

**ANNE LISTER FESTIVAL 2026  
PROGRAMME  
HALIFAX, UK  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March -  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**



## Welcome to the Anne Lister Festival (ALF) 2026 Programme!

This year's festival is packed with incredible events and activities for you to attend and take part in to remember and celebrate Halifax's own Anne Lister on her 235th birthday.

The festival runs from Monday 30th March – Monday 6th April (inclusive) and again incorporates the Anne Lister Society (ALS) conference as well as the Anne Lister Birthday Week (ALBW) celebrations. As always, we look forward to welcoming all of our visitors, including academics from around the world to the ALS conference in Halifax: home to and birthplace of Anne Lister.

We shall once again be bringing Anne's story to life as you visit her family home of Shibden Hall and its grounds to look at some of the plants and herbs that she may have used. There will also be a display including never-before-exhibited costumes from Gentleman Jack at Shibden Hall.

Walk in Anne Lister and Ann Walker's footsteps on expert-led tours around Halifax and Lightcliffe; this year we once again have on offer the most special of pilgrimages up the beautiful Old Bank between Halifax Minster and Shibden Hall: the 'Way of the Setts'.

An exciting first: Northern Ballet's Gentleman Jack will be performed during the Anne Lister Festival; their first new production in five years, all about Anne Lister herself. We shall be offering you a one-off coach trip for an afternoon at the ballet in Sheffield to enjoy this wonderful production. Another one-off special event will be happening courtesy of our friends at Haugh End Manor, who will be opening up the grounds that Anne Lister frequented for social visits – and where scenes from Gentleman Jack were filmed!

Your one-stop shop Anne Lister Headquarters will be open for purchasing Anne Lister merch and answering any queries about the festival. Many of the festival's activities and events will be taking place there, and this year we are hoping to bring you two special exhibitions in this space too! And of course, there will be the annual flower laying at the sculpture of Anne Lister in The Piece Hall, with the Calderdale Archives search room also open for you to meet and chat to the brilliant archives team and see some of the collection – including Anne's diaries – up close. How will you fit it all in?

We really can't wait to welcome you to the 2026 Anne Lister Festival!

Read on for the full programme. To book tickets, go to:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/calderdale-culturedale](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/calderdale-culturedale)



## MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.

Come along to ALHQ – where you will be welcomed every day of the Festival between 12 and 4pm. Get info on what's happening during the Festival, put a pin in the map to show where you've come from, buy your merch, have your photo taken with Anne Lister herself, and take part in any number of activities that will be taking place in ALHQ throughout the week! There will also be a quiet space for you to just get away from it all and chill out in. See you there!

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Exhibitions taking place in Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-4.00pm

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Taking place daily in ALHQ: we have two very special exhibitions from members of the Anne Lister Community!

### *Exhibition 1:*

Friends of Dorothy: Calderdale's over-50s group for lesbians living in the Calder Valley presents their exhibition which will be a lesbian-led and delivered event created for all! The exhibition will include an oral history project, memorabilia, photos and the Friends of Dorothy quilt – a beautiful community-made quilt made by the group!

### *Exhibition 2:*

Straight from Oslo, Norway comes the story of the Anne and Ann's visit to the country in the summer of 1839; now the tale comes back to Halifax like a "postcard" from a previous era! Items on display will include details and stories from the visit to Christiania's Botanical Garden and the Collection of Nordic Oldsager (Historical Museum in Oslo), as well as details about the journey and stay they had at Bolkesjø Coaching Inn – including maps, pictures, text and brochures from the trip to Bolkesjø.

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Anne Lister exhibition

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am-6.30pm

Central Library, Halifax, HX1 1QG

Free, drop in.

A display in Halifax's magnificent Central Library (don't miss the 'Rose Window'!) about Anne Lister and health, medicine and herbalism: *'Lotions, Potions and Surgeons – Anne Lister and Healthcare in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Halifax'*.



Anne Lister's Georgian Halifax walking tour

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2.00-4.00pm

Tours start and end at the Duke of Wellington Statue, top of Woolshops HX1 1RU (*what3words* location: [///animal.strain.exams](#))

£8.00

Halifax has a rich architectural heritage of buildings dating from the mid-1700s until the reign of Queen Victoria. This walk takes us through a hundred years of history, to both the most ordinary and the grandest buildings of Georgian Halifax – all of which Anne Lister would have known

during her lifetime, some more intimately than others! Come along on this fascinating walk with local historian and guide Anne Kirker to find out more.

Please note that this is a circular walk and could include some cobbled areas; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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***'Reflection on Love' eucharist at Halifax Minster***

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-8.30pm**

**Halifax Minster, Causeway, Halifax, HX1 1QL**

**Free, drop in**

Come along to this Eucharist service that is taking place as part of Holy Week, but which will have a particularly inclusive focus for the Anne Lister Festival. Called 'Reflection on Love', the service will be led by Revd. Sam Crook, and everybody will be welcome to come along and spend some reflective time in the place that meant so much to Anne Lister. You are also welcome, if you wish, to take Holy Communion or have a blessing.

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## TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

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Anne Lister exhibition

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Central Library, Halifax, HX1 1QG

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Crafty Kids' Activities

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am-2.30pm

Central Library and Archives, Halifax, HX1 1QG

Free – family drop in

Come along to Halifax's Central Library and take part in some Anne Lister inspired crafty kids' activities.

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**Women of Purpose: Shaping Halifax Through Education, Reform and Philanthropy walking tour**  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 11.00am-12.30pm**

**Tour starts at the bottom of the Central Library steps, Halifax, HX1 1QG**

**£8.00**

Halifax Heritage Tours CIC are passionate about the heritage of women who have lived and worked in and around Halifax. We've been exploring local female connections to Halifax; women of purpose, whose drive to personally achieve, provide or represent others has led us to refer to them as heroines and we look forward to offering with you and sharing an insight into the lives of many amazing women to whom Halifax owes so much.

On our guided tour, you'll hear real stories that celebrate strong role models; from the first female solo air balloonist, a master sculptor, diarists (yes, including a certain Anne Lister!), property owners and trailblazing women MPs. Various tales of the women who shaped the history of Halifax and in many instances further afield too, as they nurtured philanthropy, promoted the wellbeing of residents and workers, and advocated for women's and civil rights.

The tour will finish at the top o' town, not far from Harvey's of Halifax; here you may wish to visit their renowned café/restaurant for refreshments after the tour.

Please note that this walk starts uphill and could include some cobbled areas; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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**Way of the Setts pilgrimage walk**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 12.30pm-2.00pm**

**Walk starts *inside* Halifax Minster, Causeway, Halifax, HX1 1QL**

**Free.**

The Way of the Setts Anne Lister Pilgrimage Walk is focussed around central aspects of the life of Anne Lister. It begins in the holy site of what she knew as the Parish Church – now of course Halifax Minster; this is where she was baptised, where she worshipped, and is where she is buried. The walk then travels up Old Bank and onto the high vistas overlooking some of the Halifax landmarks that Anne would have seen as she strode between Shibden Hall and the town.



This part of the walk will end at Shibden Hall, where a second walk (see a following entry in the programme) will continue on around Shibden Park. You are welcome to do either walk, or both – however, please make sure to book the relevant tickets, due to limited available numbers.

This pilgrimage will be led by the Revd. Dr. Catherine Shelley – and please note that it is extremely steep in places as well as being slippery underfoot (particularly so, depending on the weather conditions). Please therefore ensure that you wear entirely appropriate footwear.

Regrettably, due to the terrain ('Setts' being the original, cobbled path laid hundreds of years ago, and which still forms part of the ancient Magna Via route today) this route is not wheelchair accessible.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### **Taste of Halifax: Borough Market Food Tour**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1.30-3.30pm**

**Borough Market, Halifax**

**£26.00pp or two for £47**

Allow our guides to take you on a culinary journey around Halifax, where you'll learn about the rich history of the Borough Market, sample gastronomic specialities from Halifax and around the world, and hear food stories from past and present from our local traders – as well as, wherever possible, a nod to Anne Lister herself, of course!

*You will receive an email 2 days before the event with meeting point information.*

*Please contact [tourism@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@calderdale.gov.uk) if you have any questions about the event.*



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### **Anne Lister's Reflective Shibden Park Easter walk**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2.00pm-3.30pm**

**Walk starts outside the front, main entrance to Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG**

**Free.**

After the earlier walk (The Way of the Setts Anne Lister Pilgrimage Walk) this walk will continue around Anne Lister's Shibden Park. It will be a reflective walk led by the Revd. Dr. Catherine Shelley who will focus not only on the environment around us but also on Anne Lister's faith – in reference to Holy Week as we approach easter. There will be time for reflection and will be readings along the way.

This will be an accessible and gentle walk through the grounds of Shibden Park, allowing time for contemplation and to just soak in the place and space that Anne Lister loved so much.

This walk will follow the one immediately before this one in the programme. You are welcome to do either walk, or both – however, please make sure to book the relevant tickets, due to limited available numbers.

Please note that whilst the route is accessible and can be completed in an electric wheelchair or mobility scooter it will be uneven as well as being steep in places. If doing the walk on foot please ensure that you wear appropriate footwear.

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### **Ann Walker's Shibden: Tower & Tour**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 4.00-5.00pm**

**Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG**

**£28.50**

After making your own way to Shibden Hall, In Search of Ann Walker will provide you with expert guidance through the rooms to hear funny and serious incidents from Ann Walker's life, as well as information about the grounds of Shibden Hall. This tour also includes a visit to the library tower where Ann Walker sketched and snoozed.





Don't miss the chance to take part in this fascinating tour looking at the lesser-known stories of Ann Walker at Shibden Hall, all with our own exclusive access when the hall is closed to the general public.

Please note that ascending the library tower involves having to climb several flights of spiral stairs.

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### **Anne Lister Performance Poetry workshop**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 4.00-6.00pm**

**ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: ///dared.when.hammer**

**£11.00**

Poet and Anne Lister community member Christine Sanders will take you through one of her exciting and sought-after performance poetry workshops. Using provided biographies and poems from Christine's Anne Lister collection 'Women', create your own character, voice and interpretation of a chosen poem.

In this fun-filled workshop you will take a real look at the effects of syllable stress, tone, and pace. See how voice and movement are intertwined as powerful tools for creating unsaid emotion.

Join Christine in one of her popular workshops as she shows you the techniques she uses within performance and how to use them to really bring these women to life.

All resources provided; just bring yourself!

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## WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

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Anne Lister diaries on display

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – 10.00am-4.30pm

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale search room,  
Lower Ground Floor, Central Library and Archives, Halifax, HX1 1QG

Free, drop in.

In 2011, the diaries of Anne Lister were inscribed in the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register in recognition of their substantial cultural significance to the UK. During the Anne Lister Festival, West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS) are offering an opportunity for you to visit their magnificent search room and enjoy a display of original diaries and archival material.



WYAS cares for many amazing archive collections including the Shibden Hall collection, home of the diaries of Anne Lister. Drop in and visit the Calderdale Archives search room to meet and chat to the archives team and see some of the collections – including Anne Lister's amazing diaries – up close!



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### **Anne Lister exhibition**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10.00am-5.30pm**

**Central Library, Halifax, HX1 1QG**

**Free, drop in.**

A display in Halifax's magnificent Central Library (don't miss the 'Rose Window'!) about Anne Lister and health, medicine and herbalism: *'Lotions, Potions and Surgeons – Anne Lister and Healthcare in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Halifax'*.

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### **Anne Lister's Shibden: Tower & Tunnel tour**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.00-10.00am**

**Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG**

**£28.50**

After making your own way to Anne Lister's former home of Shibden Hall, you will have private entry into the Hall with exclusive, rare access to go up to the Library Tower that Anne Lister had designed before she went on her ill-fated trip to Russia.

A visit to the gardener's tunnel outside in the hall's grounds will be exclusively included in this tour! This area is not normally accessible to the general public. Your ticket also includes the opportunity to explore the hall and view the newly and never-before-displayed or exhibited costumes that have recently been acquired.

Please note that ascending the Library Tower involves having to climb several flights of spiral stairs. The gardener's tunnel is outside: the ground is uneven and may be slippery, please take care. This tour may therefore be unsuitable for anybody with mobility issues.

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### **Anne Lister's Shibden: Tower & Tunnel tour**

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### **Bus tour exploring Crossley Carpet Heritage and Dean Clough**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10.30am-12.00pm – please meet at 10.15.**

**Please meet at Dean Clough: outside Lucy's Little Bakehouse, Bowling Mill Courtyard, 3 Dean Clough, Halifax, HX3 5AX. What3words location: [///usage.pushy.scrap](https://www.what3words.com/?q=usage.pushy.scrap)**

**£13.00**

In the past, hundreds of houses in Halifax and across the world proudly displayed a Crossley carpet – but how many people know the fascinating history of Halifax's Crossley family and the legacy they left in the town?

Come and join our heritage bus tour which starts and finishes at Dean Clough. Learn about the history of the Crossley family and how its carpet manufacturing business grew in the 19th century. We shall also explore the later history of the Hall family who saved the complex



over 40 years ago and have taken Dean Clough to new heights, welcoming businesses to the town and showcasing its significant art collections and exhibitions. See the amazing buildings in Halifax which the philanthropic Crossley brothers built in the town – most of which are still in use today.

This bus is fully equipped for wheelchair access.

Please meet at Dean Clough: outside Lucy's Little Bakehouse, Bowling Mill Courtyard, 3 Dean Clough, Halifax, HX3 5AX – at 10.15am. what3words location: [///usage.pushy.scrap](https://www.what3words.com/?w3w=usage.pushy.scrap)

**NB:** Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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#### **Lavender & Rose workshop**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 12.00-2.00pm**

**Back Cottage, Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG**

**£26.00**

An Anne Lister Festival first: an experiential workshop taking an in-depth look at lavender and rose through a lens of herbal medicine – with plenty of Anne Lister in there too! You're invited to taste and smell different preparations such as teas, syrups, tinctures and aromatic waters whilst we learn some of their applications. Finally, we will be getting hands-on, learning how to make a relaxing lavender-infused massage oil – which you can take home with you after the session!

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#### **Bus tour of Halifax**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 1.00-2.30pm – please meet at 12.45pm**

**Embark/Disembark the bus at the lay by on Charles Street, on the bottom side of the M&S Car Park, HX1 1AA.**

**£13.00**

Jump aboard Halifax Heritage Tours' (HHT) informative heritage bus ride and see little-known gems of the area; places with a wealth of history to tell, many with listed building status. Let HHT's guides tell you more about some of the fascinating buildings and areas just a short distance from Halifax town centre, how they fit into the rich heritage of Halifax, and how the past has shaped the town of today. You will be shown the world's tallest folly, buildings and parks provided by the town's wealthy philanthropists, told the story of who built the church with the tallest spire, and will even be shown the site of the gruesome guillotine (the Gibbet) used in Halifax from 1286 to 1650.

This bus is fully equipped for wheelchair access.

**NB:** Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### Discovering Anne Lister in State Archives

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 3.00-4.30pm**

**Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House).**

**What3words location: ///dared.when.hammer**

**Free, but donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

We are delighted to welcome Join Vicky Iglkowski-Broad, Principal Records Specialist for Diverse Histories at The National Archives to the Anne Lister Festival.

As we know, Anne Lister's remarkable life has left behind a wealth of surviving records – less well known as the official government documents that can offer unexpected and sometimes intimate insights. This interactive workshop provides an overview of the collections held at The National Archives, showing how legal and administrative records help reconstruct the life of Lister and partners. Participants will have the chance to handle facsimiles, exploring these stories for themselves and discussing how such materials help us recover traditionally marginalised histories. Bring your curiosity—and your own knowledge—as we work together to interpret these fascinating sources.

Please note: Vicky is not an Anne Lister specialist but brings expertise in the history of sexuality and gender within government archives.



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### Jill Liddington's Writing Women Up North talk

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 5.00-6.30pm**

**Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location:**

**///dared.when.hammer**

**£15.50pp**

When we think of women writing in the north, we usually think of the Brontës. Yet there have been so many other northern women who wrote compellingly about their own lives. Join Jill Liddington for a revealing talk on some of the fascinating northern women writers celebrated in her books. They range from such icons as Anne Lister – whose five-million-word diaries were written partly in her own secret code – to radical suffragist Selina Cooper, one of the 29,000 Lancashire women cotton workers who signed their suffrage petition which she took down to Westminster in 1901.



Ticket price includes a glass of wine or a soft drink.

The *Book Corner* book shop will be selling a selection of Jill's books at the event, which Jill will be happy to sign for you.

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### Evening Soiree Book Launch of *Searching for Ann Walker*

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 7.30-9.00pm**

**Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location:**

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**£11pp – £5 off copies of the book for each ticket purchased**

Join us for this special launch of In Search of Ann Walker's hotly anticipated new book: '**Searching for Ann Walker**'. Several of the authors will be present at the event for readings and answering questions from the audience, signed copies of the book will also be available to buy.

Ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink.

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**Anne Lister diaries on display****Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.00am-4.30pm****West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale search room, Lower Ground Floor, Central Library and Archives, Halifax, HX1 1QG****Free, drop in.**

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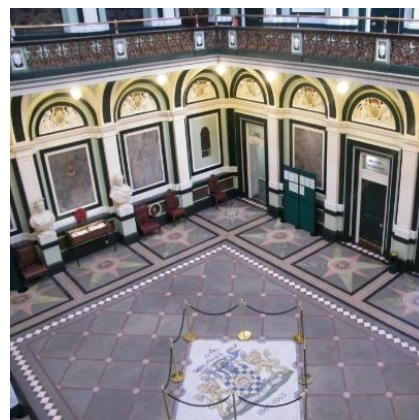
**'Anne Lister 1824-1831, Paris: Becoming Gentleman Jack' talk**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.00-11.30am**  
**ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: ///dared.when.hammer**  
**Free but donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

Join an actual Parisienne member of our Anne Lister community who will entertain us with tales of Anne Lister's time in Paris. Danielle Dous will look at Paris at the time of Anne Lister, exploring questions such as why Anne Lister chose to go to Paris; how she stepped into high society and entered totally new realms entertaining Maria Barlow, the Countess de Rosny and Vere Hobart there; how she studied under leading scientist of the time Professor Cuvier; and how disillusion set in... An intriguing look at both life in Paris as well as Anne's time there during this period.

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**Town Hall Tour**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.00-11.30am**  
**Halifax Town Hall, Crossley Street, Halifax, HX1 1UJ**  
**£8.00**

Join Halifax Heritage Tours on their special guided tour of the magnificent Halifax Town Hall, a building of immense architectural significance both inside and out. So much so, it was voted one of the top ten Town Halls in the country in 2008 by Architect Today magazine and has been described as 'truly outstanding' by Historic England. Designed by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament, it was opened on 4 August 1863 by HRH The Prince of Wales. It was built to be the most grand and significant building in the town and stands today as a proud and permanent reminder of the affluence of Halifax in the Victorian era. The building never fails to impress visitors who travel from all over the country and world to see its splendours!



Tours start/end outside the Town Hall entrance.

HHT ask that you please let them know when you have booked if you require lift/wheelchair access to different floors, so that this can be arranged in advance.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### Northern Ballet's *Gentleman Jack* ballet coach trip

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 12.00pm-5.30pm (approx.) (Minimum 50 to go ahead)

Embark/Disembark the bus at the lay-by on Charles Street, on the bottom side of the M&S Car Park, HX1 1AA.

£77.50 – incl. pre-booked, fixed-price seating in the Stalls

The coach will set off from Halifax town centre at 12.00pm (midday) sharp for the journey to Sheffield. The coach will then bring us back to Halifax after the performance, and we should be back by around 5.30pm depending on traffic.

A really special, exclusive Anne Lister community afternoon trip to see Northern Ballet's *Gentleman Jack* at Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre – this is Northern Ballet's first new production in over five years and is about none other than Anne Lister!

In luxurious coach comfort we will depart from Halifax town centre and travel directly to Sheffield, dropping you off close to the theatre. Once there you will receive a complimentary copy of the colour programme before being shown to your seats; we have booked a block of seats together in the stalls section. There will be a bar available at the theatre for you to buy drinks or ice cream. The coach will then drive us back from Sheffield to Halifax town centre, dropping us all off where it picked us up.



Anne Lister Festival-style entertainment will be had on the coach – think a quiz and some general fun! You are welcome to bring your picnic lunches with you to eat on the way if you have attended morning activities and were unable to eat beforehand.

This is a very special opportunity with limited seating, which allows you to get to Sheffield without renting a car or the hassle of the train. It promises to be a truly unforgettable community experience to see this groundbreaking performance performed by West Yorkshire's internationally renowned ballet company. Oh, and one other thing: feel free to dress up for this event as we enjoy an afternoon at the ballet!

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### The Listers in Shibden Valley walk

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1.00-4.00pm

Meet at Shibden Hall overflow car park: immediately after turning into the Godley Lane entrance (car park fee required). HX3 6XG. What3words location: [///closet.tones.thank](https://www.what3words.com/#!/closet.tones.thank)

£8.00

A circular, 3-hour walk that takes in a part of Shibden Valley where a number of Lister properties and their tenants lived and associated with Anne Lister helping in her ambitions to increase the value of her estate. The walk takes in High Royd House, Lee Lane, a number of Ann Walker's properties including Shibden Mill Inn, returning via Anne's Stump Cross pub and finishing back in the park at the site of Godley Grange. 5 miles with one short steep section. Mainly on public footpaths, some through muddy areas.

Meet Mike Beecham at 1pm at Shibden Hall overflow carpark immediately after turning into the Godley Lane entrance (car park fee required). HX3 6XG.

Please note that this is a circular walk and includes uneven terrain which could be slippery in places; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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Thursday chillout in ALHQ

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7.00-9.30pm

ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [:///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

Come along to ALHQ for a whole lot of community fun!

Details are still being worked on but expect a pre-recorded video of 'the two Rs': Rachel Lappin and Rachel Whitbread, in conversation with our very own Helena Whitbread! – as well as an open mic, and maybe a quiz or some other games....

Whatever we do the evening will just be the opportunity to generally be together and to have a catch up with our community – so come along, kick off your shoes and just chill out with the Anne Lister community at this free to attend, drop-in event!

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## FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

Come along to ALHQ – where you will be welcomed every day of the Festival between 12 and 4pm. Get info on what's happening during the Festival, put a pin in the map to show where you've come from, buy your merch, have your photo taken with Anne Lister herself, and take part in any number of activities that will be taking place in ALHQ throughout the week! There will also be a quiet space for you to just get away from it all and chill out in. See you there!

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**Exhibitions taking place in Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ)**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome, drop-in.**

Taking place daily in ALHQ: we have two very special exhibitions from members of the Anne Lister Community!

### *Exhibition 1:*

Friends of Dorothy: Calderdale's over-50s group for lesbians living in the Calder Valley presents their exhibition which will be a lesbian-led and delivered event created for all! The exhibition will include an oral history project, memorabilia, photos and the Friends of Dorothy quilt – a beautiful community-made quilt made by the group!

### *Exhibition 2:*

Straight from Oslo, Norway comes the story of the Anne and Ann's visit to the country in the summer of 1839; now the tale comes back to Halifax like a "postcard" from a previous era! Items on display will include details and stories from the visit to Christiania's Botanical Garden and the Collection of Nordic Oldsager (Historical Museum in Oslo), as well as details about the journey and stay they had at Bolkesjø Coaching Inn – including maps, pictures, text and brochures from the trip to Bolkesjø.

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**Flower Laying at Anne Lister sculpture**

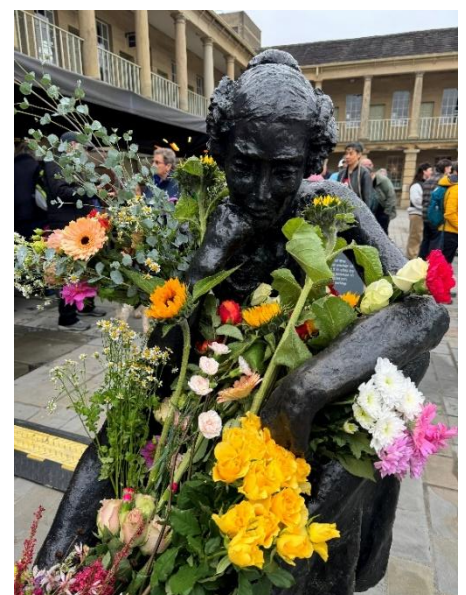
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 9.30-10.30am (gates open at 9am)

The Piece Hall, Blackledge, Halifax, HX1 1RE

**Free, drop-in**

The whole Anne Lister community will come together for the annual laying of flowers at the sculpture of Anne Lister in the courtyard of Halifax's magnificent The Piece Hall, remembering this iconic woman on what would have been her 235<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We are delighted that members of the Halifax Choral Society will once again be joining us, along with some of our very own Anne Lister Singers - and of course, following their most successful festival debut last year, the Anne Lister Dancers will join us once again. And after being treated to some dancing from them they will again be teaching us some moves and we can show off our Regency dance skills too.



Don't miss what is always such a special *Anne Lister Community* event and celebrate both Anne's life and her legacy with friends, old and new.

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### **The Anne Lister Society**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10.30am-4.30pm**

**Imperial Crown Hotel, 42-46 Horton St, Halifax HX1 1QE**

**\$28.00 / £20.00 per day. Please note: This is an ALBW event, and tickets for this event only are available from: <https://ALBW2026.eventbrite.com>. Charges for this event processed through ALBW will be in USD, the GBP price provided is an estimate according to the exchange rate as of the date of this publication – the exchange rate can vary according to your banking establishment. NOTE: This is a two-day event; you will need to purchase a ticket for each day**

The ALS is dedicated to fostering sustained research and scholarly conversation about Anne Lister – to establish her place in the historical and literary record and to interpret the rich legacies of her life and writing for the future.

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### **Anne Lister's Shibden: what she inherited and what she bequeathed walk**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 11.00am-12.30pm followed by Q&A – ends by 1.30pm**

**Meet at main entrance to Shibden Hall (by blue plaque), Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG.**

**£8.00**

A short, circular walk round Shibden, remaining close to the Hall. Anne inherited the Shibden estate from her uncle in 1826 and, always ambitious, in the 1830s she transformed it from a traditional farmhouse to a grand country house. Yet how were such ambitious plans paid for? Then, after her death in 1840, her legacy went on to benefit the people of Calderdale and their many visitors. Learn more about this story with local historian and Anne Lister author Jill Liddington on this short, slow-paced walk right around the outside of the former home of Anne Lister and her family.

Meet Jill Liddington at Shibden Hall's front entrance (by the blue plaque) at 11.00. This short circular walk ends at 12.30pm. You can then browse the books in the Shibden Hall shop and afterwards relax in the cottage with a cup of tea for Q&A and discussion.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### **Historic Halifax walking tour**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 11.00am-12.30pm**

**Tours start and end at Discover Halifax, 10, The Square, Woolshops, HX1 1RJ**

**£8.00**

Welcome to Halifax! Whether you have lived here all your life, or it is your first time here and you want to orient yourself around town through the buildings and stories of our history, join us for a fascinating insight into Halifax's heritage. Come for a walk with a local guide from Halifax Heritage Tours (HHT), pointing out buildings and places previously unknown to you, and hear interesting details from the Medieval, Georgian, and Victorian eras through to modern times! Learn about the philanthropists and industrialists who shaped the heritage of Halifax through generations and encounter some of the listed buildings – including the Town Hall and The Piece Hall – which they left as their legacy.

Please note that this is a circular walk starting uphill, so ensure you wear suitable footwear. Duration approx. 1½hrs.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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**Exclusive access to private gardens at Haugh End Manor**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 11.00am-1.00pm**

**Admittance strictly by ticket only; full address provided closer to date of event but takes place at Haugh End Manor, Sowerby Bridge**

**£26.00 – incl. £15 donation to charity per ticket sold**

In an exclusive Anne Lister Festival first we are delighted and so excited that our friends who own Haugh End Manor, former home to the Priestley and Rawson families, where Anne Lister frequented for social visits – and where scenes from Gentleman Jack were filmed – are most kindly opening their private gardens up for us! For two hours you will have the opportunity to hear from Beverly and Stewart Charnock-Bates and look around their beautiful garden – so lovingly restored as part of the work that they have done to bring the house and gardens into the glorious condition that we find them in now.



This has been an absolute labour of love over the last few years, and now you have the exclusive opportunity to visit the gardens and have a photo outside the front door to the house: that door which Suranne Jones knocked on in Gentleman Jack. Beverly and Stewart will also enlighten you on this fascinating house and its history, about the filming that has taken place at the house – including Gentleman Jack – and will be happy for the duration of the tour to answer questions.

Light refreshments (tea, coffee, soft drinks, biscuits) will also be provided.

**Note:** The owners of Haugh End will very kindly not be charging for these visits. The ticket price for this exclusive event instead includes a donation split between the My Mito Mission, and the Destination Florida Children's Charity charities, at their request.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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**Exclusive access to private gardens at Haugh End Manor**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2.30pm-4.30pm**

**Admittance strictly by ticket only; full address provided closer to date of event but takes place at Haugh End Manor, Sowerby Bridge**

**£26.00 – incl. £15 donation to charity per ticket sold**

In an exclusive Anne Lister Festival first we are delighted and so excited that our friends who own Haugh End Manor, former home to the Priestley and Rawson families, where Anne Lister frequented for social visits – and where scenes from Gentleman Jack were filmed – are most kindly opening their private gardens up for us! For two hours you will have the opportunity to hear from Beverly and Stewart Charnock-Bates and look around their beautiful garden – so lovingly restored as part of the work that they have done to bring the house and gardens into the glorious condition that we find them in now.



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#### **Anne Lister Funeral Walk**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2.30-4.30pm**

**Meet at the gatehouse at Shibden Hall – there is a pathway to behind the gatehouse immediately after turning into the Godley Lane entrance (car park fee required if parking here), Further instructions will be given on Ticketsource. HX3 6XG. What3words location: [///resort.closer.slate](#) £8.00**

A 2-hour linear walk, retracing the likely route of Anne Lister's funeral procession in April 1841. Strolling between Shibden Hall Gatehouse and Halifax Minster, David Glover will reference the buildings and sites which she would have known and attempt to work out the path the cortege took. There will be readings about the funerals of other Lister family members, which took a similar route – several of which Anne organised.

Meet David Glover at 2.25pm at the gatehouse at Shibden Hall – immediately after turning into the Godley Lane entrance (car park fee required if parking here), HX3 6XG.

Please note that this is a linear walk, ending at Halifax Minster. The walk could include uneven terrain which could be slippery in places; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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#### **ALBW event: ALBW Live featuring Sally Wainwright**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 6.30-7.45pm**

**The Arches, E Mill, 328 Dean Clough, Halifax, HX3 5AX**

**\$28.00/£20.00 Please note: tickets for this event only are available from: <https://RiotWomen.eventbrite.com>. Charges for this event processed through ALBW will be in USD, the GBP price provided is an estimate according to the exchange rate as of the date of this publication – the exchange rate can vary according to your banking establishment.**

The Anne Lister Festival are thrilled to be supporting ALBW with this special event, when Pat Esgate will be chatting with Calderdale's own Sally Wainwright.

ALBW is once again delighted to welcome the fabulous Sally Wainwright to the yearly festivities! This year Pat and Sally will be talking all things *Riot Women*, Sally's latest smash hit, already in production for Season Two! You never know where these conversations will go—Sally is the master of surprises!

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## **SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

Come along to ALHQ – where you will be welcomed every day of the Festival between 12 and 4pm. Get info on what's happening during the Festival, put a pin in the map to show where you've come from, buy your merch, have your photo taken with Anne Lister herself, and take part in any number of activities that will be taking place in ALHQ throughout the week! There will also be a quiet space for you to just get away from it all and chill out in. See you there!

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**Exhibitions taking place in Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ)**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome, drop-in.**

Taking place daily in ALHQ: we have two very special exhibitions from members of the Anne Lister Community!

### *Exhibition 1:*

Friends of Dorothy: Calderdale's over-50s group for lesbians living in the Calder Valley presents their exhibition which will be a lesbian-led and delivered event created for all! The exhibition will include an oral history project, memorabilia, photos and the Friends of Dorothy quilt – a beautiful community-made quilt made by the group!

### *Exhibition 2:*

Straight from Oslo, Norway comes the story of the Anne and Ann's visit to the country in the summer of 1839; now the tale comes back to Halifax like a "postcard" from a previous era! Items on display will include details and stories from the visit to Christiania's Botanical Garden and the Collection of Nordic Oldsager (Historical Museum in Oslo), as well as details about the journey and stay they had at Bolkesjø Coaching Inn – including maps, pictures, text and brochures from the trip to Bolkesjø.

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**The Anne Lister Society**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-5.00pm

Imperial Crown Hotel, 42-46 Horton St, Halifax HX1 1QE

**\$28.00 / £20.00 per day. Please note: This is an ALBW event, and tickets for this event only are available from: <https://ALBW2026.eventbrite.com>. Charges for this event processed through ALBW will be in USD, the GBP price provided is an estimate according to the exchange rate as of the date of this publication – the exchange rate can vary according to your banking establishment. NOTE: This is a two-day event; you will need to purchase a ticket for each day**

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### Ann Walker's Lightcliffe

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-12.00pm

Meet at Old St Matthew's tower on Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe (opposite to the Sun Inn), HX3 8TH. This is on the 255 bus route from Halifax to Leeds leaving the bus station at 25 minutes past the hour and arriving about a quarter to the hour. The taxi ride is about 3 miles.

**£21.00pp – incl. £10 donation to charity per ticket sold**

In 1830 Elizabeth & Ann Walker inherited much of Lightcliffe and became considerably wealthier. Within two years Ann had become the companion of Anne Lister.

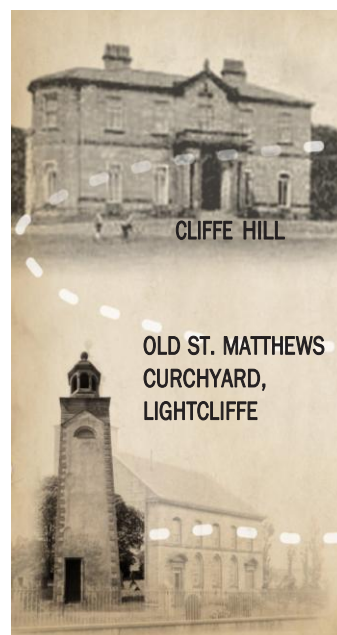
We couldn't be more excited to bring you this walk round part of the estate passing where Ann lived – firstly calling at Cliffe Hill where Ann was born and died, and where Ann and Anne would go to tea with Aunt Anne. Not only will we walk down the driveway, in addition, we are thrilled that the owners are most kindly giving us access *inside* the property, to the hall and lounge where scenes from Gentleman Jack were also filmed.

We then have a brief visit to the new church (there will be access to toilets at this point). On the way we pass Lidgate – where Ann Walker lived whilst Anne Lister was courting her – and head down the coach road where Crow Nest used to stand. We finish in the churchyard of Old St. Matthew's, Lightcliffe where Ann Walker is buried together with other members of her family, employees and tenants. The tower, including the refurbished plaque will be open, and you will also be able to see the recently completed headstone for Ann. Donations for the maintenance of the churchyard and the tower will be gratefully received.

The ticket price for this exclusive tour includes a donation to Overgate Hospice at the request of the owners of Cliffe Hill, who will not be charging for the kind invitation into their home.

Please note that this is a circular walk of approx. 1.5 miles. Whilst largely on made roads/footpaths, the walk could include uneven terrain which could be slippery in places; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.



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### Needle Felting sheep-making workshop

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-1.00pm

ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House).

What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](https://www.what3words.com/dared.when.hammer)

**£31.50pp**

With Anne Lister's connections to (if not love of!) – and certainly Halifax's long history with all things wool, come along to ALHQ and make your own sheep to take home with you. Using British wool and guided by the expert 'The Peg Loomer' you will learn the art of needle felting and turn a pile of fluffy wool into a memento from your visit. You can even add a little rainbow to your sheep to make it extra special. Sophie will share her knowledge of, and passion for, British wool and will have wool available from farms across Yorkshire.



Oh – and did we tell you that Halifax is the only place in the world to have a street named ‘Woolshops’?

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### **The Tower at St Matthew’s Churchyard, Lightcliffe open**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1.00pm-3.00pm**

**Old St Matthew’s Churchyard, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe, Halifax, HX3 8TH. This is on the 255 bus route from Halifax to Leeds leaving the bus station at 25 minutes past the hour and arriving about a quarter to the hour. The taxi ride is about 3 miles.**

**Free, donations welcome. Drop-in.**

The churchyard contains the graves of several members of the Walker family and includes Ann’s new memorial. In addition, several people that Ann would have known and who appeared in Gentleman Jack are also buried here.

Two wonderful guides: Dorothy Barker and Ian Philp, who help to look after the churchyard and have carried out considerable research into Lightcliffe, and St. Matthew’s ‘residents’ will be on hand to chat with you and to answer any questions that you may have.

Donations for the maintenance of the churchyard and the tower will be gratefully received.

Whilst you are in Lightcliffe you will find several places to eat in including pubs owned by Ann Walker and her family, or cafés for refreshments/light bites.

NB: Any children under 18 attending this event must be accompanied by an adult and will remain the responsibility of that adult at all times.

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### **Anne Lister Creative Collage Workshop**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1.00-3.00pm**

**Crossley Gallery, Dean Clough HX3 5AX**

**£13.00**

A creative collage workshop taught by Ruth Hall and Howard Priestley in the fabulous Crossley Gallery, exploring the life, home and history of Anne Lister with an engaging collage activity.

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### **Royal Halifax Infirmary Tour**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2.00-3.30pm**

**Meet at the entrance on Free School Lane (where Casualty was) just below the crossing and where there is a post box in the wall. What3words location: ///richer.atomic.deep**

**£8.00**

Join Halifax Heritage Tours (HHT) on their special guided tour of the Royal Halifax Infirmary (RHI). Opened by the Duke and Duchess of York (later to become King George V and Queen Mary) on 25th July 1896, the building was paid for by public donations with the names of many benefactors such as Crossley, McCrea, Rawson, Appleyard, Simpson, Kitchenman, Porter and Baldwin still seen on the buildings!



What we now know as the Charity Gala was originally the Infirmary Parade, which enabled the general public to donate in buckets as the parade left town. Monies raised went to assist in the running of the RHI.

Would you like to see how the site has been developed into houses and apartments since the hospital closed in 2000? The Infirmary has always had a special place in the hearts of the people of Halifax and Calderdale; today’s residents feel the special spirit of place from this heritage and from those who have passed through the beautiful buildings over the last 127 years.

The tour starts/ends at the entrance on Free School Lane (where Casualty was) just below the crossing and where there is a post box in the wall. Please note ticket holders are **not** permitted to park on the Royal Halifax Infirmary site as parking is exclusively for residents. Parking is available instead on Free School Lane.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### **Young Anne Lister in Halifax walk**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2.00-4.30pm**

**Meet at Range Bank, junction with Portland Road, HX3 6LB. What3words location: [///march.unique.copies](https://www.what3words.com/march.unique.copies)**

**£8.00**

A circular walk of 2½ hours. Local historian David Glover will show you the outside of the house where Anne Lister lived as a girl, and Halifax locations associated with her. Learn about her schooling, her private tutor, and her point of departure on stagecoach journeys. Where did she buy her diaries? See the home and bank of Christopher Rawson, and a 'Gentleman Jack' filming location [building exteriors only].



Meet David Glover by 1.55pm at Range Bank, junction with Portland Road, HX3 6LB.

Some sections are fairly steep. Whilst largely on made roads/footpaths, the walk could include uneven terrain which could be slippery in places; please ensure you wear suitable footwear.

NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### **Anne Lister's Buxton & Peak District trip talk**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2.30-3.30pm**

**Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](https://www.what3words.com/dared.when.hammer)**

**Free, drop in**

Join Packed with Potential's (PwP) Lynn Shouls as she takes us on a fascinating tour of Buxton and the Peak District – in Anne Lister's own footsteps! Lynn carried out the vast research which led to the creation of her Travel Map, displayed on the Packed with Potential website. Lynn will be happy to answer questions after her short talk, everybody is welcome!



## SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

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**Exhibitions taking place in Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ)**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

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Friends of Dorothy: Calderdale's over-50s group for lesbians living in the Calder Valley presents their exhibition which will be a lesbian-led and delivered event created for all! The exhibition will include an oral history project, memorabilia, photos and the Friends of Dorothy quilt – a beautiful community-made quilt made by the group!

### *Exhibition 2:*

Straight from Oslo, Norway comes the story of the Anne and Ann's visit to the country in the summer of 1839; now the tale comes back to Halifax like a "postcard" from a previous era! Items on display will include details and stories from the visit to Christiania's Botanical Garden and the Collection of Nordic Oldsager (Historical Museum in Oslo), as well as details about the journey and stay they had at Bolkesjø Coaching Inn – including maps, pictures, text and brochures from the trip to Bolkesjø.

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**Anne Lister Poetry Writing workshop**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-12.00pm

ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**£11.00**

Anne Lister community member and poet Christine Sanders encourages you all to: *'Write love poetry. Unleash your creativity, have fun and write!'*

Using resources: extracts, biographies and texts all provided, write and edit a love poem based on Anne or one of her lovers. Christine will guide you through the writing process and by the end of this workshop, you will have written your own love poem – whether you have experience of this previously, or not.



Within the work, you will also create a group poem which is spoken, not written. A real 'community' activity, and one that is sure to be popular.

All resources provided; just bring yourself!



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### Anne Lister/Shibden Park Guided Herb Walk

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-12.00pm

Meet outside the main entrance to Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, HX3 6XG

£21.00

A slow-paced, low-distance, guided walk at Shibden Park, meeting some of the medicinal plants and trees around Anne Lister's Shibden Park. We will also discuss some plants that Anne Lister may have used and/or been familiar with. With local student medical herbalist and plant nerd Kerri Daly.

This fascinating walk will also include the opportunity for tea and other herbal preparation tasting en route.



NB: Any children under 18 booked on the tour must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket for the event and will remain the responsibility of that parent or guardian at all times.

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### 3000 Lesbians Go to York (+ exclusive showing of *Access Denied*)

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 1.30-3.00pm

ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](https://www.what3words.com////dared.when.hammer)

£8.50

What is it about York? Nearly 150 years after Anne Lister and Ann Walker's time, another chapter of York's lesbian history began in a women's bookstore on Gillygate. We are thrilled to bring to ALF this fascinating documentary telling the story of the York Lesbian Arts Festival (YLAFF): in its day the largest gathering of lesbian, bi and queer women in the UK, and an event that really did bring lesbians to York! A fascinating watch featuring lesbian literary stars such as Val McDermid, Sarah Waters and Jackie Kay.



We are delighted to be joined for this special screening by members of the film team – including Jenny Roberts, the founder of Libertas! Bookshop and of YLAFF; co-producer Jane Traies, author of the book *3000 Lesbians Go to York*, on which the film is based; co-producer Kate O'Dwyer; and Bonnie Rae Brickman, the film's editor. The film team will be answering questions in a post-screening Q+A, hosted by Louise Wadley – director of the Hebden Bridge Film Festival!



Before the *3000 Lesbians* showing, we are delighted to bring you an empowering short film from an ALF community member! *Access Denied* centres on Martha, a twenty-year-old lesbian with cerebral palsy, as she navigates the complex realities of love, identity, and independence. With an insight into Martha's sharp and self-aware inner voice, the story offers a determined yet joyful portrayal of her daily life – getting ready for a date, facing ableism, and existing as a sexual, social, and

confident young woman with feelings and emotions. This 5-minute film will run immediately before the start of *3000 Lesbians*; creator Rachel-Ann will also be involved in the Q&A discussion following both films. This will all form part of the same event, with no break in-between film showings – we hope you enjoy!

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**The Tower at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe open**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 1.00pm-3.00pm**

**Old St Matthew's Churchyard, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe, HX3 8TH. This is on the 255 bus route from Halifax to Leeds leaving the bus station at 25 minutes past the hour and arriving about a quarter to the hour. The taxi ride is about 3 miles.**

**Free, donations welcome. Drop-in.**

The churchyard contains the graves of several members of the Walker family and includes Ann's new memorial. In addition, several people that Ann would have known and who appeared in *Gentleman Jack* are also buried here.

Two wonderful guides: Dorothy Barker and Ian Philp, who help to look after the churchyard and have carried out considerable research into Lightcliffe, and St. Matthew's 'residents' will be on hand to chat with you and to answer any questions that you may have.

Donations for the maintenance of the churchyard and the tower will be gratefully received.

Whilst you are in Lightcliffe you will find several places to eat in including pubs owned by Ann Walker and her family, or cafés for refreshments/light bites.

NB: Any children under 18 attending this event must be accompanied by an adult and will remain the responsibility of that adult at all times.

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**Anne Lister-inspired Easter Bonnet and Top Hat Costumed Parade**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 4.30-5.30pm**

**Meet at the Anne Lister sculpture in The Piece Hall, Blackledge, Halifax, HX1 1RE**

**Free**

Join us for our now annual Anne Lister Festival *spectacular!*

Don your best Regency-style, Ann Walker bonnet, Anne Lister top hat or other *Gentleman Jack*-inspired costume and show this off as we walk from The Piece Hall through the pedestrianised streets of Halifax. This event grows year-on-year, and we look forward to the 2026 event once again – hopefully gathering people along the way as we walk: or should that be *stride!*

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**Film: Bulletproof: A Lesbian's Guide to Surviving the Plot (+ exclusive showing of *Access Denied*)**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 7.00-9.30pm**

**ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](https://www.what3words.com/dared.when.hammer)**

**£8.50**

We're thrilled to bring you the multi-award-winning documentary *Bulletproof: A Lesbian's Guide to Surviving the Plot* — a witty, fast-paced and deeply personal film in which Toronto-based filmmaker Regan Latimer takes a humorous, insightful look at LGBTQ+ representation on television and the power of media to shape how we see ourselves.

Laced with pop culture references, Latimer journeys across North America and beyond in a quest to understand the forces that influence the stories we see on our screens. Original animation and personal anecdotes are interwoven with wide-ranging conversations with television insiders, LGBTQ+ community advocates, and people who simply love to watch TV.



And yes — there are of course some familiar faces along the way talking about *Gentleman Jack*. As Latimer navigates an ever-evolving media landscape, the film reminds us that representation done well has the power to transform. We're also really excited to host a post-screening **Q&A with director Regan Latimer** following the film.





Before the *Bulletproof* showing, we are delighted to bring you an empowering short film from an ALF community member! *Access Denied* centres on Martha, a twenty-year-old lesbian with cerebral palsy, as she navigates the complex realities of love, identity, and independence. With an insight into Martha's sharp and self-aware inner voice, the story offers a determined yet joyful portrayal of her daily life – getting ready for a date, facing ableism, and existing as a sexual, social, and confident young woman

with feelings and emotions. This 5-minute film will run immediately before the start of *Bulletproof*; creator Rachel-Ann will also be involved in the Q&A discussion following both films. This will all form part of the same event, with no break in-between film showings so: settle in, bring your popcorn, and join us at the Hub for a proper Anne Lister Festival community evening – with personal, joyful, and thoughtful depictions of our community!

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## MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ) open

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome for upkeep of space. Drop-in.**

Come along to ALHQ – where you will be welcomed every day of the Festival between 12 and 4pm. Get info on what's happening during the Festival, put a pin in the map to show where you've come from, buy your merch, have your photo taken with Anne Lister herself, and take part in any number of activities that will be taking place in ALHQ throughout the week! There will also be a quiet space for you to just get away from it all and chill out in. See you there!

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**Exhibitions taking place in Anne Lister Headquarters (ALHQ)**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-4.00pm

Unit 4, Northgate, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Donations welcome, drop-in.**

Taking place daily in ALHQ: we have two very special exhibitions from members of the Anne Lister Community!

### *Exhibition 1:*

Friends of Dorothy: Calderdale's over-50s group for lesbians living in the Calder Valley presents their exhibition which will be a lesbian-led and delivered event created for all! The exhibition will include an oral history project, memorabilia, photos and the Friends of Dorothy quilt – a beautiful community-made quilt made by the group!

### *Exhibition 2:*

Straight from Oslo, Norway comes the story of the Anne and Ann's visit to the country in the summer of 1839; now the tale comes back to Halifax like a "postcard" from a previous era! Items on display will include details and stories from the visit to Christiania's Botanical Garden and the Collection of Nordic Oldsager (Historical Museum in Oslo), as well as details about the journey and stay they had at Bolkesjø Coaching Inn – including maps, pictures, text and brochures from the trip to Bolkesjø.

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**Digitising and Interpreting Anne Lister's Music, with the University of York – soft launch event**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am-12.00pm

ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words location: [///dared.when.hammer](#)

**Free, drop-in. Donations welcome for upkeep of space.**

Join us as we welcome friends from the University of York, led by music historian Professor Rachel Cowgill, as she launches their incredibly exciting new project to digitise Anne Lister's music books and make their contents freely available online!

Rachel will introduce the project and the exciting plans for it from here. Anne Lister Festival friend Lisa Timbs will delight us with some of Anne's music, playing once again on the type of piano Anne herself would have known; and PhD student and fellow long-term friend of ALF Constance Halstead, will explore the place of music in the Anne Lister archive as a whole.



After a bring & share lunch you will have the opportunity to ask questions, and to feed ideas into the development of the project to influence its journey from here. You will also have the opportunity to play the square piano yourself – guided, of course, by expert square-pianist, Lisa Timbs.

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**Q&A and feedback on Digitising and Interpreting Anne Lister's Music, with the University of York**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 12.00-1.00/1.30pm**

**ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words**

**location: ///dared.when.hammer**

**Free, drop-in. Donations welcome for upkeep of space.**

Following the session on the digitisation of Anne Lister's music project now is your chance to ask questions of the team from the University of York – and to feed back to help to shape the project from hereon in. Rachel, Lisa and Constance look forward to chatting with you about the project, and to discussing your ideas.

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**Bring & Share lunch**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1.00pm onwards**

**ALHQ, Unit 4, Northgate House, Halifax, HX1 1UR (next to Hatch Brunch House). What3words**

**location: ///dared.when.hammer**

**Free, drop-in**

Bring your own food to *your* ALHQ for some down time as the festival winds to a close for another year. Enjoy everything that ALHQ has had to offer all week (a quiet corner, knitting, colouring in etc.) and come and just chill out and reflect on the week – once again, on your own or with friends: you know where to come.

## ALSO ON DURING THE FESTIVAL

**Shibden Hall:** Closed Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April until 11am for private visit (see details in programme, above), otherwise open daily as usual – see website for opening times. Admission charges apply for entry to the Hall. Entry will include – exclusively for the duration of the Anne Lister Festival – the opportunity to explore the Hall, including to view the newly and never before displayed or exhibited costumes that have recently been acquired, from the TV show *Gentleman Jack*.

**Bankfield Museum:** open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm; free entry to Museum.

**Halifax Minster:** open daily 12-4pm, free entry

**Calderdale Industrial Museum:** open Saturdays 10am-4pm. Also open Thursdays during school holidays

**Halifax Urban Trail Run:** come for a 10k charity trail race (with top hats or otherwise!) from Shibden Park to Beacon Hill, raising funds for Overgate Hospice! Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am.



**[www.annelisterofhalifax.co.uk](http://www.annelisterofhalifax.co.uk)**

Tickets available from:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Calderdale-culturedale>

