

# BURY AS TOWN OF CULTURE

In 2020 Bury became the very first 'Town of Culture' in Greater Manchester, celebrating Bury's cultural heritage and the distinctive creativity of our Borough.

On receiving the accolade Councillor David Jones, Leader of Bury Council remarked that the Borough 'are delighted and honoured to be chosen as the Greater Manchester Town of Culture... it is a fitting recognition of what we have here, coming shortly after we unveiled a statue to Victoria Wood, arguably Bury's most famous daughter and loved by millions.'

It was Victoria Wood's work which inspired the Town of Culture bid, based on the concept of happiness – how Victoria approached her work and wanted her audience to feel – and was described by Greater Manchester's Mayor, Andy Burnham, as "powerful concept that was uplifting and life affirming". The impact of culture on happiness and wider wellbeing will be a legacy of the time as town of culture.

The Borough's culture heritage is rich – from mainstream performers such as Elbow and Oscar winner Danny Boyle to a vibrant community arts scene; award winning venues and attractions; and heritage in the form of transport, invention, military association and of communities of interest.

Ever wondered about Bury's cultural heritage and where in Bury's Town Centre you might find such places of interest? Do you know the history behind the statues, gardens and museums, how they came to be or why they are there?

Follow our Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk and let it guide you around our favourite 10 places of cultural heritage in recognition and celebration of Bury as the Greater Manchester inaugural Town of Culture.

## EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Bury Bolton Street railway station, first opened in 1846 and substantially rebuilt in the 1880s and again in the 1950s, is now home to the East Lancashire Railway. Winding through the scenic Irwell Vale along a 12 mile line, the East Lancashire Railway provides a truly unique journey past quaint villages and rural vistas, where passengers can take in the sounds, smell and stunning surroundings of this heritage railway.

## BURY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The industrial heritage of the North West is brought to life before your very eyes at Bury Transport Museum, which houses a collection of vintage vehicles including buses, steam rollers and trams. Hands-on interactive exhibits explain the development of transport in the North West, how the Goods Warehouse, (now the Museum), was used and the types of materials that would have been handled here.

## SIR ROBERT PEEL STATUE

Born in Ramsbottom, Bury, in 1788, Sir Robert Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829 when Home Secretary to Lord Liverpool's Tory Cabinet and twice served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1834-35 and again in 1841-46. In Britain today many still commonly refer to police officers as 'Bobbies' although originally when the Metropolitan Police first patrolled the streets of London they were also known as 'Peelers'.

## THE ROCK

Opened in July 2010 The Rock is a mixed-use scheme offering a shopping, dining and leisure experience all within one complex, meaning you can stay all day and all evening as part of Bury's Purple Flag accredited town centre – the first in Greater Manchester! Unlike other North West shopping centres, The Rock is uncovered and has been developed around Bury's historical street layouts.

## BURY MARKET

Bury's 'World Famous' Market has been in operation for nearly 600 years. Now with over 350 stalls the market has quite the collection of accolades including: Market of the Year 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015 and more recently voted Britain's Favourite Market in 2019. No wonder this award winning market continues to bring in over 1,000 coach loads of visitors to Bury year after year.

## KAY GARDEN

Born at Park Farm, Bury in 1704, John Kay invested his famous "picking peg" in 1733, which made the shuttle in his hand loom move more quickly. It became known as the "Flying Shuttle" and revolutionised cotton weaving, quadrupling human power and placing England in the front rank as the best market in the world for textile manufacturers. With this, the town of Bury and the surrounding area grew at an astonishing rate.

## FUSILIER MUSEUM

The Fusilier Museum is home to the collections of the 20th Lancashire Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Together they record over 300 years of history and heritage of the people who served and continue to serve in the regiments from 1688 to the present day. You can visit the museum to learn how the Lancashire Fusiliers resulted in 'six VCs before breakfast' at Gallipoli and the military heritage of the Borough.

## BURY ART MUSEUM & SCULPTURE CENTRE

Bury Art Museum, housed in a distinctive Edwardian building, is the perfect place to enjoy art and find out more about the rich history of Bury and the surrounding area. Showcasing the best of international and local art Bury Art Museum can truly offer something for all interests. The collections and exhibitions are supported by a range of activities and events which allow visitors to explore and enjoy the Gallery and Museum further.

## VICTORIA WOOD STATUE

Born in Bury on 19th May 1953, Victoria Wood CBE, was a comedian, actress, singer, composer, screenwriter, producer and director who wrote and starred in dozens of sketches, plays, musicals, films and sitcoms over several decades. Victoria's live comedy act was interspersed with her own compositions, which she performed on the piano where much of her humour was grounded in everyday British life, where she included observations of culture and satirising aspects of social class.

## THE MET

The Met is a stunning, award winning, live music venue noted nationally for its specialist folk music programme. Having recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment, it incorporates two modernised performance spaces and Edwin Street Creative Hub which includes a Recording Studio. The Met is also the proud organiser and promoter of the Head for the Hills festival and has been named Cultural Venue of the Year 2018 & 2019 by the This Is Manchester Awards.



# BURY SELF - LED WALKS ROUTE MAP

## BURY TOWN CENTRE CULTURAL HERITAGE WALK



**A.**

**ROAD CROSSING**

*There are several road crossings, please use pedestrian crossings provided*

*\*To avoid the steps, wheelchairs and buggies/pushchairs can gain level access via Castlecroft Road (see blue dotted line for alternative route)*

**WALK NAME:** Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk

**STARTING POINT:** Outside East Lancs Railway, Bolton Street, Bury BL9 0EZ

**DISTANCE:** 2.3 km / 1.4 miles • **DURATION:** 30-60 mins • **STEPS:** Approx 3,000

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## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From the **East Lancashire Railway Station**, using the pelican crossing, cross Bolton Street turning left then right through Castle Car Park to the **Bury Transport Museum\***.
- 2 From the **Bury Transport Museum**, once back onto Bolton Street, continue east crossing Market Place where you can see the Church of St Mary the Virgin set back in the corner to the left with the Robert Peel Statue positioned immediately before you.
- 3 From the **Robert Peel Statue**, follow The Rock Road with the church wall now to your left and continue along this road to join the pedestrianised shopping zone and follow the rainbow path to The Rock shopping centre.
- 4 From **The Rock** follow the pedestrian way past the shops, heading south east towards Rochdale Road. Follow the path round to the Mill Gate Shopping Centre, using the Parkade Entrance. Once in the shopping centre turn right then left and then follow the parade until you reach the jewellery shops. Turn left here and continue down the parade until you exit the shopping centre, with the famous Bury Market straight ahead.
- 5 From **Bury Market**, with your back to the Fish and Meat market, facing forwards towards the Millgate Shopping Centre, take the first left under the covering and continue until you reach the Bus Station. Follow the path to the right, with the Kay Statue now in sight and head into **Kay Gardens**.
- 6 From **Kay Gardens** with the Bus Station to your left, cross Haymarket Street at the zebra crossings and continue towards the end of Moss Street arriving at the **Fusilier Museum** and Tourist Information centre on the right.
- 7 From the **Fusilier Museum**, the **Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre** can be seen directly across the road to the left. To visit the Art Museum continue to the top of Moss Street and use the zebra crossing system to cross to the triangular pedestrian island before crossing back along a second zebra to reach the other side of Moss Street and the entrance of the Art Museum building.
- 8 From the **Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre** cross back to the central pedestrian island and cross again over a third zebra crossing to reach the Library Gardens straight ahead where the **Victoria Wood Statue** stands proudly before you.
- 9 From the **Victoria Wood Statue**, continue north up Silver Street until you reach the zebra crossing. Cross here and continue, turning right onto Bolton Street at the junction. Continue along until passing the roundabout on your left and cross Market Street at the zebra crossing. Once you have crossed onto Market Street, turn right towards Kay Gardens with **The Met** located only a few metres ahead on your left.
- 10 **Congratulations!** You have now completed the **Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk**. We hope you have enjoyed exploring and discovering some of the Town Centre's places of cultural interest and heritage and will come back and revisit soon.



**Easy:** Suitable for beginners and buggies. Mainly on level terrain on mainly tarmac and paved surfaces.