by step, sharing both technique and cultural context.

No experience is needed, and all materials are provided. Ideal for anyone interested in printmaking, book arts, or Turkish visual traditions.

**Age Restriction: 18+**





## BROKEN THREADS: MY FAMILY FROM EMPIRE TO INDEPENDENCE IN CONVERSATION MISHAL HUSAIN

Mishal Husain

📍 Bradford Live, Ballroom

🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 13:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join renowned broadcaster Mishal Husain for an intimate conversation about her powerful new memoir, *Broken Threads: My Family from Empire to Independence*.

Tracing her family's journey across India, Pakistan, and Britain, Husain explores the legacies of colonialism, migration, and identity through a deeply personal lens. With clarity and compassion, she reflects on how history shaped her own story, and how the threads of the past continue to influence generations today.

This moving and insightful event offers a rare glimpse into one of Britain's most respected journalistic voices as she shares a story of belonging, resilience, and home.



## THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: POWER, POLITICS AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Simon Blakey

📍 City Hall, The Chamber

🗣️ Panel

🕒 13:30 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

The war in Ukraine has reshaped Europe - and the ripple effects are still unfolding. With Russia on the offensive, the far right gaining ground, and Trump's return to the global stage, Europe faces urgent questions about its identity, unity, and future.

Will the continent stand firm as a force for democracy and stability, or splinter under pressure? What role can Europe play in a world increasingly shaped by nationalism and conflict?

This timely event explores the power struggles, political shifts, and global forces that are redefining Europe - and asks who will shape what comes next.





## BRADFORD, FOOD & WRITING: TASTE FROM HOME

**Habiba Desai, Radhika Howarth  
and Shahnaz Ahsan**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 13:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join writer Shahnaz Ahsan, food writer Radhika Howarth, and publisher Habiba Desai for a heartfelt conversation about food, memory, and storytelling rooted in Bradford's South Asian community.

In *The Jackfruit Chronicles*, Ahsan weaves family recipes with personal and historical narratives to explore British-Bangladeshi identity. Desai, co-founder of Fox & Windmill, shares insights from *Tales from the Kitchen*, a moving collection of food essays by British South Asian writers. Howarth brings her perspective as a food writer and culinary educator, reflecting on the sensory power of food in shaping cultural identity and belonging.

They discuss how food writing can preserve heritage, challenge stereotypes, and connect generations - particularly in Bradford, where culture and cuisine are inseparably linked.



## ANIMAL FARM: SCREENING + Q&A

**Viven Halas and Jez Stewart**

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Pictureville**

🗣️ Films & Screenings

🕒 14:00 (1 hour 45 mins) | £7

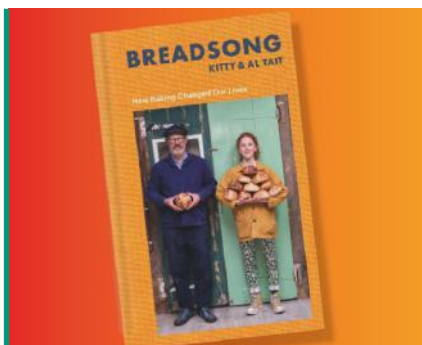
Join us for a special screening of *Animal Farm* (1954), the landmark animated adaptation of George Orwell's classic political allegory. Directed by John Halas and Joy Batchelor, the film was the first British animated feature and remains a striking exploration of power, propaganda, and resistance.

After the screening, enjoy a Q&A with Vivien Halas, daughter of the film's co-director, and Jez Stewart, curator at the BFI National Archive, as they discuss the film's production, legacy, and enduring relevance.

This event offers a rare insight into a pioneering work of animation and its place in British cultural history.

Screening from a 35mm print.






## BREAKING BREAD WITH KITTY & AL TAIT

**Al Tait and Kitty Tait**

 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

 Talks

 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join father-daughter duo Kitty and Al Tait, authors of *Breadsong*, for a warm and inspiring conversation about baking, resilience, and the joy of doing things together.

From a kitchen in Oxfordshire to national acclaim, their story is one of hope, healing, and the life-changing power of bread.

Discover how flour, yeast, and a bit of love helped rebuild their lives - and how baking can nourish both body and soul.




## A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BRADFORD: WALKING TOUR

**Nigel Grizzard**

 **City Park, Festival Hub**

 Walks

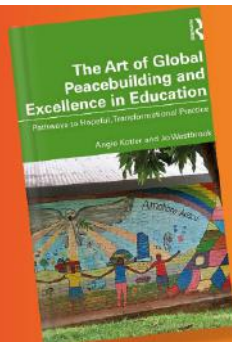
 14:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

For those curious about the history beneath your feet, this relaxed, one-hour walk is the perfect way to discover Bradford's hidden gems and rich heritage.

Starting at BLF's Festival Hub, you'll explore monuments, memorials, and curious landmarks. From Queen Victoria and J. B. Priestley to the legendary Brown Muff's sign, the Bradford Boar, and the secret path of the Bradford Beck.

Perfect for first-time visitors and long-time locals alike, the tour ends at Waterstones in the stunning Wool Exchange. No hills, just history, surprises, and stories waiting to be found.






## THE ART OF GLOBAL PEACEBUILDING AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**Angie Kotler**

 **Cartwright Hall, Gallery 4**

 Book Launch

 14:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | **Free (Drop-in)**

This special event celebrates the launch of a new book, *The Art of Global Peacebuilding and Excellence in Education*.

The book's release marks over two decades of the School Linking Project - an initiative that began in Bradford in 2001 to bring children, schools and families together across divides. Now a national programme, it continues to support communities in exploring how we live well together.

Taking place at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, where the project began, this event is part of Bradford's City of Culture 2025 and Bradford Literature Festival. It features reflections from the authors, a welcome from the Chair of The Linking Network, and shared stories from those involved.




## GOTHICS VS ROMANTICS: A LITERARY DUEL

**Nicola Cornick**

 **University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building**

 Panel

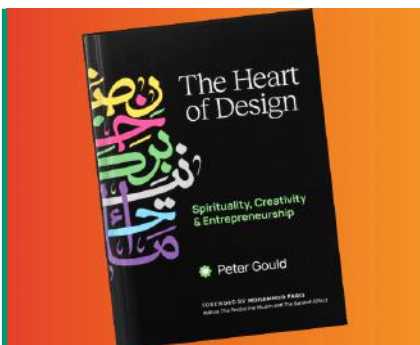
 14:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Step into the shadows or bask in the sublime as two powerhouse literary movements go head-to-head in this thrilling event.

The eerie allure of Gothic fiction, with its haunted halls, psychological torment, and supernatural suspense. On the other side, bestselling author Nicola Cornick flies the flag for Romantic literature, with its sweeping emotions, wild landscapes, and rebellious spirit.

From ghostly ruins to poetic rapture, join us as these genres clash and captivate. Which will win your heart or chill your spine? Gothic or Romantic? The choice is yours.





## HEART OF DESIGN

**Peter Gould**

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for a thought-provoking session with Peter Gould as he shares insights from his newly released book, *The Heart of Design: Spirituality, Creativity & Entrepreneurship*. Gould invites us into his vision for a heart-centred design approach, one that places purpose, spirituality, and compassion at the core of creative practice.

Drawing from decades of global experience, Gould reflects on how design can transcend commercial aims to become a vehicle for connection, remembrance, and meaningful change.

This is a unique opportunity to engage with a leading voice in design and spirituality, and explore creative leadership rooted in the heart.



## ISLAMOPHOBIA NOW: POWER, PREJUDICE AND RESISTANCE

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Panel

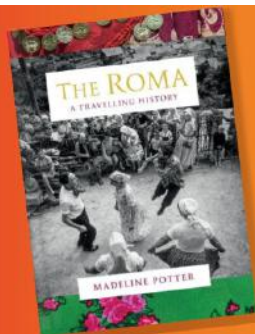
🕒 14:45 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

Islamophobia isn't just a slur or a spike in hate crime - it's a system. From counterterrorism policy and surveillance to media narratives and foreign wars, Muslims are routinely positioned as threats.

This panel examines how Islamophobia is being mobilised today in the UK and across the globe. Who gains from it, and how is it being challenged? What does it take to confront it at its roots - not just in rhetoric, but in power structures?

In an age of rising nationalism and global instability, is Islamophobia shaping the policies that divide us - and what do we risk if we don't confront it?





## THE ROMA: A TRAVELLING HISTORY

**Madeline Potter and Damian Le Bas**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

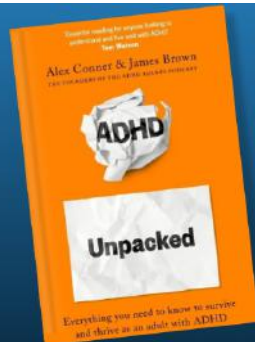
🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 15:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join writer and researcher Madeline Potter for a deeply personal and timely conversation about her acclaimed book *The Roma*, a powerful portrait of Europe's Romani communities, past and present.

Blending memoir, reportage, and historical investigation, Potter sheds new light on a people too often excluded from mainstream narratives. From artists and boxers to survivors of persecution and injustice, *The Roma* uncovers extraordinary lives, and challenges the stereotypes and prejudices that continue to shape public perception.

Drawing on her own experiences as a Romani woman, Potter offers a moving exploration of identity, resilience, and the importance of visibility.



## ADHD UNPACKED

**Alex Conner**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 15:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Think you might have ADHD and need some answers? Recently diagnosed and wondering what's next?

Join Alex Conner, author of *ADHD Unpacked: Everything You Need to Know to Survive and Thrive as an Adult with ADHD* and co-host of *The ADHD Adults* podcast, for an honest, engaging, and often hilarious deep dive into the realities of adult ADHD.

Blending science, lived experience, and myth-busting clarity, Conner explores what ADHD really is, how it affects daily life, and why emotional regulation might be the missing piece. Expect practical advice, surprising truths, and plenty of laughs.





## SHATTERED LANDS: FIVE PARTITIONS AND THE MAKING OF MODERN ASIA

**Sam Dalrymple**

📍 **Chamber, City Hall**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join historian and filmmaker Sam Dalrymple for an illuminating discussion on his debut book, *Shattered Lands*.

Drawing from extensive archival research and multilingual oral histories, Dalrymple examines five pivotal partitions, including those of India, Burma, and Palestine, that dismantled the British Indian Empire and reshaped modern Asia.

Through personal narratives and political analysis, he reveals how these divisions led to enduring conflicts, mass migrations, and the redrawing of borders. This event offers a compelling exploration of how historical partitions continue to influence contemporary geopolitics and identities across the region.



## LIVES IN VERSE: POETRY AS BIOGRAPHY

**Nandana Sen and John Siddique**

📍 **City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 15:15 (1 hour) | £7

What happens when poets turn to their own lives for material - or to the lives of those they carry within them?

This powerful event explores how poetry becomes a form of biography: personal, political, fragmented, and deeply felt. Through memory, myth, and metaphor, poets shape experience into language that can be both intimate and universal.

From migration to love, loss to inheritance, we ask: how do poets tell the story of a life? And is poetry closer to truth - or to the imagination that makes truth bearable?





## DEADLINE WITH STEPH MCGOVERN

**Steph McGovern**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

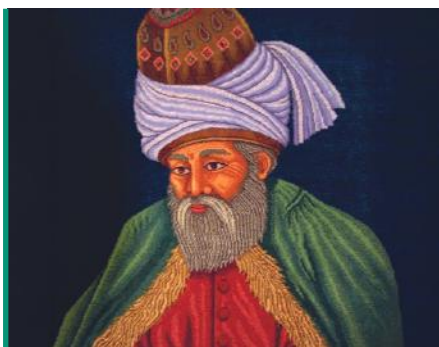
🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 15:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join journalist and broadcaster, Steph McGovern, as she discusses her gripping debut crime novel, *Deadline*, in an unmissable conversation about swapping the newsroom for fiction, and the secrets behind her page-turning plot.

*Deadline* opens with a nightmare scenario: your child has been kidnapped. You're live on television. When an unknown voice hijacks Rose's earpiece and threatens her family, she's forced to follow their commands, live on air, with the nation watching.

Drawing on her own experiences in journalism, McGovern will reveal how the fast-paced world of live TV shaped her story, and what it's like stepping into the world of crime fiction.



## RUMI LECTURE

**Bilal Kuşpınar**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ Lecture

🕒 16:00 (1 hour) | **£7**

Join esteemed scholar, Dr Bilal Kuşpınar, Chair of Philosophy and Director of the International Rumi Center at Necmettin Erbakan University, for an illuminating lecture on the spiritual and philosophical legacy of Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi.

Drawing on Rumi's seminal work, the *Masnavi*, and centuries of Sufi thought, Dr Kuşpınar explores themes of divine love, human nature, and the quest for meaning in a fractured world.

This event offers a rare opportunity to engage with Rumi's teachings through the lens of Islamic philosophy and mysticism, guided by one of the foremost experts in the field.





## THE FOOD OUR GRANDMOTHERS KNEW

**Radhika Howarth**

📍 **City Park, Festival Hub**

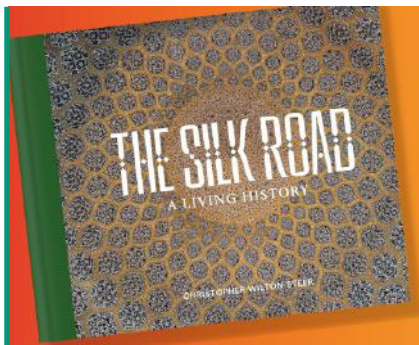
🗣️ Talks

🕒 16:00 (1 hour) | £7

Why did our grandmothers stir turmeric into hot milk at bedtime? Why did they eat with their hands, or instinctively pair yoghurt with rice on a hot day? In this rich and reflective talk, culinary storyteller and author Radhika Howarth explores the intuitive food wisdom passed down through generations - and what it still has to teach us today.

Drawing on her background in food and nutrition, Radhika brings gentle authority to the everyday knowledge once shared around family tables.

From seasonal rhythms to the quiet remedies in our spice cupboards, she invites us to reconnect with a more instinctive, meaningful way of eating - one rooted in care, culture, and memory.



## THE SILK ROAD: A VISUAL JOURNEY FROM LONDON TO BEIJING

**Christopher Wilton-Steer**

📍 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🗣️ Talks

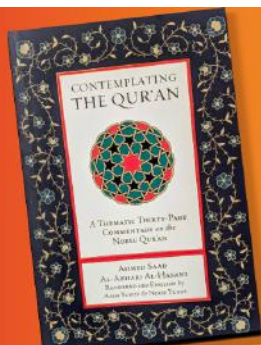
🕒 16:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join travel photographer and writer Christopher Wilton-Steer for an extraordinary visual and personal account of his 40,000 km journey across Eurasia.

In 2019, Wilton-Steer travelled overland from the UK to China, by train, bus, ferry, car, horse and camel, crossing 15 countries to explore the cultural connections that continue to echo along the ancient Silk Road. In this richly illustrated talk, he shares stories and photographs from the journey that inspired the acclaimed outdoor exhibitions in London and Toronto, now becoming a book.

Reflecting on a world in flux, Wilton-Steer invites us to consider how much we share - and what binds us across borders.





## QUR'ANIC THEMES AND PARABLES

Shaykh Ahmed Saad Al-Azhari

📍 Banqueting Suite, City Hall

🔊 Talks

🕒 16:15 (1 hour) | £7

Shaykh Ahmed Saad Al-Azhari joins us to launch *Parables from the Qur'an*, the much-anticipated follow-up to *Contemplating the Qur'an*.

This event offers a unique opportunity to delve into the thematic depth and metaphorical beauty of the *Qur'an*, drawing on classical scholarship and contemporary insight. While *Contemplating the Qur'an* provides a concise, accessible commentary across the thirty parts (juz') of the *Qur'an*, *Parables from the Qur'an* explores its rich use of metaphor and allegory, uncovering timeless lessons through reflective analysis.

Whether you're a dedicated student or new to the *Qur'an's* message, this session promises to deepen your understanding and connection to the divine word.



BLOOMSBURY

## CAREERS IN PUBLISHING

Bloomsbury Writer's & Artists  
Harper North and Wonderful

📍 University of Bradford, John Stanley  
Bell Lecture Theatre, Richmond  
Building

🔊 Panel

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

Interested in a career in publishing? Join Bloomsbury as they invite Harper North and Wonderful for an insightful session on how to break into the industry.

This event offers a unique opportunity to hear from professionals at top publishing houses and a recruitment expert. Gain insights into the diverse career paths within publishing, from editorial to marketing, and discover what employers are looking for in candidates.

With expert advice, industry tips, and Q&A sessions, this is the perfect chance to learn how to kick-start your publishing career.



BLOOMSBURY







## CULTURE WARS & CANCEL CULTURE

Ash Sarkar and Michael Chessum

📍 Bradford Live, Ballroom

🗣️ Panel

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join Ash Sarkar and Michael Chessum for a powerful conversation on the complexities and contradictions within contemporary leftist politics.

From the rise of cancel culture and wokeism to the increasing fragmentation of progressive movements, Sarkar and Chessum will explore why political progressivism seems to falter in the face of cultural and social change.

Drawing on their expertise in activism and political thought, they will discuss how ideological purity, social media dynamics, and generational divides have reshaped the left's ability to effect meaningful change.

This event offers an essential critique of today's political landscape and a look towards its future.



## BEYOND THE BIENNALE: ISLAMIC ART AND ITS CONTEMPORARY RESONANCE

📍 Norcroft Auditorium,  
University of Bradford

🗣️ In Conversation

🕒 17:00 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

Following the landmark Islamic Arts Biennale in Jeddah, our panellists return to reflect on what it revealed — and what comes next.

Join Dr Silke Ackermann, Dr Abdulrahman Azzam and Rizwan Ahmed as they explore the living legacy of Islamic art and architecture, its global influence, and its power to connect past and present.

From philosophy to form, tradition to innovation, they'll discuss how Islamic aesthetics continue to shape contemporary creativity. With insights from both the exhibition and the wider cultural landscape, this is a rare opportunity to engage with the enduring relevance of Islamic artistic heritage.



مؤسسة بينالي الدرعية  
Diriyah Biennale Foundation





## WHIRLING DERVISHES

Konya Metropolitan Municipality |  
Semazen Ensemble

📍 University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 17:30 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

Experience the spiritual and artistic beauty of the Mevlevi Sema ceremony, performed by the renowned Konya Metropolitan Municipality Semazen Ensemble.

This mesmerising ritual, rooted in the teachings of Rumi, combines music, poetry, and the iconic whirling dance to symbolize the soul's journey towards divine love. Supported by the Yunus Emre Institute, this performance offers a rare opportunity to witness a UNESCO-recognised tradition that continues to inspire audiences worldwide.

Immerse yourself in a transcendent experience that bridges centuries of Sufi mysticism and contemporary cultural expression.



## THE OLD DARK HOUSE: SCREENING

📍 The National Science and Media  
Museum, Pictureville

🎬 Films & Screenings

🕒 18:00 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7

Watch J. B. Priestley's debut in Hollywood cinema, drawn from his seminal novel *Benighted*. James Whale created a wonderfully atmospheric horror comedy and, unwittingly, a genre that reverberates into the horrors of today.

When a group of travellers are stranded in a remote area, they seek refuge in a house of eccentrics but receive little comfort or rest. They encounter a bizarre and increasingly strange family, including the cowardly Horace Femm, his fanatically religious sister Rebecca, and the flamboyant Sir William Porterhouse. As the night unfolds, the guests must contend with the family's dark secrets and the looming threat of the pyromaniac Saul Femm.

Refreshed in a restored 4K digital version.

**Age Restriction: PG**





## POLARI LITERARY SALON

**Paul Burston**

📍 **Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery**

🎵 Concerts & Performances

🕒 18:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£7**

We're delighted to welcome back Polari, the multi award-winning LGBTQ+ literary salon, for another unforgettable evening in Bradford.

Founded and hosted by author and activist Paul Burston, Polari is known for its high-energy, cabaret-style atmosphere and showcases the very best in established and emerging LGBTQ+ literary talent.

Expect thought-provoking readings, captivating performances, and a celebration of queer voices that's anything but your average literary event. Uplifting, entertaining, and always inspiring, Polari is a literary salon with heart, flair, and a whole lot of soul.



## DOHA DEBATES

**Wael Hallaq, Shashi Tharoor, David Engels and moderated by Malika Bilal**

📍 **St George's Hall**

🗣️ Debate

🕒 19:00 (2hours) | **£7**

The modern nation state plays a powerful role in shaping how we define ourselves - but as global challenges shift ideas of culture, citizenship and belonging, its future is being reimagined.

Join Doha Debates for a town hall that brings together three influential thinkers to explore what national identity means today. Wael Hallaq, a scholar of Islamic law and a leading critic of modern state structures, examines identity beyond territorial boundaries. Indian parliamentarian and author Shashi Tharoor offers insight into nationalism and postcolonial identity. Historian David Engels brings a European perspective on tradition and cultural continuity.

Moderated by journalist Malika Bilal, this debate will unfold live on stage with students and recent graduates.



**Doha Debates**  
Production of Qatar Foundation





## LOÏE FULLER: OBSESSED WITH LIGHT: UK PREMIERE

**The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

Films & Screenings

19:00 (1 hour 35 mins) | **£7**

Watch this captivating documentary illuminating the life and legacy of Loïe Fuller (1862–1928), a pioneering American performer who revolutionised early 20th-century visual culture.

Directed by Sabine Krayenbühl and Zeva Oelbaum, the film delves into Fuller's innovative fusion of dance, fabric, and lighting, creating a new form of spectacle that influenced modern performance art.

Through archival footage and interviews with contemporary artists, the documentary explores Fuller's enduring impact on the arts.

**Age Restriction: 12A (adv)**



## BEING MR WICKHAM

**Adrian Lukis**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

Concerts & Performances

19:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | **£10**

Mr Wickham is ready to set the record straight.

Join *Pride and Prejudice*'s most roguish gentleman, George Wickham, on the eve of his sixtieth birthday, to lift the sheets on exactly what happened thirty years on from where we left him.

What really happened with Darcy? What did he feel about Lizzie? What happened at Waterloo? Not to mention Byron...

Adrian Lukis, who starred as Mr Wickham in the renowned BBC TV adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, returns to the role for an expansion of the rogue's story in this unmissable one man show.





## RE:IMAGINE FAITH CONVERSATIONS WITH BARONESS SAYEEDA WARSI

📍 **Bradford Cathedral, Side Room**

🔊 In Conversation

🕒 19:30 (2 hours) | **£15**

Hosted by Bradford Cathedral, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi in conversation, will explore the shifting and contested landscape of interfaith relations in the 21st century.

How is this playing out in places like Bradford and what can we, as City of Culture, learn from our good and more challenging experiences of the past?

The Rt Hon. the Baroness Warsi is a British lawyer, politician, and member of the House of Lords who served as co-chairwoman of the Conservative Party from 2010 to 2012.



## ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW: SCREENING

📍 **Pictureville**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 20:30 (2 hours) | **£7**

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with a special screening featuring interactive audience participation.

This cult classic follows the naïve Brad and Janet as they stumble upon the eccentric Dr. Frank-N-Furter and his bizarre world of music, mischief, and mayhem. Filled with catchy songs, outrageous costumes, and a tongue-in-cheek celebration of identity and freedom, the film has inspired generations of fans worldwide.

Join us for a lively and immersive experience that captures the spirit of rebellion and fun that has made *Rocky Horror* an enduring cultural phenomenon. Visit our website for full details of how to participate!

**Age Restriction: 15**



# SUNDAY 6 JULY

Step into a world of wonder at our magical Family Fun Day at City Park. Enjoy a spellbinding lineup of free activities, from enchanting face painting and mystical walkabout characters to dazzling performances that will amaze and delight. It's a day of magic and imagination for the whole family to enjoy – wands at the ready!

## FILM SCREENING

Pictureville,  
National Science &  
Media Museum

Join us for a magical screening of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*! Follow Harry's first journey into the wizarding world - full of wonder, friendship, and unforgettable adventures for all ages.

**11:00 | FREE | Book Online**  
**Age Restriction: PG**

## ARTS & CRAFTS

Imagination Station,  
City Park  
& Broadway  
Shopping Centre

Step into the wizarding world with our magic-themed activities! Enjoy enchanting crafts, spellbinding stories, and mystical fun. Perfect for young wizards, witches, and imaginative minds of all ages.

**10:00-16:00 | FREE | Drop in**



# FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Waterstones**

Meet author Salma Damirji for a special reading of *Moon in the Room*, a beautifully illustrated children's book that brings the magic of Ramadan to life. Perfect for children and families, Salma's reading offers a heartfelt celebration of this cherished time.

**12:00 | FREE | Book Online**

Meet author Mario Ambrosi for an exclusive reading of *Scarlett Buckling and the Case of the Missing Pictures*, a heartfelt middle-grade mystery exploring family, memory, and courage for ages 9–12.

**14:00 | FREE | Book Online**

## STORYTELLING

**Imagination  
Station, City Park**

Embark on a spellbinding adventure with magic-themed storytelling! Dive into enchanting tales of wizards, potions, and mystical lands that spark imagination and transport young minds to worlds of wonder.

**Gav Cross** 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:00 | 14:30

**Eden Ballantyne** 10:30 | 12:00 | 13:30 | 15:00

**Maddie** 11:00 | 12:30 | 14:00 | 15:30

**FREE | Book Online**

## PERFORMANCES

**City Park**

Enjoy magical and mesmerising performances as the vibrant rhythms of a samba band take over City Park throughout the day - celebrating joy, movement, and community spirit in a colourful, energetic celebration for all ages!

**10:30 | 12:00 | 13:45 | 15:15 | FREE**





## MEET THE PUBLISHER: BLOOMSBURY

**Jonathan Evers**

📍 **University of Bradford,  
Red Room, Bright Building**

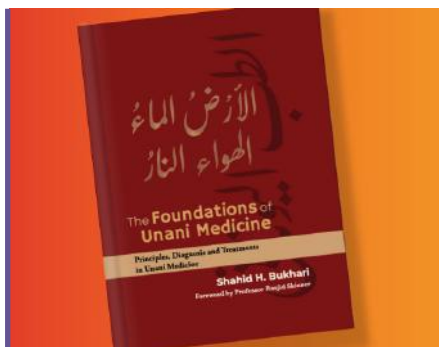
🗣️ Workshop

🕒 10:00 | 10:45 | 11:30 | (30 mins) | £7

Discover the key to a successful publishing journey with Bloomsbury. In this one-to-one session with one of their editors, they will provide expert guidance on how to approach publishers and what makes your manuscript irresistible.

Participants will be asked to submit an example of their work beforehand to ensure a focused, constructive conversation. Get insider advice on navigating the publishing landscape, refining your pitch, and understanding what publishers are truly seeking in submissions.

This is a unique opportunity to get invaluable feedback and take your writing career to the next level.



## THE FOUNDATIONS OF UNANI MEDICINE

**Rasjid Skinner and Shahid Bukhari**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 10:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Discover the principles and practice of Unani medicine with Shahid H. Bukhari - Unani physician, Principal of CUTAM College, and author of *Foundations of Unani Medicine*.

This session offers an introduction to the historical roots, foundational theories, diagnostic techniques, and therapeutic methods of this holistic healing tradition, including the use of herbal remedies. With practical insights into Unani's relevance in contemporary wellness, it explores how its emphasis on balance, prevention, and natural healing can complement modern health approaches.

A perfect introduction for anyone interested in traditional medicine, holistic health, or the enduring wisdom of ancient medical systems.





## FRANCES CURRER: THE BRONTËS' HIDDEN INFLUENCE?

Irene Lofthouse

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

Discover the remarkable story of Frances Mary Richardson Currer (1785–1861), the pioneering bibliophile of Eshton Hall, Skipton.

Hailed as one of Britain's earliest female book collectors, Currer built a vast and eclectic library of natural history, literature, and antiquities. With close ties to the Sidgwick family, neighbours to Charlotte Brontë, we discuss whether she may have had more influence on the Brontës' lives than you know.

This illustrated talk uncovers Currer's hidden legacy, blending fact, speculation, and Brontë connections to explore how one woman's passion for books may have quietly shaped literary history.



## AFTERMATH: HOW WWII STILL GOVERNS GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Iain MacGregor and Sinclair McKay

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 11:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join historians, Iain Macgregor and Sinclair McKay, for an insightful discussion on the aftermath of World War Two, and how its impact still governs global affairs today.

Drawing on decades of research, they explore the enduring legacies of the Second World War and how its outcomes continue to shape international politics, diplomacy, and conflicts.

From shifting alliances to the rise of new powers, this event offers a compelling analysis of the war's long shadow on global affairs. Ideal for history enthusiasts and those interested in understanding the complex forces shaping the modern world.





## WRITERS MOSAIC PRESENTS: GLOBAL CRIME QUEENS

**Kia Abdullah, Nadine Matheson, Saima Mir and John Siddique**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 11:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join WritersMosaic and The Royal Literary Fund's John Siddique for a gripping exploration into the dark hearts of storytelling with three of today's leading voices in global crime fiction.

Sunday Times bestseller, Saima Mir, City University's Crime Writing Award winner, Nadine Matheson, and critically acclaimed author, Kia Abdullah – whose work has been hailed as 'thriller of the year' by *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph* – come together to discuss the creative drive, personal journeys, and cultural forces that shape their narratives.

From vengeance to justice, and trauma to empowerment, this conversation reveals what lies beneath the surface of every killer story.



## FINDING BELLE AND FINDING CHARLOTTE

**Martina Devlin and Reeta Chakrabarti**

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🗣️ Panel

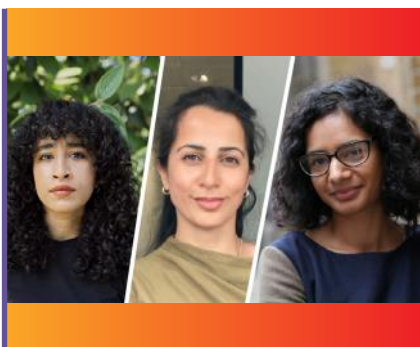
🕒 12:15 (1 hour) | £7

Join BBC News correspondent Reeta Chakrabarti and award-winning novelist Martina Devlin for a compelling discussion on the lasting legacy of Charlotte Brontë.

Reeta's debut novel, *Finding Belle*, is a haunting, evocative story of identity, betrayal, and maternal bonds, drawing on themes from *Jane Eyre*. Martina's *Charlotte* reimagines Brontë's little-known time in Ireland, blending passion, friendship, and intrigue. Together, they explore how Charlotte Brontë's life and work continue to inspire modern fiction, shaping powerful narratives of resilience and self-discovery.

This event offers fresh insight into one of literature's most enduring figures through the lens of two acclaimed contemporary writers.





## MUSLIM WOMEN IN MEDIA

**Shahed Ezaydi, Samia Rahman and Sabbiyah Pervez**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

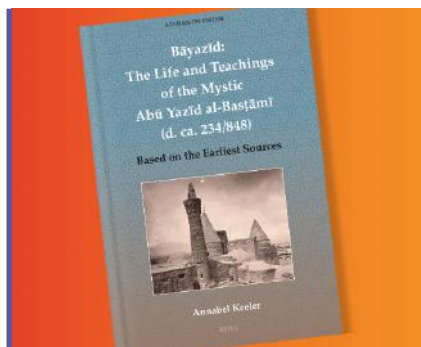
🗣️ Panel

🕒 12:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join writers and journalists Shahed Ezaydi, Samia Rahman, and Sabbiyah Pervez for a vital conversation exploring the experiences of Muslim women in the media today.

From newsroom representation to public perception, the panel will discuss how Muslim women navigate an industry often shaped by bias, underrepresentation, and sensationalism. Drawing on their work across journalism, publishing, and broadcasting, they will reflect on the challenges they've faced, the stories they want to tell, and the importance of creating space for authentic voices.

This empowering event highlights the need for greater visibility, nuance, and inclusion in the media landscape.



## BAYAZID: THE CONTROVERSIAL MYSTIC

**Annabel Keeler**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 12:30 (1 hour) | £7

In this talk, Annabel Keeler explores the enduring impact of Bāyazīd's radical devotion, his title as 'Sultan of the Gnostics,' and how his mysticism challenged religious norms.

The ninth-century mystic Bāyazīd (Abū Yazīd al-Bisāmī) is one of the most influential figures in Sufi history. Revered by Rumi, Ibn Arabī, and Fakhr al-Dīn Rāzī, his ecstatic utterances and uncompromising vision earned him both veneration and controversy - sometimes even accusations of unbelief.

Though he left no written works, his teachings endure through sayings and stories preserved in the Sufi tradition. Keeler's acclaimed study on Bāyazīd was published earlier this year.





## BOUND IN BEAUTY: CREATE YOUR OWN COLLECTOR'S EDITION

📍 **Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room**

🗣️ Workshop

🕒 12:30 (2 hours) | £10

Have you ever walked into a bookshop, picked up a collector's edition of your favourite classic, and been completely captivated by its beauty?

Inspired by the new Vintage Collector's Classics series, which celebrates both Romantic and Gothic literature, you'll learn the art of marbling, experiment with design techniques, and craft a cover that's as beautiful as the story inside.

Whether you're drawn to the elegance of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott or the dark intrigue of Oscar Wilde and Mary Shelley, this workshop will give you the space to bring your own creative vision to life.

Be sure to bring your own book to transform!



## FUTURE WORLDS PRIZE: CRAFTING OTHERWORLDS

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🗣️ Panel

🕒 13:00 (1 hour) | £7

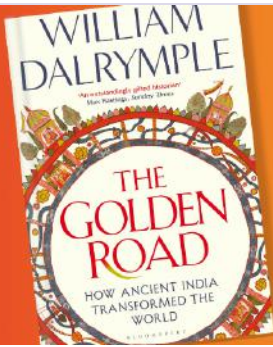
Join two exciting voices in speculative fiction, authors M. H. Ayinde and Marve Anson, as they delve into the craft of worldbuilding - from creating magic systems and futuristic technology to developing languages and rich cultural traditions.

Chaired by writer and journalist, Sarah Shaffi, this conversation explores how authors shape vivid fictional worlds that captivate readers and reflect real-world complexities.

Together, they'll share tips, insights, and behind-the-scenes stories of crafting immersive worlds and unforgettable adventures.







## IN CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM DALRYMPLE: THE GOLDEN ROAD

**William Dalrymple**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🔊 In Conversation

🕒 13:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for a rare opportunity to hear acclaimed historian and author, William Dalrymple, discuss his latest book, *The Golden Road*, a sweeping, revelatory history of empire, ambition, and resistance in South Asia.

Known for his gripping narrative style and meticulous research, Dalrymple brings to life the powerful figures and dramatic events that shaped the region and the world beyond.

This insightful conversation will delve into the global forces behind empire and the enduring impact of colonialism today. Perfect for history enthusiasts, political thinkers, and anyone interested in the stories that define our past, and our future.



## DO THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL COHESION?

**David Kennedy and Colin Philpott**

📍 **City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

🔊 Talks

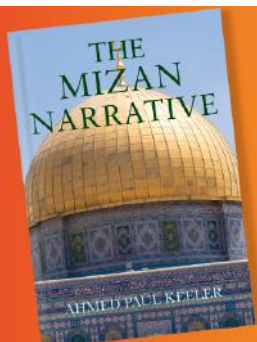
🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join author and cultural commentator, David Kennedy, as he explores the complex relationship between art, class, and social change, drawing on themes from his provocative book *Art and Class: How the Middle Classes Hijacked the Nation's Galleries*.

Kennedy will examine whether landmark works like *Guernica* truly influenced public opinion, whether the New Deal's investment in artists brought lasting transformation, and whether today's galleries and museums are engines of social cohesion - or simply echo chambers for the already privileged.

With powerful examples from past and present, we will ask: do the arts truly challenge power and reach those who need them most?





## THE MIZAN NARRATIVE

**Ahmed Paul Keeler, Yusuf Chaudhary,  
Ayman Abdal Haleem and Ali Keeler**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Ahmed Paul Keeler introduced the Mizan Thesis, a comparative study highlighting core differences between Islam and the West, in his ground-breaking work *Rethinking Islam & The West*. In this new book, *The Mizan Narrative*, Ahmed has endeavoured to knit together Islam and the West in a single narrative.

Ahmed will be joined by Haleem Ayman Abdel and Dr Yusuf Chaudhary, and chaired by Ali Keeler as they discuss how *The Mizan Narrative's* four chapters, Revelation, Manifestation, Destruction and Witness, carry us along the journey from the Revelation of the Holy Quran to the present day.

Discover startling new insights, completely transforming our understanding of the history of Islam and the West.



## THE MONSTROUS ANGER OF THE GUNS

**Jeremy Corbyn and Paul Rogers**

📍 **St George's Hall** | 🗣️ Talks

🕒 14:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join Jeremy Corbyn and Professor Paul Rogers for a timely and thought-provoking conversation on the global arms race.

As former leader of the Labour Party, Corbyn brings a lifelong commitment to peace and disarmament, while Rogers draws on decades of experience as a leading expert in international security and peace studies. Together, they explore the political and ethical implications of rising global military spending and arms proliferation.

With insight shaped by research and activism, this event offers a compelling call to rethink global security and consider more just, peaceful alternatives in an increasingly weaponised world.





## ESCAPING WILDFELL HALL: COERCION, CONTROL, AND FEMALE FREEDOM

**Tina Kramer**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

**Talks**

**14:15 (1 hour) | £7**

When Anne Brontë published *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* in 1848, she challenged domestic abuse, gendered power, and societal silence. Over 175 years later, the novel remains strikingly modern.

In this compelling event, Tina Kramer, retired U.S. law enforcement investigator and Creative Writing PhD researcher, examines the book's enduring relevance. Combining professional and literary insights, she explores how Brontë's depiction of coercive control anticipates today's understanding of psychological, emotional, and financial abuse.

Join Kramer as she adapts *Wildfell Hall* for a contemporary audience. She reflects on literature's power to reveal hidden truths, defy norms, and amplify silenced voices.





## TALES OF THE WEIRD

**Elizabeth Dearnley, Jeremy Dyson,  
John Miller and Nick Jubber**

📍 **City Hall, The Chamber**

🔊 Panel

🕒 14:30 (1 hour) | £7

Step into the strange and shadowy world of the British Library's acclaimed *Tales of the Weird* series, which has brought new life to Britain's rich tradition of gothic, folkloric, and uncanny storytelling.

From haunted houses to forgotten monsters, these stories speak to something deep in the national imagination. Join Jeremy Dyson (*The League of Gentlemen*, *Ghost Stories*) and *Tales of the Weird* editors, gothic scholar John Miller and folklorist Elizabeth Dearnley as they explore why eerie tales continue to resonate.

Chaired by travel writer Nick Jubber, this panel celebrates the enduring power of the weird - on the page, on the stage, and in the shadows. Co-produced by the British Library.



## THE SWIMMING DIARIES: SCREENING

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 14:45 (1 hour 40 mins) | £7

*The Swimming Diaries* is an experimental docufiction film by Susan Thomson, an adaptation of her memoir into a visual and auditory exploration of grief and memory.

Each of the 25,000 words in her book corresponds to a metre swum during the month her mother was dying. The film translates this journey into movement, blending dance, music, and archival footage.

Featuring underwater sequences, surreal imagery, and a fusion of choral, orchestral, and pop music, creating a poignant meditation on loss and the enduring bond between mother and daughter.

**Age Restriction: PG**





## THE RUSSIAN CONSUL: UK PREMIERE

📍 **The National Science and Media  
Museum, Pictureville**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 15:00 (2 hour 30 mins) | £7

Experience the UK premiere of *The Russian Consul*, a gripping political drama directed by Miroslav Lekić.

Set in 1973, the film follows Serbian psychiatrist Ilija Jugović, who is transferred to a hospital in Kosovo after a professional setback. There, he meets Ljubo Božović, a history professor who believes himself to be a 19th-century Russian consul. As ethnic tensions escalate, Jugović becomes entangled in a web of political and personal conflicts.

Adapted from Vuk Drašković's novel, this film offers a poignant exploration of identity, resistance, and the complexities of Balkan history.



## BUT INDEED I WOULD RATHER HAVE NOTHING BUT TEA!

**Kate Halloran**

📍 **The Midland Hotel, Forster Suite**

🔊 Workshop

🕒 15:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £15

A historically guided tea tasting with Kate Halloran, Tea Innovation Manager at Taylors of Harrogate, featuring blends inspired by the Regency table, brewed to perfection in true Austen style.

"But indeed I would rather have nothing but tea," confides Fanny Price in *Mansfield Park*.

An unmissable treat for admirers of Austen, a food historian will lead a charming exploration of the role food and drink play in Austen's novels, letters, and life. From subtle courtships over supper to the social codes of tea tables, we'll uncover how Austen used food to reveal character, class, and comedy.






## BOOK BINDING WORKSHOP

**Ayşe Kaya**

 **Bright Building, University of  
Bradford, Teaching Room**

 Workshop

 15:00 (3 hours) | **£15**

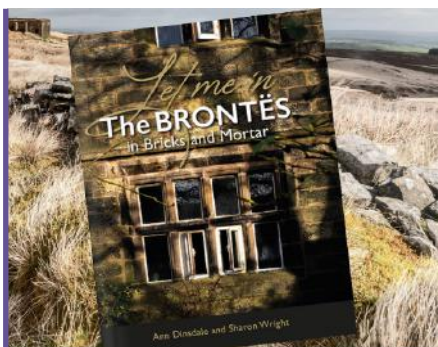
Join Turkish book conservator Ayşe Kaya for a hands-on introduction to traditional Turkish bookbinding.

Trained at the Süleymaniye Manuscript Library in Istanbul and currently working at the British Library, Kayashares her deep knowledge of Islamic manuscript conservation and decorative arts.

In this workshop, participants will create their own personalised miniature book using authentic materials and techniques inspired by Ottoman craftsmanship. Kaya will also discuss the cultural history of bookbinding and ornamentation in Turkey.

No prior experience is needed, and all materials are provided. Perfect for anyone interested in book arts, history, or traditional craft.

**Age Restriction: 18+**




## LET ME IN: THE BRONTËS IN BRICKS AND MORTAR

**Ann Dinsdale and Sharon Wright**

 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

 Talks

 15:30 (1 hour) | **£7**

In this fascinating conversation, authors Ann Dinsdale and Sharon Wright take us on a journey through the houses and places that shaped the lives and work of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne.

Their book uncovers the stories behind the Brontës' childhood home and the famous Parsonage, the real school that inspired *Jane Eyre*, and the ruined halls that echo through *Wuthering Heights*.

With beautiful illustrations and rich historical insight, this event invites you to rediscover the Brontës through the buildings they knew, revealing how the rooms they lived in and the landscapes they moved through helped shape the stories that still capture readers' imaginations today.





## THE WORLD TODAY 2025

**Professor Paul Rogers**

**City Hall, The Chamber**

**Panel**

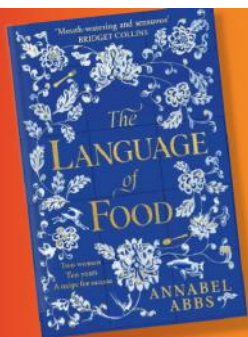
**16:00 (1 hour 15 mins) | £7**

Professor Paul Rogers returns to lead a panel of expert commentators in our annual current affairs event, offering a 360-degree view of the most urgent issues shaping the world in 2025.

From ongoing conflict and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, to escalating tensions in the Red Sea and South China Sea, and the global impact of Trump's return to office, this year's conversation couldn't be more timely.

With instability rising and elections reshaping political landscapes worldwide, our panel brings clarity, insight and sharp analysis to the headlines - and what lies beneath them.





## A RECIPE FOR FICTION: ANNABEL ABBS ON THE LANGUAGE OF FOOD

**Annabel Abbs**

**University of Bradford, Small Hall,  
Richmond Building**

**Talks**

**16:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Join acclaimed author Annabel Abbs for a rich and sensory exploration of food, memory, and creativity. In *The Language of Food*, Abbs brings to life the story of Eliza Acton, the pioneering 19th-century poet-turned-cookery writer who revolutionised British cuisine.

Blending historical fiction with culinary history, Abbs delves into the role of women in the kitchen, the power of recipes as storytelling, and how food shapes identity.

This event promises a deliciously thought-provoking celebration of words, nourishment, and the forgotten voices behind our favourite dishes.



## RECLAIMING FEMINISM

**Minna Salami and Shahed Ezeydi**

**City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

**In Conversation**

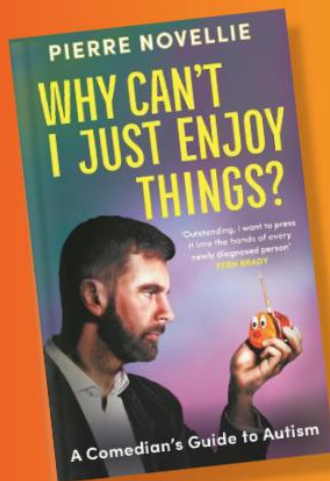
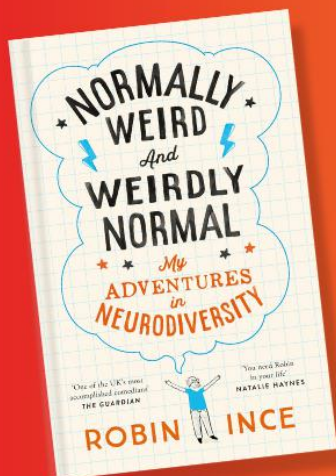
**16:30 (1 hour) | £7**

What happens when feminism excludes the very women it claims to liberate? In this powerful conversation, Minna Salami (*Can Feminism Be African?*) and Shahed Ezeydi (*The Othered Woman*) explore the erasures, assumptions, and possibilities at the heart of global feminist discourse.

Drawing on African political philosophy, lived experience, and intersectional critique, they unpack how feminism can become a tool of dominance — and how it might be reimagined through radically inclusive lenses.

From the politics of selfhood to the violence of white feminism, this is an urgent dialogue about power, plurality, and the futures feminism must confront.





## THINKING DIFFERENTLY AND LAUGHING LOUDLY

**Pierre Novellie and Robin Ince**

📍 **University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building**

🔊 Panel

🕒 16:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for a captivating conversation as Robin Ince, author of *Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal: My Adventures in Neurodiversity*, and Pierre Novellie, author of *Why Can't I Just Enjoy Things?: A Comedian's Guide to Autism* explore the intersection of comedy, creativity, and neurodiversity.

Sharing insights from their latest books, Ince and Novellie delve into their personal journeys, unpacking the quirks, challenges, and joys of neurodiverse experiences with wit and warmth.

Expect laughter, thought-provoking anecdotes, and a celebration of the unique ways neurodiversity shapes how we see – and laugh at – the world.





## THE HEAVENLY SHADHILI WISDOM

**Muhammad al-Yaqoubi**

📍 **St George's Hall**

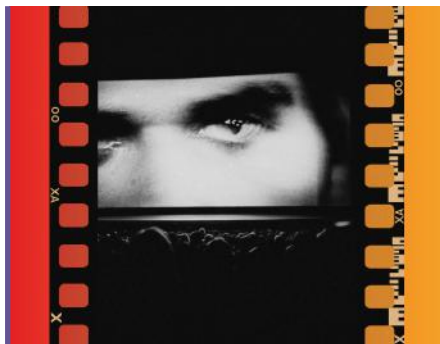
🔊 Talks

🕒 16:30 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7

Composed in the 13th century, *The Heavenly Shādhilī Wisdom* is a collection of concise yet profound sayings and teachings from the renowned Moroccan saint, Imam Abū al-Hasan al-Shādhilī. These timeless insights have long served as guiding lights for seekers of truth across generations and cultures.

In this special session, Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi presents his new English translation of this spiritual masterpiece, offering reflections on the enduring legacy of Imam Abū al-Hasan and its relevance in the modern world.

With both scholarly precision and spiritual depth, this event will explore how these teachings speak to the contemporary search for meaning, balance, and inner stillness.



## PARADISE NOW: SCREENING + Q&A

**Seamus Murphy**

📍 **The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema**

🔊 Films & Screenings

🕒 17:00 (2 hours) | £7

*Paradise Now* made history as the first Palestinian film to be nominated for an Academy Award, offering a gripping, human-centred portrayal of two friends preparing for a suicide mission in Tel Aviv.

To mark the 20th anniversary of this landmark film, award-winning photojournalist, Seamus Murphy, who captured not only the stills for the film but the on-going situation in Nablus, joins us for a special anniversary screening and Q&A.

His exhibition at Bradford Literature Festival 2025, *Smoke and Mirrors*, captures Nablus - the city at the heart of the film - then and now revealing the ongoing reality of occupation and the enduring resonance of its themes 21 years later.

**Age Restriction: 15+**





## FREE WORD LECTURE

📍 **Bradford Live, Ballroom**

🔊 Lecture

🕒 17:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join us for our annual Free Word Lecture, which aims to uphold the ethos of free speech with a focus on the power and politics of words.

Continuing the legacy of the Free Word Centre, an international centre for literature, literacy, and free expression, this annual event creates a platform for writers to spark stimulating conversations and challenge our assumptions about the world.

Following in the footsteps of previous speakers Ben Okri and Rana Ayyub, this year's lecture promises to be another unmissable event exploring the transformative and democratising power of words and the importance of freedom of expression.

**FW**  
FREE WORD



## PRESERVING CULTURE & MEMORY WITH FOOD

**Samantha Ellis and Bee Wilson**

📍 **University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building**

🔊 In Conversation

🕒 17:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join acclaimed writers Samantha Ellis and Bee Wilson for a fascinating conversation exploring food, memory, identity, and storytelling.

From Ellis's evocative memoirs about heritage and home to Wilson's insightful writing on the politics and pleasures of eating, both authors delve into how what we cook and consume shapes who we are.

Together, they discuss the personal and cultural histories woven through recipes, the emotional charge of family meals, and the power of food writing to nourish connection across generations. This intimate event promises to be a rich and thoughtful dialogue between two of Britain's most engaging literary voices.

THE  
READING  
AGENCY



**BRADFORD 2025**  
UK City of Culture





## A CULINARY JOURNEY THROUGH AL-ANDALUS

**Daniel Newman, Fiona Dunlop**

**City Hall, Banqueting Suite**

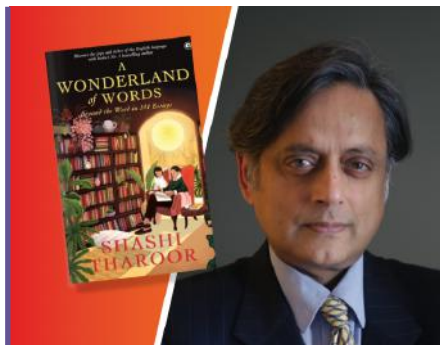
Talks

18:00 (1 hour) | £7

Join acclaimed food writer Fiona Dunlop and scholar Daniel L. Newman for a sensory journey through the rich culinary heritage of al-Andalus.

Dunlop's *Andaluz* explores the lasting influence of Moorish cuisine in southern Spain, featuring ingredients like saffron and almonds rooted in Arab and Berber traditions. Newman's translation of *The Exile's Cookbook* offers rare insight into medieval food culture across al-Andalus and North Africa.

Together, they discuss the historical and modern significance of these dishes, revealing how centuries of cultural exchange continue to shape the region's vibrant flavours. A feast of stories, history, and taste.



## SHASHI THAROOR: A WONDERLAND OF WORDS

**Shashi Tharoor**

**Bradford Live, Ballroom**

Talks

18:30 (1 hour) | £7

Join acclaimed writer, parliamentarian, and word-lover Shashi Tharoor for a joyous celebration of the English language.

In his latest book, *A Wonderland of Words*, Tharoor revels in the quirks, complexities, and sheer magic of words - from oxymorons to euphemisms, contronyms to kennings. With trademark wit and erudition, he explores the history, beauty, and occasional absurdity of English, offering insight, humour, and literary delight in equal measure.

Whether you're a lifelong logophile or simply curious about how language works, this event promises to entertain, inform, and deepen your love of words.





## SACRED MUSIC

📍 **Bradford Cathedral, Nave**

🔊 **Concerts & Performances**

🕒 **19:00 (1 hour 30 mins) | £7**

Bradford Literature Festival comes to a spectacular close with a powerful celebration of devotional music from across faith traditions. Set within the stunning surroundings of Bradford Cathedral, this special evening brings together a diverse array of sacred music styles, performed in a multitude of languages and traditions.

Audiences will experience an inspiring blend of prayerful music, poetry, and spoken word, as individual artists, choirs, and worship groups take to the stage. This unique event offers both musical joy and spiritual reflection - an uplifting finale that honours unity, diversity, and the shared language of devotion.



## POETRY FOR THE MANY: JEREMY CORBYN & LEN MCCLUSKEY

📍 **St George's Hall**

🔊 **Talks**

🕒 **20:00 (1 hour) | £7**

Jeremy Corbyn and Len McCluskey share a passionate belief in a fairer, more equal Britain, encapsulated in Labour's 2017 election slogan 'For the many, not the few'. This slogan, inspired by Shelley's famous poem *The Masque of Anarchy*, points to something else the two men have in common: a lifelong enthusiasm for poetry.

An unexpected but welcome collaboration, their anthology, *Poetry for the Many*, discusses the poems that have moved and enlightened them, with choices spanning over centuries and continents.

Join Corbyn and McCluskey as they discuss the poems that continue to inspire them in their political careers.



# 27 JUNE – 6 JULY 2025

## EXHIBITIONS

ALL FESTIVAL	Art of Integration: Peter Sanders Exhibition	Broadway Shopping Centre, Keighley Airedale, Shipley Underground Market	8
ALL FESTIVAL	30 Illustrated Articles of Human Rights	Keighley Library, Shipley Library, Manningham Library	9
ALL FESTIVAL	Riding Time	City Park, Festival Hub	9
ALL FESTIVAL	Unearthed:The Power of Gardening	City Park, Festival Hub	10
ALL FESTIVAL	Al-Qaswa:Witness to Sacred History	City Park, Festival Hub	10
ALL FESTIVAL	Through their eyes - an audiovisual story of our people Bradford Teaching Hospitals	City Park, Festival Hub	11
ALL FESTIVAL	Smoke and Mirrors	One City Park, Reception Area	11
ALL FESTIVAL	Mills Transformed	City Park, Festival Hub	12
ALL FESTIVAL	Make Mine Manga	Unit 1, The Imagination Station	12

## FRIDAY 27 JUNE

9:30 - 17:30	Creative Economic Conference	University of Bradford, Norcroft Auditorium,	14
10:30 - 11:30	Mills Transformed:Rebuilding Bradford's Past	City Park, Festival Hub	15
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite:Literature That Haunts	City Park, Festival Hub	15
14:00 - 15:00	Lost Mills and Ghost Mansions	City Park, Festival Hub	16
19:30 - 21:30	An Evening of Comedy	St George's Hall	16
19:30 - 21:50	Dramatic Readings and Ghazals: A Tribute to Faiz	Bradford Live, Ballroom	17
21:00 - 1:00	A Lit Night Out: DJ Simz	Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery	17

## SATURDAY 28 JUNE

09:45 - 10:45	Hockney Gallery Tour: Salts Mill	Salts Mill, Hockney Gallery	20
10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Arts & Crafts	Imagination Station, City Park & Broadway Shopping Centre	18
10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Storytelling	Imagination Station, City Park	18
10:00 - 12:00	Silk Road Slippers: Writing Masterclass	Bright Building, University of Bradford	20
10:30 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Performances	City Park	19
10:30- 11:30	Multicultural Britain: Where Are You From?	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	21
10:30- 11:30	Yin Yoga	University of Bradford, Norcroft Lounge, Norcroft Centre	21
10:30- 11:30	Emotional Freedom Technique Workshop	University of Bradford, Room D01.25, Horton D Building	22



SATURDAY 28 JUNE			
10:30 - 12:00	J. B. Priestley: A Life in Objects	University of Bradford, Special Collections Reading Room, Floor 01, J.B Priestley Library	22
10:30 - 12:30	Manga Drawing Workshop	University of Bradford, Room D01.29, Horton D Building	23
11:00 - 12:35	Family Fun Day: Film Screening	Pictureville, National Science & Media Museum	18
11:00 - 13:30	Meet the Agent: Curtis Brown	University of Bradford, Red Teaching Room, Bright Building	23
11:00 - 12:00	Paul Rogers: The World in 2030	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	24
11:00 - 12:30	Al-Qaswa	St George's Hall	24
11:00 - 12:30	Saltaire Model Village: Heritage Walking Tour	Saltaire United Reformed Church	25
11:00 - 13:00	Reveal and Read: Tarot Card Workshop	City Hall, Reception Room 1	25
11:30 - 12:30	Gaza 2040: Imagining the Future	Loading Bay	26
11:30 - 12:30	Feeding the Future	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	26
11:30 - 13:30	Lost Waters, Hidden Words: A Walking Trail of Bradford Beck	City Park, Festival Hub	27
11:45- 12:45	Modern Day Gatsby	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	27
12:00- 13:00	The Great Unravelling: Democracy & Development in the Age of Populism	Bradford Live, Ballroom	28
12:00 - 14:00	In-Power-Her: Reclaiming Your Inner Power	University of Bradford, Room D01.25, Horton D Building	28
12:15 - 13:30	Freedom of Expression: Who Gets to Speak?	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	29
12:30 - 13:30	Out of this World with Tchaikovsky and Hamilton	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	29
13:00 - 14:15	Orwell vs Priestley	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	30
13:00 - 14:00	Surveillance States	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	30
13:00 - 14:30	Soliloquy of the Full Moon	Loading Bay	31
13:30 - 15:30	Manga Drawing Workshop	University of Bradford, Room D01.29, Horton D Building	23
13:30 - 14:45	Jane Austen: The Woman Behind the Words	Bradford Live, Ballroom	31
14:00 - 15:00	From Civilisation to Civil War: A History of Syria	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	32
14:00 - 15:00	Larry Lamb In Conversation with Duncan Preston	St George's Hall	32



# 27 JUNE – 6 JULY 2025

## SATURDAY 28 JUNE

14:00 - 15:00	Katie Piper In Conversation	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	33
14:00 - 15:00	A Beginners Guide to Bradford: Walking Tour	City Park, Festival Hub	33
14:00 - 16:00	Whodunnit and How to Write It	City Hall, Reception Room 1	34
14:00 - 15:00	Sacred Spaces: The Evolving Architecture of Makkah	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	34
14:15 - 15:15	Witchy Reads	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	35
14:30 - 15:30	The CIA Book Club with Charlie English	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	35
14:30 - 15:30	Family Fun Day: Shadow Puppet Magic	1st Floor, City Library, City Park	19
14:30 - 16:30	Threads of Palestine: A Bradford Tatreez Embroidery Workshop	University of Bradford, Room D01.25, Horton D Building	36
15:00 - 16:00	The Poet as Muse: Faiz and the Visual Imagination	Moneeza Hashmi, Salima Hashmi and Saeed Khan	36
15:15 - 16:30	Syria in Transition: What Comes Next?	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	37
15:30 - 16:15	Family Fun Day: Meet the Author	Waterstones	19
15:30 - 16:30	Husam Zumlot	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	37
15:30 - 16:30	A Climate of Truth: Why We Need It and How To Get It	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	38
15:30 - 16:30	Writing Castlevania Nocturne	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	38
16:00 - 17:00	A Literary Tribute to Franz Kafka	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	39
16:30 - 17:45	The Poetry of Resistance: Faiz, Neruda, Darwish, and Qabbani	Loading Bay	39
16:45 - 17:45	Haunted Histories: Magic, Memory and the Supernatural in Fiction	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	40
17:00- 18:00	The Rise of the Far Right: What is at stake for the West	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	40
17:00- 18:00	Art of Integration	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	41
17:00- 18:00	Bridging Divides: Social Cohesion in Polarised Times	Bradford Live, Ballroom	41
19:00 -20:00	Neza Bazi Stables: Screening + Q&A	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	42
19:30 - 22:00	Sufiyana Kalaam	St George's Hall	42
19:30 - 22:00	Lyrical Mehfil	Loading Bay	43
19:30 - 21:00	Northern Noir at The Bar	Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery	44
20:30 - 22:30	An Evening of Romani Music	Bradford Live, Ballroom	44



SUNDAY 29 JUNE			
10:00-16:00	Family Fun Day: Arts & Crafts	Imagination Station, City Park	46
10:00-16:00	Family Fun Day: Storytelling	Imagination Station, City Park	46
10:00 - 11:45	Little Germany: Heritage Walking Tour	Merchants House, Little Germany Heritage Tour	48
10:00 - 11:00	Tai Chi	City Park	48
10:00 - 12:00	Introduction to Greco-Islamic Herbal Medicine	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	49
10:30 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Performances	City Park	47
11:00 - 12:50	Family Fun Day: Film Screening	Pictureville, National Science & Media Museum	46
11:00 - 12:30	Documentary Filmmaking Workshop	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	49
11:00 - 12:00	Cosy Crime: Murder in the [...]	City Hall, The Chamber	50
11:00 - 12:00	The European Genocide: Remembering Srebrenica	Bradford Live, Ballroom	50
11:00 - 12:00	Presence: The Strange Science of the Unseen Other	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	51
11:00 - 12:30	Soaking the Soul in the Recital	St George's Hall	51
11:00 - 13:00	Undercliffe Victorian Cemetery: Heritage Walking Tour	Undercliffe Cemetery, Undercliffe Cemetery	52
12:00 - 13:00	Kaarobaar-e-Shaam - The Poetic World of Hafeez Johar	University of Bradford, Norcroft Lounge, Norcroft Centre	52
12:30 - 13:30	The Real Mission of Malcolm X	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	53
12:30 - 13:30	Women Who Kill	City Hall, The Chamber	53
12:30 - 14:30	Petrykivka: Traditional Ukrainian Painting Workshop	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	54
13:00 - 15:00	Jewish Manningham: Heritage Walking Tour	Bradford Reform Synagogue	54
13:00 - 14:00	Great Faith: Stories of Sacrifice and Contribution	Loading Bay	55
13:30 - 14:30	Moin Akhtar: One Man Show - The Untold Story	University of Bradford, Norcroft Lounge, Norcroft Centre	55
13:30 - 14:30	John Siddique: The Prize 20 Years On	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	56
14:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Meet the Author	Waterstones	47
14:00 - 16:00	Motherboard: Screening + Q&A	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	56
14:00 - 15:15	Israel–Palestine: Understanding the Crisis, Exploring the Future	Bradford Live, Ballroom	57
14:00 - 15:00	Douglas Adams: The Ends of the Earth	St George's Hall	57
14:00 - 15:00	AI and Religious Authority: When Machines Preach, Who Leads?	University of Bradford, Norcroft Auditorium, Norcroft Centre	58



# 27 JUNE – 6 JULY 2025

## SUNDAY 29 JUNE

14:00 - 15:00	Gods, Guns and Missionaries: The Making of Modern Hindu Identity	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	58
14:00 - 16:00	Destiny Defined	University of Bradford, Horton Barn, Horton D Building	59
14:00 - 16:00	Emotional Freedom Technique Workshop	University of Bradford, Room D01.25, Horton D Building	59
14:30 - 15:30	Writing the North	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	60
14:30 - 15:30	Inside the Mind of Michelangelo	Loading Bay	60
14:30 - 15:30	Can You Solve the Murder? LIVE	City Hall, The Chamber	61
15:00 - 16:00	Illuminating Urdu Poetry: In Conversation with Naeem Haider	University of Bradford, Norcroft Lounge, Norcroft Centre	61
15:00 - 17:00	Threads of Palestine: A Tatreez Embroidery Workshop	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	62
15:30 - 16:30	The Truth about Antisemitism: Rachel Shabi in conversation	Bradford Live, Ballroom	62
15:30 - 16:30	Beyond the Headlines: Understanding the Crisis in Sudan	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	63
16:00 - 17:00	Ancestral Wisdom and the Future of Our Planet	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	63
16:00 - 17:00	Blake and the American Dream	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	64
16:30 - 17:30	More Sense & Less Sensibility	St George's Hall	64
16:30 - 17:30	Boater: A Life on England's Waterways	City Park, Festival Hub	65
16:45 - 18:00	The Day That Changed Britain: Twenty Years Since 7/7	Bradford Live, Ballroom	65
17:00 - 18:30	Ghost Empire Mauritius-Chagos: Screening + Q&A	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	66
17:00 - 18:00	Weapons of Influence: China, the West, and the New Global Flashpoints	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	66
17:30 - 18:30	Memoirs of Food: Angela Hui	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	67
19:30 - 20:30	A Prophecy: William Blake Remixed	Loading Bay	67
19:30 - 21:10	Jane Austen Wrecked My Life: Screening	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	68
20:00 - 22:00	Bollywood Gold: Navin Kundra Live in Concert with The 515 Crew	St George's Hall	68

## MONDAY 30 JUNE

12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite: u3a Creative Writing Group Anthology Launch	City Park, Festival Hub	69
14:00 - 15:00	Digging up Bradford's History	City Park, Festival Hub	69



## MONDAY 30 JUNE

ALL FESTIVAL	Historics Towns Trust: Map of Bradford	City Hall, Entrance Foyer	70
18:30 - 19:30	The Brontës' Journey to Thornton	Thornton, Bronte Birthplace	70
18:30 - 20:30	Bradford Map Launch with Historic Towns Trust	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	71
19:00 - 20:30	Grace Dent & Nisha Katona: In Conversation	St George's Hall	71
19:30 - 21:10	The War of the Worlds: A New Abridged Performed Reading	Loading Bay	72

## TUESDAY 1 JULY

12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite: 50 Years After Saigon	City Park, Festival Hub	73
14:00 - 15:00	Mapping Bradford's History	City Park, Festival Hub	73
19:00 - 21:30	Loud Poets Slam Heat	Loading Bay	74
19:00 - 20:00	From Kashmir to Yorkshire	City Park, Festival Hub	75
19:00 - 20:40	Coexistence, My Ass!: Screening	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	75

## WEDNESDAY 2 JULY

12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite: A Wilding Year	City Park, Festival Hub	76
14:00 - 15:00	Bradford's First Muslim Burial	City Park, Festival Hub	76
19:00 - 22:00	Ocean: Screening, Talk & Q&A with Director Colin Butfield	The National Science and Media Museum, Pictureville	77
19:00 - 20:00	An Evening with Griff Rhys Jones	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	77
19:30 - 22:00	Poetry with a Punch	St George's Hall	78

## THURSDAY 3 JULY

10:00 - 16:00	Symposium: Jameel Prize 7	Cartwright Hall, Cartwright Hall Art Gallery	79
10:30 - 11:30	The Bradford Suffragettes	City Park, Festival Hub	79
11:00 - 12:00	Reflections on Surah Qaf	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	80
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite: Poetry	City Park, Festival Hub	80
14:00 - 15:00	Bradford's Literary Connections: Malachi Whitaker & J.B. Priestley	City Park, Festival Hub	81
19:00 - 20:30	Seen & Unseen Live Podcast: Belief in the Age of Crisis	University of Bradford, Norcroft Auditorium, Norcroft Centre	81
19:00 - 20:00	Book Launch: Liz Mistry – Deadly Reckoning	City Park, Festival Hub	82
19:00 - 20:50	How to Build a Library: Screening	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	82



# 27 JUNE – 6 JULY 2025

## FRIDAY 4 JULY

10:30 - 11:30	Tales from the Rabbi's Desk: Growing up in Jewish Bradford	City Park, Festival Hub	83
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch Bite: Inspired by Hockney with Samuel Sharp	City Park, Festival Hub	83
14:00 - 15:00	The Medieval Streets of Broad Ford	City Park, Festival Hub	84
18:30 - 19:30	40 Years On: The Lasting Legacy of the Miner's Strike	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	85
18:30 - 19:30	The Invention of Charlotte Brontë	Thornton, Bronte Birthplace	85
19:00 - 20:00	Shitty Breaks: A Celebration of Unsung UK Cities	City Park, Festival Hub	86
19:00 - 21:00	Anthony Joseph & the Beehive Poets	City Library, 1st Floor	86
20:00 - 21:00	John Cooper Clarke in Conversation	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	87

## SATURDAY 5 JULY

09:00 - 17:00	Brontë Heritage Tour	The Midland Hotel, Bronte Heritage Tour	90
10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Arts & Crafts	Imagination Station, City Park & Broadway Shopping Centre	88
10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Storytelling	Imagination Station, City Park	89
10:00 - 15:00	In the Footsteps of the Brontës: Heritage Walking Tour	The Old Bell Chapel, Bronte Stones	90
10:00 - 10:30	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91
10:00 - 12:00	A Turn Around the Room: Regency Dance Workshop	Bradford Live, Ballroom	91
10:30 - 11:30	The Four Imams	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	92
10:30 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Performances	City Park	89
10:45 - 11:15	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91
11:00 - 12:35	Family Fun Day: Film Screening	Pictureville, National Science & Media Museum	88
11:00 - 12:15	Bradford Noise of the Valleys	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	92
11:00 - 12:00	The Drowned Places: Diving in Search of Atlantis	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	93
11:00 - 12:30	Neuroscience Leadership Masterclass with Smita Tharoor	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	93
11:30 - 12:00	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91



SATURDAY 5 JULY			
12:00 - 13:30	St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	94
12:00 - 13:00	The Shortest History of Japan with Lesley Downer	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	94
12:00 - 13:00	Iznik Tile Talk	City Park, Festival Hub	95
12:15 - 13:15	Crimea: Conflict, Conquest and Consequence	City Hall, The Chamber	95
12:30 - 13:45	The Future of Gardening	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	96
13:30 - 15:30	Paper Marbling Workshop	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	96
13:30 - 14:30	Broken Threads: My Family from Empire to Independence in Conversation Mishal Husain	Bradford Live, Ballroom	97
13:30 - 14:45	The Future of Europe: Power, Politics and the New World Order	City Hall, The Chamber	97
13:30 - 14:30	Bradford, Food & Writing: Taste from Home	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	98
13:30 - 14:00	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91
14:00 - 14:45	Family Fun Day: Meet the Author	Waterstones	89
14:00 - 15:45	Animal Farm: Screening + Q&A	The National Science and Media Museum, Pictureville	98
14:00 - 15:00	Breaking Bread with Kitty & Al-Tait	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	99
14:00 - 15:00	A Beginners Guide to Bradford: Walking Tour	City Park, Festival Hub	99
14:15 - 14:45	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91
14:30 - 16:00	The Art of Global Peacebuilding and Excellence in Education	Cartwright Hall, Gallery 4	100
14:30 - 15:30	Gothics vs Romantics: A Literary Duel	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	100
14:30 - 15:30	Heart of Design	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	101
14:45 - 16:00	Islamophobia Now: Power, Prejudice and Resistance	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	101
15:00 - 16:00	The Roma: A Travelling History	City Hall, The Chamber	102
15:00 - 16:00	ADHD Unpacked	Bradford Live, Ballroom	102
15:00 - 15:30	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Red Room R01.09, Bright Building	91



## 27 JUNE – 6 JULY 2025

## SATURDAY 5 JULY

15:00 - 15:30	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Orange Teaching Room R01.02, Bright Building	91
16:30 - 17:30	Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia	City Hall, The Chamber	103
15:15 - 16:15	Lives in Verse: Poetry as Biography	City Hall, The Ernest Saville Room	103
15:30 - 16:30	Deadline with Steph McGovern	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	104
16:00 - 17:00	Rumi Lecture	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	104
16:00 - 17:00	The Food Our Grandmothers Knew	City Park, Festival Hub	105
16:00 - 17:00	The Silk Road: A Visual Journey from London to Beijing	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	105
16:15 - 17:15	Qur'anic Themes and Parables	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	106
16:30 - 17:30	Careers in Publishing	University of Bradford, John Stanley Bell Lecture Theatre, Richmond Building	106
16:30 - 17:30	Culture Wars & Cancel Culture	Bradford Live, Ballroom	107
17:00 - 18:15	Beyond the Biennale: Islamic Art and Its Contemporary Resonance	Norcroft Auditorium, University of Bradford	107
17:30 - 18:45	Whirling Dervishes	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	108
18:00 - 19:15	The Old Dark House: Screening	The National Science and Media Museum, Pictureville	108
18:30 - 20:00	Polari Literary Salon	Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery	109
19:00 - 21:00	Doha Debates	St George's Hall	109
19:00 - 20:35	Loïe Fuller: Obsessed With Light: UK Premiere	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	110
19:30 - 21:00	Being Mr Wickham	Bradford Live, Ballroom	110
19:30 - 21:30	Re:Imagine Faith Conversations with Baroness Sayeeda Warsi	Bradford Cathedral, Side Room	111
20:30 - 22:30	Rocky Horror Picture Show: Screening	Pictureville	111

## SUNDAY 6 JULY

10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Arts & Crafts	Imagination Station, City Park & Broadway Shopping Centre	112
10:00 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Storytelling	Imagination Station, City Park	113
10:00 - 10:30	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Red Room R01.09, Bright Building	114
10:30 - 16:00	Family Fun Day: Performances	City Park	113
10:30 - 12:00	The Foundations of Unani Medicine	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	114
10:45 - 11:15	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Red Room R01.09, Bright Building	114



SUNDAY 6 JULY			
11:00 - 12:35	Family Fun Day: Film Screening	Pictureville, National Science & Media Museum	112
11:00 - 12:00	Frances Curren: The Brontës' Hidden Influence?	Bradford Live, Ballroom	115
11:00 - 12:00	Aftermath: How WWII Still Governs Global Affairs	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	115
11:30 - 12:00	Meet the Publisher: Bloomsbury	University of Bradford, Red Room R01.09, Bright Building	114
11:30 - 12:30	WritersMosaic Presents: Global Crime Queens	City Hall, The Chamber	116
12:15 - 13:15	Finding Belle and Finding Charlotte	Bradford Live, Ballroom	116
12:30 - 13:30	Muslim Women in Media	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	117
12:30 - 13:30	Bayazid: The Controversial Mystic	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	117
12:30 - 14:30	Bound in Beauty: Create Your Own Collector's Edition	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	118
13:00 - 14:00	Future Worlds Prize: Crafting Otherworlds	City Hall, The Chamber	118
13:30 - 14:30	In Conversation with William Dalrymple: The Golden Lion	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	119
14:00 - 15:00	Family Fun Day: Meet the Author Mario Ambrosi	Waterstones	113
14:00 - 15:00	Do the Arts Contribute to Social Cohesion?	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	119
14:00 - 15:00	The Monstrous Anger of The Guns	St George's Hall	120
14:00 - 15:00	The Mizan Narrative	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	120
14:15 - 15:00	Escaping Wildfell Hall: Coercion, Control, and Female Freedom	Bradford Live, Ballroom	121
14:30 - 15:30	Tales of the Weird	City Hall, The Chamber	122
14:45 - 16:25	The Swimming Diaries: Screening	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	122
15:00 - 17:30	The Russian Consul: UK Premiere	The National Science and Media Museum, Pictureville	123
15:00 - 16:30	But Indeed I Would Rather Have Nothing But Tea!	The Midland Hotel, Forster Suite	123
15:00 - 18:00	Book Binding Workshop	Bright Building, University of Bradford, Teaching Room	124
15:30 - 16:30	Let Me In: The Brontës in Bricks and Mortar	Bradford Live, Ballroom	124
16:00 - 17:15	The World Today 2025	City Hall, The Chamber	125
16:00 - 17:00	A Recipe for Fiction: Annabel Abbs on The Language of Food	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	126



## SUNDAY 6 JULY

16:30 - 17:30	Reclaiming Feminism	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	126
16:30 - 17:30	Thinking Differently and Laughing Loudly	University of Bradford, Great Hall, Richmond Building	127
16:30 - 18:00	The Heavenly Shadhili Wisdom	St George's Hall	128
17:00 - 19:00	Paradise Now: Screening + Q&A	The National Science and Media Museum, Cubby Broccoli Cinema	128
17:00 - 18:00	Free Word Lecture	Bradford Live, Ballroom	129
17:30 - 18:30	Preserving Culture & Memory with Food	University of Bradford, Small Hall, Richmond Building	129
18:00 - 19:00	A Culinary Journey through al-Andalus	City Hall, Banqueting Suite	130
18:30 - 19:30	Shashi Tharoor: A Wonderland of Words	Bradford Live, Ballroom	130
19:00 - 20:30	Sacred Music	Bradford Cathedral, Nave	131
20:00 - 21:00	Poetry for the Many: Jeremy Corbyn & Len McCluskey	St George's Hall	131



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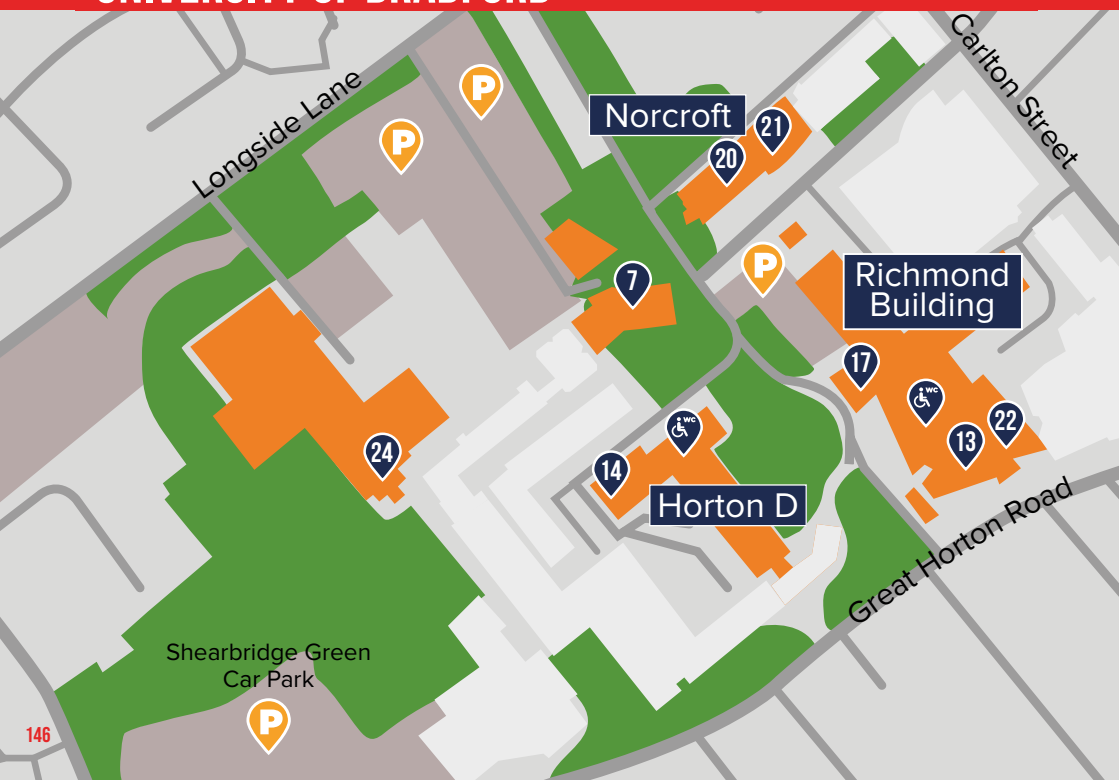
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# VENUE MAP

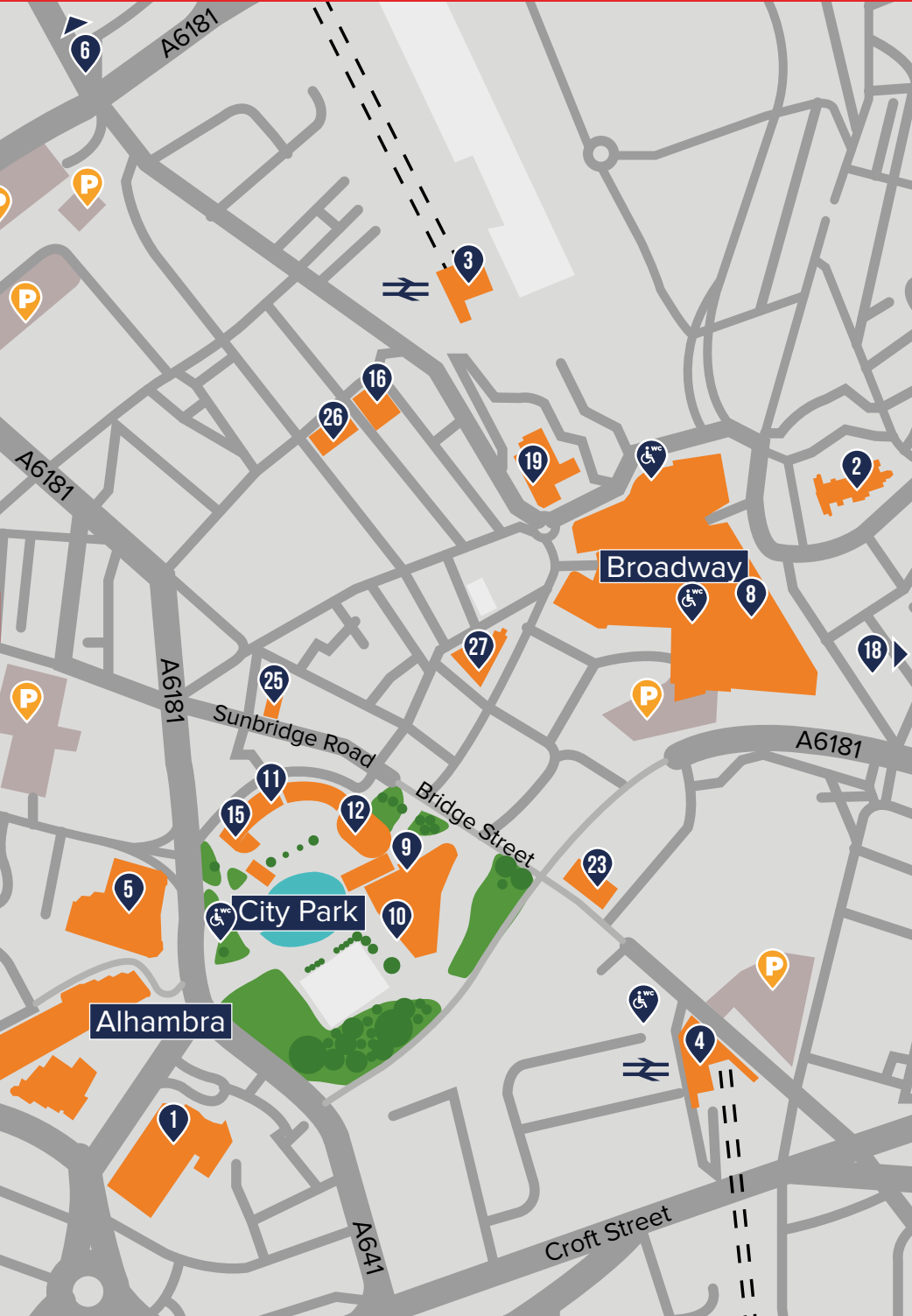
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| 1 National Science & Media Museum           | 11 City Library                                  | 21 Norcroft Lounge                  |
| 2 Bradford Cathedral                        | 12 Festival Hub                                  | 22 Small Hall                       |
| 3 Bradford Forster Square Station           | 13 Great Hall                                    | 23 St George's Hall                 |
| 4 Bradford Interchange                      | 14 Horton Barn                                   | 24 Student Central                  |
| 5 Bradford Live                             | 15 The Imagination Station                       | 25 Sunbridge Wells, Wallers Brewery |
| 6 Bradford Reform Synagogue                 | 16 The Loading Bay                               | 26 The Underground                  |
| 7 Bright Building                           | 17 John Stanley Bell Lecture Theatre             | 27 Waterstones, The Wool Exchange   |
| 8 The Broadway Shopping Centre              | 18 Little Germany Heritage Tour, Merchants House |                                     |
| 9 City Hall, Main Entrance                  | 19 The Midland Hotel                             |                                     |
| 10 City Hall, Western Entrance (Accessible) | 20 Norcroft Auditorium                           |                                     |
-  Parking  
 Train Station  
 Public Toilets with Disabled Facilities

## UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD





# BRADFORD CITY CENTRE





# DISCOUNTS AND CONCESSIONS

Bradford Literature Festival is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible programme, which is why our ticket prices remain low and why many of our events are free, ensuring that as many people as possible can access the festival.

**Concession tickets** can be booked for free. Simply visit the event web page and select the appropriate concession tickets for your party. Where free tickets are available, this will be clearly displayed on the ticket-purchasing page alongside the standard pricing options.



## DISABILITIES

Anyone in receipt of a disability benefit or other support.



## STUDENTS

Anyone over the age of 16 who is in full-time education.



## SENIOR CITIZENS

Anyone over the age of 65 – if a state pension is your sole source of income.



## TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

Tickets may be free or discounted.



## BENEFIT RECIPIENTS

Anyone in receipt of a government-issued benefit or living in social housing.



## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Anyone with current UK refugee or asylum-seeker status.



## CARERS

If you are accompanying a disabled audience member who requires additional support.



## SPONSORS

Employees of sponsor organisations can benefit from discounted tickets.

**Community codes** are available to groups and service providers in West Yorkshire that support marginalised and underrepresented communities, from community centres to local grassroots groups, community faith organisations to networking groups. Eligible community groups receive a unique booking code which may be shared with members so they can book free tickets for events.

To register for a code or find out more information about our Discounts and Concessions visit our website: [bradfordlitfest.co.uk/concessions](http://bradfordlitfest.co.uk/concessions). Alternatively, you can call Box Office on **01274 044140** (Monday–Friday, 09:30–16:30 excluding bank holidays) or email [BoxOffice@bradfordlitfest.co.uk](mailto:BoxOffice@bradfordlitfest.co.uk).



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“Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.”

**Jeanette Winterson**

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