CULTURE
Bolton

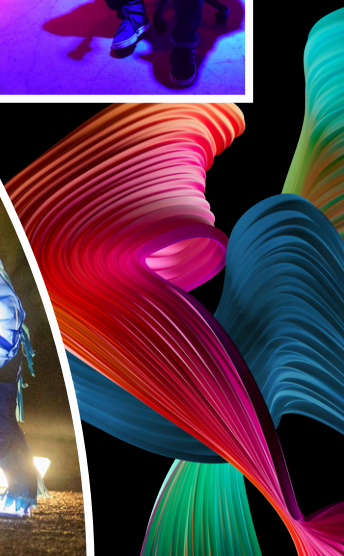
COMING UP

JULY - DECEMBER 2026

Cultural events to attend in Bolton



Scan here to get the E-version



Your Guide to What's On

Here is your quick guide to the biggest and best events happening across the borough this year from the Culture Bolton team.

From festivals and performances to exhibitions and community celebrations, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Discover what's on, be inspired and dive into Bolton's vibrant cultural scene.

Stay in the loop

Follow **@CultureBolton** on Facebook & Instagram or visit **bolton.gov.uk/culturebolton**





Pop-up Theatre

August - December 2026

Elizabeth Park **11am & 2pm**

Free - no booking required

6 August	Pirate Princess
13 August	Old McDonald and the Three Pigs Plus
20 August	Pipes and Poo

*Performances will be relocated to Bolton Central Library in the event of bad weather.

Bolton Central Library

Thurs 29 October **11am & 2pm**

The Jeweller's Daughter

*Charges apply, tickets via Eventbrite.

Smithills Hall **5pm & 7pm**

Sat 5 & Sun 6 December

A Christmas Carol

*Charges apply, tickets via A Place For Us.

Events Calendar

Visit Bolton

Bolton Food & Drink Festival 2026

21

FRI 28TH TO MON 31ST AUGUST

In partnership with Peel Land Communities + Regeneration

The Wonder Park

Friday 28 - Monday 31 August

10am - 5pm daily

The award-winning Bolton Food and Drink Festival returns this August Bank Holiday weekend, celebrating its twenty-first year with four days of fantastic food, family fun and live entertainment.

Enjoy celebrity chef demonstrations, artisan market stalls, live music, children's activities and a host of special events across the town centre.

Visit The Wonder Park in Elizabeth Park, which will be transformed into a vibrant family-friendly destination packed with free activities.

With something for all ages to enjoy, The Wonder Park is the perfect place to relax, play and make memories during a Bank Holiday weekend full of food, fun and celebration.

Highlights

- Storytime performances from Eye of Newt Theatre Arts
- Circus skills workshops with Skylight Circus
- Spectacular bubble performances by E-Bublio
- Giant doodle walls
- Crazy golf
- Creative art sessions
- A giant sandpit and more





Find out more at Bolton Food and Drink Festival 2026

Bolton International Film Festival

Physical festival: 30 September - 4 October 2026

Online festival: 7 - 18 October 2026

Bolton's internationally acclaimed, BIFA- and BAFTA-qualifying film festival returns on 30 September 2026 for its tenth edition, marking a decade of celebrating outstanding filmmaking across the UK and around the world.



Celebrating both emerging and established filmmakers, the festival showcases a diverse programme of films competing across a range of award categories, alongside dedicated strands for undergraduate and postgraduate student productions.

Visitors can enjoy filmmaker Q&A sessions following screenings, as well as an inspiring programme of masterclasses and industry talks covering topics such as financing film projects, screenwriting, producing, sound design and animation.

For more information, visit the Bolton International Film Festival website, where you can find submission guidance, category information, festival FAQs and an archive of films previously screened at the festival.



James Walsh & Ben Ottewell

Friday 30 October 2026

Doors open 6pm - Music curfew 9:30pm

Bolton Parish Church

THE SNUG LIVE PRESENTS
THE EARLY DOORS CLUB
ATHERTON
LEIGH
TYLDESLEY
WIGAN

Two of Britain's most distinctive voices come together for a unique evening of live music as James Walsh of Starsailor and Ben Ottewell of Gomez share the stage in the stunning surroundings of Bolton Parish Church.

The evening will feature an intimate solo set from each artist before they perform side by side in a rare and unforgettable finale.

This promises to be a truly special concert, combining two acclaimed songwriters, incredible acoustics and the unique atmosphere of one of Bolton's most beautiful historic buildings.

The event will finish early, leaving plenty of time to continue your evening in Bolton Town Centre. Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience two remarkable artists together in such an intimate setting.

Presented by The Early Doors Club and Bolton Council.

Book now at https://events.humanitix.com/jamesandben

theearlydoorsclub

together we are GREATER MANCHESTER

Funded by UK Government

Bolton Council





Put Big Light On Festival

Thursday 19 - Sunday 22 November 2026

5 - 9pm **Bolton Town Centre**

Experience Bolton's free winter light festival and enjoy four unforgettable nights of spectacular illuminated installations, captivating performances and immersive experiences for all ages.

Festival highlights include Luke Jerram's Helios and, making its Bolton debut, the internationally acclaimed illuminated giants DUNDU.

Dance, play and explore with Happy As The Day Is Long by Stellar Creates, Flux and HulaHoop from Collectif Scale, and discover Loom of Light, an exciting new installation by DbnAudile in Victoria Square.

As darkness falls, encounter magical puppets, roaming performers and the electrifying beats of Spark, the world-renowned drummers who fuse light, music and movement in a dazzling spectacle.

Follow Put Big Light On Festival on social media for the latest news, updates and announcements.

Facebook

Instagram

together we are GREATER MANCHESTER

Funded by UK Government

Bolton Council

The Elf on the Shelf®

Saturday 5 December 2026 - Sunday 3 January 2027

Visit Bolton this Christmas and discover twelve giant Scout Elf sculptures, sent straight from the North Pole to bring lots of festive fun.

The Elf on the Shelf®: Santa's Official Scout Elf is a magical Christmas tradition from the frozen north, where Santa's Scout Elves help share the festive joy that brings families together, builds lasting memories and keeps the spirit of Christmas alive.

Enjoy this trail around Bolton Town Centre featuring the one, the only, The Elf on the Shelf® celebrating the festive holiday tradition!

Can you find them all?





WILD IN ART

together we are GREATER MANCHESTER

Funded by UK Government

Bolton Council

TM/© 2026 CCA and B, LLC d/b/a The Lumistella Company. All Rights Reserved.