



# THE MINERS' STRIKE

## IN ROTHERHAM 1984 - 1985



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY CREATIVE PROGRAMME 2024

Images courtesy of Rotherham Advertiser, Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage and Artangel. Illustrations by Lisa O'Hara.



Supported using public funding by  
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**March 1984 marked the beginning of a year of strike for miners, their families, and communities.**

It was the largest industrial dispute the UK has ever seen, and Rotherham was right at its centre.

Rotherham's miners and their supporters were fighting not just for pay, but for their jobs and the future of their communities.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of this strike. It is an important year to remember the pivotal events in our history with those that lived them and to capture their stories for future generations.

Cultural partners and communities across Rotherham have come together to mark this event with a 40th Anniversary Creative Programme.

Through exhibitions and events, conversations and performances, the lived experiences of Rotherham's former mining communities are shared and remembered.



# ROTHERHAM MUSEUMS ARTS AND HERITAGE

Clifton Park Museum is an accessible and free venue with exhibitions and galleries celebrating Rotherham people, stories and collections. The team have worked creatively with mining communities to amplify their personal stories and spark intergenerational conversation.

## Days of Laughter, Days of Pain: The Miners' Strike in Rotherham, 1984 - 1985

- Temporary exhibition
- 27th January 2024 - 30th June 2024
- Clifton Park Museum
- Free entry

2024 marks 40 years since the historic 1984 - 1985 miners' strike, the largest industrial dispute the UK has ever seen. This exhibition explores the strike year in Rotherham. From the organisation and mobilisation of pickets, rallies and support groups in the spring and summer of 1984, through the intense struggle of autumn and winter, before the mass march back to work in March 1985.

In this exhibition, you'll discover how the strike is remembered across the borough, and explore our archive, museum collections and community loans related to this historic event.



## Badge of Protest Workshop

- Tuesday 2nd April 2024
- Clifton Park Museum
- 10:30am - 12:00noon & 1:00pm - 2:30pm
- Free event, booking required

Join artist and sculptor Dan Jones in this intergenerational family workshop to create your own Badge of Protest.

Be creative and have fun designing and creating your own badge by making moulds from clay and inlaying bright colours into your designs. Tickets for each slot are limited to 10 children and their families. This event is suitable for children aged 5 and over.

## Miners' Strike Poetry Reading with Ian Parks and Sarah Wimbush

- Sunday 19th May 2024
- Clifton Park Museum
- 1:30pm start (approx. 1hr 15mins)
- Free event, booking required

Yorkshire poets Ian Parks and Sarah Wimbush present poems from their new collections to explore the 40th anniversary of the year-long strike that tore the nation apart. Ian Parks was born in Mexborough. The son of a miner, he was active during the strike. A poet and academic, he is editor of 'Versions of the North: Contemporary Yorkshire Poetry' and the 'Selected Poems of Harold Massingham'. Sarah Wimbush grew up in Doncaster. Her first poetry collection, 'Shelling Peas with my Grandmother in the Gorgiолands', was published with Bloodaxe in 2022. Her second collection, 'STRIKE' (Stairwell 2024), commemorates the 40th anniversary of the 1984 - 1985 miners' strike through poetry and photographs.

This event is bookable via [Eventbrite at Rotherham Museums & Archives.](#)

## Nelson's Cub Club

- 📅 **Every other Wednesday during term time**
- 📍 **Clifton Park Museum**
- 🕒 **10:30am - 12:00noon & 1:00pm - 2:30pm**
- 🆓 **Free event, no booking required**

Themed sessions for young children between 1 and 4 years and their families. All sessions are free and include a drink and small snack. No need to book but spaces are limited.

### 17th April 2024 - Mining Story Hour

Share stories of working down the local pits and reading picture books - some of which might be familiar to you and some which could be new!

### 1st May 2024 - Shine!

Nelson has found a very old Rotherham NUM badge. It might be old, but it is still very shiny! Join us to explore objects that shine and sparkle!

### 15th May 2024 - Shout!

Nelson has found a painting of families during the miners' strike; it was painted by a lady called Marjorie. Nelson thinks that it is okay to shout sometimes. What do you think? Join Nelson and his lion family to use our voices and express emotion through song, dance, music and play.

### 5th June 2024 - Build!

Nelson has been looking at the model of Orgreave Coking Plant displayed in the exhibition here at Clifton Park Museum. All the lion family love building models! Come and have a go at building your own coking plant, and don't forget to build a train track and a road!



## Daughters of the Coal

- 🎭 **Performance**
- 📅 **Thursday 30th & Friday 31st May 2024**
- 📍 **Outside Clifton Park Museum, behind the Walker Café**
- 🕒 **11:00am & 2:00pm**
- 🆓 **Free event, no booking required**

Join Yorkshire-based theatre company Chol Theatre for a play about the friendships made, the fearsome pride felt, and the trials and tribulations people faced during the miners' strike of '84. These family-friendly performances, shaped by stories from across South Yorkshire, will take place behind Clifton Park Museum in a van transformed into a soup kitchen for the occasion. Each performance lasts 45 minutes. There will be some bean bag seating, but please bring your own camping chairs.

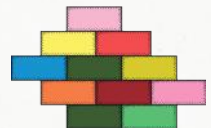
## Rotherham Archives and Local Studies



Rotherham Archives and Local Studies Service collects, preserves and provides access to hundreds of years' worth of informational resources that reveal the history and heritage of Rotherham. These unique and fascinating resources are made available for all to discover in our Search Room, which is situated at Clifton Park Museum. The archives also makes records available for use in, and research for, museum exhibitions. Several archival records are included in 'Days of Laughter, Days of Pain: The Miners' Strike in Rotherham 1984 - 1985', and many of these have been contributed to our collections by local residents. If you have letters, documents, photographs, or other archival records related to the miners' strike, we would love to discuss the donation process with you. If you have any questions, please send an email to: [archives@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@rotherham.gov.uk).

[www.cliftonpark.org.uk](http://www.cliftonpark.org.uk)

- 📘 **CliftonParkMuseum**
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# FLUX ROTHERHAM

 fluxrotherham.org.uk

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FLUX Rotherham creates art projects and events with communities. From festivals filled with music, dance and outdoor arts experiences to exhibitions, creative workshops and conversations. To commemorate the 1984 - 1985 miners' strike, FLUX have been working with communities and individuals to capture stories and share experiences of this important event that has had a lasting impact on our communities.

## WOW Rotherham Festival - Soup Kitchen

 **Performance**

 **Saturday 11th May 2024**

 **Minster Gardens - Rotherham Town Centre**

 **11:00am - 4:00pm**

 **Free event, no booking required**


WOW Rotherham is a celebration of women, girls, trans and non-binary communities in Rotherham. As part of WOW Rotherham Festival 2024, Chol Theatre will create a Soup Kitchen, dishing up local stories of those involved in and affected by the mining strike of 1984 - 1985. Through this living installation, people can engage with memories and experiences of the past that represent the people of their community. They will explore how they proudly came together to look after one another and honour their traditions. Through audio pieces and carefully designed paraphernalia, people will hear from a time in the past that still resonates with so many today. Chol Theatre are working in Rotherham communities in Spring 2024 to gather stories.

## Chol Theatre - Soup Kitchen Story Gathering

 **Friday 12th April 2024**

 **Clifton Park Museum**

 **1:00pm - 3:00pm**

 **Free event, no booking required**

Join the team at Chol Theatre at Clifton Park Museum to share your memories, stories and experiences of the miners' strike. The stories gathered will form part of their Soup Kitchen performance at WOW Rotherham Festival 2024.

## The Miners' Strike in Rotherham 40 Years On - An Audio Journey

In collaboration with Flux Rotherham, Hybrid 3 Studios has partnered with nationally acclaimed poet Ray Hearne and local residents to capture the essence of the strike events and the impact they still have today. These stories will be woven together with archival local folk songs of the era in an artistic but accessible sound piece, transporting the listener back while remaining firmly rooted in the present.

**We need your stories! Do you have some memories to share? We want to hear them!**

If you've got a great story and would like to take part in the project, we'd love to hear from you. Hybrid 3 Studios are really keen to have phone chats or can arrange time to meet to capture your stories and memories!

**To get in touch -  
email [strike40@hybrid3.org](mailto:strike40@hybrid3.org),  
text or call Matt on  
07760 272 239.**



## Silverwood Colliery Life & Times

- 📅 **Various dates**
- 📍 **Silverwood Colliery site**
- 🕒 **Various times**
- 💷 **Free event, no booking required**

Join members of Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group on the former Silverwood Colliery site to celebrate community heritage and learn of the history surrounding the villages. Through a unique display of memorabilia, artefacts and photographs, attendees will be taken on a fascinating journey of the life and times of Silverwood Colliery.

With arts and craft activities, stalls, music, food, fun and games, these events will have something for everyone.



**Visit Silverwood Colliery Heritage Group's Facebook page for more details.**

## ROTHERHAM CIVIC THEATRE

Rotherham Civic Theatre opened to the public in 1960, and over the last 60 years has been home to many local amateur groups as well as professional theatre companies. The theatre plays an important role in marking and responding to culturally, historically, and politically significant events within the community of Rotherham.



## An Evening with Jeremy Deller

- 📅 **Wednesday 12th June 2024**
- 📍 **Rotherham Civic Theatre**
- 👤 **Suitable for 16+**
- 🕒 **6:00pm - 8:00pm**
- 💷 **Pay what you can, or £5 per person**

Join Turner prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller for a special screening of 'The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All)', commissioned by Artangel and Channel 4 in 2001.

'The Battle of Orgreave' is a 62-minute film for which Jeremy produced a reenactment of the clash between police and miners that unfolded at Orgreave in 1984. The screening will be followed by a Q&A about the film chaired by Auriel Majumdar, Chair of FLUX Rotherham consortium.





## A Night of Carols and Christmas Music

### Performance

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Rotherham Civic Theatre

7:30pm

Matby Miners Welfare Band's annual Christmas concert. An evening of carols and Christmas music featuring the popular South Yorkshire Band.

## Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

### Performance

Coming Spring 2025

Rotherham Civic Theatre

Rotherham Civic Theatre presents a community production of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. The story of two mining families from either side of the picket line, and the story of a boy and a girl who found love against the odds... and then lost it. Rotherham Civic Theatre brings William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to 1980s South Yorkshire and the end of the miners' strike... where families and communities were torn apart... but where hope and love shone brightly but all too briefly... further details on Romeo and Juliet - the Civic Theatre's first community production and part of the MADE IN ROTHERHAM programme - will be announced later in the year.

Visit [www.rotherhamtheatres.co.uk](http://www.rotherhamtheatres.co.uk) for full event details and tickets.

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# WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE

Wentworth Woodhouse is a Grade I listed House & Gardens in Wentworth, Rotherham, with a packed programme of exhibitions and events as well as a variety of dining experiences for a great day out.

Wentworth Woodhouse has a unique mining heritage with open cast mines reaching its doors in the 1940s and many local pits being situated on land belonging to the mansion's owners.

## Wentworth Woodhouse's Coal Story

 **Temporary exhibition**


 **9th July 2024 - 6th October 2024**

Wentworth Woodhouse's connections to the coal industry span more than 200 years.

Explore the stories of those who worked underground on estate land, discover previously unshared objects and discover more about the relationship between the Big House and the workers. This exhibition is made possible by support from Wentworth Woodhouse's research volunteers and Wentworth's community. This exhibition is included as part of House admission.



## Miners' Memories Coffee Mornings


 **3rd September 2024 & 1st October 2024**


 **10:30am - 12:00noon**


Did you or your family members work in the coal industry? Come along to Wentworth Woodhouse to reminisce, share stories and meet people over a hot drink.

## Remember The Coal

 **Performance**

 **Thursday 19th September 2024**

 **Doors at 6:30pm, performance at 7:00pm**

 **£20.00 (includes a welcome drink)**

Embark on a musical journey and uncover the story of the mining industry, told through original folk songs and spoken narrative performed by Alan Wood and John Snook.


## Family Activities

Explore coal stories through crafts and hands-on activities throughout the school holidays.




To explore the schedule of activities, visit [wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk](http://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk).

[wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk](http://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk)

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