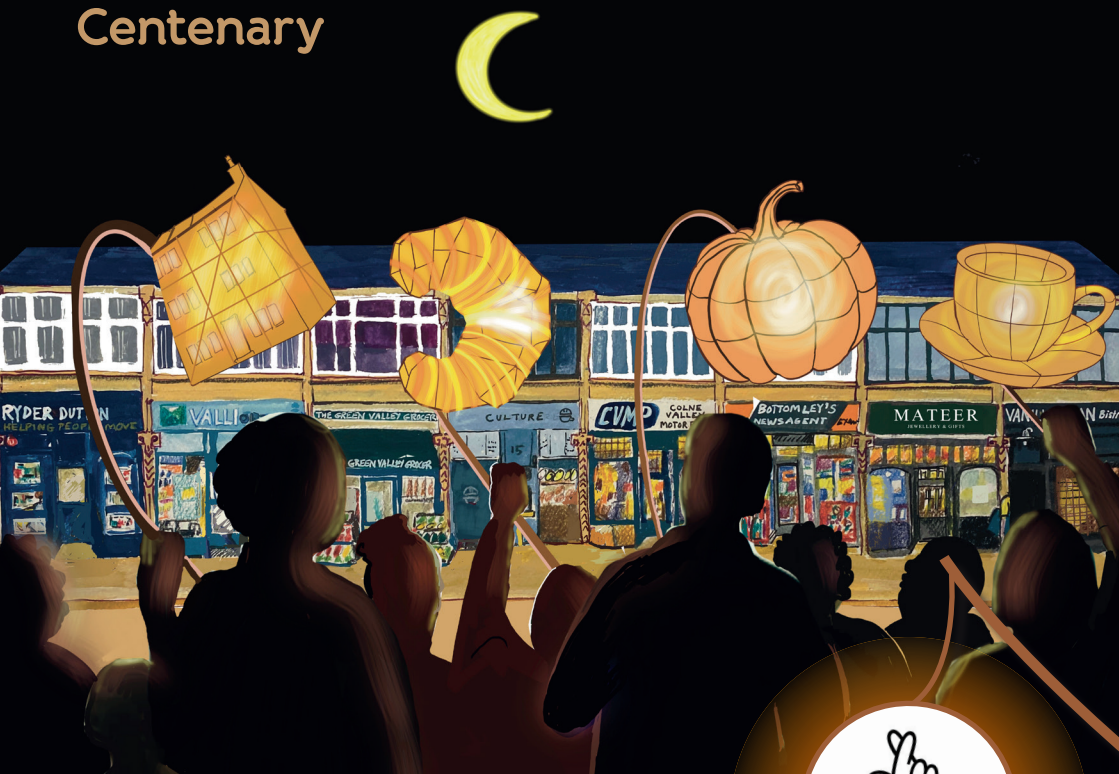


# Slaithwaite Moonraking Festival



40th Birthday  
Celebrations and  
Slawit SHOP!  
Centenary

14th – 22nd  
February 2025



Join in with Slawit's magical  
candlelit community lantern festival!



## Celebrate 40 years of Moonraking with an illuminated parade and a brand-new community re-enactment of the Moonraking legend of smugglers, the canal and the moon.

This year's lantern theme, **Slawit SHOP!** launches a year-long community heritage project with The Watershed, Green Valley Grocers, and The National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate 100 years of Carr Lane's central shops. The lantern parade will kick off creative projects exploring memories of a century of local shopping.

The Moonraking re-enactment moves to Carr Lane this year, with a new performance space on the closed road. The circular procession will follow the canal and climb Bank Gate, offering stunning views over the village.

## The Moonraking Legend

The story for those who haven't yet heard – as retold by Susanna Meese Festival Chair and storyteller...

"Legend has it that once upon a time, a bunch of locals were shipping illicit booze along the canal when they were spotted by the local militia. Not wanting to get in trouble with the authorities the smugglers threw their barrels of liquor over the barge, into the water. Splash!

Under the cover of darkness, they returned to retrieve the barrels but were caught red-handed once more. "Now then, what's thee up to?" called the guard. The cheeky chappies feigned stupidity and pointed to the reflection of the crescent moon in the water, "She's fallen in!" they cried, "And we're raking out the moon, to save her," they flailed and twirled their rakes. Splash!

Clearly a bunch of numpties, the militia left them to it. And we continue to rake the moon to this day."



## Moonraking at 40! Join in with the performance on Saturday 22nd February

For Moonraking's big birthday, locals will re-enact the Moonraking story, joined by new poetry, comedy, and carnival dance groups.

Enjoy costumed characters and a lively soundtrack which mixes archive tunes from across the years with new words and music. Sound and Music from **Noah Burton, We Are Stems** and **Fineline Audio**. Poetry from **Louise Fazackerly** and **Adam Strickson**.

**Watershed Youth Theatre** will showcase special Moonraking Shadow plays in shop windows and there will be dancing from **North-west Morris side Slubbing Billy's**.

**Impossible Arts** will bring the Moonraker archive alive with a giant talking storybook and the extraordinary "Pedal Powered Poetry Tent" from **Write Out Loud** will project poetry and sound.

Look out for giant barrel lanterns made with **Waves, Globe Arts, all local Primary Schools, Slaitwhaite Scouts and Colne Valley High**.

Selected lanterns from the family workshops will assemble at the Fire Station and be introduced in small groups to the performance area and into the parade.

Fun music from **The Peace Artistes** and samba superstars **Banda Na Rua** will keep us all dancing!

The giant illuminated moon will lead the procession along the canal, up Howgate Road and Bank Gate, along Royd St, down Crimble Bank and back into Carr Lane.

The moon will then be raised back up into the sky with sparkling fire effects from **Optimum Fireworks** and the help of surprise Slawit local celebrity guest voices!

**This is a free event, but if you can book ahead and/or give a donation in advance it would be much appreciated! Please follow the link in this QR code to let us know that you are coming.**

SCAN FOR PARADE TICKETS





## Pre-festival Workshops and Rehearsals

Come and get involved!

### Moonraking Family Poetry Workshop

Families with children age 5 and upwards, join poet and performer **Louise Fazackerley** making lunar-lyrics and flashmob moves to be performed at the Pedal Powered Pop Up Poetry tent and for the finale event.

Organised by the Write Out Loud Performance Poetry Network, with funding from One Community and Kirklees Council.

**Sat 8th Feb: 10:30am - 12:30pm**  
Slaithwaite Library,  
Cross Street, HD7 5AF

### Moonraker Carnival Movers Workshops

Join the Moonraker troupe of illuminated dancers. Moves choreographed in easy-to-follow steps by **Keisha Hamilton** movement director (Lawrence Batley Theatre, formerly Northern Ballet). Suitable for adults and young people aged 14 upwards. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. All genders and body shapes are most welcome!

**Sun 16th Feb: 12.30 - 2.30pm**  
Slaithwaite Community Centre  
Bank Gate, HD7 5DL



### Moonraking Performance Workshops

Free workshops led by friendly physical theatre specialists from **Kerfuffle Street Theatre**.

For playful adults interested in visual comedy and physical performance.

Previous experience is welcome but not essential. Participants must be over 16 years old.

**Wed 5th Feb: 6.30 - 9.30pm**  
**Sun 9th Feb: 1 - 4pm**  
**Wed 12th Feb: 6.30 - 9.30pm**  
The Watershed,  
22 Bridge Street, HD7 5JN



### Rehearsals for dancers, performers and for poets

The majority of participants will need to be fit enough to be involved throughout the Moonraking parade, but some can just join in with the first section if needed.

If you have a disability, do let us know, we'll do what we can to adjust activities to suit your needs.

**Fri 21st Feb: 6.30 - 9.30pm**  
**Sat 22nd Feb: 2 - 3.30pm rehearsal**  
**5.30 - 8.30pm performance**

Venues to be confirmed – please check with workshop leaders. Email [slawitmoonraking@gmail.com](mailto:slawitmoonraking@gmail.com) for further details



Tickets for all workshops are free but must be booked in advance  
[buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival](http://buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival)

## Lantern Workshops

**Sat 15th – Thur 20th Feb**  
at The Watershed,  
22 Bridge Street, HD7 5JN

Lanterns are sculpted from willow, covered with tissue paper, soaked in glue, lit by candles and carried on bamboo poles to be carried on the Saturday procession. This year's lantern theme is SHOP! All materials are provided and ideas, templates and inspiration to get you started. There will be special help for beginners at all workshops (except 1pm on Thursday).

**£5.00 per person per session. Under 13s must be accompanied by an adult**

Day	9.30am - 12pm	1.00pm - 3.30pm	7.00pm - 9.30pm
Sat 15th Feb	Session	Session	No Session
Sun 16th Feb	Session	Session	No Session
Mon 17th Feb	No Session	Session	Session
Tues 18th Feb	Session	Session	Session
Wed 19th Feb	Session	Session	Session
Thurs 20th Feb	Session	Final Session	No Session

Maximum 50 people in each workshop.  
Homemade cakes on sale in each session.

Please book in advance online [buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival](http://buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival)

- Simple prototype lanterns could be made in 1 session, but a more complex lantern may take 2 or 3 sessions to complete
- Lanterns will need to be transported home when you have completed them and brought along to the procession on Saturday the 22nd February
- Please bring secateurs if you have them.



## Volunteer and Join the Team!

Urgently needed - workshop helpers, stewards, event riggers, performers, dancers, costumed characters, and moon carriers.

Email: [slawitmoonraking@gmail.com](mailto:slawitmoonraking@gmail.com)

## Festival week events

Book online at [buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival](http://buytickets.at/slaithwaitemoonrakingfestival) unless otherwise stated

### 40th Anniversary Moonraker Family Ceilidh

Dancing and music for all the family from The Moonraker Band.

Lots of fun for all ages!

Hot supper available, licensed bar and fundraising raffle.

**Fri 14 Feb 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM**  
**£9 adult, £6 child, £23.50 family**  
**The Civic, 15a New Street, HD7 5AB**

### Red Deer Club presents Belinda O'Hooley and The Midges

Solo performance from BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nominee pianist and singer Belinda O'Hooley renowned for her highly individual, sensitive musicality best known for the 'Gentleman Jack' TV theme song.

Supported by musical duo, The Midges, Matt Regan and Chris Ruffoni, who blend folk melodies, electronic beats, soaring cello, and hypnotic guitars.

Bar by Zapato Brewing.

**Sat 15 Feb 7pm - 10:30 pm**  
**£19.80 full £16.50 concessions**  
**wegotickets.com/event/645982**  
**The Civic, 15a New Street, HD7 5AB**



### Moonraking Children's Craft and Storytime

For under 5's and their families with storyteller and festival chair Susanna Meese and festival producer Kath Shackleton.

All welcome

**Mon 17 Feb 10:30 AM - 11:30 PM**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
**Slaithwaite Library,**  
**Cross Street, HD7 5AF**

### 40 Years of Moonraking - A History

Join us for a glass of bubbly to celebrate 40 years of Moonraking!

Reflections and highlights from people involved from the very beginning. Meet the new organisers and find out opportunities to get involved in developing Moonraking for the future.

This event will be filmed by Kirklees Local TV and shown online.

**Wed 19 Feb 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
**Slaithwaite Community Centre,**  
**Bank Gate, HD7 5DL**



## Half term children's activities

Please book these directly with the organisers

### A New Leaf Children's Book Club

Moon themed book activities for children 6-11 years old

Bargain books sale and licensed bar for accompanying adults.

Please book in advance at  
**A New Leaf Bookshop**  
**hello@anewleafbookshop.co.uk**  
**07967 149274**

**Sun 16th Feb 4 - 6pm**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
**Empire House,**  
**Lewisham Road HD7 5AL**

### Ruddi's Cafe

**19 - 21 Station Road HD7 5AW**

All classes 9.30 - 11am  
For children 5 years and upwards  
£12 per child including a snack.  
50p per booking goes to the Moonraking Festival

**Mon 17th Feb**  
Cupcake Decorating

**Tue 18th Feb**  
Slime Making

**Weds 19th Feb**  
Old School Cake Decorating

**Thur 20th Feb**  
Pizza Making

**Fri 21st Feb**  
Moonraking Milkshake Making

Classes always sell out fast so please don't delay in booking  
**Call 01484 766050**

### Arty Explorers Carr Lane, HD7 5AG

Half term storytelling, imaginative play and themed arts and crafts classes themed around the story By the Light of the Moon. For babies through to KS1 aged children.

Book online at  
**www.artyexplorers.co.uk**

### Yorkshire Education Service Tuition Moonlit and Moonstruck! Workshops

Join teachers Charlotte and Martin for a creative workshop where children will produce stories, plays, poetry, illustrations and performances inspired by Moonraking. Prizes for the best contribution!

**Weds 19th and Thur 20th Feb**  
**10 - 11.30 am. YES! Tuition Centre**  
**6 New St, HD7 5AB**

**£20 for 1 child**  
**additional friend/sibling £10**  
**(please bring your own snacks)**  
**Book at [info@yestuition.co.uk](mailto:info@yestuition.co.uk)**  
**01484 844222/07403 624995**

### Moon and Imagination! at The Clay Mill Pottery Studio Britannia Mills, HD7 5HE

Join in with exciting clay workshops for families - choose from Tiny Moon Landscapes, have a go on the pottery wheel and festival themed sculptures!

**From £10**  
**Booking [info@theclaymill.co.uk](mailto:info@theclaymill.co.uk)**  
**or [ticketsource.co.uk/the-clay-mill](http://ticketsource.co.uk/the-clay-mill)**

## Half term children's activities

Please book these directly with the organisers

### Moonshine 'Window Pictures' Family Workshop - Window lanterns

Make window lanterns with Zoe, using colourful tissue paper and black card, each family will create beautiful window lanterns to display at home for the festival.

**Weds 19th Feb 1 - 2.30pm**

**Globe Arts Studio**

**Carr Lane/New Street HD7 5AG**

**£8 per person**

**[www.globearts.org.uk/kids-families/moonshine-window-lanterns](http://www.globearts.org.uk/kids-families/moonshine-window-lanterns)**

### Moonraking Shadow Crafts at Acorn & Pip

Pop in for Moonraking crafts, play and a cuppa any time over the half term week and get creative by making your very own shadow puppet theatre using recycled materials to take home. Then, don't miss the performances by The Watershed Youth Theatre from 5pm on Moonraking evening.

**Acorn & Pip**

**6 & 7 Carr Lane, HD7 5AN**

More information

**[www.acornandpip.com/pages/cafe](http://www.acornandpip.com/pages/cafe)**

### Moonshine 'Window Pictures' Family Workshop - Vinyl Float Glass

Join Zoe, using a piece of float glass and vinyl stickers in a variety of colours, design your moonshine decoration - will it be a landscape or a pattern?

**Sat 22nd Feb 1 - 2.30pm**

**Globe Arts Studio**

**Carr Lane/New Street HD7 5AG**

**£8 per person**

**[www.globearts.org.uk/kids-families/moonshine-vinyl-windows](http://www.globearts.org.uk/kids-families/moonshine-vinyl-windows)**

### Canal and River Trust Canoe Taster Session

Have a go with some family friendly rafted canoeing as part of the Festival. Join in with first-come-first-served 30-minute rafted canoeing sessions. We will try and fit as many people as possible onto the water throughout the day. Please wear clothing and footwear that you don't mind getting wet.

**Thur 20th and Fri 21st Feb 11am - 3pm**

**Lock 21/back of the Fire Station**

**£5 per person card or cash**

**Suitable for all aged 8 and upwards**

Questions to

**[gordon.mcminn@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:gordon.mcminn@canalrivertrust.org.uk)**

### Experience Community Moon Crafts

Make moons on sticks and moon phase hangings. Adults and children welcome. Local organisation helping disabled people to access the outdoors through a range of inclusive walking, cycling, conservation and arts activities. Free session, donations very welcome.

**Fri 21st Feb 1 - 4pm**

**Basement of Slaithwaite Civic Hall,  
New Street, HD7 5AB**

Please book in advance

**[in.colne.valley.land@gmail.com](mailto:in.colne.valley.land@gmail.com)**



## It takes a village to raise the Moon!

### The BIG POT SALE!

Sale of pots made by Clay Mill artists and students. Pots of all shapes and sizes. Come and watch how pots are made on the wheel and grab a bargain too! Minimum 50% of all pots towards the festival funds and 100% for some pots. All clearly marked to show donation

**Sun 16th Feb 12pm-4pm**

**The Clay Mill Pottery Studio**

**Britannia Mills, HD7 5HE**

**[info@theclaymill.co.uk](mailto:info@theclaymill.co.uk)**

### Moonraking Festival Book Swap

Bring 5 of your books and exchange for another 5 pre-loved books!

Special discounted books onsale.

**Fri 21st Feb 5.30pm**

**A New Leaf Bookshop**

**31 Britannia Road HD7 5HF**

**£5 per ticket, all proceeds**

**to Moonraking**

More information

**[hello@anewleafbookshop.co.uk](mailto:hello@anewleafbookshop.co.uk)**

**07967 149274**

### Made by Waves

**Moonraker Afternoon Tea**

Includes delicious cakes and hot beverages.

Making Waves is a registered charity providing support to people with learning difficulties.

**Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb**

**Waves, 5 Upper Mills HD7 5HA**

**Slots from 10:00 - 12:00**

**and then 13:00 - 15:00.**

**£5 entry**

To book **01484 769734**

(please call between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday)

**Huge thanks to the wonderful village businesses raising money to support the festival.**



## Food and Drink

### Anello Pizza

Special Moonraker dessert!  
Available from the 12th to the 23rd of Feb. All money from sales donated to the festival.

**Britannia Road, HD7 5HF**  
[www.anellopizza.co.uk](http://www.anellopizza.co.uk)

### Ruddi's Café

For the 22nd February we will serve an array of beautiful drinks, cakes, sweets and treats available alongside our fabulous hot chocolate range.

**19 - 21 Station Road HD7 5AW**

### Darkwoods Coffee

Enjoy their exclusive Moonraker blend, £1 from every bag of coffee sold will be going to Moonraking. Available in selected Slaithwaite shops and at

[www.darkwoodscoffee.co.uk](http://www.darkwoodscoffee.co.uk)

**After the parade on Saturday 22nd Feb, get warm and toasty and enjoy tasty food and drink throughout the village. Special after party events include:**

### Live Music at the Civic with The Happy Fish and Fishing 4 Compliments

Food and bar from Zapato Brewing

**The Civic, 15a New Street, HD7 5AB**  
**3.30 – 11pm FREE ENTRY but donations welcome for renovating the building: [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/slaithwaite-civichall](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/slaithwaite-civichall)**

### Outdoor Bar and Hot Food

**Northern Sole**

**39 Bridge Street HD7 5JN**  
[www.northernsolecafe.com](http://www.northernsolecafe.com)

### Live Jazz from Scarlett Dickinson

**Wine Slawit 8pm**

**33 Britannia Road, HD7 5HF**  
**T: 07766 632236**

[www.wineslaithwaite.co.uk](http://www.wineslaithwaite.co.uk)  
[www.scarlettdickinson.co.uk/#listen-to-me](http://www.scarlettdickinson.co.uk/#listen-to-me)



To check out the full range of food and drink on offer in Slaithwaite visit: [slaithwaite.info/food-drink-guide](http://slaithwaite.info/food-drink-guide) (please book ahead - things get very busy!)

## Travel – THINK GREEN

If you're local, please walk to the sessions if possible!

The train station is a 5-minute walk from the village centre, with trains from Manchester, Huddersfield, and Leeds. There are a few local buses that drop down into Slaithwaite from Huddersfield and across the valleys. Popular bus routes are: 184, 335, 382, 383, 394, 938

Parking: New Street Car Park offers 2 hours free with RingGo (charges apply after), Aldi allows 3 hours free, and parking on Bridge Street is limited. Check signs carefully for changes.

### Event Safety

First aid and fire stewards will accompany the lantern procession - ask them for help if needed. Carr Lane will be closed, with other roads closed briefly. Contact us for more details.

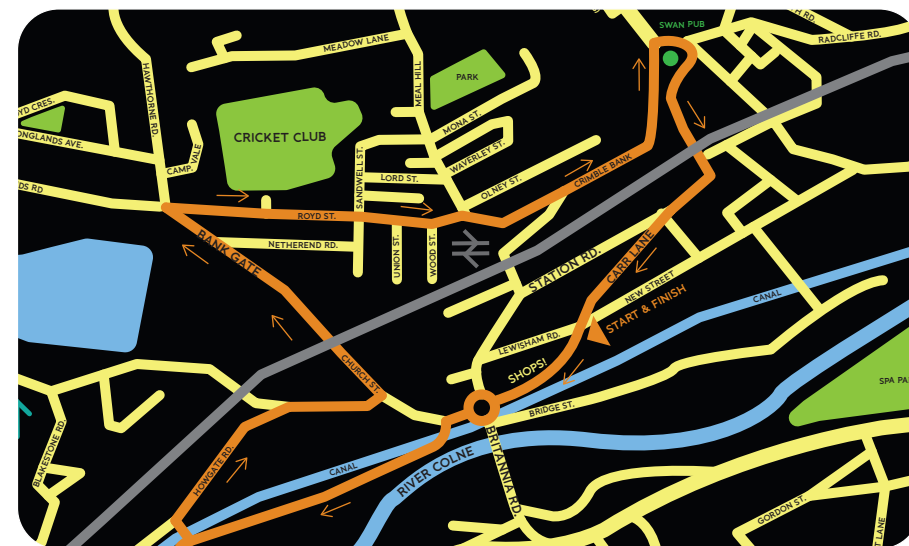
### Accessibility

To avoid Bank Gate's steep hill, follow the canal loop and wait at The Swan pub to rejoin the parade. Accessible toilets are by The Swan, with a Changing Places facility at Experience Community in the Civic Hall basement (RADAR key required).

For accessible parking, email [slawitmoonraking@gmail.com](mailto:slawitmoonraking@gmail.com)

## Parade Route

The main parade will start at Carr Lane in the centre of the village before travelling past the shops towards the roundabout and then following the route marked in orange on the map. Be sure to wrap up warm and waterproof and wear your comfiest shoes, Slawit's weather can bring extra surprises!



## Merchandise

To pre order an exclusive Otso collaboration T-Shirt visit their shop at 6 Kiln Hill or visit [www.otso.clothing](http://www.otso.clothing)

Available in unisex adult and child sizes. Ethically made from 100% organic cotton and screen printed locally in Huddersfield.

10% of sales donated to MR



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x  
MOONRAKING  
1985 - 2025

SCAN FOR  
ALL TICKET TYPES



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Thanks to University of Manchester, Kirklees Third Sector Leaders, Arts Council Digital Culture Network, TG Events, A New Leaf Bookshop, Making Waves, Globe Arts, Anello Pizza, Ruddi's Cafe, Arty Explorers, Acorn & Pip, Green Valley Grocers, The Civic Slaithwaite, The Clay Mill, Otso, Slubbing Billy's, Far Cry Acapella, George Shaw and Sons, Kirklees Local TV, Fishing 4 Compliments, The Happy Fish, We Are Stems, Finline Audio, Nadia Amini, Olivia Hyde Music, Canal and River Trust, Otso, Impossible Arts, Green Valley Grocers, Annie Dearman, Slaithwaite Scouts, Slaithwaite Fire Station, Resource Print Solutions, Globe Mill, YES Education, Experience Community, Slaithwaite Library, Kerfuffle Theatre, Keisha Hamilton, Lee Corner, 6 Million +, Jonah Simpson, Adam and Kim Strickson and all of our volunteers for their support in kind. Thanks to Artwood Interiors and to Frances Cole for their donations and to all who have given to The Lunar Levy to bring back the festival this year! Illustration by Jane Horton @artyjaneh

For full Information  
[www.slaithwaitemoonraking.org.uk](http://www.slaithwaitemoonraking.org.uk)