**Heritage Open Days in & around Blackburn & Darwen 2019**

**Blackburn Events:**

**Blackburn Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5AA**

**Be Surprised by Blackburn Cathedral**

Guided Tours of the Building  
Bell Tower Viewings  
Open Choir Rehearsal  
Family Activities  
Church Needleworking Demonstration  
Flower Arranging Demonstration

If you've never visited England's youngest cathedral, now is your chance to see it in action. There will be activities for all ages - full details to follow. It is also a chance to experience the modern artworks located throughout the building and to enjoy the green oasis of the cloister garden.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 14 September:** 10.00 - 15.00

**Booking Details**

**Pre-booking:** Preferred  
Booking for cathedral tours is not essential and there should be no problem in turning up on the day. For the bell tower tours where numbers are limited, booking would be helpful  
**Booking Contact:** Ian Fowler (Bell tower only)  
**Email:** ianpfowler@btinternet.com

**Access**

Disabled parking is limited and should be pre-booked by contacting the Virgers on 01254 277448 or email virgers@blackburncathedral.co.uk. Otherwise, there is no onsite parking, but there are several public car parks close to the Cathedral.

**Additional Information**

**Max 25 people per tour/session.** 60 minutes for cathedral tours: 45 minutes for the bell tower (for which the maximum number is 8 per tour) **Contact for the day:** Mr Mark Pickering (Head Virger) 01254 277448  
[**www.blackburncathedral.com**](http://www.blackburncathedral.com/)

**Directions:** The Cathedral is one of the most prominent buildings in Blackburn and is well signed on the approach roads. The spire with its golden cross on top of the Lantern Tower is visible from a considerable distance.

**Blackburn Central Library**

**Blackburn Central Library, Town Hall Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 1AG**

A chance to peep behind the doors of the central library basement and community history "stacks".

Short tour in order to see the reserve book collection and community history stock. These areas are not normally open to public access. There will also be an opportunity to see a small collection of rare and unusual resources from the Community History Collection.

**Opening Times**

**Monday 16 September:** 1800-1900  
**Wednesday 18 September:** 1400-1500  
**Saturday 21 September:** 1130-1230

**Booking Details**

**Pre-booking:** Required  
Blackburn Central Library is free to explore but the tour must be booked  
**Booking Contact:** Mary Painter  
**Call:** 01254 661221   
**Email:** library@blackburn.gov.uk  
**Booking opens:** 2 September 2019 10:00  
**Booking closes:** 21 September 2019 10:00

**Access**

Due to the nature and physical layout of the basement and community history stacks; the event poses some challenges for wheelchair access. Please contact the library in order to discuss requirements.

**Additional Information**

**Max 10 people per tour/session.** Tour takes 1 hour The tours will run at the times listed above. Blackburn Library however opens every day at 10am and closes at 7pm on Monday, 5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and at 4pm on Saturdays. Additionally, there will be an exhibition of local history photographs on display along the first floor corridor. The majority of these images can also be viewed on Blackburn with Darwen Library & Information Service's digital history website: www.cottontown.org **Contact for the day:** Mary Painter  
[**www.cottontown.org**](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/www.cottontown.org)

**Blackburn Quaker Meeting House**

**Blackburn Quaker Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Paradise Lane, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 1LY**

Blackburn Quakers are pleased to offer a welcome to our historic meeting house and grounds. Visitors can meet with Quakers and see the exhibition 'People Power', highlighting aspects of Quaker social concern and activism.

Visitors will have the chance to see the historic Quaker Meeting House and burial ground. From the 17th Century to the present day Quakers have worked for social and economic justice both at home and internationally. This active faith comes from the conviction that love is at the heart of existence and that all human beings are unique and equal. Our exhibition this year 'People Power' will highlight some of the many Quaker campaigns and initiatives through the past 300 years to the present day. Short films about the development of Quaker faith and practice will be shown. Visitors will be offered light refreshments and have the chance to ask questions and chat with friendly Quakers.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 14 September:** 11.00-16.00  
**Sunday 15 September:** 13.00-15.00

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Additional Information**

**Contact for the day:** Linda Burke 07941814675  
[**www.blackburn.pendlehillquakers.org.uk**](https://www.blackburn.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/)

**Directions**

Blackburn Meeting House is located to the rear of the Outdoor Action shop on King Street.

**East Lancashire Municipal Bus Running Day**

**Cathedral Square, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1FB**

A display of local vintage buses and free demonstration rides to points of interest

A display of vintage buses and the opportunity to travel free of charge on local routes

**Opening Times**

**Sunday 22 September:** Display from 10 am Bus trips hourly from 11am to 3pm

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access:** Due to the age of the vehicles they are NOT wheelchair friendly

**Additional Information**

**Max 68 people per tour/session.** Approx 50mins **Contact for the day:** Site Manager 07706927466  
[**www.darwentransport.org.uk/**](http://www.darwentransport.org.uk/)

**Directions:** Opposite the railway station

**Obscura Darkroom Open Days**

**The Bureau Centre for the Arts, Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6HQ**

Come and visit our community darkroom and find out all about analogue (film) photography and have a try at some activities.

Obscura Darkroom is run by an artist's collective who are passionate about film photography. This is a chance to explore the Darkroom and the facilities, find out about techniques and meet the team. There will be taster activities. The Darkroom is currently re-setting as we have moved after the fire in our previous home. When we are fully operational there is access to resources to develop, print and scan film. We have weekly open skill share sessions and sell film as well as offering more in depth courses.   
This is a good chance to look round, ask questions and have a good chat about film based photography!

**Opening Times**

**Sunday 15 September:** 1300-1600  
**Tuesday 17 September:** 1800-2100  
**Thursday 19 September:** 1800-2100

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access:** The Darkroom is upstairs and access is only by stairs.

**Additional Information**

There is limited space in the darkroom, so please be aware that if we are full you may have to wait until there is space. The nearest car park is Brown Street pay and display- just across the road. The bus station is less than 200 yards away, and the train station is just over 500 yards away. **Contact for the day:** Oli Blight 07716850028  
[**www.facebook.com/events/2653081448057934/**](https://www.facebook.com/events/2653081448057934/)

**Directions**

After the fire that devastated our old home in St John's church, we have now relocated to the Old Thwaites' Visitors Centre (previously Daniel's pub). It is a curved brown brick building, opposite the Job Centre on the corner of Penny Street and Barbara Castle Way.

**Street Art Workshop at The Bureau**

**The Bureau Centre for the Arts, Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6HQ**

Typography workshops, with artists from Trapped in Zone One.

Artist led session, at The Bureau as part of Blackburn Street Art Festival and linked to a new piece of work by Curtis Hylton which will be being created that week on a new wall in town.  
  
Our workshop will be themed around positivity and well-being, each participant that attends will be asked to create a typography piece of artwork based on a word that best describes Blackburn, and it's heritage- past and future  
  
All materials will be provided and artists will be there to help and support. No previous experience needed.   
Paint pens will be used so wear appropriate clothing or use one of our aprons if needed.  
  
Our cafe will be open for hot and cold drinks, cakes and light refreshments.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 21 September:** 1030-1200, 1300-1430

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access**

The downstairs area of the building is fully physically accessible, but the upstairs area only has stairs for access. This workshop will be held downstairs.

**Additional Information**

The nearest car park is Brown Street pay and display- just across the road. The bus station is less than 200 yards away, and the train station is just over 500 yards away. **Contact for the day:** Kerris 07845 964802  
[**bureaublackburn.co.uk**](http://bureaublackburn.co.uk/)  
[**www.trappedinzoneone.com**](http://www.trappedinzoneone.com/)

**The Bureau Open Day**

**The Bureau Centre For the Arts, Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6HQ**

Come and visit our new home building, share your stories about St John's Church, and Daniel's pub, get hands on with some creative activities, have a brew and a chat in our cafe and find out more about what we do.

Join us at The Bureau for an afternoon of creative heritage themed activities.   
Have a look around our Community Darkroom and learn about analogue cameras and developing and printing film, meet our resident artists, and find out how Thwaites Brewery links our old home with our new home.   
  
We'd also love to collect stories from anyone who has memories of St John's or of Daniels pub- we would especially love to find someone who was married at St John's and had their wedding reception at Daniels!   
  
Lots of activities going on, and our cafe will be open for drinks and cake!

**Opening Times**

**Sunday 15 September:** 1300-1600

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access**

The downstairs area of the building is fully physically accessible, but the upstairs area only has stairs for access.

**Additional Information**

The nearest car park is Brown Street pay and display- just across the road. The bus station is less than 200 yards away, and the train station is just over 500 yards away. **Contact for the day:** Kerris 07845 964802  
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**Directions**

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**Darwen Events:**

**Ashton Kiosk (aka Scout Hut), Bold Venture Park**

**Ashton Kiosk ( Scout Hut ) , Manor Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 2SN**

Visit the Ashton Kiosk and enjoy home- made cakes, see a photograph exhibition, listen to vintage music whilst learning about the history of the park and admire vintage cars!

For one weekend only the Friends of Bold Venture Park will reopen the Ashton Kiosk refreshment rooms. There will be tea, coffee and delicious home- made cakes for sale. You will be able to view an exhibition of historic photographs that tell the story of Bold Venture Park and a complimentary display of new images of the park taken by local people. Music will add to the vintage ambiance and classic cars are planned. There will be the opportunity of buying copies of the new Bold Venture Park calendar for 2020.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 21 September:** 1300-1600  
**Sunday 22 September:** 1300-1600

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access**

Combine your visit with a walk to Darwen Tower. Please note there are no toilets on site.

**Directions:** Plenty of on street parking

**Blackburn & Darwen Band at St Cuthbert’s Church, Darwen.**

**St. Cuthbert's Church, Earnsdale Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 1QJ**

A concert on Saturday 21st September featuring Blackburn & Darwen Band in the wonderful grade II listed building of St. Cuthbert's Church. Brass bands are so much part of our Northern heritage, it's a concert not to miss and it's free!

As its Heritage Weekend, why not come along and be entertained by Blackburn & Darwen Band, a brass band that can trace its roots back to 1840. The band perform at an incredibly high standard for amateur musicians and, with music to suit all tastes, we're sure you won't be disappointed.

**Opening Times: Saturday 21 September:** 19.30 - 21.30

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Additional Information**

[**www.blackburnanddarwenband.co.uk/**](https://www.blackburnanddarwenband.co.uk/)

**Blackburn & Darwen Band March and Hymn Tune Contest**

**Croft Street, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 1BG**

A traditional brass band march and hymn tune contest open to bands of all abilities.  
Enjoy listening to a variety of pieces where you will hear a warmth of sound only brass bands can achieve.  
A perfect way to spend Sunday afternoon.

A Brass Band Contest that has been organised to celebrate the 179th Anniversary of Blackburn & Darwen Band who began in Darwen in 1840 as a Temperance band. Bands from across the North West will converge on Darwen to perform a contest march of their choice and a hymn tune too. There will be bands of all standards represented and prizes for each section will be awarded as well as prizes for the overall winners. Over £2500 is up for grabs. Each band will play on the march to the contest stage beforehand. There will be a variety of eating and drinking outlets available on the day to make it a great day out for all.

**Opening Times**

**Sunday 22 September:** 13.00 - 18.00

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access**

Parking on Edward Street is only a short distance away. Additional parking will be available at Darwen Academy School on Redearth Road.

**Additional Information**  
[**www.blackburnanddarwenband.co.uk**](http://www.blackburnanddarwenband.co.uk/)

**Darwen Library Heritage Open Day**

**Darwen Library, Knott Street, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 3BU**

Join us this Heritage Open Day to celebrate 'People Power' – the ability of local communities, groups and individuals to evoke change.

Discover how local people have used the library to change and shape their world with our new exhibition by The Friends of Darwen Library. Also, on the day we will have a show & tell with items from our archives, storytelling for all the family & performances from the Darwen Library Larks.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 14 September:** 1000-1300

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Additional Information**

Darwen Library opening hours: Monday 10am-7pm, Wednesday 1pm-5pm, Thursday 1pm-5pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-2pm.

**Directions**

From M65, approach along the main road into Darwen, turning left into Union Street, then right into Knott Street. From Bolton, approach along main road into Darwen town centre, turn right along Church Street past Darwen Bus Station, follow the road round toward Railway Road, and turn left onto School Street.

**Darwen Vale High School**

**Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0AL**

Archives and photos on display dating back to 1900, plus some from more recent times. Take a tour of our amazing building and facilities with our wonderful prefects, and join us for a coffee and a cake for the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The building is fully open and tours available with prefects. Old photographs, year books, log books and production programmes on display, plus many other items from our archives, some dating back to 1900. In conjunction with the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 21 September:** Open 9.00am - 1.00pm

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Additional Information**

**Max 10 people per tour/session.** 30 minutes **Contact for the day:** Catherine Kenyon 07809 018984  
[**www.darwenvale.com**](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/www.darwenvale.com)

**Directions:** Just off Junction 4 of the M65.

**People Power in and around Darwen**

**Darwen Heritage Centre, Holker House, Railway Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 2RG**

A Display of how the People Power as affected Darwen and its surrounding areas.

The Exhibition will have details of many voluntary organisations in and around Darwen, and give examples of their achievements.

**Opening Times**

**Friday 13 September:** 10.00 - 15.30  
**Wednesday 18 September:** 10.00 - 13.00  
**Friday 20 September:** 10.00 - 15.30  
**Saturday 21 September:** 11.00 - 15.00

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Directions**

We are located in the centre of Darwen over- looking the Market Square.

**St Peter’s Church Darwen - A history of Baptism**

**St Peter's Church, Church Street, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 3HE**

Alongside the opportunity to visit our Grade II\* building and see its rich heritage we will have a display available about Baptism and artefacts and items from people's baptism's at church.

This will be the first HOD after our restoration work and to celebrate this there will be tours of the building to look at the heritage which has been researched as well as a display of items connected with Baptisms at St Peter's. Hopefully we will have the baptism registers dating back to the 1800's available for people to look at as well as a display of items lent to us about their own baptisms.

**Opening Times**

**Saturday 14 September:** 10.00 - 3.00

**Booking Details:** No booking required

**Access**

If tower tours take place the tower is only accessible up a steep set of spiral stairs

**Additional Information**

**Contact for the day:** 01254 703929  
[**www.stpeterschurchdarwen.org**](https://www.stpeterschurchdarwen.org/)

**The Friends of St Pauls Churchyard Cream tea afternoon**

**Carus Centre, 2 Sydney St, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancashire**

The friends of St Pauls churchyard Cream tea afternoon, lots of history of Hoddlesden village and surrounding areas

Displays of photographs including school class photos, mills, and village life, records from Churchyard information and help finding graves, also school attendance and church records, information about the war memorial and the soldiers and photos

**Opening Times**

**Sunday 22 September:** 1pm - 5pm

**Booking Details:** No booking required