



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Holme Valley has a wonderfully rich and diverse heritage spanning centuries. Our vision is that this can be harnessed to contribute to the promotion of the town as a place where people want to spend time, enjoy the setting and the facilities, be with others and have fun.

Understanding and appreciating our heritage will help people develop a shared sense of place, form common bonds, strengthen community cohesion and contribute to individual and collective wellbeing.

Our long term vision is for a heritage centre which would provide the focal point, drawing together records, artifacts and visual representations of our heritage.

The successful Heritage Week in September 2025 has stimulated further interest in this vision.

We have new links with the national and Kirklees Heritage Open Days groups and stronger partnerships with local organisations. These include the Parish Council, Holmfirth Library, Holmfirth Conservation Group, Holme Valley Civic Society and Holmfirth Forward. We also have important links with the increasing activities of the Your Holmfirth brand and numerous community and business groups.

In addition, the publication of a Kirklees Heritage Strategy 2024 and Kirklees Tourism Strategy 2026, an improved Holmfirth Town Centre and the proactive membership of the Holme Valley Heritage group management committee have all provided a solid and substantial base from which to develop the Heritage centre concept. **In essence such a centre would:**

- preserve and promote an understanding of our local heritage, culture, crafts, place and people;
- provide a focal point for the wide-ranging interest in our heritage and its related culture;
- support the education of students, young and old;
- boost tourism and provide a physical destination for visitors to our town and area.

Several potential sites for a single physical centre are slowly emerging.

However, whilst these present possibilities, and can remain an ongoing project and goal, **none are expected to materialise before 2027** and all would require significant investment and ongoing costs. **In the interim, we are therefore seeking to establish a 'Hub and Network'**. This would provide a location for key information and 'signposting' which is inclusive, flexible. Coupled with a network of heritage sites and activities it would provide a very viable 'stepping stone' towards the imagined physical central visitor centre. **It is our intention to pursue both possibilities in the short term, assessing the feasibility of all options as they arise.**

2026 HERITAGE PROGRAMME

This year we will be offering an expanded the programme of events, particularly during the National Heritage week 11 to 20 Sept 2026 .

These will present a broader variety of activities and events across the Holme Valley and over a wider time scale.

The aim is to engage a wide and diverse audience and will include:

- exhibitions
- demonstrations
- talks as discussions
- films
- practical activities and experiences
- walks and tours

Watch this space and look out for adverts as the details of this programme emerge. If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute in any way please get in touch at info@holmevalleyheritage.com