



**Culture
Quest**

What's On For Families

**in Rochdale Borough
Summer 2026**



yourtrust

**Create
Rochdale**

**Rochdale
Creates**

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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**Rochdale
Development
Agency**

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Are you ready for a Culture Quest?

This summer there are lots of cultural events taking place across Rochdale Borough for families to enjoy. **Many of them are FREE to attend.**

There's so much to discover!

Use this booklet to find out what's on and plan your own summer Culture Quest.

Scan the QR code to access an online directory of all the events listed here and more!



Scan me to see the directory

The majority of events and activities in this booklet are designed for families - children must have an adult with them to take part.

Culture is many things, including...



Rochdale Town Hall Lantern Parade.
Credit: Jenn Davy-Day



Side by Side. Credit Alan Hamer



Credit M6 Theatre



Collect Stamps as you Explore

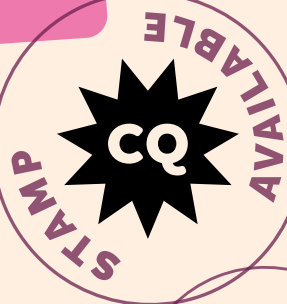


Where you
see this
circle next
to an event
or activity,
it means you
can collect
a Culture
Quest stamp
at the event.



STAMP
AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE



STAMP
AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE

STAMP



Children's University

If you go to a primary school in Rochdale Borough that is registered with Children's University, show your stamps to your teacher in September, and they will add activity hours to your online passport using a unique Culture Quest code.

Any Primary School or community group can sign up to Rochdale Children's University, offered by Altus Education Partnership across Rochdale Borough. Children's University is a charity that works in partnership with schools, and local organisations to develop a love of learning in children, raise aspirations and develop

skills. Children take part in extra-curricular activities both in and out of school and online. The number of activity hours is logged and, to encourage and recognise children and young people's achievements, they celebrate with certificates and a graduation ceremony at the end of the school year.



ROCHDALE
children's
UNIVERSITY



ALTUS
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
BRINGING EDUCATION TOGETHER

Read, Create and Connect at Rochdale Libraries this Summer

There are 16 libraries in Rochdale Borough. They are all free to visit and welcome families throughout the year – there's something for everyone! It's **FREE to join the library and borrow books to take home.**

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free and fun way to keep children reading all summer. This year, the theme is *Read to the Beat!* Children can set their own challenge and earn a medal and a certificate when they complete it. There's a chance to win books for their school too! The challenge is aimed at ages 4–11, but younger or older children can take part too.



Scan the QR code or visit your local library to find out more.

Special Events

In the first week of the holidays, Rochdale Libraries will be delivering three 'Holiday Hive' events in parks, close to libraries. The drop in events will include crafts related to this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme, *Read to the Beat*, and outdoor games. During August, there will be lots more Holiday Hive events in libraries across the borough, from crafts to mini-discos. All families are welcome.



Scan the QR code to find out what other events are on.

The Rochdale Libraries Explorer Challenge

How many libraries will you visit this year? Pick up your Explorer Challenge sheet this summer and start collecting a stamp every time you visit a new branch. With a colourful map, activity log, and space to draw your favourite library, it's the perfect way to spark curiosity, get reading, and discover new places together. Once you've collected all 16 stamps, visit any branch to receive your official completion certificate.

Bookish Bingo Cards

Everyone is invited to take part in the brand-new Bookish Bingo Challenge. It's fun, free, and a brilliant way to discover new reads across lots of different genres – there are bingo cards for children, young adults, and adults. Complete your bingo card by reading books that match each prompt, then return your finished card to any Rochdale library by 1st December for a chance to be entered into a prize draw to win a bookish goody bag.

There is also a bingo card available for children under 5 which when completed they will receive their very own Bookish Bingo certificate!

Regular Activities

Did you know that Rochdale Libraries run a variety of free activities for children and parents throughout the year from Lego Clubs and Family Board Games sessions to singing and story time sessions for little ones.

There's never been a better time to join the library and find out all that's on offer.



Scan the QR to find out what's on at each library or follow them on social media.

 @rochdaleboroughlibraries



Week ONE

Saturday 25 July – Friday 31 July

FREE

Love Littleborough Festival

A family friendly festival featuring live music, viking battles and family fun.

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Hare Hill Park, Littleborough
Saturday 25 July
11am–4pm

FREE

Community Fun Day

A celebration of communities coming together including free food samples, art activities and games!

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Peine Square, Heywood
Saturday 25 July
12–3pm

FREE

Broadfield Park Slopes: Bioblitz

Join Rochdale Field Naturalist Society and Rochdale Development Agency to explore Broadfield Park Slopes and learn all about biodiversity and the environment. Activities include bug hunting, flower identification and orienteering!

Aimed at 5–14 year olds.

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

- Broadfield Park Slopes
Saturday 25 July
10am–12pm & 1–3pm



FREE

Holiday Hive

Rochdale Library Service will be in the park running free craft activities and games. If the weather isn't great, activities will move into Littleborough Library.

Aimed at 4–11 year olds.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Hare Hill Park, Littleborough
Tuesday 28 July
1–3pm

FREE

Holiday Hive

Rochdale Library Service will be in the park running free craft activities and games. If the weather isn't great, activities will move into Middleton Library.

Aimed at 4–11 year olds.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Jubilee Park, Middleton
Wednesday 29 July
1–3pm

FREE

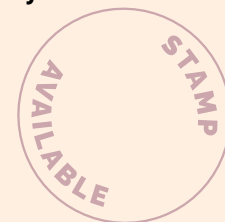
Workshop – Friendship Bracelets and Beaded Keyrings

Make the 'fun-est', coolest accessories to take home and share with your friends. Using thread and (optional) beads, you can make a beautiful bracelet or colourful keyring. You can take your creations home and even share with a friend.

For ages 3+.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Pioneers Museum, Rochdale
Wednesday 29 July
11am–2pm



FIRST 2 SESSIONS ARE FREE

Breakdancing with Elevate Young Minds

Experience hip hop dance culture with Greater Manchester's top break dance coaches at these sessions open to all abilities.

First two sessions are free.

Usual price £10.50 - 12.60

Pay What You Can.

For ages 7+

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

📍 Heywood Civic, Heywood
Wednesday 29 July
6–8pm



FREE

Holiday Hive

Rochdale Library Service will be in the park running free craft activities and games. If the weather isn't great, activities will move into Heywood Library.

Aimed at 4–11 year olds.

★ Drop in, no booking required

📍 Queens Park, Heywood
Thursday 30 July
1–3pm



FREE

Summer Cinema: Fantastic Mr Fox

Bring a blanket or chair, grab some snacks and enjoy this family friendly film under the open sky. *Fantastic Mr Fox* is rated PG for parental guidance.

All ages welcome.

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

📍 Broadfield Slopes Park, Rochdale
Thursday 30 July
1–4pm



FREE

Workshop – Make a fish!

Join Pioneers Museum at Rochdale Central Library to get crafty and make a colourful fish, inspired by the books *Swimmy* and *Rainbow Fish*. If you'd like, you can donate your design to the museum and you'll get a special pass to visit and see your work on display!

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

📍 Rochdale Central Library, Rochdale
Friday 31 July
12–3pm



Week TWO

Saturday 1 August – Friday 7 August

FREE

Merhaba

Merhaba (welcome) is a family-friendly festival celebrating Rochdale's diverse community. Expect free activities and rides for children, plus live entertainment for everyone including street food, live music, artisan markets and a live artshow.

All ages welcome.

For this event get your stamp at the Town Hall Info Desk.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Rochdale Town Hall Square, Rochdale
Saturday 1 August
11am–5pm



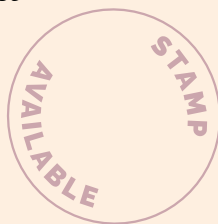
FREE

SEND Sunday

Enjoy the Town Hall at your own pace. During SEND Sunday the Town Hall will be closed to the public with many lights dimmed and sounds switched off. Check out the Zen Den – a quiet place for busy minds, filled with sensory lights and calming toys.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Rochdale Town Hall, Rochdale
Sunday 2 August
2–4pm



FREE

Brass Band Concert

Take a picnic to the park and enjoy the live music from Blackley Band.

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- Hare Hill Park, Littleborough
Sunday 2 August
3–5pm

FREE TASTER SESSION

Heywood Civic Youth Theatre

Led by professional theatre makers, these regular sessions support creativity, confidence and teamwork at any age! Weekly sessions start from 8 September.

Usual price £10.50–£12.60
Pay What You Can

For ages 8–11.

★ Ticket Required.
Scan QR code

- Heywood Civic, Heywood
Tuesday 4 August
4.30–6.00pm



FREE TASTER SESSION

Heywood Civic Youth Dance

Delivered by Manchester dance company, Company Chameleon, this class will introduce the fundamentals of contemporary dance in a fun and accessible way. Weekly sessions start in September.

Usual price £10.50–£12.60
Pay What You Can

For ages 8–11

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

- Heywood Civic, Heywood
Tuesday 4 August
4.30–5.30pm



FIRST 2 SESSIONS ARE FREE

Breakdancing with Elevate Young Minds

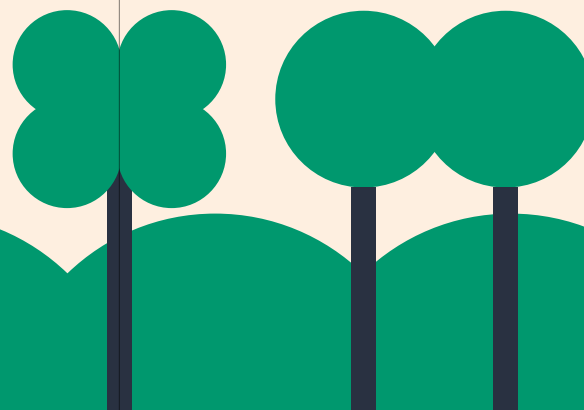
Experience hip hop dance culture with Greater Manchester's top break dance coaches at these sessions open to all abilities.

First two sessions are free then £10.50 – £12.60 Pay What You Can

For ages 7+

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

Heywood Civic, Heywood
Wednesday 5 August
6–8pm



Week THREE

Saturday 8 August – Friday 14 August

FREE

Playbox in the Park

Playful Anywhere will be creating a vibrant pop up play area in the park for families to enjoy. Expect giant games, marble runs and different creative activities each day.

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

Balderstone Park, Rochdale
Sunday 9 – Wednesday
12 August
10am–4pm every day

FREE

Proms in the Park

Expect a fun-filled afternoon of music, laughter and singalongs with the talented Middleton Wilberries.

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

Jubilee Park, Middleton
Sunday 9 August
From 1pm

FREE

Wind Chime Workshops

Work with artists to create a forest of wind chimes in Queen's Park. These family friendly workshops are organised by Culture Co Op.

All ages welcome.

@CultureCoop

★ Drop in, no booking required

Queens Park, Heywood
Monday 10 and Tuesday 11
August. Check online for times

FREE

Workshop – Make a fish!

Visit Rochdale Pioneers Museum to get crafty and make a colourful fish, inspired by the books *Swimmy* and *Rainbow Fish*. If you'd like, you can donate your design to the museum and you'll get a special pass to visit and see your work on display!

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- 📍 Pioneers Museum, Rochdale
Thursday 13 August
12–3pm



FREE

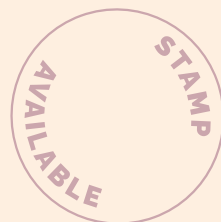
Side-by-Side Festival

Get involved in this collaborative arts festival created by people from across Rochdale Borough. This year's theme is "It Belongs to You." On Thursday, the programme will include workshops, performances and events aimed at families with children aged 0–11, including a pop up play zone. On Friday the programme will have more activities aimed at 11–18 year olds. The final day of the festival is aimed at adults but families are still welcome to attend.

Scan the QR code to view the full programme.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- 📍 Rochdale Town Hall Square, Rochdale (For this event get your stamp at the Info Desk in the Town Hall)
Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 August
12–4pm



Week FOUR

Saturday 15 August – Friday 21 August

FREE

Workshop – Make a fish!

Join Pioneers Museum at Spotland Library to get crafty and make a colourful fish, inspired by the books *Swimmy* and *Rainbow Fish*. If you'd like, you can donate your design to the museum and you'll get a special pass to visit and see your work on display!

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- 📍 Spotland Library, Rochdale
Wednesday 17 August
1–3pm



FREE

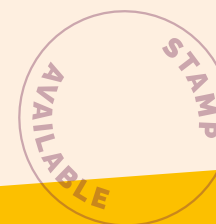
South Asian Heritage Festival

The South Asian Heritage Festival is a vibrant, free annual community celebration bringing together voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to showcase the rich cultures, histories and contributions of South Asian communities. This one day festival is a space for unity, learning and celebration – honouring heritage whilst building bridges across communities.

All ages welcome.

★ Drop in, no booking required

- 📍 Rochdale Town Hall (For this event get your stamp at the Info Desk in the Town Hall)
Thursday 20 August
10am–4pm

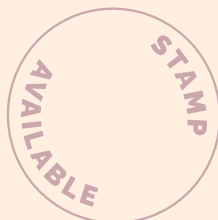


Workshop - Bake and Share Cookies

Learn how to make delicious cookies and then share them as part of a tasty picnic in the garden parklet. Inspired by the ingredients sold by the Rochdale Pioneers, you'll measure, mix, scoop and bake to make delicious cookies that you can share.

★ Tickets £5. Scan the QR code to book

📍 Pioneers Museum, Rochdale
Thursday 20 August
11am–1pm



Week FIVE

Saturday 22 August – Sunday 31 August

FREE

The Great Heywood Gathering

An intergenerational celebration of making music together, no matter your age, experience or confidence level. Songwriting sessions, drumming circles, music for Early Years and more! Check online for more details.

📱 @CultureCoop

★ Drop in, no booking required

📍 Heywood
Saturday 22 August

FREE

Proms in the Park

Join a spectacular grand finale in true 'Last Night of the Proms' style! Bring your flags and your voice celebrate with Rock Choir and the incredible Babalola.

All ages welcome

★ Drop in, no booking required

📍 Jubilee Park, Middleton
Monday 31 Aug
From 1pm

FREE

Summer Cinema: The Wild Robot

Bring a blanket or chair, grab some snacks and enjoy this family friendly film under the open sky.

All ages welcome. *The Wild Robot* is rated U for Universal, meaning it can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

★ Tickets Required. Scan the QR code to book

📍 Broadfield Slopes Park,
Rochdale
Thursday 27 August
1–4pm



Share your creativity



Culture is the result of people's creativity. Use this space to write a poem, draw a picture or create something else inspired by the places you've visited on your Culture Quest.



We'd love to see what you create. Send a photo to rochdaleculturequest@gmail.com

Travel info

Here's some travel information to help you plan your Culture Quests



Walking

Walking is free, good for our health and a great way to explore what's on our doorstep.



Train

It's a 15 minute walk or a short tram ride from Rochdale Train Station into Rochdale Town Centre. There are also train stations in Castleton and Mills Hill. Did you know that families can get 1/3 off rail travel with a Family & Friends Railcard?

Scan the QR code to find out more.



Metrolink

There are two family tram travelcards that enable families to travel further for less money. The 1-day Metrolink off-peak family travelcard gives you unlimited off-peak family travel throughout your chosen Metrolink zones and the Metrolink weekend family travelcard gives you unlimited family travel throughout all Metrolink zones on the weekend. **For more information about buses and trams, scan the QR code.**



Cycling

Cycling instead of driving is a great way to improve fitness whilst reducing air pollution. Did you know that Active Travel Rochdale offer a range of activities to support families to cycle, scoot and walk? This includes bike libraries, cycling courses and family bike rides to build confidence. **Scan the QR code to find out more.**

There's also information about cycle paths and secure bicycle parking on Rochdale Borough Council's website here. **Scan the QR code to find out more.**



Bus

We've got a large network of bus routes all across the borough.

Children under 5 travel free and families can purchase a 1-day Bee Bus Family Ticket (Off-peak) for £9. Use this ticket to travel together as a family group on Bee Network buses for 1 day's unlimited travel after 9.30am on weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays.



Car

For families who need to travel by car there are plenty of car parks across the borough. **Scan the QR code to find out more.**



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Liability

At the time of going to print we have taken care to ensure that the details in this guide are accurate however we are unable to take any responsibility for any information that may have subsequently changed. **Families attending any of the events and activities in this booklet do so at their own risk.**