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Editor's Letter

Spring has finally sprung; It's time to come out of hibernation in anticipation of new beginnings, and what better time to embrace the great outdoors.

In our latest issue, we've got a wealth of ideas and activities to help keep kids (and parents) entertained this Easter; check out page 12 for '5 activities that will help bust boredom'.

If the prospect of walking has your little ones wailing, try our top tips for creating a wonderful wander that will engage and enthuse while keeping them, and you active.

Coach Lindsay equips us with valuable tools to help our children combat their inner critic, fostering resilience and self-confidence; in 'The Critical Critter in the Brain House'.

We take a trip to Trawden to meet their Garden Festival Youth Committee and discover their exciting plans for this year's festival on the 6th and 7th of July; from baking cakes and planting blooms to creating magical scarecrows, these kids certainly know how to keep busy!

We've got a selection of delightful Easter recipes, including the tempting Hazelnut Chocolate Thick Shakes and Hot Cross Chocolate Muffins, ideal for indulging before, on, or after Easter Sunday!

Excitement abounds as we launch more exciting competitions, offering the chance to win fantastic toys and coveted tickets to Glampfest, and, of course, there's our extensive What's On Guide, brimming with even more suggestions for enjoying the best springtime activities.

I hope you enjoy the latest edition, and we look forward to seeing you in time for the summer holidays!

Karen

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SPRING



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EDITOR Karen Shaw editor@looppublishing.co.uk
DESIGN Chris Pearson design@looppublishing.co.uk
EDITORIAL TEAM Laura Storey laura@looppublishing.co.uk
SALES Katie Balme katie@looppublishing.co.uk,
 Reece Farrar reece@looppublishing.co.uk

If you would like more information about Family, please contact us at Loop Publishing, 2B Standroyd Mill, Cotton Tree Lane, Colne. BB8 7BW.

Tel 01282 861982 Email info@looppublishing.co.uk

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Magical Times For The Youth Of Trawden!

BY IMOGEN BIRTWISTLE

Put on your best witches' hat, grab your broom, and fly down to the Trawden Garden Festival, which takes place on the 6th and 7th of July. This year's theme is 'Wizarding World,' and locals are already digging out their most magical outfits for the scarecrow competition.

"Hopefully, we won't get too many Harry Potters!" Organiser Keeley Turner laughs.

The Trawden Garden Festival has been running for over 20 years and was created by locals who wanted to unite the community. Today, it is organised by five Trawden women: Jen Birtwistle (Chair), Keeley Turner, Laura Vickery, Joanne Webber, and Rebekah Marshall. Past events have involved a vintage bus taking visitors around the village and beautiful blooms. Last year, the village saw some familiar faces spring up in the form of scarecrows, ranging from Bill and Ben to Only Fools and Horses.

This year, for the second year running, the village children are taking the lead. The Youth Committee was established to encourage younger people to become





“The Youth Committee is a great place to volunteer, giving them valuable skills”

more involved in the festival. “We thought it would be a good opportunity to involve the younger generations and get their ideas because it’s not all about us,” Keeley explains. “It’s for the whole community.”

The children have been hard at work, with frequent meetings as the weekend draws closer. There’s plenty to organise, including a scarecrow competition and open gardens for visitors to admire Trawden’s blooms and even indulge in a tipple.

At the heart of the festival will be Trawden’s community centre, where the children will help run stalls, serve brews, and offer activities. Pendle Youth Orchestra will be playing at St Mary the Virgin church at the top of the hill on Saturday afternoon, where two youth members—the youngest member, who is eight, and the oldest member, who is 15—will organise magical craft activities.

Throughout the festival, the children will be on hand to show visitors around the village, sell maps and collect donations, with all proceeds being donated to The Pendleside Hospice.

“They really enjoyed last year! They were buzzing because of all the donations they collected,” Keeley



Youth Committee members hard at work



explains. “The children gain lifelong transferable skills. Last year, one of the members made some biscuits to sell on the day. He bought all the ingredients, knew how much he would sell them for, and even made a spreadsheet! Such an enterprising 12-year-old! The biscuits sold like ‘hotcakes’ and were a favourite. He is making them again this year.

“The children also learnt about customer service and how to help those who visit the festival. The Youth Committee is a great place to volunteer, giving them valuable skills which will help with the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.”

The Youth Committee comprises are Amelia, Harry, Kara, Osar, Ben, Jonathan, and Imogen. New members are always welcome for both committees. For more information, email trawdengardenfest@gmail.com.

If you’d like to participate in the Trawden Garden Festival, look out for entry forms that will be delivered throughout the village in May.





Get the Kids Out for a Walk This Easter

Walking is a great way to get the family together and make some amazing memories as the weather improves this spring. It can be hard to tear the kids away from the screens but getting out in nature is perfect for breaking up the holidays and staying active and best of all, it's free!



Here are some creative strategies to entice kids to join in on a family walk this Easter.

Scavenger Hunts

Transform an ordinary walk into an exciting expedition by organising a scavenger hunt. Develop a list of natural items such as stones, leaves from common tree species, and flowers, or find a pre-made list online.

This enhances the enjoyment of the walk and imparts knowledge to children as they identify and mark off various plant types. Equip them with binoculars and a magnifying glass to explore birds or insects. Remember to leave everything as you left it, and don't take anything away; tick things off as you find them.



Lead the Way

Employ the classic parenting technique of letting children take the lead during a walk, particularly effective on the way home when fatigue threatens. When tired legs threaten a rebellion, a simple ‘Can you show me the way home?’ can inspire an exhausted child to transform into an energised one.

Take it further by having a child plan the walking route using a simple paper map. This works well with slightly older children. Ensure you know the route for the first few times if things go awry. However, you can build up the routes in accordance with your child’s map skills. This method helps build up your child’s map skills, self-reliance, and independence.

If your child takes a wrong turn, try not to intervene immediately. Help them figure out the correct route if it is safe to do so and doesn’t mean another ten-mile hike to get home. Smaller children can still get involved but may need more of a helping hand. Try familiar routes first to avoid kids becoming overwhelmed.



Bring a Picnic

A classic outdoor activity, the promise of a picnic will get even the most obsessive gamers to put down their controllers. Get your children involved in the kitchen, too. Find simple recipes they can help with, and don’t forget to remember their favourites for a family feast. Bring a picnic blanket, something to keep food cool, and some waterproofs in case the Great British weather decides to take a turn for the worse.

These three methods to get your kids walking this Easter are the perfect start. You can devise your own methods, such as singing hiking songs (this probably won’t work with a moody teen) or taking turns to tell stories.

Don’t forget to check the weather forecast before you head out. A little rain doesn’t mean you must call off the whole thing, but it may mean pulling on your wellies and raincoats.

Always ensure everyone is equipped with water, warm layers, and suitable footwear for a comfortable and enjoyable experience, rain or shine.



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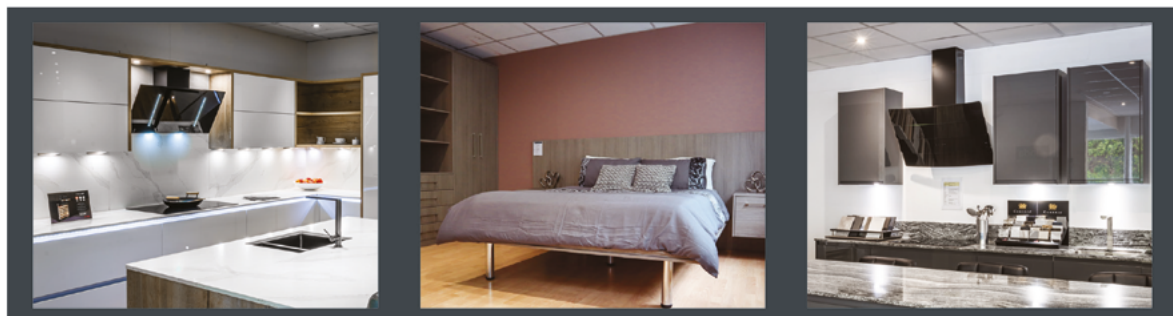
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RECIPES

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FRUITY EASTER NESTS ★

INGREDIENTS

120g White caster sugar
60g (2 eggs) Egg whites,
at room temperature
4 tbsp Bonne Maman
Conserve

METHOD

Heat the oven to 200C, fan oven
180C, gas mark 6.

Spread the sugar over a baking
sheet lined with baking parchment
and put in the oven for 5-8 minutes
or until the sugar just begins to
melt around the edges, but not
caramelize.

Meanwhile, put the egg whites into
a large mixing bowl. Just before the
sugar is ready whisk the egg whites
until frothy.

Take the warm sugar from the oven
and immediately reduce the oven
temperature to its lowest setting.
Continue whisking the egg whites,
slowly adding the sugar until the
mixture is very stiff, glossy and
cool.

Line 2 baking sheets with baking
parchment and spoon the
meringue mixture into eight

generous blobs, leaving space for
them to expand in the oven.

Now, drizzle a spoonful of conserve
over each meringue and swirl
into the mixture using the point
of the spoon. Score the edges to
resemble the lines of a nest.

Put the trays in the oven and leave
for several hours or until crisp
on the outside and 'hollow' when
tapped on the bottom. It should
take between 4 – 6 hours.
Now turn the oven off and leave
the meringues in there to cool
completely.

Fill the nests with extra Bonne
Maman conserve or compote plus
yoghurt, ice cream or whipped
cream. Decorate with mini
pastel Easter eggs, curls of white
chocolate or edible flowers such as
primroses and violets.

HAZELNUT CHOCOLATE THICK-SHAKE ★

INGREDIENTS

200g Bonne Maman Hazelnut Chocolate Spread
 400ml milk or milk substitute
 465ml tub vanilla ice-cream

To decorate

Whipped cream
 Chocolate shapes & curls



METHOD

Pop the Hazelnut Chocolate Spread jar - minus the metal lid - in a microwave and warm through for 10-15 seconds. Put a large tablespoonful in the bottom of two tall glass tumblers and swirl the spread around to make a marbled effect. Put the remaining spread and milk in a blender and whizz until smooth. Add about half the ice-cream and whizz again until smooth. Pour into the glasses and top with scoops of the remaining ice-cream, swirls of whipped cream and chocolate decorations.



HOT CROSS CHOCOLATE MUFFINS ★



INGREDIENTS

145g mixed dried fruit or sultanas and raisins
 1 large orange (grated zest and juice)
 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
 1 tsp mixed spice
 190g self-raising flour
 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
 100g butter, melted
 125ml buttermilk
 1 egg
 100g golden caster sugar
 Bonne Maman Hazelnut Chocolate Spread

To decorate

Vanilla frosting or icing sugar

METHOD

Heat the oven to 180°C, 160°C fan, gas 4. Line a muffin tin with 6 deep 'tulip' cases.

Put the dried fruit in a small bowl with the orange rind and zest, spices and a good pinch of salt. Leave to soak for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, put the next six ingredients in a bowl and stir well until evenly mixed then fold in the soaked fruit.

Put two generous tablespoons of muffin mixture in the base of each muffin case. Drop two teaspoons of Hazelnut Chocolate Spread on top then cover the spread with the remaining muffin mixture.

Bake for about 20-25 minutes or until well-risen and firm to the touch.

To make a cross on top, pipe or drizzle with frosting or a thick paste of icing sugar and water. Or drizzle with extra Hazelnut Chocolate Spread. ①





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Boredom-busting Easter Activities

With the Easter holidays just around the corner, it can be difficult for parents to cram these holidays with enough activities to stave off boredom, from egg hunts to creative crafts, here are five ways to keep your children busy over the Easter holidays. ►



Have an Easter egg hunt with a twist

Easter egg hunts are a classic activity that never fail to excite children. However, after a while, they can start to feel a bit repetitive and predictable. To add an extra element of fun and creativity, why not put an unexpected twist on the traditional egg hunt? There are plenty of ways to mix up your usual egg hunt, so consider giving one of the following a go:

- **Character egg hunt:**

Choose characters from your child's favourite film, book, or TV series to paint onto hard boiled eggs for them to find. You can even hide the eggs in places relevant to the character. For example, you could hang a Batman egg upside down from a tree, just like how real bats sleep.

- **Message decoding hunt:**

To add an extra challenge for older children, you could paint a letter on each egg to write a secret message hinting at where the real treasure is. Once your child has all of the eggs, they can work by themselves or with their siblings or friends to figure out the secret message and win a chocolate stash.

- **Physical challenges:**

A great way to have some fun and keep little ones active is to write a physical challenge on each egg for your child to complete before putting it in their basket. This could be anything from balance on one leg for as long as they can to hop like a bunny.

- **Rainbow eggs:**

Make a colourful egg hunt by hiding eggs of all colours of the rainbow. The winner can be the contestant who finds all colours of the rainbow first.

The great thing about an egg hunt is that the activity can be enjoyed no matter the weather. On sunny days you can get your little ones out and about in the garden with a pair of wellies or trainers, while on very rainy days you can plan a fun hunt indoors.



Visit the new spring lambs

Spring is the season known for new life, from baby chicks to, of course, lambs. So why not take this opportunity to take your little ones to visit the newly born spring lambs to teach them more about the beauty of spring nature and wildlife?

Many farms and petting zoos open their doors to visitors during the Easter holidays, offering the perfect opportunity for children to get up close and personal with these fluffy newcomers. Not only is it a delightful experience for kids to pet and feed the lambs, but it also provides valuable learning opportunities about animal care and the cycle of life.



"Many farms and petting zoos open their doors to visitors during the Easter holidays"

Get crafty with plant pots

A simple yet enjoyable activity for you and your kids to try out is decorating plant pots for planting spring flowers or herbs. You can pick up inexpensive terracotta pots from a garden centre or DIY store, or simply use pots you already have and zhuzh them up with acrylic paints, stickers, and other decorative materials.

Encourage your kids to let their imaginations run wild and paint their plant pot however they fancy. Not only does this activity provide a creative outlet, but it can also teach children about responsibility and nurturing as they care for the plants in their pots and watch them grow.



Forage and craft a spring wreath

If you're looking for an Easter activity that combines outdoor exploration with arts and crafts, foraging and crafting a spring wreath is the perfect option. Grab your walking boots and visit your local park or woodland and collect items such as twigs, branches, and fallen leaves.

Once you've gathered your materials, use a wire or straw wreath base as a foundation and let your children's imagination guide them as they arrange and decorate the wreath. You can incorporate traditional Easter symbols such as eggs, bunnies, and spring flowers, or let your kids come up with their own unique designs. Not only does this activity encourage creativity and appreciation for nature, but it also results in a beautiful decoration to hang proudly on your front door or mantelpiece.



Set up an Easter-themed obstacle course

For a high-energy and outdoor activity that will keep kids entertained for hours (and no doubt tire them out!), create an Easter-themed obstacle course in your garden or at your local park. You can do this by using classic obstacle course items, such as hula hoops, cones, skipping ropes, and bean bags, to set up a series of challenges and obstacles inspired by Easter symbols such as eggs, bunnies, and chicks. Incorporate activities like egg and spoon races, bunny hops, and egg rolling competitions to add an extra touch of seasonal fun.

You can even award small prizes or chocolate treats to the winners to keep motivation levels high.



The Easter holidays can be a great opportunity for family bonding, allowing parents the opportunity to spend quality time with their children and create lasting memories. And planning in some seasonal activities is a great way to make the holidays extra special for children of all ages, as well as the parents. **f**



COACH LINDSAY

THE CRITICAL CRITTER IN THE BRAIN HOUSE

How to teach your kids about their inner critic

Kids need ease and fun when it comes to difficult tasks like challenging negative self-talk.

Have you ever heard your child say something like: “I’m not good at this,” or “I’m so stupid,” or “It’s all my fault,” or “I shouldn’t have even tried.” Perhaps some kids don’t say these things out loud, but maybe they refrain from doing certain activities or speaking up in school because they’ve already convinced themselves they’re not good enough. Over time, these behaviours can grow into our inner critic.

I like to refer to the inner critic as “The Critical Critter” to take some of the weight off. Exploring self-critical thoughts can often feel like heavy, exhausting work, so using a playful approach can help children bring a certain amount of lightness to balance out the heavy work of noticing unhelpful habits and challenging or approaching them differently.

The character of the inner critic as a “Critter” helps children understand when they are too hard on themselves and also the crucial lesson that thoughts are not facts. Just because we think we’re rubbish at something doesn’t make it true.

So, how do you start a conversation with your children about the self-defeating, self-critical thoughts we all have running on repeat in the back of our minds?

Here is how I help children to understand their critical critters.

I talk about how the brain is like a house,

with an upstairs and a downstairs. This is a really simple way to help kids think about what’s happening inside their heads.

Having introduced the idea of the brain house, I tell children that we will add a rather scary, hairy, and un-fairy-like creature. You know your child, so make sure this makes sense to them. Some children may need lots of reassurance that this is just pretend - “there aren’t really characters living in our brain” - whilst others may love the opportunity to run wild with imagination.

The Critical Critter in the Brain House

The Critical Critter lives in the upstairs brain house with the thinkers, problem solvers, planners, emotion regulators, creatives, and flexible and empathic types in the neocortex. To begin with, we may have yet to notice that the Critter has moved in. It may start with a quiet voice, occasionally speaking up with critical self-talk. But, the more we listen to its words, the bigger it grows. The Critical Critter is fed a diet of negative self-talk and unkind, unsupportive words from others. Each time we chew on harsh and unjustified criticism, it’s like giving the critter another burger to munch on. One day, we discover the critter has unpacked all its luggage and grown large



enough to throw its weight around. The critter has become a big bully, squashing hopes of self-compassion or kindness from the upstairs “thinking” characters. And, not content with that, it is also lurking downstairs in our feeling brain (the limbic system), telling us that we’re right to panic and flip our lid because everything will go wrong. And when it does, insists the Critter, we will be to blame because we’re useless.

Notice the Critical Critter in Action

Think of some examples to share with your child about what else the Critical Critter does. Choose examples that aren’t too stressful because if you make your kids feel too anxious, they may feed their Critter right then and there!

4 Ways Kids Can Shrink the Critical Critter

1) Ask your child to name their critter:

This may sound a bit silly, but it gives your child the space to separate the words and actions of the critter from their own and notice when the inner critic is at work. This gives them a better chance of taming harsh words (and avoiding catastrophising thoughts) that eventually build into habits of rumination. It doesn’t matter what they call the Critter, just as long as it makes sense to them.

2) Take the BFF test: You might notice the Critter creeping around your child on tough days. They start being really hard on themselves. “It’s all my fault we lost the game.” When you spot this, ask them: “Would you speak like this to your best friend?” If the answer is “no,” it’s time to squash that negative self-talk and encourage them to be their own BFF (Best Friend Forever). Ask them to think about what they would say to a friend in a similar position and how they would say it. Regularly practising this exercise will help them take responsibility for their actions while building self-compassion.

3) Answer back: You may spend a lot of time encouraging your child not to answer back, but when it comes to the Critter, they need to boss them back. When you notice the Critter sneakily chanting, “This’ll never work; you’ve always been useless at this,” encourage them to answer back. Use these sentences, and their Critter will be eating broccoli for a week!

“That’s enough out of you, Critter - I’m doing my best.”

“I can’t hear you, Critter; I’m too busy being amazing over here.”

“Maybe it didn’t work this time, Critter, but I’m giving it another go.”

4) Create a positive moments practice:

Being under attack from the Critter is challenging and, for some kids, can feel relentless. It can make kids question themselves and their abilities. To cope with this relentless criticism, kids must find things they like about themselves. Each day, help your child find time to notice the things that went well because of them, no matter how small they are. Ask them what went well today and help them to find the positive moments in their day. Encouraging a regular practice of gratitude is a great way to build resilience and self-compassion and keep the Critter quiet! **i**



*Sending you all love and light.
Go gently on yourselves.*
Coach Lindsay x





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Q. What kind of art can you create?



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Q. What is the gardener called in Peter Rabbit?



WIN



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Q. How many new bears are there?

WIN

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Q. How many games can you win?





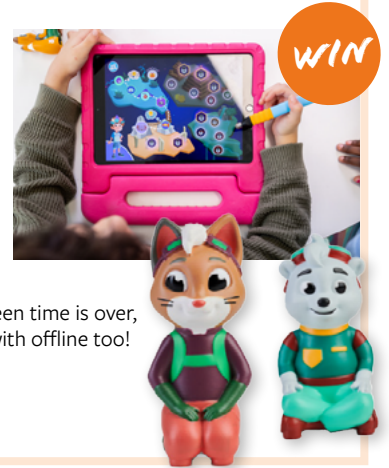
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Q. How many books are included in the bundle?

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Q. Can you play offline?

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Q. What kind of disco will be on at Glampfest?



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Q. Who created Peter Rabbit?

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FAMILY'S EASTER PUZZLES



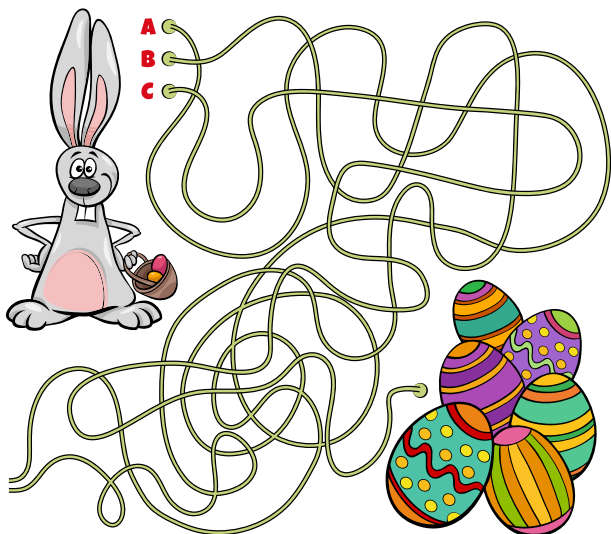
How many Easter Bunnies can you spot?

Spot the 7 Differences

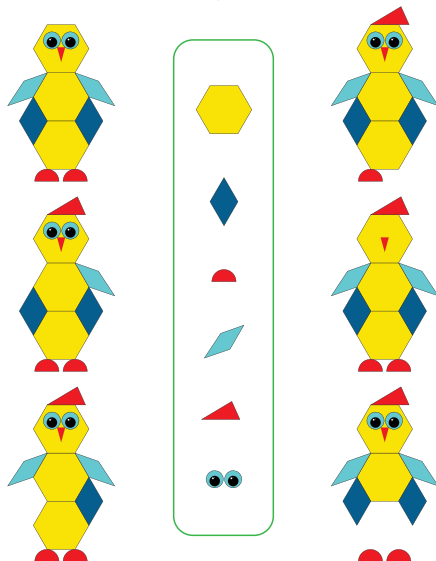


Find The Way

Help the Easter Bunny find the eggs



Can you connect the missing parts?



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Wizarding Adventure

3 Apr, 19, 30 May, 16, 29
Aug, 23 Oct 2024

Enjoy an interactive
magical experience on a
steam train.



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

DINO ADVENTURE

2 Apr, 15, 28
Aug 2024

Meet a herd of baby
dinosaurs and their
friends on a time
travelling train.



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

TRAVEL TO WONDERLAND

11 April, 9, 30 Aug 2024

Take a tumble down the
rabbit hole with Alice and
friends.



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

VILLAIN ACADEMY

31 May 2024

Join your favourite baddies
for mischief and mayhem on
a dastardly day out.



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MEET
PETER RABBIT™
AT INTERVALS ON
31ST MARCH &
1ST APRIL 2024

THOMAS
& FRIENDS
DAY OUT
THOMAS



POP'ON
BOARD!

4 - 6 May 2024
EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

TICKETS:

DayOutWithThomas.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE: WWW.EASTLANCSRAILWAY.ORG.UK



WHAT'S ON GUIDE

MARCH • APRIL • MAY

HALLÉ FAMILY CONCERT

Elgar



The musical story of the Enigma Variations ?



Sunday 19 May, 12pm
at The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Fun, lively and sometimes a little bit cheeky, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* is one of the most famous pieces of music ever written for a symphony orchestra.

Elgar wrote a musical theme based on his own personality 'the Enigma' and then developed Enigma Variations to represent each of his friends and family. There is even a variation about a barking bulldog falling into a lake!

Presenter Tom Redmond, known for his energetic style and silly costumes, joins the Hallé's Music Director, Sir Mark Elder to bring Elgar's Enigma Variations to life!

Before we start:

Join us for free exciting pre-concert activities in The Bridgewater Hall foyers from 10.30am.

0161 907 9000 • halle.co.uk/family-concerts

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MARCH

Sat 23rd

DUCK RACE AT KELBROOK

Kelbrook & Sough Village Hall, Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook

Come along and watch the antics of the plastic ducks bobbing down the beck with a delicious lunch in the village hall. Fun for all the family. All day. kelbrookvillagehall.org.uk

COLNE SATURDAY LEGO CLUB

Colne Library, Market Street, Colne
Calling all master builders and Lego enthusiasts! Come share your passion and amazing creations for children and young people at Lego Club. Children under eight must be accompanied. Every Sat 10 am - 3 pm. Drop in. Free. From 23 March-20 July. lancashire.gov.uk

EASTER BUNNY TRAIL

Skipton Town Centre

Ten giant Easter Bunnies have been hidden around the town centre. All the bunnies have been lovingly decorated by schools and youth groups in the Skipton area. Collect the trail from the special leaflet dispensers in the Town Hall foyer and Craven Court. Follow the trail on the map, find the names of all the beautiful bunnies, and then post your completed forms in the special boxes in Craven Court, the Town Hall, and Teddy Boutique. Until April 7th. Free. welcometoskipton.com

Sun 24th

HALLÉ YOUTH ENSEMBLES CELEBRATION

The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester

This concert will celebrate the wonderful ensembles, including the Hallé Youth Orchestra and Youth Choir, celebrating their 21st birthday by demonstrating their ability to perform at the highest level. £13 full price. £6 full-time education. £10.50 under 30s, over 60s and claimants. 7 pm. halle.co.uk

Wed 27th

GIGGLESWICK RAILWAY CIRCLE: DW CASTLE SHOW NO.3 FROM MANCHESTER VICTORIA ON L & Y LINES

Settle Victoria Hall, Kirkgate, Settle
Tonight, with images from the D W

Castle collection, we will be near home with a trip on Lancashire and Yorkshire lines. £5.730 pm to 10 pm. settlevictoriahall.org.uk

Thurs 28th

THE CASE OF THE MISSING BUNNY

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

Story Craft loves a good twist, and its Easter show certainly takes you on a wild goose chase. Well, Rabbit chase! 11 am & 2 pm. £7.50. All day. skiptontownhall.co.uk

Fri 29th

INTERNATIONAL JOUSTING TOURNAMENT

Royal Armouries Museum, Armouries Drive, Leeds

Teams from the United Kingdom, France and Italy will compete for honour and trophies in this spectacular live sporting event from medieval times. The museum opens at 10 am, and there are two tournament shows per day, starting at 11 am and 2 pm, featuring knights and horses, plus plenty of pomp and pageantry. £5 - £20. 29 March to 1 April. royalarmouries.org

TOP SECRET -THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Blackburn Empire Theatre, Aqueduct Rd, Blackburn

Top Secret is fun and entertaining for the whole family to enjoy, inspiring and educating every young budding magician and scientist. Adult £13.50, child £11.50, family £31.50. 2.30 pm. blackburnempire.com

Sat 30th

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM

Yorkshire Air Museum, Halifax Way, Elvington, York

It is recommended that you take three or four hours over your visit to appreciate the museum exhibits and the aircraft and vehicle displays that make up this historically accurate RAF Bomber Base. Closed Wed. Various prices. Standard tickets offer free re-entry for 12 months. From 30 March-31 May. yorkshireairmuseum.org

EASTER IN COLNE 2024

Colne Town Centre, Colne

Easter in Colne returns on Sat 30th March 2024, we have a fantastic day

in store for you filled with lots of family-friendly fun, including free face painting, free donkey rides, a free easter egg hunt, a free visit from the Easter Bunny, funfair rides plus so much more! A great family day out. 11 am to 4 pm. allevents.in

Sun 31st

PETER RABBIT FAMILY FUN DAY

The East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street Station, Bury

Come and see Peter Rabbit at intervals throughout the day. There will be even more family fun with three theme park rides suitable for toddlers, face painters and craft activities. Complete your day out with a ride along a heritage steam or diesel trains through Irwell Valley. Ticket price includes a ride on any train services on the day of your visit. Adult £20. Child 2-17 £17.50. quaytickets.com

SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Dukes, Moor Lane, Lancaster

From the Producers of David Walliams' "Mr Stink", Sam Bradshaw Productions presents Spot's Birthday Party. With party hats, songs, dancing and lots of interactive party games, this is going to be the best birthday party ever! £14. 11 am. dukeslancaster.org

APRIL

Mon 1st



HEBDEN BRIDGE DUCK RACE

Hebden Bridge Town Centre

Easter Monday brings Duckmania to Hebden Bridge in the form of the annual Duck Race, organised by the Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge. Throughout the day there is a variety of entertainment, including children's rides, charity stalls and live music from a local bands. It's a fun day out for all the family. £1. visitalcalderdale.com

Wed 3rd

THE WIZARDING ADVENTURE

The East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street Station, Bury

It's time to sign up to our spellbinding school of sorcery as you take a wacky and wonderful whistle stop tour of the Wizard Academy and learn to become a master of mystery and magic. Adult £20. Adult with Child Under 2 £20. Child 2-17 £17.50. quaytickets.com

FIREMAN SAM
LIVE!



THE GREAT CAMPING ADVENTURE

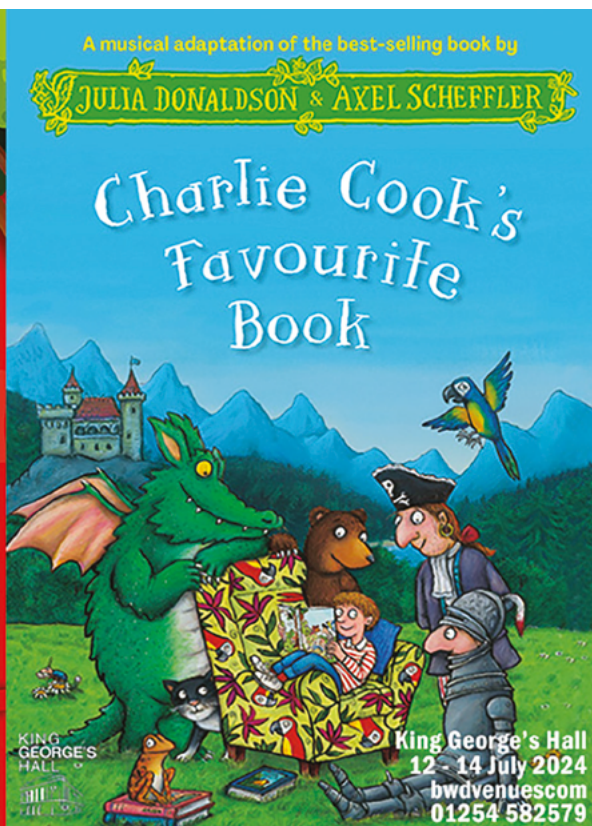
A SPECTACULAR NEW LIVE SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY

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A musical adaptation of the best-selling book by
JULIA DONALDSON & AXEL SCHEFFLER

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King George's Hall
12 - 14 July 2024
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Spooky gifts from the heart of Pendle Witch Country

All kinds of deliciously devilish merchandise, from gruesome gift ideas to terrifying treats. Take a look around to discover our full range of spooky specialities...

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For parties wishing to visit outside normal hours please ring
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YOU HEAR A CARELESS WHISPER FROM A PINK PANTHER



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ALL AGES CATERED FOR

Fri 5th

ROBIN HOOD

Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Road, Burnley

Prepare yourself for an all-singing, all-dancing, laugh-a-minute ride through the fun and frolics of panto land. Star cast to be announced! 2 pm & 6 pm. £16/£18. All day. blcgroup.co.uk

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

Albert Halls, Victoria Square, Bolton
Roll up, roll up one and all for the Bolton's Easter pantomime as Ringo the ring boy brings Circus Wonderland to the village of Boltondale. Starring panto favourites Rebecca Lake as Goldilocks and Andrew Curphey as Ringo. £15, 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. alberthalls-bolton.co.uk

Sat 6th

FAMILY ANTICS AT THE MUSEUM

The Whitaker Museum & Art Gallery, Haslington Road, Rossendale
Join us for our April antics and expect the un-'egg'-spected with some Easter-themed crafts and activities. 11 am & 1 pm, booking required. Recommended for age 6+. £3. All day. thewhitaker.org

PICKERING SPRING MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

Memorial Hall, 34 Potter Hill, Pickering
Scarborough and District Railway Modellers bring a family-friendly event to you. This takes place during the Easter Holidays. We will have three floors of model railways, demonstrators and traders. With disabled access to all areas. £7 for adults, children free when accompanied by an adult. 6-7 April. sdrmw.co.uk

Sun 7th

STEAMING DAY AT BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM

Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, Gillians Lane, Barnoldswick
On these days, you can see our Engines and looms in operation. We have guided tours explaining the history of the mill and the museum, and we aim to answer as many of your questions as possible. On Steaming Days, our café offers hot and cold drinks, cakes, and free parking. Adult £6, concs £5, ages 6 - 14 yrs £3. Family £15, children under 6 - Free. 11 am to 4 pm. bancroftmill.org.uk

Mon 8th

OVER THE RAINBOW

Blackburn Empire Theatre, Aqueduct Rd, Blackburn

It truly is a charming show celebrating the wonderful music and careers of Judy Garland and her daughter Liza Minnelli, including all of Judy and Liza's most memorable songs. £18. 2.30 pm. blackburnempire.com

Wed 10th

STORM THE CASTLE

East Lancashire Railway, 23a Bolton St, Bury
4079 "Pendennis Castle" will be visiting the East Lancashire Railway in Spring 2024, courtesy of Didcot Railway Centre, as part of her 100th anniversary celebrations! This historic steam locomotive was built in 1924 for the Great Western Railway and was well known for easily outperforming its rivals in speed and efficiency. Standard fares apply. 10-28 April. eastlancsrailway.org.uk

Thurs 11th

FIREMAN SAM THE GREAT CAMPING ADVENTURE

King George's Hall, Northgate, Blackburn
Brand new for 2024. Norman wants to go on an adventure to impress his friends, so when two famous animal explorers arrive in Pontypandy, he decides to follow them into the mountains. 12.30 pm & 3.30 pm. £17.50 - £19. All day. bwdvenues.com

TRAVEL TO WONDERLAND

East Lancashire Railway, 23a Bolton St, Bury
Your adventure includes a steam train ride from Bury to Rawtenstall and back, a roughly two-hour curious adventure through Wonderland with Alice and her friends, with colourful characters, themed activities and plenty of photo opportunities. £17.50 - £21. All day. eastlancsrailway.org.uk

Fri 12th

SHARK IN THE PARK

The Dukes, Moor Lane, Lancaster
From the creative team behind 'The Hairy Maclary Show' and 'You Choose' - see all 3 of Nick Sharratt's 'Shark in the Park' books live on Stage! 12th Apr, 1pm & 4pm, 13th Apr, 11 am & 1 pm. £14. dukeslancaster.org

**THE DINO ADVENTURE**

The East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street Station, Bury
Have you ever wanted to pet a pachycephalosaurus, get together with a Triceratops or tickle a T-Rex under the chin? Now's your chance. Join the intrepid explorers on an adventure of Jurassic proportions as they give you the opportunity to get up close and personal with our baby dinosaurs. £17.50-£20. eastlancsrailway.org.uk

Sat 13th

NICK COPE'S FAMILY SHOW

The Met, Market Street, Bury
Nick Cope is a children's musician and songwriter who ignites children's imaginations with his songs and animations. His CBeebies show Nick Cope's Popcast has won him fans across the UK. Ages 3+. 11 am & 2 pm. £18. All day. themet.org.uk

Mon 15th

ART & CRAFTS

Colne Citadel, 10 Market Place, Colne
Arts and Crafts at Colne Citadel, Mondays 12 pm - 1.30 pm. All are welcome. Mondays 12 pm - 1.30 pm. For further details, contact Jolene at 07742883312 or Jolene@colnecitadel.co.uk. 12 pm to 1.30 pm. colnecitadel.co.uk

Tues 16th

WICKED

The Alhambra Theatre, Morley Street, Bradford
"One of the most successful musicals of all time" (BBC News), Wicked has been casting its magical spell worldwide for two decades. Various times & prices. 16 April to 19 May. bradford-theatres.co.uk



Golden Anniversary Year

Celebrate 50 years in Burnley with a whole host of events & activities this year..



20TH
APRIL

Golden Anniversary Ball



EASTER

Dinosaurs

Come to Shores Hey Farm



The Cafe Events

Heart-warming dining experiences



Dog events

Novelty Dog Shows and Woof Shack meet-ups



Summer Events

Join us this summer for some fun activities including Own a Pony Days, Pony Grooming, Summer Trails, Crafts and more!



MAY &
JUNE

Table Top Sale

Find a bargain with our Baby & Children's Table Top Sale

For more information

Call 01282 455992/ email enquiries@happa.org.uk or scan the QR code



Wed 17th

CHARLIE COOK'S FAVOURITE BOOK

The Grand Theatre, St. Leonardsgate, Lancaster

Based on the original book Charlie Cook's Favourite Book – written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. Come and delve into a range of books with Charlie Cook, brought to life with puppetry and enchanting songs. Various times. Adult £15, child £13. 17-18 April. lancastergrand.co.uk

EARLY YEARS EXPLORERS: APRIL 2024

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton
Through these explorative play sessions, we aim to foster a sense of wonder and appreciation for our rich cultural heritage. By engaging in hands-on activities, our little ones will better understand different cultures, traditions, and artistic expressions worldwide. Ages 5 and under. £3. 10 am to 12 pm. skiptontownhall.co.uk

OPEN EVENT – NELSON AND COLNE COLLEGE

Nelson & Colne College, Scotland Road, Nelson

Get ready for our Year 8, 9 and 10 Open Event, where you'll get a taste of the incredible opportunities awaiting you at Nelson and Colne College! Mark your calendar for Wed 17th April, and dive into an immersive experience where you can engage with our enthusiastic tutors. They'll guide you through various options tailored to your unique talents and ambitions. 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm. <https://www.nelson.ac.uk/>

Fri 19th

MARK THOMPSON'S SPECTACULAR SCIENCE SHOW

Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds
Awarded 'Best Kid's Show at Edinburgh Fringe' by The Derek Awards, this interactive show promises to entertain and educate in the most spectacular way! If you think science is boring, think again; this is science like you have never seen before. £17/£15. 6 pm. spectacularscienceshow.com

Sat 20th

THE HALLÉ IN BLACKBURN

The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley

Street, Manchester

Tonight, the musical stars of the movie world get their chance to shine on the King George's Hall stage as the Hallé and its Associate Conductor Stephen Bell, West End sensation Anna-Jane Casey, and sitar player Roopa Panesar showcase the role of the orchestra through some of the most breathtaking cinematic scores ever written for Oscar-winning films. £8.50 to £27.50. 7.30 pm. halle.co.uk

Sun 21st

COLNE DAFFODIL AND SPRING FLOWER SHOW

North Valley Community Centre, Colne
Have you got any spring flower shoots peeping through? You can enter your daffodils, hyacinths or tulips in the Colne Daffodil and Spring Flower Show. Novice classes are for first-timers, and championship classes are for experienced growers. North Valley Community Centre. facebook.com/colnehorticulture

Sat 27th

CONSTRUCTION CLUB

The Atkinson Children's Library, Southport Library

Young inventors, creators and builders are invited to drop in and play with the library's massive supply of LEGO. Admission is free. Please note last entry is at 12 pm. theatkinson.co.uk



MAY

Wed 1st

THE FORBIDDEN CORNER

The Forbidden Corner, Tuppill Park Estate, Middleham, Leyburn
A unique labyrinth of tunnels, chamber follies and surprises, created in a four-acre walled garden in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. A day out with a difference that will challenge and delight children of all ages. Booking essential. See the website for dates & times. 1 May to 30 June. theforbiddencorner.co.uk

LANCASTER CASTLE

LANCASTER CASTLE, Castle Parade, Lancaster

See history come alive in the heart of Lancaster. England's dark history, with tales of persecution, incarceration, punishment and execution, has been lived out over the centuries within the confines of Lancaster Castle. Adult £8, concs £6.50, family £22.50. 1 May to 30 June. lancastercastle.com

Thurs 2nd

TODDLERS RETREAT

Trinity Baptist Church, Colne

This service provides mums and dads with a safe play environment where toddlers can be left for up to two hours while appointments, jobs, and shopping can be done. Anyone with a baby or child not yet walking can come along to stay and play. £1 per child per session. All our staff are full CRB checked and on site first aider is at hand. Mon & Thurs 9.15am - 11.15am. For more details, contact John & Linda Caddy. Tel: 01282 866579. 9.15 am to 11.15 am. trinitybaptistchurch.org.uk

Sat 4th

SALTAIRE ARTS TRAIL

Saltire Village

Explore the Open Village to see high-quality, contemporary artwork in the unique spaces of Saltire, in homes, businesses, creative spaces and windows. Visit the Saltire Makers Fair at Victoria Hall, with over 65 exhibitors showcasing fresh, contemporary art, craft and design, and check out our busy programme of exhibitions, activities and workshops. From 4 May to 6 May. <https://saltaireinspired.org.uk/>

DIPPY CRAFT FAIR ILKLEY

Clarke Foley Hall, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley

Dippy Designs Gifts & Events are coming to Clarke Foley Hall at Ilkley! A fabulous craft fair with 30 stalls, visitors' free entry, and an onsite café. 10 am to 4 pm. facebook.com/dippydesignsgifts

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

The East Lancashire Railway, Bolton

Take a trip on Sodor's number one tank engine and meet Sir Topham Hatt on this spectacular day out with Thomas. It's all aboard the famous blue steam train for a magical ride on Thomas

the Tank Engine at the ELR. The steam team's number one blue engine – Thomas himself – is waiting for you on the East Lancashire Railway, for one great big adventure! Adult: £22.70, Child 2-17: £13.50, Child Under 2: FREE. eastlancsrailway.org.uk

Sun 5th

LAWN MOWER RACING

Thornton Hall Country Park, Thornton-in-Craven

Bank holiday weekend sees a return of the unique and amazing lawn mower racing at Thornton Hall Country Park. Reaching speeds of up to 50mph, teams (of professionals – do not try this at home!) race around the track on lawnmowers that they have built for the race – a brilliant day out for the family and something different to enjoy! 10 am – 4.30 pm. Adult: £9.95. Child: £14.95. thorntonhallfarm.co.uk

Tues 7th

LET'S PLAY SCRABBLE

Colne Library, Market Street, Colne
Scrabble and other traditional board games are enjoying growing popularity in our digital age. Why not come and enjoy a game of Scrabble with good company and a cuppa? Every Tues 2 pm to 4 pm. Free, drop in. events.apps.lancashire.gov.uk

Sat 11th

SCARECROW TRAIL & GIFT FAIR

Kelbrook & Sough Village Hall, Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook

This year, the theme for The Scarecrow Trail is "Children's Books." Also, gift fair in the village hall. 11th-12th May. kelbrookvillagehall.org.uk

INGLEBOROUGH CAVE

Ingleborough Cave, Ingleborough
An underground experience for the whole family. Truly magnificent displays of stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones, pillars, fossils and other spectacular features. Adult £13, child £6.50, family £37. senior citizen £11.50. £2.50 per adult & £1 per child (3-15) for Ingleborough Estate Nature Trail, which is the most direct route to the cave. 11 May- 30 June. ingleboroughcave.co.uk



Sun 19th

STEAMING DAY

Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, Gillians Lane, Barnoldswick

On these days, you can see the engines and looms in operation. There are guided tours that explain the history of the mill and the museum, and they aim to answer as many of your questions as we can. On Steaming Days, the café offers hot and cold drinks, cakes, and free parking. Adult £6, concs £5, ages 6-14 years £3. family £15, children under 6 – Free. 11 am to 4 pm. bancroftmill.org.uk

THE MUSICAL STORY OF ENIGMA

The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester

Fun, lively and sometimes a little bit cheeky, Elgar's Enigma Variations is one of the most famous pieces of music ever written for a symphony orchestra. 12 pm. £23 full price. £13 children (aged 16 and under). halle.co.uk

Sat 25th

VINTAGE 1940s WEEKEND

East Lancashire Railway, 23a Bolton St, Bury

In 2024, the weekend will centre around the social and musical backdrop of life in Britain in the 1940s. They want to recreate the hope, the celebrations, the music of those bygone days, and the enormous pride everyone felt and continues to feel for the British and Allied forces for their sacrifice. 25-27 May. eastlancsrailway.org.uk

BEATRIX

Lowther Pavilion, Lowther Terrace, Lytham St, Annes

A promenade theatre production about Beatrix Potter. Enjoy the surroundings of the beautiful Lowther Gardens in the company of Peter Rabbit, Jemima, Jeremy Fisher and Squirrel Nutkins. 11.30 am & 2.30 pm. £10.25 May to 2 June. lowtherpavilion.co.uk

MEET THE GOVERNOR

Skipton Castle, Skipton

Come and meet Sir John Mallory, Governor of Skipton Castle, during the English Civil War. Hear about the castle's siege and skirmishes its garrison has already fought and how the King's cause is faring in Yorkshire. 25 May to 26 May. skiptoncastle.co.uk

DINO LIVE

Thornton Hall Country Park, Thornton-in-Craven

Become a member of the Dino: Live Institute and learn how to become a dinosaur ranger. In this 30-minute stage show, meet the baby dinosaurs, see the huge dinosaurs, and learn the Dino Dance! 10 am—4.30 pm. Adult: £9.95. Child: £14.95. thorntonhallfarm.co.uk

Tues 28th

MILKSHAKE LIVE ON HOLIDAY

St. George's Hall, Bradford

Join your favourite Milkshake! friends on Holiday with Dora, Pip and Posey, Blue from Blues Clues and You!, Milo, Milkshake! Monkey plus two of your Milkshake! presenters for an all-new adventure! Noon & 3.30 pm. £20.25. All day. bradford-theatres.co.uk

HIGH JINX

Albert Halls, Victoria Square, Bolton

A show jam-packed with amazing tricks, grand illusions and crazy circus thrills, presented by Michael Jordan and the fantastic High Jinx dancers. Adult £12, family £45. 2 pm to 4 pm. alberthalls-bolton.co.uk

Fri 31st

VILLAIN ACADEMY

The East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street Station, Bury

Join a rogue's gallery of vile villains on a journey to complete a dastardly quest. During this devilishly delightful interactive experience, you'll meet a host of cads and bounders from your favourite stories. It's the perfect adventure for the whole family. £15.50-£20. quaytickets.com



the **Dukes** **FAMILY FESTIVAL**



CINEMA, THEATRE, STORY TELLING
AND WORKSHOPS



2024 LINEUP

31st MARCH - 13th APRIL

31 MARCH

3 APRIL

6 APRIL

10 APRIL

11 APRIL

12 & 13 APRIL

SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

THE (NOT SO) BIG BAD WOLF

CLAYTIME

CLUB ORIGAMI

MARCEL LUCONT'S- LES ENFANT

TERRIBLES: A GAME SHOW FOR

AWFUL CHILDREN

SHARK IN THE PARK



Scan here to learn more!

dukeslancaster.org | 01524 598500



Welcome
Skipton

Easter Bunny Trail

March 23rd – April 7th 2024

There are 10 Easter Bunnies hidden around Skipton, find them all for the chance to win an Easter Hamper

Collect your trail leaflets from Skipton Town Hall or Craven Court. Once completed, return and post them in the boxes to be entered into the prize draw.