

Halifax Heritage Festival

September
2021



The Heritage Festival is here again and we couldn't be more excited!

Despite a few challenges presented by COVID, this year's event is set to be every bit as fascinating and rewarding as previous ones, with plenty of places to go as well as fun activities to get involved in.

With something for every age group, highlights include visits to our marvellous Minster and the little-known gem of Calderdale Industrial Museum – a wonderful venue with working machines, historical exhibitions and a gift shop selling local arts and crafts. There's impressive Dean Clough and the breathtaking Town Hall too, not to mention the Bankfield and Regimental museums.

This year we've organised online tours and activities you can enjoy from the comfort of home, while even those places you can physically visit have been carefully managed with COVID safety in mind. As always, Halifax BID has been busily coordinating the varied Festival programme,

and that includes creating this handy newspaper packed with the information you need for really getting the most out of this popular annual event. Don't forget to make a beeline for BID's fantastic new information Hub at Woolshops too, where you'll find all the latest Festival details, free pocket maps and friendly staff who'll answer any questions.

That all sounds great, doesn't it. So, what are you waiting for?! Grab your calendar, read on, and let's get planning your historical adventures in Halifax!

#discoverhx



Events Calendar



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10.30am, 12.30pm & 2pm

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Calderdale Industrial Museum



We are extremely proud to be supporting this year's Heritage Open Days' theme of Edible England.

In celebration of the theme we are looking at traditional 'Yorkshire Fayre'. This will be all home made by our wonderful volunteers, ranging from 'Fly Pie' to Yorkshire oat cakes.

Additionally we will be supported by a local company, Suma, who will be present to talk about their products and a display of their wares. They will be exhibiting organic and whole foods to be enjoyed by all.

This year we have earned the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

A prestigious award that we wear as a badge of honour.

The museum was re-opened solely due to the efforts of the volunteers; it is run on a day-to-day basis by over 75 regulars who have successfully brought the museum back to life. They continue to develop the building and its remarkable collection. Our open days are supported only by volunteers and without them we would not be able to keep the museum open.

We are also supported by local industry, business and education, all playing a part in helping to bring alive the area's heritage. As a result of people's interest and the hands-on demonstrations throughout the museum, we have achieved the accolade of reaching the number one spot on Tripadvisor.

Work is ongoing to bring the museum back to its former glory, including refurbishing exhibits, building work and the development of our support to education. Gathered together over a number of years this special collection represents a wide cross-section of industry that operated in and around Calderdale. This unique museum houses static and fully-working original machines, together with many special and rare artefacts relating to the industrial heritage of Calderdale.

The collection covers the last 250 years from the Industrial Revolution. Some of the machines are the only surviving examples in the country and have been placed in settings which try to reflect a close representation of the time when they were fully operational. Several machines are in working order and, where possible, will be demonstrated for short periods during opening hours. We have a working waterwheel, demonstrations of sock-making and an operational Robson Engine which runs periodically throughout our open days – beware it is rather loud!!

If you are interested in joining our team, whatever skill or expertise you have, we need it; and however much time you can give we can use it. Some of our volunteers support us by 'working from home'. If you are interested in joining our band of volunteers please come and talk to us; or email us at enquiries@calderdaleindustrial.co.uk

We are open every Saturday 10am – 4pm. The museum is opened for extra days to support other local events and we are also able to book private and school tours.

Sat 11 – Sun 12 Sept
10am – 4pm
(last entry at 3pm)

Visit our website at www.calderdaleindustrial.co.uk for more information.



Halifax Town Hall



**Grade II*
Listed building
of immense
architectural
importance both
inside and out.**

Designed by Sir Charles Barry (architect of the Houses of Parliament), voted one of the top ten Town Halls in the country in 2008 by Architect Today magazine and described as truly outstanding by Historic England. The building never fails to impress visitors from far and wide.

Opened by HRH The Prince of Wales on 4 August 1863 the building is described as “a masterpiece of the nascent high Victorian style”. It was built to be the most grand and significant building in the town and stands today as a proud and permanent reminder of the affluence of Halifax in the 19th Century.

When built the basement was the Police headquarters complete with cells and the Council Chamber was the Magistrates’ Court.

John Crossley was instrumental in the building of the Town Hall and was Mayor at the time of opening on 4 August 1863.

**Fri 10, Sat 11
& Sun 12 Sept**
10am – 4pm
(last entry at 3.30pm)

**Self Guided
Tours of Halifax
Town Hall**

For further details
contact 01422 393022



Halifax Now & Then

The 1960s & 1970s saw many changes in and around Halifax, including regeneration and the building of Burdock Way. Many streets and buildings that had been mainstays of the townscape for decades were demolished to make way for improvements to the town and transport system. But what did Halifax look like before these seismic changes?



This year we will be taking to social media to showcase the Central Library's largest photographic collection, The Halifax Photographic Survey. This collection comprises photos that were taken by the Halifax Photographic Society in the 1960s and 1970s to capture how Calderdale looked prior to the regeneration work taking place. Join us for an Online exhibition, quizzes, trivia and a good old trip down memory lane.

Ticket Price: Free

Content will be uploaded to the Library's social media accounts at various times throughout Halifax Heritage Festival.

**Facebook: Calderdale Libraries
Twitter: CMBCLibraries
YouTube: Calderdale Libraries**

Halifax Minster



This church of St John the Baptist was given its Minster status in 2009 in recognition of its important role in the civic life of the town and borough.

Cluniac monks built the original church in the 12th Century, but the present structure can be traced to 1438. Today, Halifax Minster continues as a place of community worship, culture and education.

Sat 11 Sept & Sun 12 Sept
11am and 2pm
(Duration up to 90 minutes)

Halifax Minster Churchyard HX1 1QR
Churchyard tours at Halifax Minster

Guided Tours of Halifax's most ancient burying place – how it has changed over many centuries; tales of several fascinating people buried there, plus details of ancient properties which once stood around the perimeter.

More details as to the stories related:

- A suicide buried illegally in an unmarked grave
- Anne Lister's strongminded great-aunt and cousin who both made runaway marriages
- Anne Lister's hairdresser
- A Frenchman who sang at Versailles for Louis XVI but settled in Halifax
- A soldier who had 32 children
- How past vicars had their own gate and path through the area
- How a school stood alongside the churchyard 1867-1960

Fairly level ground but well-soled footwear is advised

Meet at main gates near the Ring O' Bells.

£4.00 each - bookable in advance via Anneliese.

Max number per Tour = 25.

Under 16s free.

Thu 9 - Sun 12 Sept
10am - 4pm

Halifax Minster HX1 1QR
Textile Exhibition

Refreshments all day everyday. To be officially opened by The Mayor of Calderdale at 1pm on Friday. Bell ringing throughout the day.

Thur 9 Sept
12.15pm

Halifax Minster HX1 1QR
Festival Organ Recital

Dr Gordon Stewart, with retiring collection. Lunch available.

Free event

Thur 9 Sept - Sun 12 Sept
10.30am and 2pm

Halifax Minster HX1 1QR
Guided Tour of the Minster

The Minster has a number of trained guides who specialise in different aspects of our Minster life. Tickets available via the Minster website.



Tickets available via
halifaxminster.org.uk



The Piece Hall



Yorkshire's monumental Grade I listed structure is the only surviving cloth hall in the UK, an iconic symbol of the important role played in Georgian Halifax at the booming centre of the world's woollen trade. Re-opened on 1 August 2017, The Piece Hall is a contemporary leisure, retail, cultural and heritage destination and the beating heart of a world-class cultural quarter.



Tickets available via www.thepiecehall.co.uk

Thu 16, 17, 18 &
Sun 19 Sept
11am – 1.30pm,

The Piece Hall Markets & Banquets: Guided Tours

Book onto one of our free hour-long heritage tours of The Piece Hall led by our knowledgeable guides and discover more about the former Georgian cloth hall's food-related histories. Discover The Piece Hall's past as a wholesale market and hear the incredible stories of cows on the loose in the courtyard and the fishmonger's practices. Find out what people ate at the large banquet for Queen Victoria's coronation at The Piece Hall and how food is still an important part of The Piece Hall's contemporary identity.

Free entry

Open daily The Piece Hall Story

Our interactive heritage space 'The Piece Hall Story' welcomes you to discover this iconic building and its importance at the historic centre of the world's woollen trade.

Free entry

Sun 19 Sept
10.30am, 12.30pm & 2pm

The Piece Hall Edible Histories Family Workshop

Join us for a family-friendly workshop exploring The Piece Hall's edible past, learn about its time as a Wholesale Market and discover what was involved in a Victorian banquet! Expect a mixture of art and craft activities and a chance to meet some characters in costume.

£3 per child

Open daily The Map Room

The Map Room has interactive maps, showing how woollen cloth sold in Halifax was traded across the world.

Free entry

Open daily The Traders Room

In the Trader's Room you will find one of the units in its original condition. Here you can experience the sights and sounds of what it would have been like to be standing inside The Piece Hall on a busy trading day back in 1779.

Free entry

Halifax Borough Market

Did you know that above Halifax Borough Market there are two 'secret' streets? Discover them with the VisitCalderdale 'Streets in the Sky' guided tour!

For information on timings please check online at discoverhalifax.co.uk, call 01422 413 012 or visit us at the Discover Halifax Hub in the town centre.

On these tours you'll explore the unique architecture of Halifax Borough Market, learn about its history, visit both of the 'Streets in the Sky', where some of the houses are still used by the businesses below and a couple are still lived in; and get an exclusive look inside one of the uninhabited houses.

Afterwards you can grab a cuppa and enjoy some food at one of the locally-owned independent cafes and delis in the Market who are offering discounts or a special meal deal for people who have been on the Tour.



The tours are best suited for adult ages and aren't really suited for children aged under 13. Any children aged under 16 must be under close supervision of their guardian/parent at all times.

Please note that many steps are involved in accessing both of the Streets in the Sky and the house there, making this tour unsuitable for wheelchair users, those with limited mobility or children's prams.

No dogs on this walk, please (although Assistance Dogs are welcome).

St Matthew's Churchyard

Lightcliffe tower, the only remaining part of Old St Matthew's Church will be open.

**Fri 10 Sept
& Sat 11 Sept**
Noon to 4pm

**Tower
Opening**

www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk
info@lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk

The tower will be open, but only for the first few steps for safety reasons, but that will be enough to see the plaques that were rescued when the old church was demolished in the early 1970's

There will be self-guided tours of the churchyard including the graves of many of the characters from Gentleman Jack.



The Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard

Lister Lane Cemetery



'Halifax General Cemetery' was opened in 1841, and closed in 1963. Having fallen into decay and become hugely overgrown, it has been rescued since 2000 by its Friends, a Charity who promote its heritage with open days and interpretative Tours, also arranging regular gardening sessions. It is now Grade 2 Listed, and a Cemetery of European Significance.



Sun 19 Sept
2pm

Lister Lane Cemetery, Lister Lane, Halifax HX1 5JL
Markets & Banquets: Guided Tours

Guided Tours starting at 2pm led by David Glover and Stuart Wilkinson. These will explain how nearly 20,000 mainly local people were laid to rest at the Cemetery, of many different classes, and in a very democratic fashion. Lister Lane's stones tell the story of 19th Century Halifax in a very special way. The 'residents' stories are an important part of our Tours. From Chartists to Mill owners, to those in public graves, each should have a tale to tell. We also mention the ways in which Victorian funerals were held, and the significance of tombstone decoration.

No toilets on site. Please use sensible footwear, ground uneven. Parking available on roadside in Lister Lane and nearby, please park considerately.

Free entry. Donations welcome. No need to advance book.



Free Admission to Shibden Hall

Set in the picturesque surroundings of Shibden Park, Shibden Hall dates back to 1420 and offers visitors a fascinating journey through the lives of the people who lived and worked there, including the noted diarist Anne Lister (1791-1840)

For 500 years, from 1420 to 1926, Shibden was a family estate, providing a home and an income for those who lived there. Shibden Hall and Park still show elements of their former use. A significant number of records of the estate have survived, including accounts, wills, letters, diaries, plans and maps from the earliest days of Shibden through to the present day.

A number of important families associated with Halifax have called Shibden their home. From the first identified owner, William Oates in 1420, to John Lister who lived at the Hall until it became a museum, each inhabitant has contributed to the story of Shibden and its continuing importance.

Today the house is a public museum giving visitors a glimpse through centuries of history reflected in its architecture and the collections on display.

Shibden Hall is set within a public park and gardens.

Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sept
From 11.00 - 15.30

Free Admission, pre-booking is essential. Go to: calderdale.gov.uk/museums
Booking opens 9th August 2021



Halifax Music & Theatre Heritage



Wed 8 - Thu 9 Sept

Check online for times

Victoria Theatre

Heritage Tours of the Victoria Theatre

Have you always fancied taking a look around the Victoria Theatre? The Friends of the Victoria Theatre are running guided tours of this historic venue.

These tours last for just over an hour and give you a great, in depth view into the heritage of this magnificent building and you will have the opportunity to get onto the stage and have a look behind the scenes.

Places are limited to 20 per tour and must be booked in advance.

Check online for prices.

Please book tickets in advance, in person at the Box Office, by phone on 01422 351158, or at www.victoriatheatre.co.uk.

For more information on the Friends of the Victoria Theatre, please email vtfriends@calderdale.gov.uk

Sat 21 Aug

7.30pm

St Paul's, King Cross, Halifax

The Bluebird Singers

For more info contact the Churchwardens:

Mrs Anita Robertshaw - 07963047599

Mr. Shaughn Beven - 07922318288

www.stpaulskingcross.co.uk

Sun 12 Sep

3pm

St Paul's, King Cross, Halifax

Friendly Brass Band

For more info contact the Churchwardens:

Mrs Anita Robertshaw - 07963047599

Mr. Shaughn Beven - 07922318288

www.stpaulskingcross.co.uk





Sun 26 Sept

2pm

The Grayston Unity

Halifax Music Heritage Trail

Not the last ever guided tour but the last one ever with both Michael & Trevor due to Trevor's retirement in his 80th year.

You'll hear about the fascinating and surprising history of Halifax from the mid 1950s onwards. Expect to hear tales of Shirley Bassey, Dusty, Donovan, The Kinks, Pulp, The Jacksons, John Grant and many more as we visit many of the venues of yesteryear. Get your tickets for £5 from The Grayston Unity... or pay on the day.

Starting at the UK's smallest music venue and taking a tour around the sites of many old venues and going inside some too. It takes a good two hours and does involve a bit of walking.

Get your tickets for £5 from The Grayston Unity or pay on the day.

www.musicheritagetrail.com



Sun 19 September

1pm - 4pm

Halifax Playhouse

Halifax Playhouse, the home of Halifax Thespians, and one of West Yorkshire's leading venues for live theatre. It's often said that you never know what to expect when you step through the doors of Halifax Playhouse. As the home of Halifax Thespians, the Playhouse can surprise, delight, amuse and entertain, and that's before the interval!

Look backstage and see how a play is staged, the property room, visit the Lighting and Sound room and talk to our technicians. This year local author Andy Owens will be at the theatre. He has written a book "Our Eric", a portrait of Eric Portman, a leading actor in the 1940's on both stage and screen who came from Halifax. Our coffee bar will be open with local Yorkshire treats as well.



Tour of Bankfield Museum



Bankfield Museum was the former home of Edward Akroyd (1810-1887) and has been a museum since 1887. The museum is home to a range of galleries and displays, including art, local history, The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Museum and the Fashion Gallery.

Join a member of the Museum's Team as they take you on an informative one hour tour around Bankfield Museum, the former home of local textile manufacturer Edward Akroyd and his wife Elizabeth. Learn about the life of Edward Akroyd and how he transformed his home from a modest four up four down house into the grand italianate mansion that it is today.

Bankfield Museum sits within the former mansion grounds, now known as Akroyd Park and is within easy walking distance of All Souls Church which was commissioned by Edward Akroyd and designed by George Gilbert Scott. The church opened in 1859, but sadly closed its doors in 1979. It is now managed by the Churches Conservation Trust and will be participating in the Halifax Festival.



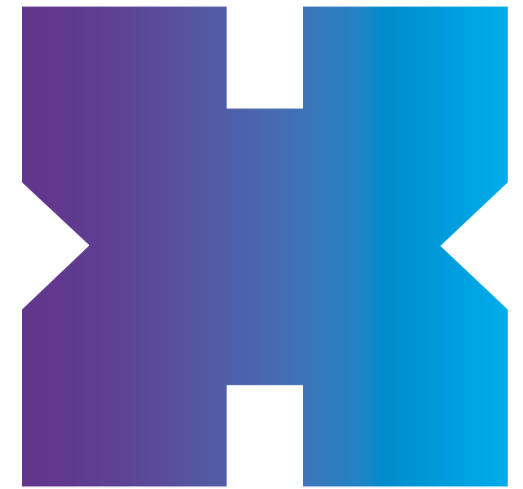
Sat 11 Sept
11.00 and 14.00

Free, but online booking essential, please visit: calderdale.gov.uk/museums

Booking opens 9th August 2021, with a maximum 20 people per tour.



All Souls Church



This extraordinary Grade 1 Listed Gothic church is an architectural gem with exceptional stained glass and a key heritage building steeped in our local history. Rarely open to the public, this is your chance to visit, including guided walks and an exhibition of paintings by local artist Jane Austin. Look out for us on the heritage bus tour and refreshments will be available in the old Sunday school.

The church was commissioned by Colonel Edward Akroyd who built one of the first model villages in England for his mill workers, both of which were designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott. The old manor house was later donated to become Bankfield Museum.

Come to feast your eyes inside this gem of a building as well as on the art.

A self guided walk by Jackie Butterfield around the church and Akroydon will be available and volunteers on hand to answer your questions.

A bookable guided walk by David Glover of Akroydon cemetery is planned for Sat 18th at 2pm.

The old Sunday school, now 'Dance-In-Elegance', will be open to visit for refreshments.

If you have old connections to the church and Sunday school we would love to add your stories to our project the 'People of All Souls'.

FEAST FOR THE EYES - Art exhibition by JANE AUSTIN

The fifth solo exhibition at All Souls by local watercolour artist Jane Austin will include many of her local heritage prints as well as new paintings that fully reflect the range of her work. Always looking for the bright spots around her in colour and pattern, nature and architecture there is something for all tastes. Commission is donated to All Souls c/o The Churches Conservation Trust.

Jane will be on hand to chat and painting if possible at the time, www.janeaustin.co.uk

Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sept
Sat 18 & Sun 19 Sept
10am – 4pm

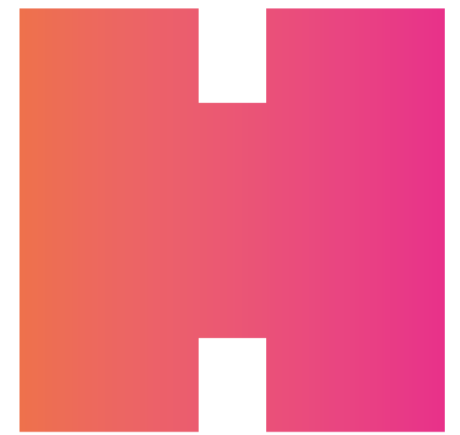
Feast For The Eyes

Free to explore.

All Souls Church, Haley Hill, HX3 6DR



Dean Clough



Take a guided heritage tour around Dean Clough, once home to the largest carpet factory in the world - Crossley Carpets or if you prefer pick up a NEW Dean Clough Heritage Trail leaflet and wander around at your own leisure. Also visit the Lost Workers exhibition, which presents items once owned by workers at Crossley Carpets.

The Dean Clough site covers 22 acres, originally 1 million sq.ft. + of floor area, stretching over half a mile from one end to the other, consisting of 16 significant buildings.

These magnificent Grade II listed Victorian mills were constructed between 1840 and 1870 by the Crossley family who founded their Crossley Carpet empire in 1822, with the buildings being built with the stone quarried from, and adopting the name of, the valley in which they sit (Dean and Clough being old English words respectively meaning valley and ravine).

For Heritage Open Days, Dean Clough will be running guided heritage tours at 10am and 2pm on Sunday 12th Sept. The tour will take you across the site, both inside and outside of the mill buildings. Although the tours are free, booking is essential.

To celebrate Heritage Open Days, Dean Clough are also launching a NEW Heritage Trail leaflet for visitors to follow at their own leisure. Available at main reception in D Mill.

Other key areas to visit whilst on site include - 'The Lost Workers' exhibition. It is an installation begun by the renowned conceptual artist Christian Boltanski in 1994. It presents items once owned by workers at Crossley Carpets. In addition, some of the artists' studios will also be open to view along with archive films. See Dean Clough's social media and website for more details.

For more information about what is happening at Dean Clough visit www.deanclough.com

Sun 12 Sept
10am and 2pm

Dean Clough Heritage Tours

Tours last approximately 1 hour. Parking is free at the weekend.

Free, although booking is essential. To book tickets visit: <https://deancloughheritagetours.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dean Clough Mills, Halifax, HX3 5AX. Meet at main reception in D Mill



Open Daily

Dean Clough True North

True North Restaurant will also be running menus to celebrate their culinary heritage for Heritage Open Days.

Walking/Vintage Bus Tours in and Around Halifax



Walk with a local guide, seeing places unknown to you and hearing interesting details of past times or why not take the opportunity to take a ride on a vintage bus seeing other fascinating and varied heritage sites.



Some of the heritage gems of Halifax are set to be revealed in all their historic glory thanks to these special tours, organised by Halifax Heritage Tours CIC with the support of local volunteers. Every year we try to add something different – there's such a lot to choose from in Halifax.

Please note both Walking Tours and Vintage Bus Tours must be booked in advance. There are a limited number of places on each tour and from previous experience some dates and times fill up very quickly so it's worth booking early.

Do come along and join us either on foot or by bus to truly discover 'MAGIC HALIFAX'.

Fri 10, Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sept
11.00am, 1.30pm & 3.00pm

Walking Tours

The pace is slow with plenty of stops. The tours will reveal the town's fascinating history.

Guided tours start at the Discover Halifax Hub in Woolshops (opposite Marks & Spencer) and last approximately 90 minutes.

10 places per tour.

Free of charge (donations welcome).

Early booking advisable through the Discover Halifax Hub – 01422 413012

Sat 11 Sept & Sun 12 Sept
10.30am & 2.00pm

Vintage Bus Tours

The tours take you on a journey round the outskirts of the town centre showcasing amazing heritage sites from the town's past. Did you know that there are 352 listed buildings in the Halifax area? The tour takes you past Wainhouse Tower – the world's tallest folly and the inspiration behind the children's book 'The Dragon's Tower'.

Starts and finishes outside the Calderdale Industrial Museum and last approximately 90 minutes.

30 places per tour.

£5.00 per person.
(cash only payable on the day).

Early booking advisable through the Discover Halifax Hub – 01422 413012



Calderdale Industrial Museum Receives Royal Recognition



The blood, sweat and tears put into rescuing one of Yorkshire's premier attractions has earned Calderdale Industrial Museum Association the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The museum beside Halifax's iconic Piece Hall, was boarded-up in 2000 and reopened officially in 2017, thanks to the strenuous efforts of local volunteers.



They now have an additional cause for celebration, the association having agreed to lease the building from Calderdale Council until at least 2027.

"This national award and local agreement recognises the hard work put in by our members and supporters over many years, for which we are immensely grateful"

Tim Kirker,
Association Chairman

"Apart from the security which the lease provides, it will open up more opportunities for fund raising," he said.

The museum aims to record, preserve and display the story of how Calderdale has developed from the industry of its past.

The museum wishes to thank Roger Harvey, Chairman of Harvey's of Halifax, for his continuing support and nomination for the award.

It had been on course to attract more than 10,000 visitors annually but during the COVID lockdown volunteers have continued to beaver away behind the scenes.

Calderdale Industrial Museum Association was short-listed for the Museum and Heritage Volunteer Team of 2019 and named a 2020 Traveller's Choice Winner by Tripadvisor, having maintained for 18 months its position as the best rated attraction in Halifax.

It is now among Tripadvisor's top 10% of attractions worldwide!

According to the Queen's Award Team: "The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the independent National Assessment Committee, chaired by Sir Martyn Lewis CBE. The Award in 2021 represents a tremendous achievement for your organisation and we hope that everyone involved, and particularly your volunteers, will feel immensely proud."

Calderdale Council leader, Cllr Tim Swift said the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers had been exemplary. "They have worked tirelessly to raise funds, secure support and donations in both cash and direct help, and promote the case for the museum and its wider importance to Calderdale as a visitor attraction and as an important record of the area's industrial heritage," he said.

"We handed over the running of the museum to Calderdale Industrial Museum Association in 2016 and we continue to provide support to assist its plans and ambitions, and the museum's operation. The industrial museum, along with other local cultural organisations, will play a major role in Calderdale's revitalisation as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Another of the museum's key backers, Christine Harris, Deputy Lieutenant West Yorkshire said "The museum is led by volunteers with an amazing range of skills who have engaged widely at community level across all age groups. Their stoic determination to rise above adversity is phenomenal complimented by passion, enthusiasm and a determination to succeed."

The award will be presented at a date to be confirmed.

The museum in Square Road and the association which runs it provides a safe haven for many retired and often lonely or vulnerable people. Social services and charities refer clients including asylum seekers to help them integrate.

It includes a cafe and a meeting room where lectures are held on industrial history. A growing number of education modules have been tailored to the National Curriculum.

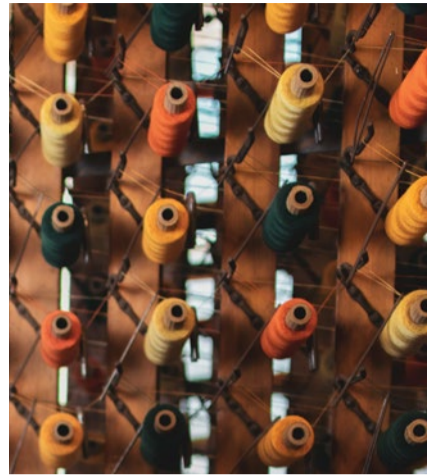
Sophie Shaw, science leader at Woodhouse Primary School, said:

"We feel lucky to have such a fantastic museum in our area. We have been able to use our visits to inspire children, educate them and develop their 'culture capital.'"

"The museum has since offered us the use of various resources and discussed the idea of volunteers visiting school to hold workshops such as science experiments."

Among the machines and artefacts spread over four floors in the museum are some of the only surviving examples in the country

Bernard Wadsworth has been a volunteer at the museum since he attended an open day in 2013. He can now be seen repairing and restoring machinery on two or three days every week.



The former Halifax hosiery worker said he had always been interested in machinery and had become increasingly involved with other museum activities.

"I want visitors to see how these things made Halifax into a wealthy town where, in my life time, you could leave a job one day and start a new one the next," he said.

Roger Swift and his wife, Pauline, have been actively involved for six years.

The former print engineer has family links to the museum - his father, Raymond, built some of the brick bases beneath many of the heavy machines and Roger has been helping to restore the waterwheel and fulling stocks, as well as doing a variety of other jobs.

Derek Bird, of Keighley, spends a full day at the museum every week. He brings with him the skills he picked-up during a life time making machinery for the worsted industry.

"Halifax has such a wealth of industrial industry and I want the next generation to understand how that came about. The friendship and camaraderie here is very important."

He has produced plans for the new pre-industrial museum area which will show how raw wool is turned into worsted cloth and other staple goods.

"I like getting my hands on big iron machines and here at the museum you meet some very interesting people," he said.

While spanners and hammers are important, there are many more jobs on reception, in the museum cafe, guiding visitors, setting up displays, painting and cleaning etc for which more volunteers are essential.

The museum boasts more than 200 members of which 130 are registered volunteers. They include accountants, textile operators, nurses, consultants, teachers, librarians, plumbers, electricians, directors, printers, H&S and insurance workers.

Among other things, the museum proudly records the history of the Mackintosh toffee factory, Percy Shaw's reflecting road studs, Crossley Carpets, the Shibden Valley coal mines, Butlers, Stirk and Asquith machine tools and other world-beating engineering firms as well as the former Halifax Building Society.

Open Saturdays 10.00 - 16.00
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