

THE
READING
AGENCY



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
UNITED KINGDOM

READ to the BEAT

Starts
Sat 4th
July – Sat
12th Sept

FREE
events for
children, from
4 to 12 years
during July and
August 2026

Includes
Teddy Bear
Picnics for
families with
younger
children

**Summer Reading Challenge
2026
Bradford Libraries**



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brochure

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AGENCY



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
UNITED KINGDOM



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

READ to the BEAT

Celebrate music and reading with this year's Summer Reading Challenge 2026!

Register at any library within the Bradford District for a Read to the Beat folder with stickers and incentives to collect. Read 6 books to receive a medal!

PICTURE BOOK MUSICALS

Rabunzel: The Musical & CinderGorilla: The Musical
Author and performer Gareth P Jones brings Rabunzel and CinderGorilla to life in these high-energy, interactive shows. Bursting with original songs, live music and silliness, children become collaborators as these twisted fairytales transform into musicals—featuring ukuleles, rapping, storytelling and lots of laughs for all ages. Booking essential.

City Library	Tuesday 4th August	10am-11am
Bingley Library	Tuesday 4th August	12:30pm-1:30pm
Keighley Library	Tuesday 4th August	2:30-3:30pm



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Brave Festival
Black Feet and Voices Expressed

DANCE WORKSHOPS

Let's Read to the Beat! A joyful dance workshop with BRAVE Festival, inspired by storybooks about African animals. Expect music, movement, games, and props in a fun, creative session. No experience needed, just come ready to move and imagine! Suitable for children aged 4-9 years (their grown-ups can join in too). Drop in.

Bingley Library	Tuesday 21st July	10:30am-11:30am
Keighley Library	Tuesday 21st July	1:30pm-2:30pm
Shipley Library	Tuesday 28th July	10:30am-11:30am
City Library	Tuesday 28th July	1:30pm-2:30pm
Wyke Library	Tuesday 18th August	10:30am-11:30am
Wibsey Library	Tuesday 18th August	1:30pm-2:30pm
Eccleshill Library	Monday 24th August	10:30am-11:30am
Laisterdyke Library	Monday 24th August	1:30pm-2:30pm
Clayton Library	Tuesday 25th August	10:30am-11:30am
Manningham Library	Tuesday 25th August	1:30pm-2:30pm

Activity sessions for children accompanied by an adult in all circumstances. To access these sessions, children must be joined to the Summer Reading Challenge at a local library.

ILLUSTRATOR STEPHEN WATERHOUSE

Get creative with local illustrator and author Stephen Waterhouse! Dive into a hands-on character workshop and invent colourful characters, dream up their stories and create your own mini book to keep the creativity going at home. Suitable for ages 4-12. Booking essential.

Eccleshill Library	Wednesday 22nd July	10am-12noon
Manningham Library	Wednesday 22nd July	1:30pm-3:30pm



BRADFORD
Culture Company



MUSICAL STORIES WITH HANNAH BUTTERFIELD
A fun, interactive performance of a story, packed with songs, visuals, props and plenty of audience participation — and sometimes even a bit of dancing! The fun finishes with a hands on craft activity, where children make a story inspired prop or artwork to take home. Suitable for children aged 4-12 years. Booking essential.

Holme Wood Library	Monday 20th July	11am-12noon
Keighley Library	Monday 20th July	2pm-3pm
Wibsey Library	Thursday 23rd July	10:30am-11:30am
Wibsey Library	Friday 31st July	10:30am-11:30am
Holme Wood Library	Monday 24th August	11am-12noon
Keighley Library	Monday 24th August	2pm-3pm

Bradford District Museums & Galleries

CREATIVE JUNK PERCUSSIONS

Discover the magic of musical rocks! Explore a mini version of Cliffe Castle's famous Victorian lithophone, make your own percussion instruments from creative recycled materials and sing along to favourite rhymes. Suitable for ages 4-7 years. Drop-in.

Keighley Library	Monday 27th July	11am-12:30pm
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MESSY SUZIE AND STANLEY IN CARTWRIGHT HALL

Join Suzie the squirrel and Stanley the sausage dog for a playful storytime adventure set in Cartwright Hall! Expect singing and musical fun and finish by crafting your own character bookmark to take home. Suitable for ages 4-6 years. Drop-in.

Manningham Library	Monday 3rd August	11am-12:30pm
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TONY'S ART SESSIONS

Come and join artist Tony Bullock for an exciting session working with air dry clay (resources provided). Try out some musical themed construction and learn new techniques. Booking Essential. Suitable for children 6-12 years (adults welcome to assist and participate).

Eccleshill Library – Monday 20th July 12noon-2pm
Wibsey Library – Tuesday 21st July 12noon-2pm



THE RAP SCHOOL

Join world champion rapper Rob Bradley for an interactive rap workshop celebrating this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Watch a live freestyle rap performance, explore how to find rhymes and rap on beat, before taking inspiration from your favourite books to write and perform your own rap. No experience needed and participants can get as involved as they wish. Suitable for ages 7-12 years. Booking essential.

Shipley Library Tuesday 11th August 10am-12noon
Eccleshill Library Tuesday 11th August 1:30pm-3:30pm



FIND YOUR WRITING RHYTHM WITH ANDREA HARDAKER

Calling all budding authors and poets! Come and hone your creative writing skills on the theme of the Summer Reading Challenge – Read to the Beat! Suitable for children 8-12 years. Booking Essential.

Wyke Library Wednesday 12th August 10am-11:30am
Laisterdyke Library Friday 14th August 10am-11:30am
Shipley Library Wednesday 26th August 10am-11:30am
Clayton Library Thursday 27th August 12:30pm-2:30pm



ARTIST NICOLA STORR DANCING GIRAFFES

Inspired by Giraffes Can't Dance, create split-pin giraffes then get them dancing! Blending storytelling, music and making, the session supports creativity, fine motor skills and ends with a fun group showcase. Suitable for ages 4-7 years. Booking essential.

Bingley Library Thursday 13th August 11am-12noon



EXPRESSIVE DRAWING

Starting with a fun poem, children listen, imagine and let sounds turn into shapes, lines and patterns on the page. With music and changing rhythms to spark ideas, they'll experiment freely and get creative. At the end, they turn their artwork into a mini zine to take home and share. Suitable for ages 10-12 years. Booking essential.

Keighley Library Thursday 13th August 1:30pm-2:30pm



BIG BRIGHT FEELINGS

Delivered by Mind The Gap and inspired by Tom Percival's Big Bright Feelings, these playful, performance-led workshops dive into big emotions. Children shape the story, make choices and meet the feelings like worry or anger along the way, using music and percussion to bring them to life in a fun, friendly way. Suitable for ages 4-8 years. Booking Essential.

Bingley Library Monday 17th August
Shipley Library Tuesday 18th August
Menston Library Wednesday 19th August
City Library Friday 21st August

10:30am-12noon
10:30am-12noon
10:30am-12noon
10:30am-12noon



BOOM CHIKKA BOOM! FAMILY RAVE

Lights on. Music up. Let's move! A feel-good family rave bursting with big beats, silly moves and dance-floor joy. Jump, wiggle and groove together in this high-energy session made for families who love to laugh, move and make some noise. All ages. Booking essential.

Shipley Library Wednesday 19th August 11am-12noon



WE'RE GOING ON A MUSICAL STORY HUNT

Join storyteller John Kirk for a family storytelling experience like no other as storytelling collides with the chaotic fun of scavenging. This special musical story hunt will consider the perfect pitch for a story through a mix of traditional tales and stories. Suitable for ages 4-11 years. Booking essential.

Wyke Library
Clayton Library
Manningham Library

Thursday 20th August 10:30am
Thursday 20th August 12:30pm
Thursday 20th August 2:30pm



AUTHOR LIZ FLANAGAN

We Are All Storymakers! Author Liz Flanagan introduces her award-winning Wildsmith series in a lively, interactive session. She shares how her ideas begin, then guides children to imagine, sketch and plan a magical story inspired by their own lives, before writing the opening lines. Includes time for questions and chat. Suitable for ages 7-11 years. Booking essential.

City Library Tuesday 25th August 10:30am
Shipley Library Tuesday 25th August 1:30pm



LIBRARY-LED READ TO THE BEAT SUPER SESSIONS

THURSDAY 16TH JULY

Queensbury Library

The Bookbeat Festival
3:30pm-5:30pm
Booking essential.

WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

Bingley Library

Make a musical mobile
11:30am-12:30pm
Booking essential. 4-12yrs.

THURSDAY 23RD JULY

Manningham Library

Guitar craft 11:30am-12:30pm
Booking essential.

Laisterdyke Library

Terrific tambourines 2pm-3pm

Shipley Library

Story soundtracks
2:30pm-3:30pm

SATURDAY 25TH JULY

Keighley Library

Guitar craft 11:00am-11:45am
Booking essential. 4-11yrs.

TUESDAY 28TH JULY

Wibsey Library

Junk model instruments
10:30am-11:30am

Bingley Library

Junk model instruments 2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. 4-12yrs.

WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY

City Library

Festival crowns 2pm-3pm

Ecclehill Library

Music collage 2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. All ages.

Shipley Library

Accessories craft
2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. 4-9yrs.

THURSDAY 30TH JULY

Wibsey Library

Guitar decorating 10:30am-11:30am
Booking essential.

Manningham Library

Bookmarks 11:30am-12:30pm

Laisterdyke Library

Jingle pegs 2pm-3pm

Heaton Hub

Lyric scavenger hunt 2pm-4pm
Drop-in. All ages.

Menston Library

String Time 2:30pm
Booking essential.

FRIDAY 31ST JULY

Wyke Library

Music, rhythm & rhyme
10:30am-11:30am

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST

Ecclehill Library

Musicycling – junk model instruments 11am-12noon
Booking essential. All ages.

WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST

Holme Wood Library

T-shirt decorating 10am-12noon
Booking essential. 6+.

Silsden Library

Instrument making, trying new instruments and games 10am-12noon
Drop-in. 5-12yrs

THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST

Manningham Library

Music shakers
11:30am-12:30pm

Menston Library

Ring out the Changes
2:30pm
Booking essential.

Wyke Library

Shake, rattle and roll 2pm-3pm

Heaton Hub

CD craft 2pm-4pm
Drop-in. All ages.

Shipley Library

Purrfectly Practical Cats
2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. 6-12yrs.

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST

Wibsey Library

Rockstar Reader glasses
10:30am-11:30am

Keighley Library

Making musical mobiles
11:00am-11:45am
Booking essential. 4-11yrs.

WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST

Ecclehill Library

Create musical art & design your own tote bag 11:30am-12:30pm
Booking essential. All ages.

Shipley Library

Guitar craft 2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. 4-10yrs.

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST

Wibsey Library

CD craft 10:30am-11:30am

Manningham Library

Bracelet making
11:30am-12:30pm
Booking essential.

City Library

Music themed mobiles 2pm-3pm

Clayton Library

Make your own instrument
2pm-3pm

Menston Library

Didgeridoos 2:30pm
Booking essential.

Queensbury Library

The Bookbeat Festival
3:30pm-5:30pm
Booking essential.

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

Heaton Hub

Make your own instrument
2pm-4pm
Drop-in. All ages.

MONDAY 17TH AUGUST

Ecclehill Library

Fantastic festival accessories
3pm-4pm
Booking essential. All ages.

TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST

Holme Wood Library

Story Walk 10am-2pm
Booking essential.

Keighley Library

Poetrees and poetry flowers
11:00am-11:45am
Booking essential. 4-11yrs.

City Library

Rockstar glasses & K-Pop light sticks and charms 2pm-3pm

WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST

Bingley Library

Festival bracelets and crowns
11:30am-12:30pm
Booking essential. 4-12yrs.

THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST

Shipley Library

Shake, rattle and roll instrument making 10:30am-11:30am
Booking essential. 5-10yrs.

Manningham Library

Festival crowns and badges
11:30am-12:30pm

Laisterdyke Library

Guitar craft 2pm-3pm
Booking essential.

MONDAY 24TH AUGUST

Clayton Library

Musical Bookmarks
10:30am-11:30am

TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST

Burley Library

Burley Reads to the Beat
10am-12noon

Wibsey Library

Festival bracelets
10:30am-11:30am
Booking essential.

Bingley Library

Musical bookmarks and festival passes 2:30pm-3:30pm
Booking essential. 4-12yrs.

THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST

Wibsey Library

Musical bookmarks
10:30am-11:30am

Manningham Library

DYO Superstar Glasses
11:30am-12:30pm

Heaton Hub

Festival glasses 2pm-4pm
Drop-in. All ages.

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

City Library

Tambourines 2pm-3pm

Wyke Library

Musical Notes mobile
2pm-3pm

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST

Keighley Library

Summer Music Festival crafts
11:00am-11:45am
Booking essential.

For up-to-date contact details and opening times please visit:
www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries

Bookstart Teddy Bear Picnics for families with pre-school children. Bring your bear and a picnic and enjoy stories, rhymes and fun activities with your local library. Please contact the library to book a place.

Bookstart Teddy Bear's Picnics



Date	Library	Time	Venue
Mon 13th July	Eccleshill	2pm-3pm	Eccleshill Library
Tues 21st July	Wyke	11:30am-1:30pm	Wyke Library
Wed 22nd July	City	10am	City Library
Mon 27th July	Heaton Hub	11am-1pm	St Martin's Church grounds
Mon 27th July	Clayton	11:30am-12:45pm	Clayton Library
Weds 29th July	Thornton	11am-1pm	Sapgate Community Gardens
Tues 4th August	Shipley	1:30pm-3pm	Shipley Library
Tues 4th August	Holme Wood	11am-1pm	Holme Wood Library
Wed 5th August	Bingley	2pm-4pm	Myrtle Park
Thurs 6th August	Laisterdyke	2pm-3:30pm	Laisterdyke Library garden
Thurs 20th August	Menston	10:30am-12:30pm	Menston Park
Mon 24th August	Burley	10am-12noon	Grange Park

Community Managed Libraries

Addingham	01943 436230
Allerton@Cafe West	07582 101171
Bolling Hall.....	07582 108216
Burley	01943 863714
Denholme	07743 228797
Great Horton.....	01274 431583
Heaton Hub	07582 102546
Holme Wood Library	07762 754140
Idle Library@Wright Watson	01274 952057
Menston	01943 876539
Queensbury	07582 109225
Silsden	01535 654131
Thornbury	01274 665598
Thornton	01274 833442
Wilsden.....	07469 843624



Bradford Libraries:

Bingley – 01274 438780
City – 01274 433600
Clayton – 01274 437643
Eccleshill – 01274 431544
Ilkley – 01943 436225
Keighley – 01535 618212
Laisterdyke – 01274 434724
Manningham – 01274 435353
Shipley – 01274 437150
Wibsey – 01274 435446
Wyke – 01274 431598

Grown-ups, this one's for you!

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All telephone numbers correct at time of press

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