

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blyth Celebrates: Free Festivals, Family Fun and Unmissable Creative Experiences

From August 2025 to March 2026, Blyth town centre will come alive with a vibrant programme of free events, festivals, live performances, hands-on activities and creative experiences for all ages – all part of **Blyth Celebrates**. From a giant inflatable sculpture and a vintage market to a lantern parade, a fire garden and pop-up cinema events, there'll be something for everyone to enjoy.

Councillor Wendy Pattison, Cabinet Member for Sport and Culture at Northumberland County Council said: "We're delighted to be closely involved with this fabulous project through our £95m Energising Blyth programme.

"Blyth Celebrates is about bringing people together, showcasing creativity, and making unforgettable memories right here in the town.

"It's about putting creativity at the heart of the town's regeneration, and we're thrilled to invite everyone to get involved."

Blyth Celebrates Launch Weekend will kick things off in August. Produced by Blyth Town Council, ASP Events and outdoor arts experts Walk the Plank, this exciting weekend of live music and creative workshops will take place on the newly redeveloped Market Place and coincide with the grand opening of Blyth's new Market Pavilion – a cinema, events and socialising venue in the heart of the town.

The weekend will end with a spectacular finale: the **People Powered Parade**, produced by Walk the Plank. A dazzling procession led by a life-sized, bicycle-powered replica of Stephenson's Rocket - brought to life by local residents, will wind through the town centre before finishing at the Market Place for a special closing event full of music and surprises.

In September, **Vintage Blyth** will invite visitors to step back in time as the Market Place transforms into a treasure trove of retro style, upcycled goods, live music and traditional funfair rides, produced by ASP Events. Meanwhile, **Salt & Smoke: Stories of Blyth**, produced by award-winning, Northumberland-based company Novo Theatre (formerly November Club), will offer immersive walking tours filled with live storytelling and unforgettable characters that reveal Blyth's past, present, and future.

October will bring a half-term full of play, creativity and discovery. Visitors will be able to explore **Luminarium** - a stunning inflatable sculpture featuring glowing tunnels and

colourful spaces, created by international artists Architects of Air. Continuing the fun, **Let's Play**, produced by Blyth Town Council, will fill the Market Place with energetic games, pop-up fun, and playful challenges for all ages.

The week will end with a spooky twist, as families will be invited to make their own puppets before joining in the spook-tacular **Halloween Parade** outside on the Market Place, also produced by Blyth Town Council.

As the nights grow darker, **Earth, Wind & Fire Garden** will light up Ridley Park in November. Produced by Walk the Plank, this spectacular Fire Garden will mix sculpture, sound, water and flame in a breathtaking display. The weekend will begin with a magical lantern parade, created by Blyth-based Headway Arts.

In late November, Blyth's much-loved **Christmas Lights Switch-On** will return, presented by Blyth Town Council in partnership with Blyth Celebrates. It will kick off a month of festive fun with live performances, music and family-friendly entertainment. Visitors will be able to enjoy magical pop-ups, surprise moments and an enchanting Advent Trail across the town centre.

There'll be plenty more to come in 2026. February will see the launch of the **Blyth Film Festival**, bringing movie magic to both familiar and unexpected places around the town. In March, Blyth Celebrates will wrap up in style with the **Festival of Energy** – a high-voltage weekend of interactive exhibits and talks that shine the spotlight on Blyth's global leadership in clean energy innovation. This finale will be delivered in partnership with Port of Blyth, ORE Catapult, Energy Central Campus, and Newcastle University.

Alongside these headline events, Blyth Celebrates will also support unique events, artist commissions and community projects through the Blyth Celebrates Fund – giving artists, organisations and community groups the chance to bring their creative ideas to life.

Blyth Celebrates is part of Energising Blyth, a £95 million regeneration programme to renew, grow and connect the town. It is being delivered by Northumberland County Council, funded by the UK Government, Northumberland County Council and North East Combined Authority, with support from other partners.

To find out more or get involved, visit www.blythcelebrates.co.uk. Sign up to the mailing list to receive early updates on events, behind-the-scenes stories and ways to get involved.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Blyth Celebrates

Blyth Celebrates is putting creativity at the heart of Blyth's regeneration. Launching in Summer 2025, it will bring the community together through festivals, events, and activities that showcase the town's heritage and future. With opportunities for residents,

artists, and businesses to get involved, Blyth Celebrates will create a vibrant, welcoming town centre and a lasting legacy for all.

About Market Pavilion

Market Pavilion is a new landmark venue in the heart of Blyth, designed to bring people together through film, events, and social experiences. At its core it is a state-of-the-art luxury three-screen cinema operated by Jam Jar Cinema, offering a world-class, affordable film experience. The venue also features a stylish lounge bar, a welcoming café, and Studio 25—a flexible performance and event space hosting everything from live music and comedy to markets and exhibitions. Overlooking the revitalised Market Place, Market Pavilion is set to become a vibrant destination for entertainment, creativity, and community connection.

www.marketpavilion.co.uk

Energising Blyth

Blyth Celebrates is part of Energising Blyth, a £95 million regeneration programme to renew, grow and connect the town. It is being delivered by Northumberland County Council, funded by the UK Government, Northumberland County Council and North East Combined Authority, with support from other partners.

For the full event listings, visit: www.blythcelebrates.co.uk

Follow @NorthumberlandEvents on Facebook and @GreatNland on Instagram.

Full Listings: Blyth Celebrates – What's On August 2025 to March 2026

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August

Blyth Celebrates Launch Weekend

Produced by Blyth Town Council, ASP Events & Walk the Plank

Celebrate the exciting transformation of the Market Place and the grand opening of Blyth's new Market Pavilion with a weekend of live music, creative workshops, performances, and storytelling. Don't miss the spectacular *People Powered Parade*, led by a life-sized, bicycle-powered replica of Stephenson's Rocket.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 September

Vintage Blyth

Produced by ASP Events

Step back in time as the Market Place transforms into a vintage wonderland. Celebrate vintage style with upcycling, handmade treasures - plus traditional funfair rides, market stalls, live music, and more.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 September

Salt & Smoke: Stories of Blyth

Produced by Novo Theatre (formerly November Club)

Walk the streets and uncover Blyth's past, present and future through captivating live storytelling and unforgettable characters.

Locations: Route starts at the Market Place, Blyth

Saturday 25 to Tuesday 28 October

Luminarium

Produced by Architects of Air

Enjoy a fun-filled half-term of free play, creativity and discovery inside *Myriad*, a luminous inflatable sculpture. Take off your shoes, step through an airlock, and explore a unique world of light and wonder.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

Thursday 30 October

Let's Play

Produced by Blyth Town Council

Get ready to move, jump, run, and play! Join us for a full day of family fun with high-energy activities, pop-up games, and plenty of chances to get active together.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

Friday 31 October

Halloween Parade

Produced by Blyth Town Council

Get ready for a spooktacular day of puppet making and creativity. Design your own Halloween puppet, then strut your spooky stuff in a boo-tifully fun Halloween Parade.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

Friday 14 & Saturday 15 November

Earth, Wind & Fire Garden

Produced by Walk the Plank.

Lantern Parade by Headway Arts

Step into a world where fire and light meet water and wind, as Ridley Park is transformed into a glowing fire garden. The experience begins on Friday night with a magical lantern parade.

Location: Ridley Park, Blyth

Saturday 22 November

Christmas Lights Switch On

A Blyth Town Council event

In partnership with Blyth Celebrates

Join the town's festive celebration as Blyth lights up for Christmas! This much-loved annual event returns with added sparkle.

Location: Market Place, Blyth

December 2025

Celebrate Christmas in Blyth

Produced by Blyth Town Council

Get into the Christmas spirit this December. Enjoy weekly festive fun, an enchanting Advent Trail, and look out for special Christmas treats across the town.

Locations: Across Blyth town centre

February 2026

Blyth Film Festival

From indie gems to family favourites, enjoy the magic of film in familiar and unexpected places across town.

Locations: Multiple venues across Blyth town centre

March 2026

Festival of Energy

In partnership with Port of Blyth, ORE Catapult, Energy Central Campus & Newcastle University

Explore how Blyth is powering the future through a dynamic and interactive festival of events, exhibitions, talks, and behind-the-scenes experiences celebrating Blyth's role as a global leader in clean energy innovations.

Locations: Across Blyth town centre

And there's more to come!

Thanks to the Blyth Celebrates Fund, even more exciting events and pop-up surprises are on the way – brought to life by local groups, artists and creative partners.

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