



THE NATIONAL
**FESTIVAL
OF MAKING**

Free
Festival

What's On
Guide

**5TH & 6TH
JULY 2025**

11am—5pm

Blackburn
Town Centre

A national **celebration of making** from the kitchen table to the factory floor


Making the most out of your visit

We've got so much going on over the festival weekend!



All activities run from 11am-5pm unless otherwise stated with a pink time button.



Nearly all the workshops, talks and activities are free!

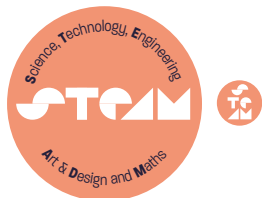
Where there is a cost to take part, it will be marked with this symbol  and the price.



Say hello to our friendly Festival Volunteers who will be happy to assist you with finding your way around. If you want specific advice, head to our **Information Points** at King William Street and Cathedral Square (numbers   on the map).



We've got so much going on over the festival weekend! **Take a peek at our programme online at festivalofmaking.co.uk or scan the QR code above for the latest info.**



Did you know STEAM stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Design and Maths**? Where you see this sticker, it means the workshop links to STEAM!



For these workshops you'll need to head to the venue listed to **sign up for a time slot**. Numbers are limited, so get there early to avoid disappointment!



Some events and workshops have limited capacity and so must be booked in advance. Please see the **'Book in Advance'** section (p28-29). Limited spaces may be remaining over the weekend so check online by scanning the QR code below.

Follow the Festival Line

Don't have specific plans? Simply follow our yellow festival line along the ground and you'll be guided through the town centre to each of the venues!

(Note: the line may have faded if it's rained on or just before the festival weekend!)








Your essential guide to everything to see and do this weekend

Map Key

- Festival Route
- - - - - Routes through the Mall
- Information Points
- Toilets
- Steps to Venue

Festival Venues

Town Hall Square, King William Street

-  **1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street & Festival Info Point**
- 2 Taste Lancashire Market & Street Food Stalls, King William Street**
- 3 STEAM Zone, King William Street**
-  **4 Downstairs at The Exchange, 71-73 King William Street**
-  **5 Community Clothing Pop-Up Shop, 66 King William Street**



Museum Street

- 6 Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Street**
- 7 Creative Skills Hub, Museum Street**

Exchange Street

- 8 The Making Rooms, 1 Exchange Street**
- 9 The Bureau Centre for the Arts, 3 Exchange Street**



Town Hall Street

-  **10 Tony's Empress Ballroom, Town Hall Street**
- 11 9 Town Hall Street (former Care Network)**
-  **12 The Batcave, Town Hall Street**
- 13 Blackburn Library, Town Hall Street**

The Mall and King William Street

- 14 Shop Three, The Mall (by Victoria Court)**
- 15 Victoria Court, The Mall**
- 16 Corner Unit, The Mall, (entrance on King William Street, opposite Natwest Bank)**
- 17 King William Street Performance Area**

Discover Blakey Moor

-  **18 Blakey Moor Terrace**
-  **19 Ribblesdale Tap**
-  **20 Prism Contemporary, 20 Lord Street West**
- 21 Barton Street Car Park, Behind Prism Contemporary**
- 22 Reel Cinema**

Church Street

- 23 Not Only A Street Market, Church Street**

In and around Cathedral Quarter

- 24 Front of the Cathedral, Darwen Street**
- 25 Cathedral Gardens**
-  **26 Cathedral Square & Festival Info Point**
- 27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square**
- 28 Blackburn Cathedral**
 - Cathedral Nave
 - Cathedral North Transcept
 - Temple Gallery
 - Cathedral Crypt
 - Cathedral Annexe
- 29 Blackburn Youth Zone**



The National Festival of Making is a not-for-profit arts organisation.

If you've enjoyed your visit, please consider making a small donation to help us continue our work and keep the festival free to attend.

Every pledge, no matter how small, will help the festival evolve and grow for years to come!



Scan me to donate


Contents

- 2** Making the most out of your visit
- 3** Festival Map
- 4** Festival Venues
- 5** Contents
- 6** Art in Manufacturing
 - 6 Exhibitions
 - 7 Talks
- 8** Exhibitions & Experiences
 - 8 Come As You Really Are
 - 9 For All Ages
- 10** Workshops
 - 10 For Children and Families
 - 13 For All Ages
 - 15 For Teens & Adults
- 18** Workshops at a Glance
- 20** Music & Performance
 - 20 Cathedral Square
 - 22 King William Street
- 24** Early Years Fun
- 25** Making Collaborations
- 26** Markets
- 28** Book in Advance
- 30** Performance & Talks at a Glance
- 32** Accessibility



For latest programme info scan the code or visit

festivalofmaking.co.uk

  Follow us on socials for regular updates

Art in Manufacturing

Art in Manufacturing is the National Festival of Making's headline commissioning programme.

Some of the Art in Manufacturing exhibitions will have an extended run. Please check online for details.

Morag Myerscough + Crown Paints

As a natural meeting point between Morag Myerscough + Crown Paints, colour is celebrated in *Floral Timekeepers*. A new permanent mural, and large scale pollinator-friendly planters draw attention to the artist's passion for re-greening the public realm and creating a visually arresting home for nature.

Supported by the High Street Accelerator Project.

- 20 Prism Contemporary and
- 21 Barton Street Carpark

 Prism Contemporary is accessed via a step

Matter at hand + Darwen Terracotta

A laboratory inside a cathedral, *Poured Earth* reveals the research and experiments of Matter at hand, the design practice of Lewis Jones. Part one of a two-year residency, Jones has been exploring the fundamental properties of clay, the huge potential held in earth construction and the slip-casting expertise at Darwen Terracotta.

Please note: On Sunday, this exhibition will be open 12-1.30pm & 2.30-4pm

- 28 Blackburn Cathedral, North Transept



Liaquat Rasul + Herbert Parkinson


Umeed [Oh-meed] امید - Gobaith - Hope is crafted from material found on the factory floor and from within Liaquat Rasul's collection saved over years. The collage of a face draws attention to the values of transparency at Herbert Parkinson and speaks to society as a whole - a series of anomalies fitting together, building community - hope.

- 28 The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral

Radical Pairings

To coincide with the launch of a new publication *Radical Pairings*, this exhibition brings together the work of five female artists; Jacqueline Donachie, Nicola Ellis, Raisa Kabir, Hannah Leighton-Boyce and Liz Wilson, captured in an essay by art critic Elizabeth Fullerton, *Artists and Factories Make Radical Pairings*.

- 18 Blakey Moor Terrace, opposite King George's Hall

 Some of this exhibition takes place upstairs, accessed via a staircase





Each year, Art in Manufacturing pairs artists to work in residence with some of the North's leading manufacturers. The incredible outcomes of these residencies are shown in Blackburn each year in the town's most historic and contemporary venues.

Working with an artist influences new ways of doing things – in an already innovative space, the opportunity for experimentation and inquiry between artist and industry is limitless.

Meet the exhibiting artists and hear a short talk with guest hosts.

Each talk will last approximately 20 minutes.

Saturday 5th July

12.45pm

Hannah Leighton Boyce, Jacqueline Donachie and Nicola Ellis in Conversation with Claire Mander, Director of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director.

Radical Pairings

18 Blakey Moor Terrace,
opposite King George's Hall

1.45pm

Liaqat Rasul in Conversation with Elena Jackson, Festival of Making Director & Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing and Jamie Holman, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair.

Umeed [Oh-meed] امید - Gobaith - Hope

28 The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral

3:15pm

Lewis Jones in Conversation with Elizabeth Fullerton, Art Critic and Writer

Poured Earth

28 North Transept, Blackburn Cathedral

Sunday 6th July

12.30pm

Liz Wilson in Conversation with Elizabeth Fullerton, Art Critic and Writer.

Radical Pairings

18 Blakey Moor Terrace,
opposite King George's Hall

3pm

Morag Myerscough in Conversation with Elena Jackson, Festival of Making Director & Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing.


Floral Timekeepers

21 Barton Street Car Park



Matter at hand

Come As You Really Are

All drop in unless marked with a 

Come As You Really Are by Hetain Patel

The National Festival of Making with Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery and Artangel present Come As You Really Are by Hetain Patel. The exhibition brings together objects created, modified or collected by hobbyists in Lancashire and the UK. Part of a UK-wide network of 13 partner organisations, the collaborative project is a nationwide celebration of creativity and self-expression.

Come As You Really Are includes a new film by Hetain Patel and features workshops and performances by local hobbyists.

Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery




Scan for more information

BM&AG Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Artangel

Get stuck into hands-on workshops and demos inspired by hobbyists from Lancashire and beyond!

Workshops at Blackburn Museum


- **Spoon Painting with Fernandes Makes** between  11.30am-1pm  1.30-3pm  3.30-5pm
- **Badge Making with Seaside Industries**
- **Pom Pom Making with Millie**
- **Crochet 101 with Crochet Crazy Creations** 
- **Transform a miniature Ford Escort car with Hetain Patel** between  1-3pm  **Sat only**
- **Warhammer 40K: Watch, Learn, Conquer!**  **Sat only**
- **Henna Demos with Samina Hussain**  **Sat only**
- **Miniature Techniques: Decorate a tiny house with Rose Whittaker**   **Sun only**
- **Let's Play DnD!**   **Sun only**

Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Workshop at The Batcave

- **Paint a Space Marine**

The Batcave, Town Hall Street


 This venue is accessed via a step

Workshops at Tony's Empress Ballroom

- **Head to this iconic venue to catch a selection of dance and music classes** - you might just pick up a new hobby!

See P22 for full schedule - sign up at the venue

Tony's Empress Ballroom

 This venue is accessed via a staircase



Exhibitions & Experiences

Don't miss a curated selection of exhibitions and experiences.

The Obscura Photowall

In this socially engaged project from The Obscura Collective, you're invited to create your own self-portrait using an old analogue plate camera. Develop your image on site and add it to the growing exhibition, which will be part of an online archive.

1 **Outside The Make Space,**
59 King William Street

Thingamabobas

Makers of Imaginary Worlds bring you Thingamabobas! Don't miss this animatronic and robotic circus of bizarrely wonderful machines created to inspire, delight and intrigue. Enter this space of wonder and interact with the installations inspired by the absurd contraptions of Heath Robinson, Rowland Emmett and Calder's Circus. Perfect for families.

11 **9 Town Hall Street,** opposite the Library



Light Organ

Created by Akeelah Bertram, Simon Fletcher and Adam Glatherine, Light Organ transforms your voice into a symphony of light. This large-scale interactive installation features 38 illuminated acrylic pipes that respond to sound. You are invited to sing, speak, clap, or create any sound to activate dynamic patterns of light within the sculptural array.

28 **The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral**

Saturday 12-1.45pm 2.15-5pm

Sunday 11am-5pm

Light Organ will remain open the week following the Festival, check online for details.

Light Organ Performances

The Nasheed Choir by Hussnain Hanif with students from Roe Lee Park Primary School and St Mary's & St Joseph's RC Primary School

12.30pm **Sunday only**

28 **The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral**

Workshop

Sing with Blackburn People's Choir - see P15.

2.30-3.30pm **Saturday & Sunday**

28 **The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral**

The above are all free and drop-in at the specified times, however due to venue capacity, audience numbers may be limited.



Workshops: For children and families

Architecture for Insects with HemingwayDesign




Artist Charlotte Barry and Wood Designer Charlie Boyden will guide you to design and create a home for insects, repurposing wood offcuts.

26 Cathedral Square

Hello Petal!

Turn yourself into a blooming flower in Let's Make Art's creative flower mask workshop. Let's re-wild the town, using a colour palette inspired by Morag Myerscough and her collaboration with Crown Paints.

20 Prism Contemporary

 *This venue is accessed via a step*

Fold Your Town

Craft your favourite Blackburn landmark by folding and making, contributing to a large paper art installation from A Line Art that will evolve throughout the festival weekend!

13 Blackburn Library

Creative Skills Workshops with Blackburn College

Did you know that some of our own team members and many of the artists and volunteers we work with studied creative subjects at University Centre at Blackburn College? Find the Creative Departments here at the Festival and have a go at activities across different creative disciplines!

7 Creative Skills Hub, Museum Street

Darwen Moor Cyanotypes

Using organic materials native to the blanket bogs of Darwen Moor, create a cyanotype - one of the oldest methods of photographic printing. Led by Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire Peat Partnership with support from Blackburn BID, chat to the team to understand the urgent need to protect our peatlands.

26 Cathedral Square



Ideal for kids and their grown-ups!

Looking for **Early Years** content? Head over to **PAGE 24**

Slow Stitching with Revamp Racoon & Good Things Collective

Using playful experimentation, design and make whatever takes your fancy using fabric and embroidery techniques, led by artist Wendy O'Hara of Revamp Racoon.

27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square

Split Pin Puppets with Ren Wolfe

Ren will take you through the steps of making a magical mixed-media puppet. Bring your whimsical creature to life through movement using split pins.

27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square

Tinkertown

Help build Tinkertown! It's time to set to work tinkering, building and creating in this workshop where den-building meets wood-working!

24 Grass near the front entrance of the Cathedral



Mandala Mats with Sheema Patel

Use a stencil to draw your mandala then use pattern, collage and embellishments to make it your own.

27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square

Craftsmanship Skills with QEST

Find expert makers of the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust and take part in a workshop perfect for the whole family.

6 Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Scrapbook of Summer with Beaulongings

Cut, stick, sketch, stamp and collage the first page of your very own A5 scrapbook! Once you've finished the first page, take it away to fill with memories all summer long.

27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square



Workshops: For children and families

Ideal for kids and their grown-ups!

STEAM Zone with Blackburn College



STEAM is everywhere – from what we make, to how we travel, to how we live. Here you'll find workshops galore that will get your hands working and your minds whirring! 🚗 Two of the workshops require you to sign-up on the day at the venue but most activity is drop-in.

📍 **STEAM Zone, King William Street**

🌟🚗 Drop in and Sign up on the day

Wakes Week: British Textile Biennial and Izzy Sempill

Dive into the fascinating connection between mill towns and the seaside! Browse postcards from Robert Leech's 50-year collection, dress up in period clothing and design a postcard with artist Izzy Sempill.

📍 **Cathedral Square**

Ready Steady Go! With A Line Art

Colour your own cardboard car and set off on a live adventure trail! Accelerate through a bubbly car wash, navigate roadworks and go on a journey discovering the secrets of the Festival.

📍 **Corner unit, The Mall**, by the glass tower (opposite Natwest)

This is a 35 minute experience including storytelling, music, a creative activity and then a mini tour.

Slot One 11.30am

Slot Two 1pm

Slot Three 2.45pm

Slot Four 4.15pm

Please note: before 1pm you can only sign up for the first two slots of the day. The second two slots open after 1.30pm.

★
**FREE
SIGN UP
ON THE DAY**
▲




Workshops: For all ages

Designed with all ages in mind, just drop-by.

Floral Timekeepers at Prism Contemporary

When you head to see Morag Myerscough + Crown Paints' Floral Timekeepers, stop by Prism Contemporary. Select a colour swatch made by Crown's technical team and add to the growing colour palette. Perfect for children, re-wild the town with Let's Make Art's "Hello Petal" workshop, using a colour palette inspired by the artist's work.

20 Prism Contemporary

 This venue is accessed via a step

This Must be the Place with Mikesian Studio


Explore the places that really mean something to you in this abstract poster-making workshop. You'll be challenged through the mediums of collage, drawing, painting or poetry to create your work, inspired by Mikesian Studio's iconic bold, graphic style.

25 Cathedral Gardens



Global Grooves x Actual Music

Delivered by Global Grooves in partnership with Actual Music, try out hands-on percussion workshops:

Dhol drumming - learn about the rich history and cultural significance of the dhol, from its roots in Punjabi folk traditions to its vibrant role in modern celebrations, festivals, and South Asian music worldwide. 4.30-5.30pm 

10 Tony's Empress Ballroom

 This venue is accessed via a staircase.

Global Grooves will also pop-up on King William Street if you want to try Dhol drumming outdoors! 12.45-1.20pm

Crafts Council: Craft for the People

Join the Crafts Council for an ever-changing display inspired by its handling collection. Visitors are invited to participate in creative workshops and hands-on activities, engaging with objects curated by the Creatives of Blackburn (CoB).

28 Temple Gallery, Blackburn Cathedral

Please note: On Sunday, enter via the cafe and use the staircase or lift.



Workshops: For all ages

Designed with all ages in mind, just drop by.

The Red List with Heritage Crafts

Did you know there are some crafts at risk of becoming extinct in the UK? Curated by Heritage Crafts, the 'Red List of Endangered Crafts', features expert Makers all focussed on keeping these skills alive.

You can drop in to this space all day, chat to the Makers and see demonstrations. There will also be workshops that you can sign up for at the venue on-the-day. £ There is suggested donation of £10 for these workshops.

- Scissor-making with Johnathon Read of Ernest Wright Scissors
- Swill Basket-making with Lorna Singleton
- Stained Glass with Elizabeth Hippisley-Cox of Eden Stained Glass
- Paper-making with Phylecia Sutherland

28 Cathedral Annexe, Blackburn Cathedral

Caravanalogue

A quirky retro mobile touring workshop with analogue and hand powered facilities! Enter the caravan and Kerris and Leonie will lead you through the process of making a book to take away.

3 10+ By the STEAM Zone

The caravan is accessed via steps and a narrow doorway, however there will also be some activity outside the caravan.



Hikaru Dorodango (Shiny mud dumpling)

Head to *Poured Earth*, the Art in Manufacturing exhibition of Matter at hand + Darwen Terracotta, to find a workshop led by Annabel Cameron-Duff. Explore the Japanese artform Hikaru Dorodango – the process of transforming a simple clay ball into a beautiful, polished sphere.

Please note: On Sunday, the workshop will be open 12-1.30pm & 2.30-4pm

28 Blackburn Cathedral, North Transept

The Making Rooms: Fab Lab

Expect to find creative workshops in this technology haven on Exchange Street! Watch the CNC machine create paintings, make seed bombs from shredded cardboard, create a keyring from recycled plastic, and much more!

8 The Making Rooms, 1 Exchange Street

This venue has alternative ramp via the entrance on Museum Street.



Workshops: For Teens and Adults

Drop-in workshops perfect for teens and adults.

Sign Writing with byUMBERTO

Step-by-step instructions on brush control will help you 'have a go' at the easel or contribute to a small mural board that will be painted collectively across the weekend, designed by Robert of byUMBERTO.

1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street

Stitch-School

Sit down and slow down: join Stitch-School at the large communal 'stitch table' and contribute to this ever-growing embroidery piece co-created by communities in Blackburn.

1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street



Stud Wall DIY with Girls with Drills

Learn the basics of using a drill and putting things up on a standard stud wall. Shelves, hooks, wall plugs, using stud finders and more - you'll come away with new skills you can use in your own home.

This space is open for drop in **from 1.30pm**

14 12+ Shop Three, The Mall, by Victoria Court

Sing with Blackburn People's Choir

Whether you have singing experience or would love to sing but don't believe you can - join Blackburn People's Choir for an hour and try out being part of a choir.

2.30-3.30pm No need to book, just turn up

23 The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral

DRIFT

Join Super Slow Way and singer songwriter Matt Hill to chat all things music. Whether you're a musician, gig-goer or you just have a musical memory to share, they'll be recording stories, songs and sounds to create a new track that will be shared after the Festival.

15 Victoria Court, The Mall



Workshops: For Teens and Adults

Kitchen Tables

Our kitchen tables are not just dining spaces – they're places we make, we work, we gather and more. Here you'll find a selection of workshops all connected to the many uses of our dining spaces, and what they mean to us.

Saturday

Zine Making with Fiona Quadri

The kitchen table is a space of gathering and storytelling – use collage, drawing, and writing to create your own mini zine inspired by personal moments, traditions, and shared meals.

Abstract Arabic Calligraphy with Hafifa Ahmed

Explore the shapes and rhythm of Arabic letters using brushes, inks, and traditional reed pens. Experiment with mark-making and movement to turn script into expressive, abstract art.

Sauerkraut with From Anjee's Garden

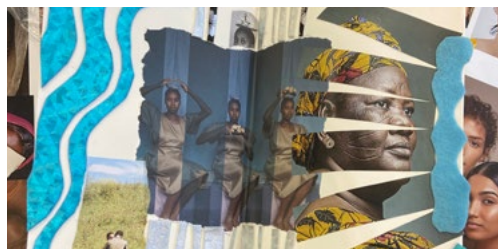
Make a personalised jar of sauerkraut and discover the benefits of fermented foods, unlocking flavours and giving you the confidence to try fermenting at home.

Chip Carving with Graeme Brown

Using a knife, learn this carving technique to remove small chips of wood, creating beautiful patterns on wooden blanks.

Tussie Mussie Making: A Victorian Floral workshop with Olive Owl Flowers

Learn how to make a traditional Tussie Mussie Bouquet whilst understanding more about the Victorian Language of Flowers. You'll leave with a beautiful mini bouquet!



Head to the venue to sign up for these workshops, starting **from 12pm** each day. The booking assistant at the venue will provide you with timings.

25 12+ Bell Tent on Cathedral Gardens

Sunday

Zine Making with Fiona Quadri

The kitchen table is a space of gathering and storytelling – use collage, drawing, and writing to create your own mini zine inspired by personal moments, traditions, and shared meals.

Still Life Drawing with Java Bere

Using ingredients and objects found on our tables as tools and inspiration, you'll explore still life through texture, line, and free creative play – celebrating the beauty in the everyday.

Plasticine Companions with Sam Selley

Sculpt your own movable companion by creating an armature using a cork, wire and aluminium foil. Once the armature is complete, use vegetable based plasticine to bring it to life.

Henna Coasters with Samina Hussain

Learn about the origins and uses of henna, as well as the techniques to apply it with a cone. Decorate a wooden coaster to take home.

Memory-Making Mealtimes with Kim Chin

Mealtimes often act as a love language that transcend cultures and generations. Create a symbolic fabric “placemat” using printmaking, sewing, and collage-based techniques.



Workshops at a Glance

● Saturday ▲ Sunday

Early Years	Make the Space at Shared Sounds	The Bureau	9	● ▲
	Explore materials with Shared Sounds	The Bureau	9	● ▲
	The Imaginarium with Shared Sounds	The Bureau	9	● ▲
	Sculpture Kit: Ellie Barrett x Good Things Collective	Workshop Marquee	27	● ▲
For children and families	Miniature car making with Hetain Patel	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	6	● ▲
	Spoon painting with Fernandes Makes	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	6	● ▲
	Pom pom making with Millie	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	6	● ▲
	Craftsmanship skills with QEST	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	6	● ▲
	Creative Skills Workshops with Blackburn College	Museum Street	7	● ▲
	STEAM Zone with Blackburn College - 10 workshops here!	STEAM Zone	3	● ▲
	Mandala Mats with Sheema Patel	Blackburn Library	13	● ▲
	Blackburn College crafts with Maths, English and Foundation Learning	Blackburn Library	13	● ▲
	A Line Art: Fold Your Town	Blackburn Library	13	● ▲
	Ready Steady Go! with A Line Art	Corner Unit, The Mall	16	● ▲
	Hello Petal! with Let's Make Art	Prism Contemporary	20	● ▲
	Tinkertown	Front of the Cathedral	24	● ▲
	Architecture for Insects with HemingwayDesign	Cathedral Gardens	25	● ▲
	Wakes Week with BTB and Izzy Sempill	Cathedral Square	25	● ▲
	Darwen Moor Cyanotypes	Cathedral Square	25	● ▲
	Split Pin Puppets with Ren Wolfe	Workshop Marquee	27	● ▲
	Slow Stitching	Workshop Marquee	27	● ▲
	Scrapbook of Summer with Beaulongings	Workshop Marquee	27	● ▲
	Crafting Bookmarks with Blackburn Youth Zone	Workshop Marquee	27	● ▲
	CurioCraft: Where Ideas Come to Life	Blackburn Youth Zone	29	● ▲



All workshops are free & drop in unless marked with a **Sign Up** icon

1 Venue ●▲ Day ➡ Sign Up

All workshops run from 11am–5pm unless otherwise stated with a pink time button

For All Ages	Badge Making with Seaside Industries	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery	6 ●▲
	The Making Rooms: Fab Lab	The Making Rooms	8 ●▲
	Caravanalogue	By the STEAM Zone	3 ●▲
	Obscura Photowall	Outside 59 King William St	1 ●▲
	Dhol Drumming with Global Grooves & Actual Music	Tony's Ballroom	10 ●▲ ➡
	Floral Timekeepers at Prism Contemporary	Prism Contemporary	20 ●▲
	This Must be the Place with Mikesian Studio	Cathedral Gardens	25 ●▲
	Crafts Council: Craft for the People	Temple Gallery	28 ●▲
	Hikaru Dorodango with Annabel Cameron-Duff Saturday all day Sunday 12–1.30pm & 2.30–4pm	The North Transept, Blackburn Cathedral	28 ●▲
	Scissor-making with Ernest Wright Scissors - Demos	Cathedral Annexe	28 ●▲
	Swill Basket-making with Lorna Singleton - Demos	Cathedral Annexe	28 ●▲
	Stained Glass with Eden Stained Glass - Demos	Cathedral Annexe	28 ●▲
	Paper-making with Phylecia Sutherland - Demos	Cathedral Annexe	28 ●▲
For Teens and Adults	Stitch-School	59 King William Street	1 ●▲
	Sign Writing with byUMBERTO	59 King William Street	1 ●▲
	Stud Wall DIY with Girls with Drills	from 1.30pm Shop 3, The Mall	14 ●▲
	DRIFT	Victoria Court, The Mall	15 ●▲
	Sing with Blackburn People's Choir	The Crypt	28 ●▲
	Zine Making with Fiona Quadri	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ●▲ ➡
	Abstract Arabic Calligraphy with Hafifa Ahmed	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ● ➡
	Sauerkraut with From Anjee's Garden	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ● ➡
	Wood Chip Carving with Graeme Brown	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ● ➡
	Tussie Mussie Floristry with Sarah McCaig	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ● ➡
	Still Life Drawing with Java Bere	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ▲ ➡
	Plasticine Companions with Sam Selley	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ▲ ➡
	Henna with Samina Hussain	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ▲ ➡
	Placemats with Kim Chin	from 12pm Kitchen Tables	25 ▲ ➡

Music & Performance

Cathedral Area

The Nasheed Choir by Hussnain Hanif

Embark on a soulful musical journey led by Hussnain Hanif, as he brings the timeless beauty of Nasheeds to life with pupils from Roe Lee Park Primary School and St Mary's & St Joseph's R.C. Primary School.

26 Melodrome and 28 Cathedral Crypt

Museum of Memorable Trees

Let the curator guide you around this miniature exhibition on wheels and discover the stories of great trees that have woven themselves into people's lives and memories. Have you got a fantastic tree you can add to the museum?

26 Cathedral Square

Those in Glass Houses...

A celebration of glass and all its fragilities! Brace yourself for swinging bricks, comedic catapults, and the orchestrated chaos of glass-shattering domino runs in this adventure of controlled destruction.

26 Cathedral Square

Melodrome Stage

Don't miss the Melodrome Stage at Cathedral Square, with live music and performances including guest slots from Blackburn Gigs. See the performance schedule for the full line-up.

26 Melodrome Stage, Cathedral Square

Busking at Not Only A Street Party

Don't miss this stage of newcomers and seasoned buskers at Not Only A Street Party on Church Street. Co-curated by Not Only A and Blackburn Gigs - visit the stage for timings.

23 Church Street



Performance Schedule

	Saturday			Sunday		
	Cathedral Sq	Melodrome		Cathedral Sq	Melodrome	The Crypt
11am		KZ Scott Family 11.15am			Meeka Bradley 11am The Nasheed Choir 11.30am	
12pm		The Nasheed Choir 12.10pm			Harris Rafferty 12pm	
	Those in Glass Houses 12.30pm			Those in Glass Houses 12.30pm		The Nasheed Choir 12.30pm
1pm		Blackburn People's Choir 1.15pm			Tommy Ball 1.15pm	
2pm		Bright Light Rooney 2pm			Jali Nyonkoling Kuyateh 2pm	
3pm	Those in Glass Houses 2.45pm			Those in Glass Houses 2.45pm		
4pm		Papa Sam Alafia 3.30pm			Mariia Petrovska 3.30pm	
		Kayleigh Hall 4.15pm			Dog Daisies 4.15pm	
5pm						

Note: Timings are correct at time of printing but are subject to change on the day.



Music & Performance

King William Street

Loud & Proud: Punjabi Roots

Experience the electrifying energy of Bhangra dancing and Dhol drumming in an unforgettable celebration of South Asian culture and community spirit!

17 King William Street

Pipes and Poo with One Tenth Human

What really happens when you flush a toilet? A delightfully disgusting installation exploring the extraordinary world of water, pipes, and poo!

17 King William Street

Drop by all day but there will be live game-shows scheduled at **12.15pm** **1.30pm**

Community Bands

Pop-up performances from some fantastic local and community-led bands help us soundtrack the Festival! Featuring long-term festival highlights, they're always sure to gather a crowd.



Come As You Really Are to Tony's Empress Ballroom

Head to this iconic venue to catch a selection of dance and music classes all connected to the Come As You Really Are exhibition and people's hobbies! Find dance classes by Anthony & Steph, Clog Dancing with Clever Clogs, workshops from Northern Soul Dance and percussion with Global Grooves. See the schedule to the right for exact timings.

10 Tony's Empress Ballroom

 This venue is accessed via a staircase

Please note, this venue has limited capacity so there may be a queue at busy times

Polonez Manchester

Polish folk ensemble Polonez Manchester perform traditional Polish folk dances in stunning handmade and embroidered costumes from the Lowicz region.

17 King William Street



Performance Schedule

Saturday			Sunday		
	King William Street	Tony's Empress Ballroom	King William Street	Tony's Empress Ballroom	
11am	Blackburn & Darwen Community Band 11am				
	Punjabi Roots 11.45am	Afro-Brazilian Drumming Workshop 11.30am	Punjabi Roots 11.45am		
12pm	Pipes & Poo Gameshow 12.15pm		Pipes & Poo Gameshow 12.15pm	Clog Dancing 12.30pm	
	Dhol Drumming Workshop 12.45pm	Northern Soul Dance Workshop 12.30pm	Dhol Drumming Workshop 12.45pm		
1pm					
	Pipes & Poo Gameshow 1.30pm	Charleston Workshop 1.30pm	Pipes & Poo Gameshow 1.30pm	Charleston Workshop 1.30pm	
2pm	Punjabi Roots 2.15pm		Clog Dancing 2pm Punjabi Roots 2.15pm		
		Northern Soul Dance Workshop 2.30pm		Clog Dancing 2.30pm	
3pm	Blackburn Festival of Light Band 3pm		Polonez Manchester 3pm		
	Punjabi Roots 3.45pm	Salsa Workshop 3.30pm	Punjabi Roots 3.45pm	Line Dancing Workshop 3.30pm	
4pm					
	Blackburn Festival of Light Band 4.30pm	Dhol Drumming Workshop 4.30pm	Polonez Manchester 4.30pm	Dhol Drumming Workshop 4.30pm	
5pm			Note: Times are correct at time of writing but are subject to change on the day		

Note: Timings are correct at time of printing but are subject to change on the day.



Early Years Fun

Perfect for 0-5 year olds

Shared Sounds

Calling all little explorers: The Bureau's popular Shared Sounds programme for young children is back! Expect a fun mix of music, art, and creative play designed to spark imaginations and support early development.

MAKE the space: draw, navigate and get stuck in with spontaneous creation.

Explore materials: think dangling tassels, fluffy pom poms and tactile wearable art.

Enter the Imaginarium: gazebo islands lead you to lands of exploration, Nap Time Tales feature stories of dozy dreams, and musical mountains erupt from time to time with a 'Drummer's spiral' and 'Strings, Rings and Things that Ping!'

Turn up at any point during the festival, there will always be something to do, experience and explore.

The cafe will also be open throughout, serving delicious treats including child friendly options.

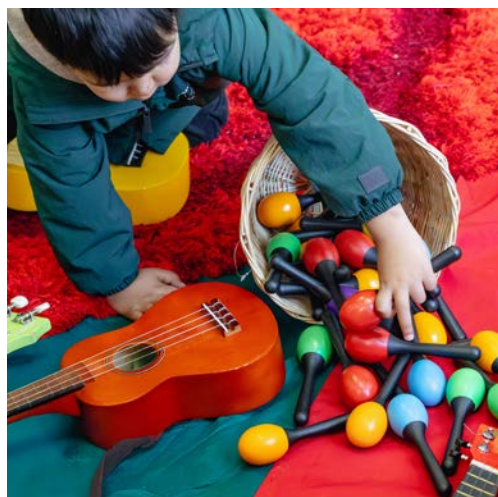
9 The Bureau, Exchange Street

There is level access to the rear of the building, which you can find off Museum Street - there will be a place to leave your pram here too.

Ellie Barrett X Good Things Collective: The Sculpture Kit

Designed by artist Ellie Barrett and her daughter, Nora, The Sculpture Kit invites you to transform six everyday materials you may already have at home into imaginative works of art!

27 Workshop Marquee, Cathedral Square



Making Collaborations

Not-to-miss programme features developed with or by fantastic partners

Blackburn Festival of Film

Blackburn welcomes the launch of Blackburn Festival of Film - a vibrant celebration of Northern talent and international cinema. Bringing together filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts expect an inspiring mix of screenings, Q&As, and hands-on experiences. Head to the venue for the full programme.

22 REEL Cinema

Please note: some of the content may not be suitable for younger audiences. Please seek guidance at the venue.

CurioCraft: Where Ideas Come to Life

At Blackburn Youth Zone, enjoy a variety of creative and hands-on activities, including designing and laser cutting acrylic keyrings, sculpting and moulding clay creations, and contributing to the Doodle Café.

Saturday Only

29 Youth Zone



Meet Your Community Networks

The voluntary and third sector provide a vital role in connecting communities and supporting the growth of social action. Taking over downstairs at The Exchange, find out which clubs and societies exist in your local area and what amazing things are happening.

4 Downstairs at the Cotton Exchange - side entrance

This venue is accessed by going down some steps.

Leeds School of Architecture

Explore an exhibition of work from 1st Year students at The Leeds School of Architecture as part of their project 'The City as a Festival'. The students looked at the historic Tony's Empress Ballroom, as well as how festivals act as catalysts in sustaining culture and aiding the regeneration of towns and cities.

1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street



Markets

Taste Lancashire Market

The Taste Lancashire Market, in partnership with Marketing Lancashire, champions some of the best of the county's food and drink - from award-winning gins and chutneys to delicious bakes and honey. Find out why Lancashire is the tastiest county when you meet and buy direct from local producers at the food and drink market.

2 Taste Lancashire Market,
King William Street

Makers Market by Hopeful & Glorious

The UK's most exciting independent makers gather at Blackburn Cathedral for the National Festival of Making's Maker's Market, handpicked by expert design and craft curators Hopeful & Glorious. Find brilliant crafters, traders and artists bringing handmade jewellery, homewares, limited edition fashion items and affordable art with numerous one-off products.

Saturday Only

28 Blackburn Cathedral

Not Only A Street Party

Not Only A promotes and encourages creative entrepreneurship by hosting mini block parties in often overlooked areas of town. Head down to Church Street to find a host of emerging creatives, support a circular economy, be immersed in a pop-up marketplace and experience live music from local artists co-curated with Blackburn Gigs.

23 Church Street

Community Clothing

Visit the Community Clothing pop-up shop where you can browse the collection of high quality, everyday clothing made in Blackburn and the UK. Don't be surprised if you bump into founder of Community Clothing and judge of the Great British Sewing Bee, Patrick Grant - he'll be doing meet-and-greets at the shop for much of Saturday.

5 66 King William Street



Browse a wonderful selection of food, drink and handmade products on offer from local independent makers and manufacturers.

Street Food

Fancy a bite to eat? Try some of the delicious meals and snacks from our selection of irresistible street food stalls.

Super8 Pizza - New York-style pizza by the slice
Wrap Ninjas - fresh, vibrant and delicious wraps
Morecambe Bay Chowder - coastal comfort food

Dabbawala - Indian street food

Ripplehead Ices - ice cream and lollies

Some Delish Ltd - fully loaded fries

Community Harmony Project - snacks from around the world

2 King William Street and 26 Cathedral Square

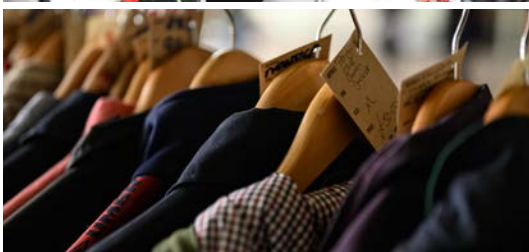
While You're In Blackburn...

Looking for something to eat or drink? Here are some of our top picks!

Popular cafe **Kohi** opened its doors earlier this year. We also recommend **Cafe Impresso**, **Masala Fusion**, **Toro's Steakhouse**, **Istanbul**, **Kobeda Palace** and **16th Street**.

Around the Cathedral Quarter you'll find the likes of **The Firepit**, **Checks & Greys** and **Thira**. Don't forget the brilliant Food Hall in **Blackburn Market** open on Saturdays!

James Quale will be running a pop up at **Ribblesdale Tap** for the weekend serving drinks, and other great independent micropubs include **The Drummers Arms** and **The Rock Box**.



Book in Advance

These workshops, talks or experiences have limited capacity and must be booked in advance. Visit our website for availability.

Designed for Adults

Migration Memories with Object Petit A Ceramics

What does it mean to leave one place and begin again in another? Join artist Simge Vurtak for a hands-on ceramic workshop exploring belonging and migration. Using simple clay techniques, you'll create small symbolic sculptures with air-drying clay, inspired by personal feelings or family stories.

1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street

Build a Stool with Girls With Drills


Girls with Drills think making stuff is too much fun for anyone to be excluded. In this workshop, you'll learn how to use power tools, hand tools and the skills needed to make a wooden stool which you can take home.

14 Shop 3, The Mall

Soul Stitched: Keep On Keeping On

The team behind Keep On Keeping On are bringing a Northern Soul patch design workshop to the festival. Inspired by their new production, you can design and embroider a fabric badge, exploring identity, community and the legacy of Northern Soul.

19 Upstairs at Ribblesdale Tap

 This workshop is on the first floor, accessed via a staircase



Come As You Really Are Workshops

Get stuck into hands-on workshops led by artists and hobbyists from Lancashire and beyond! From crochet to Dungeons & Dragons, have a go at someone's favourite pastime.

- Crochet 101 with Crochet Crazy Creations
- Miniature Techniques: Decorate a tiny house with Rose Whittaker
- Let's Play DnD!

6 Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Conversations in Creativity: George Clarke

Join us for a special afternoon with George Clarke — architect, television presenter, lecturer, and writer, best known for his work on Channel 4's The Home Show, George Clarke's Amazing Spaces, and more.

This talk is a Conversations in Creativity event delivered in partnership with Creative Lancashire.

Sunday Only

23 Blackburn Cathedral





Designed for Families

Scrumptious!

In this magically sweet show about friendship and ice cream, join Sylvie, a sweetshop owner and her friends from Storybook World as they try to make the world's finest ice cream. Perfect for children aged 4+ (and their grown-ups!)

11.30am–12.20pm

1.30–2.20pm

Sunday Only

13 Hornby Lecture Theatre, Blackburn Library



Jesmonite Workshops with Aziza Designs

Make, mix, and create with Jesmonite! Get hands on in this colourful, family friendly workshop where you'll learn how to work with Jesmonite, a versatile, eco friendly casting material. Choose between marbling or terrazzo techniques to design your very own decorative tray.

1 The Make Space, 59 King William Street

Home: Zero

HOME: Zero is an interactive performance that invites you into a fantastical world where time is running out. In this playful installation inspired by National Gallery paintings, families spark their imaginations to create extraordinary changes and envision a more sustainable future. *Check online for last minute spots!*

29 Sports Hall, Blackburn Youth Zone

Afro-Brazilian Percussion

Delivered by Global Grooves in partnership with Actual Music, explore contemporary rhythms heard across Brazil whilst delving into the rich, Afro-rooted history of these Carnival traditions.

Saturday Only

10 Tony's Empress Ballroom

 This venue is accessed via a staircase



Performances & Talks at a Glance



Performance

Music and Dance Workshops

Talks

Saturday

	11am	11.15	11.30	11.45	12pm	12.15	12.30	12.45	1pm	1.15	1.30	1.45	2pm	2.15	2.30	2.45	3pm	3.15	3.30	3.45	4pm	4.15	4.30	4.45	5pm
King William Street	Blackburn & Darwen Band			Punjabi Roots	Pipes & Poo Gameshow		Global Grooves Dhol Drumming Workshop		Pipes & Poo Gameshow					Punjabi Roots			Blackburn Festival of Light Band			Punjabi Roots			Blackburn Festival of Light Band		
Tony's Ballroom			Afro-Brazilian Drumming Workshop with Global Grooves			Northern Soul Dance workshop			Charleston Workshop with Anthony & Steph			Northern Soul Dance Workshop			Salsa Workshop with Anthony & Steph			Dhol Drumming Workshop with Global Grooves							
Melodrome		KZ Scott Family			The Nasheed Choir	DJ Mayeva			Blackburn People's Choir	DJ Mayeva	Bright Light Rooney			DJ Mayeva			Papa Sam Alafia			Kayleigh Hall					
Cathedral Square						Those in Glass Houses								Those in Glass Houses											
Cathedral Nave																									
Cathedral North Transcept																	Lewis Jones in Conversation								
Cathedral Crypt												Liaqat Rasul in Conversation		Blackburn People's Choir Workshop											
Blakey Moor							Radical Pairings in Conversation																		
Church Street	Busking throughout the day - see timings at stage																								
Barton Street Car Park																									
Blackburn Library																									


Sunday

King William Street				Punjabi Roots	Pipes & Poo Gameshow	Global Grooves Dhol Drumming Workshop	Pipes & Poo Gameshow	Clog Dancing	Punjabi Roots		Polonez Manchester		Punjabi Roots		Polonez Manchester		
Tony's Ballroom						Clog Dancing Workshop with Clever Clogs	Charleston Workshop with Anthony & Steph	Clog Dancing Workshop with Clever Clogs			Line Dancing Workshop with Anthony & Steph		Dhol Drumming Workshop with Global Grooves				
Melodrome	Meeka Bradley	The Nasheed Choir	Harris Rafferty	DJ Mayeva	Tommy Ball	Jali Nyonkoling Kuyateh	DJ Mayeva	Mariia Petrovska	Dog Daisies								
Cathedral Square				Those in Glass Houses				Those in Glass Houses									
Cathedral Nave						In conversation with George Clarke											
Cathedral North Transcept																	
Cathedral Crypt				The Nasheed Choir				Blackburn People's Choir Workshop									
Blakey Moor				Radical Pairings in Conversation													
Church Street	Busking throughout the day - see timings at stage																
Barton Street Car Park											Morag Myerscough in Conversation						
Blackburn Library		Scrumptious!					Scrumptious!										

Accessibility

Venue Accessibility

The National Festival of Making takes over public spaces and venues throughout Blackburn town centre. Operating in a multi-venue environment presents challenges, and although we strive to work towards an accessible programme of events, not all venues are equally accessible to our whole audience at present.

Throughout this programme, if there are any activities listed taking place in venues where there is no level, ramp or lift entry, you will see this symbol . This will be followed by a short description of the barriers people might find to accessing this venue.



Opposite you will find a brief description of these venues. For more detail, scan the QR code or visit our access webpage: festivalofmaking.co.uk/accessibility

Prism Contemporary - single step access

The Batcave - single step access

Community Clothing Pop-Up, 66 King William Street - there is a 4cm lip at the entrance

Tony's Ballroom - accessed by a staircase

Meet your Community Networks downstairs at The Exchange - accessed by steps

Blakey Moor Terrace - the ground floor has level access, however some of the exhibition takes place upstairs, accessed via a staircase

The venues below have alternative level access:

The Making Rooms - alternative level access through the side entrance on Museum Street.

The Bureau - alternative level access at the rear - via the side street off Museum Street.

The Crypt, Blackburn Cathedral - alternative level access via the Cathedral Annexe.



Accessibility at the Festival

Quiet Space

13 Blackburn Library 11am–5pm


Located on the first floor of the library, you'll find a dedicated Festival Quiet Space. No booking required, just head to the first floor and a friendly assistant will point you to the room.

Breastfeeding

13 Blackburn Library 11am–5pm

Blackburn Library can provide you with a private area for breastfeeding throughout the festival weekend.

Toilets

Toilets are marked on the map with this symbol . Accessible toilets can be found in Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery, The Mall, Blackburn Market (Saturday Only), The Making Rooms, Blackburn Library, Cathedral Square (temporary festival toilet).

Access Kits

This year, we have introduced access kits to our Information Points. There will be 20 kits at each info point, containing a large format what's on guide, ear defenders, a fidget toy and a laminated map. Anyone can go and collect one of these kits, we just kindly ask that you return the ear defenders before the end of your visit.

If you require any assistance or information, you can reach our team by speaking to one of our event staff who can be identified as the friendly people wearing purple reflective vests.

Alternatively you can head to the **Information Points**  on **King William Street** **1** and **Cathedral Square** **23** or email info@festivalofmaking.co.uk

(Note: it may take us longer to respond to emails over the festival weekend).



DID WE MAKE IT?

Tell us what you think!

We're delighted that you joined us for the National Festival of Making. To help us plan for the future of the festival, we're required to share some information with our funders about who came to the event and what you thought about this year's programme.

Visit **festivalofmaking.co.uk/evaluation** or scan the QR code to complete the online survey



festivalofmaking.co.uk

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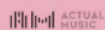
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