



Historic Macclesfield

Silk mills and Sunday markets, museums and churches, festivals and family businesses. Explore the history of Macclesfield as you enjoy the creative, independent town it has become.



Silk



Macclesfield was the centre of the silk weaving industry in Britain for many years, renowned for the skill of its designers and for its richly patterned woven fabrics. Charles Roe (1715-1781) built the town's first water-powered mill in 1774 and his entrepreneurship was the making of Macclesfield.

The Silk Town story unfolds across three of Macclesfield's historic buildings, each within walking distance of the other, with costume and textile displays, working handlooms, interactive exhibits, video shows and guided visits.

The Silk Museum, Park Lane Galleries.

This building was once The Macclesfield School of Art built in 1877 to train designers for the silk industry. It now houses collections of fabric and costumes, thousands of original pattern books, photographs of historic Macclesfield and a specialist textile reference library. Here you can delve into the world of silk production, design, weaving, dyeing and embroidery. The museum even has its own silk worms! Refreshments are available in the Jacquard Tea Rooms.

History of the Macclesfield School of Art

Art education in Macclesfield began in 1833 with the provision of evening classes for the benefit of the town's working population. Building on the success of these early classes the Useful Knowledge Society was formed in 1835 and continued to provide art education with the support of local manufacturers and benefactors. In 1851 the Macclesfield School of Design was opened in rooms rented from the Useful Knowledge Society on Park Green and by 1873 the school had trained 77 designers and 145 weavers. By 1879 the school



had grown into the Macclesfield School of Art & Science, with its own purpose-built premises. It established an excellent reputation for training designers and by the turn of the century it was one of the top art schools in the country.

The Silk Museum, Paradise Mill

The mill was built in c. 1860 and was weaving silk right up until 1981. One of Macclesfield's most popular attractions, the atmospheric exhibitions and room settings have been set to illustrate life in Paradise Mill in the 1930s.

Knowledgeable guides demonstrate the intricate processes of weaving, using one of the 26 restored Jacquard handlooms. The tie silk made on such looms was some of the finest ever made in Macclesfield.

From this mill speciality ties were sent to America, labelled 'Pure Silk, made in Macclesfield, England and imported in the Queen Mary'.

For more information about Macclesfield's Silk Heritage www.silkmacclesfield.org.uk

Did you know?

St Barnabus was the patron saint of the silk workers, who took an annual holiday called Barnaby.

Nowadays the town celebrates with the Barnaby arts festival in June.



The Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre, a grade II listed building located in Roe Street, at the heart of Macclesfield's town centre, provides a focus for community and cultural events. Originally a Sunday school, erected by voluntary contributions to provide both a place of worship and an educational establishment, it was here that children employed in the silk industry received the only formal education available to them at the time.



Did you know?

Joy Division singer Ian Curtis was from Macclesfield. He went to the King's School, and lived here with his wife until he died in 1980. Pick up the Joy Division Trail at the Tourist Information Centre.

The Silk Museum Heritage Centre Galleries

The Silk Museum within the Heritage Centre follows the story of silk from its origins in China, along the silk route to Britain and its establishment in Macclesfield.

An award winning audio-visual presentation tells of the development of the industry in the town from the perspective of various people involved in the silk industry.

Costumes, textiles and accessories from both the 19th and 20th centuries help to show how silk is used for some of the most important occasions in both the social calendar and family life.

The Silk Shop is perfect for Macclesfield souvenirs, and the Mulberry Tree cafe is open for coffee, lunch, afternoon tea or a glass of wine before a concert or film in the evening.

Music and Film at the Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre houses a lovely, atmospheric 400 seater auditorium, which attracts a range of musical events from chamber music to jazz. The galleried hall is home to the renowned Northern Chamber Orchestra (www.ncorch.co.uk), Macclesfield Music Society (www.macclesfieldmusicsociety.co.uk), the independent Cinemac film theatre showing the latest movies (see www.cinamac.org.uk for listings) and the Silk Screen Film Society (www.silkscreen.org.uk). Check their websites for details of forthcoming events.



West Park Museum

West Park

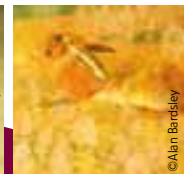
This charming little museum is within the town's West Park, one of England's first public parks when it opened in 1854. The museum was donated by Marianne Brocklehurst and her brother, Peter Pownall Brocklehurst "for the education, refinement and pleasure of the people for all time to come", and it has been open since 1898. The Brocklehurst family were very important to Macclesfield, having begun a button making business in the town in the 18th century. In the 19th century they moved into silk weaving, and Brocklehurst Mill became the largest silk weaving mill in England.

The museum holds a fascinating collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities acquired by Marianne Brocklehurst during her visits to Egypt. You can follow Marianne's adventures through extracts from the illustrated diary she kept during her first visit to Egypt.

It also has an extensive collection of the work of Charles Frederick Tunnicliffe (1901-1979), who was born in Langley near Macclesfield. His artistic education began at the Macclesfield School of Art in 1916, and he later won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London.

Tunnicliffe went on to become a popular illustrator of books and much of his work featured the scenery and wildlife of the Cheshire countryside surrounding Macclesfield. He became a major contributor to the RSPB, producing many of the front covers for Bird Notes and numerous Christmas and greetings cards, and exhibited frequently at the Royal Academy.

For more information about West Park Museum www.silkmacclesfield.org.uk



Did you know?

West Park boasts the largest bowling green in England.

Barnaby Festival

**MACCLESFIELD
BARNABY FESTIVAL**



The Barnaby Festival is Macclesfield's modern revival of a tradition celebrating the feast day of St Barnabas which began here many centuries ago.



There has been a Barnaby Fair since the 13th century, but in recent years, this great local tradition all but died out. Thanks to Macclesfield's unique community spirit it has now been revived as a weekend festival of arts, culture and fun, showcasing the town's diverse creative talents and rich heritage.



For one weekend in June, the whole town comes to life with arts events, exhibitions, music and performances in historic buildings and open spaces around the town centre. There's comedy, opera, classical, rock, jazz and indie music, cabaret, poetry, performance and street theatre.

Café bars and restaurants on the Market Place stay open late into the evening, with a mix of music, performance and live entertainment, and there are free activities for children throughout the festival, including the Family Fete, craft workshops, circus skills and sports activities.

Barnaby Festival is a true celebration of Macclesfield's heritage, creativity and independent spirit! And it is the perfect event for new visitors to experience the true character of this great silk town.

Go to www.barnabyfestival.org.uk for full details of this year's Barnaby Festival



Thanks to TeneightStudios and Fiona Bailey for images on page 6 and 7. www.teneightstudios.co.uk. www.fiona.baileyphotography.co.uk

Markets

Treacle Market

Macclesfield is known as **Treacletown**, referring to the centuries old accident when a horse drawn wagon overturned, spilling its cargo of Treacle onto the cobbles. Nowadays there is a monthly Treacle Market in the Market Place, a chance to find gorgeous things on Macclesfield's streets once again. Just less sticky.

Abundant stalls selling high quality, locally made and reared food and drink: beers, cheeses, artisan breads, cakes, honey, pies and meat. Also vintage homewares, antiques, books and beautiful work from local artists and makers. If it's the unusual or different you seek...

The Treacle Market is held on the last Sunday of each month
10am - 3.30pm Market Place & Chestergate

www.treaclemacclesfield.co.uk



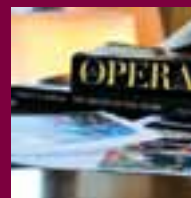
Macclesfield is a real market town. As well as the monthly Treacle Market, there are weekly outdoor markets held every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday and a thriving indoor market, open every day except Sunday.

Silk Opera

**SILK
OPERA**
IGNITE YOUR PASSION

Silk Opera is a fresh, new, dynamic opera company, born in Macclesfield and created to bring quality entertainment to the North West of England. Its aim is to provide a wide audience with a chance to enjoy stylish productions performed by outstanding soloists and musicians, in unique and unusual venues. For ticket information go to:

www.silkopera.com



Made in Macclesfield



Macclesfield has plenty of thriving small businesses, many of which have been going strong for over a hundred years. New and old, every one of them celebrates, enriches and enhances the town's unique and independent character.

The best ice-cream

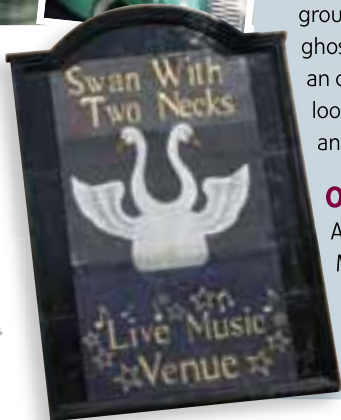
First of all, you haven't really visited Macclesfield until you've had a Granelli's ice-cream. Angelo Granelli came to Macclesfield from Genoa in 1890 to join his uncle who had a sweet shop here, and Granelli's ice-cream was born. 120 years on, it is still run by the same family and is still only sold in and around Macclesfield. Their vans are a familiar sight all around the region, and you can visit their Newton Street premises where there is a mini-museum and shop selling forty different flavours – including the local favourite, TreacleTown!

Some great pubs

Ask any Maxonian which is the best pub in town and each one will give you a different answer. Do you want music or conversation? Blues or jazz? Local ale or Belgian bottled? Book groups or quiz nights? Sky Sports or Scrabble? Resident ghosts or rude landladies? We wouldn't presume to venture an opinion but we know plenty of folk who will! If in doubt, look at The Loop www.maccloop.blogspot.com for news and reviews of all Macclesfield's favourite haunts.

Our own brews

And of course it is essential to try the local ales. Macclesfield's own award-winning Storm Brewing Company produces a range of seventeen different beers at its brewery within a former pub in the town centre – all with lovely names to conjure with.



ular concerts in the handsome Heritage Centre... a thriving little independent cinema... themed guided walks... its own opera compo



Did you know?

Macclesfield was the original home of Hovis - that delicious bread that has remained popular for more than a century. The Hovis Mill, built on Macclesfield's canalside, produced the unique Hovis grain and only bakers who used this flour to make their bread could sell the loaf as Hovis. Flour was milled here from 1898 to 1904.

Arrange a visit to the brewery and enjoy a pint at its own Altar of Ale!

Bollington Brewery has a firm foothold in the town now too, with its own pub, the Park Tavern on Park Lane, and its range of ales widely available throughout the town.

Favourites for food...

Narrowboaters on the Macclesfield Canal are known to moor up specially to come to Cheshire Gap on Mill Street – the local independent deli and café with a fabulous selection of breads, cheeses, cakes, pies, and little gourmet treats!

Spearing's pies are famously popular, additive free using locally reared meat, from Marshall Spearing Butchers on Park Green – which has been there for about 70 years.

Fabric...

And as you would expect of a real textile town, there are some fantastic fabric shops – The Fent Shop on Pickford Street and Shufflebothams – known locally as Shuffs - on Gunco Lane. The indoor market is the place to go for all your buttons, ribbons, threads and ever kind of trimming you can think of!

...and fashion

If you want someone else to do the hard work and have your fabric already made into something beautiful, the iconic Arighi Bianchi store which first opened for business in 1892 and is still owned by the Bianchi family, is full of gorgeous furnishings – and a great restaurant (serving Granelli's ice-cream of course!), and there are one or two delicious designer boutiques along historic Chestergate...



Church Tales

Macclesfield's textile and social history is reflected in its fascinating churches, all of which are well worth exploring and each one of which has its own special features. They all make fabulous venues for concerts, plays and exhibitions throughout the year too.

Christ Church, Bridge Street

This large and impressive town church was built in 1775-76 at the expense of Charles Roe, founder of Macclesfield's silk industry. John Wesley preached here several times – the only Church of England in Cheshire which invited him to preach inside. A magnificent first-floor gallery is supported by cast-iron pillars, which were hidden in wooden casings by the Victorians. The original box pews are still in place.

Now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. www.visitchurches.org.uk

Open: 1 April – 30 September
10am - 3pm Mon Tue Fri
1 Oct - 31 March 10am-3pm Mondays
Or by appointment -Tel: **01625 423894**

St Michael and All Angels, Market Place

The present Church was built in 1898-1901, designed by Sir Arthur Bromfield but a number of important earlier features remain, especially the Legh and Savage Chapels (15th/16th century) and some fine medieval monuments, including a large memorial by the Stuart sculptor William Stanton, considered to be one of his best.

The Savage Chapel is a substantial building in its own right, containing stained glass by Morris & Co.

Open: Monday - Saturday
10.30am - 12.30pm
www.stmichaels-macclesfield.com

King Edward Street Unitarian Chapel, King Edward Street

Hidden away down a little alley, this Grade 2* listed Chapel is of local stones "from the common" and its history dates back to the first meeting of Dissenters in Macclesfield in 1690. The names of all those, brave enough in uncertain times to buy a seat and contribute to the cost of the building, are still in the chapel's possession and can be consulted. The list is remarkable for the number of women buying seats in their own right. In 1765 the Chapel was bought by John Brocklehurst and was closely associated with this family of silk manufacturers until the 1890s.

Open: Visitors most welcome all year but please telephone first.
Tel: **01625 669233/615072**

Researching your family history? These and other churches have detailed records which may be of interest. Find out more at www.fhsc.org.uk
There are many more churches in Macclesfield. A full list, with details of church services, is available from the Town Hall or the library.



Directory and useful information

Public transport: Call Cheshire Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

Tourist Information Centre: Macclesfield Town Hall Tel: 01625 378123

Visitor Accommodation: You'll find a full range of graded accommodation – hotels, b&b, self-catering cottages - at www.peaksandplains.co.uk

What's On: Find out what's on in Macclesfield by consulting The Loop, the essential guide to everything - art, music, poetry, markets, festivals – that's happening in Macclesfield.
www.maccloop.blogspot.com



Where to find it:

These venues are located by their number on the map overleaf.

- 1 Silk Museum Park Lane
- 2 Paradise Mill
- 3 Heritage Centre
- 4 West Park Museum
- 5 Market Place
- 6 Indoor Market
- 7 Granelli's ice-cream
- 8 Park Tavern
- 9 Storm Brewing Co.
- 10 Cheshire Gap
- 11 Marshall Spearing
- 12 FentShop
- 13 Shufflebotham's
- 14 Arighi Bianchi
- 15 Christ Church
- 16 St Michael and All Angels Church
- 17 King Edward Street Chapel
- 18 Tourist Information Centre
- 19 Railway Station
- 20 Bus Station
- 21 Library

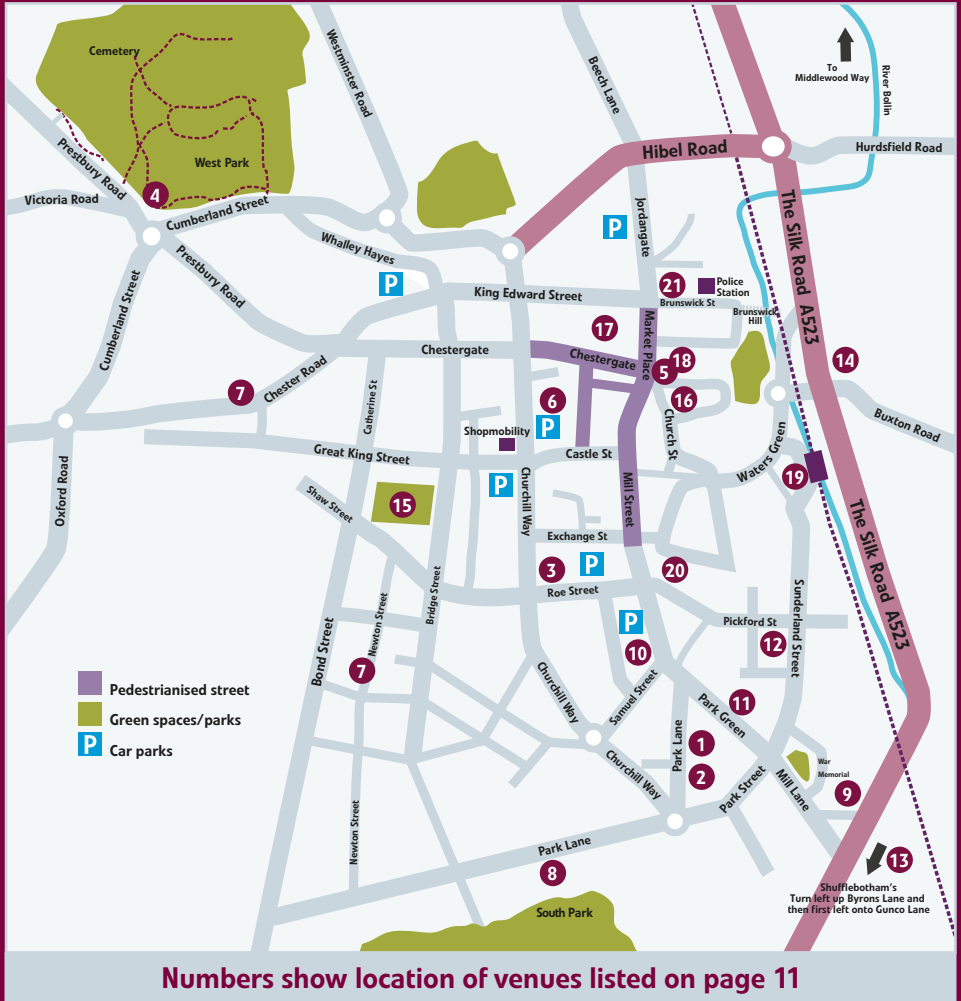


Want More History?

You can find out more about Macclesfield's history and the 750th anniversary of the town being granted its Royal Charter at www.charter750.co.uk



Map of Macclesfield town centre



Macclesfield

www.makeitmacclesfield.org.uk



Cheshire East Council
Supporting Local Businesses



www.cheshirepeakdistrict.com

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www.historicmacclesfield.co.uk