

New exhibition celebrates Burnley's civic townscape – and looks forward to an ambitious new project

Burnley's proud, stonebuilt architecture is worth celebrating, and a new exhibition starting this week in the town centre does just that.

Kicking off three weeks of concentrated activity, **Rock Paper Scissors** opens on Thursday 19 June at **OneTwoThree**, the new high street creative space at 123 St James's Street.

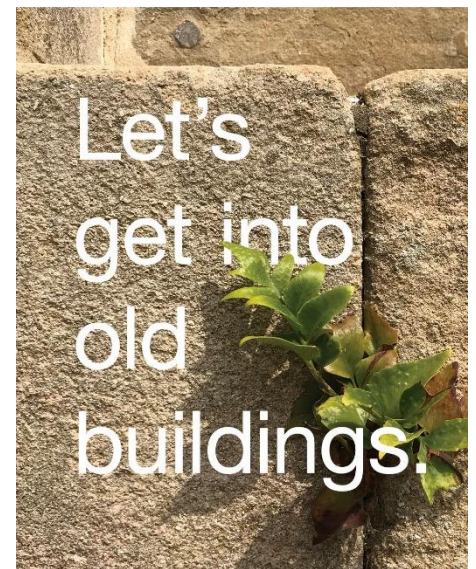
Rock Paper Scissors is a free exhibition, open Thursdays to Sundays, from 12 noon to 4pm, until 6 July. It is also a programme of FREE workshops and activity for all the family, both at **OneTwoThree** and at locations across the town centre. **Rock Paper Scissors** will take a playful approach to the theme of pride in Burnley's townscape, with something on offer for all ages. Visitors will have the chance to construct a paper building, as well as to offer their own thoughts and wishes for Burnley's future.

Rock Paper Scissors will also offer the opportunity to hear about an ambitious new project being developed and led by Burnley Council, setting out to engage the people of Burnley with our civic history by focusing on the built and social heritage within Burnley's Civic Core. This is an area of central Burnley which encompasses some remarkable buildings and spaces including the Mechanics Theatre, Central Library and Co-operative Buildings ... these are the proud, stone-built landmarks that mark out its 'civic core' and have a story to tell of Burnley's past, present and future.

The Council have gained support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop this project, called **High Five for Heritage**, and have been invited to submit a Delivery Phase Application. If successful then, a full, five-year project will kick off from spring 2026.

High Five for Heritage will conserve and safeguard some of our most precious buildings, reshape outdoor public spaces for culture and wellbeing, and involve as many local people as possible in helping shape their town for the future.

Rock Paper Scissors looks forward to that five-year vision. It has been conceived by the independent creative partners of Burnley Cultural Consortium, working together with Burnley Council to make this ambitious project a reality.



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Notes for Editors:

Where

OneTwoThree, Creative Spaces Burnley, 123 St James's Street, Burnley, BB11 1PP

Contact

Karen Green, Programme and Operations Director, Creative Spaces Burnley,
07803601882 or karen@karengreen.info

Photo and Interview Opportunity

Rock Paper Scissors will be available to photograph from Thursday 19th June 2025.

We can supply our own photographs on request. Please contact Karen Green (details above) for more information.

Creative Spaces Burnley (CSB)

Creative Spaces Burnley CIC is a not-for-profit community interest company that exists to provide empowering support, a place to belong and subsidised space for artists, with a particular focus on those people who have experienced prejudice and/or communities that have suffered from societal neglect.

OneTwoThree is a new artist-led space in the centre of Burnley and is the flagship building project of Creative Spaces Burnley. A recently restored shop front on St James's Street, part of the Empire Buildings, originally built by the Corporation of Burnley in the 1930s. Painstakingly restored, including all the original stained glass windows, through a partnership between ourselves, Burnley Borough Council and Historic England.

OneTwoThree acts as a central creative hub for Burnley's artist community, supporting organisations and audiences. After much hard work, Burnley's contemporary art community finally has its own place to meet, make, collaborate and share their work - we're ready to welcome members and the public alike.

www.creativespacesburnley.co.uk

Mid Pennine Arts:

MPA is a creative arts charity, established in Burnley since 1966, and now resident in OneTwoThree. MPA produces high quality creative work in response to the rich and diverse contexts of the North West. Our projects fuse the ancient and the modern, exploring heritage, celebrating local identity and reinforcing pride of place.

Mid Pennine Arts charity registration number 1145521

www.midpenninearts.org.uk

www.facebook.com/teamMPA

Burnley Cultural Consortium

The Consortium brings together a range of independent cultural partners, all committed to promoting the key role of the creative sector in the future of Burnley town centre. This project is led for the Consortium by a partnership of Mid Pennine Arts and Creative Spaces Burnley. Other Consortium members include Burnley Empire Trust, Ground Up, Burnley Leisure & Culture, Burnley BID, Burnley Library and freelance practitioners.

Burnley Council and High Five for Heritage

The Council in coordination with project partners is now preparing detailed plans for the project which will inform our Delivery Phase Application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

If our application is successful, the High Five for Heritage project will start in Spring 2026.

If you have any further questions or would like to find out more, please contact the Council at

business@burnley.gov.uk or the Development Team, Burnley Borough Council, 5th Floor, Town Hall, Manchester Rd BB11 9SA.