



# THE OLD ELECTRIC

*Blackpool • Estd 2020*

*January - June*  
**2024**

*Community.  
Creativity.  
Culture.*

[theoldelectric.co.uk](http://theoldelectric.co.uk)

## Performances, Events + Monthly Sessions

January			
Mon 1 to Fri 5	Jan-NEW-ary	Various	18+
Wed 31	Script Sharing	6.30-8.30pm	18+
February			
Thu 1	Creative Network Breakfast	9-10.30am	18+
Fri 23	Crown 20	7pm	14+
Wed 28	Script Sharing	6.30-8.30pm	18+
March			
Fri 1	What We Said to Danny At The Strip Club	TBC	18+
Thu 7	Creative Network Breakfast	9-10.30am	18+
Sat 9	As SHE Likes It	7pm	13+
Fri 15	Amy Johnson: Last Flight Out	7pm	14+
Tue 26 + Thu 28	BA Hons Acting Presents Two by Jim Cartwright	2pm	14+
Tue 26 + Thu 28	BA Hons Acting Presents The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh	7pm	14+
Wed 27	BA Hons Acting Presents The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh	2pm	14+
Wed 27	BA Hons Acting Presents Two by Jim Cartwright	7pm	14+
April			
Wed 24	Script Sharing	6.30-8.30pm	18+
Fri 26	The Tigerface Show	7pm	16+
May			
Thu 2	Creative Network Breakfast	9-10.30am	18+
Fri 17	I Hate It Here	7pm	12+
Fri 24	The Metamorphosis	7pm	10+
June			
Sun 2	BREATHE Academy Workshop	2.30-5pm	12+
Sun 2	SK Shlomo BREATHE	7pm	12+
Thu 6	Creative Network Breakfast	9-10.30am	18+
Fri 7	Playwriting Scratch Sharing	7pm	18+
Fri 14	Bits 'n' Pieces	7pm	14+
Sat 15	MANikin	2pm	14+

### Weekly Sessions - Please check page listings for full details.

Mondays	
Singing + Music Making	6.30-8.30pm   Starts 8 Jan, 19 Feb + 15 Apr
Tuesdays	
Electric Pink Voices	6.30-8.30pm   Starts 9 Jan, 20 Feb + 16 Apr
Life Drawing	6.30-8.30pm   Starts 9 Jan, 20 Feb + 16 Apr
Wednesdays	
Playwriting Course	6.30-8.30pm   Starts 10 Jan
Clubbercise	7-8.30pm   Starts 10 Jan, 21 Feb + 17 Apr
Thursdays	
Non Working Men's Club	9.30-11am   Starts 11 Jan (Fortnightly)
Creative Sign Language	6.30-7.30pm   Starts 11 Jan
Th'ESPs Myths Project Development	6.30-8.30pm   Starts 11 Jan, 22 Feb + 18 Apr
Saturdays	
Burlesque for Body Positivity	2-4pm   Starting 13 Jan
Drama for Confidence	11am-1pm   Starts 19 Feb
Sundays	
Burlesque for Body Positivity	6.30-8.30pm   Starting 20 Apr

Our Winter + Spring courses are 5-weeks and our Summer courses are 6-weeks.

Kickstart your new year with a new experience!

# Jan-NEW-ary

Welcome back to Jan-NEW-ary, our taster programme of activity open to all local adult residents.

A chance to try out a new creative activity, to take part in an artist-led session that supports you out of your comfort zone in a fun and friendly environment.

Places are limited, booking is essential.

Monday 1 January

### Coffee + Creative Confirmations

10am-12noon • Artist: Melanie Whitehead



Start 2024 with a gentle nudge in the right direction using group and individual creative tasks to explore what statements you want to confirm for your year ahead. There will be tea, coffee and fresh fruit available for all participants.

### Happy Boxes

12-2pm • Artist: Henry Iddon



Making your own box to dive into when you need a bit of happiness! You'll take a smiley happy portrait photo (or bring a picture you like along) of yourself and stick it to a cardboard box. You'll then decorate the boxes with a collage of things that make you happy. The boxes can be taken home and used to store happy things in!

Tuesday 2 January

### FlipchART

10am-12noon • Artist: Buzz Bury



Buzz shares training and 'flipchart' tips in a workshop for non-drawers, creatives, trainers, facilitators, and the curious. Discover 5 basic elements, create a font library, explore borders, shading, shadows, and more.

### DJ Workshop

12-2pm • Artist: Rob del Terror



They say that to truly master anything, you need to put in around 10,000 hours. Chances are Rob del Terror put in those 10,000 hours DJing by his early 20s. For the first time, Rob will be hosting a session bringing you to the stage to learn the skills needed to become a pro DJ.

### Relax, Recharge + Write

2-4pm • Artist: Sarah Green



You'll be guided through a series of gentle stretching, breathing and relaxation exercises during which you'll release all tension. Then take part in a creative session on how to write individual Haiku poems to share with the group. All materials provided. Please wear loose, comfortable clothes. You'll be guided through a series of gentle stretching, breathing and relaxation exercises during which you'll release all tension.

Wednesday 3 January

### Burlesque for Body Positivity

10am-12noon • Artist: Becky Doran-Brown



Play with movement and explore and redefine the feminine through this workshop. We will look at how we can move our bodies to tell stories as well as look at ways to celebrate all the magnificence our bodies hold! Let's free our bodies through movement and have some fun!

### Mapping a Matriarchy

12-2pm • Artist: Antonia Charlesworth-Stack



Reclaim Blackpool Map highlights the precarious safety of women in our town. But what if we could create a different kind of map? One filled with empowering interactions and supportive spaces? Using a variety of forms, we will collaboratively create a physical map containing our vision for the streets of the future.

### Colour Walking

2-4pm • Artist: Tina Dempsey



Join local artist Tina on a walk that takes you on an unusual stroll around Blackpool. The route will be mapped by following a chosen colour and documenting what we find. This session is weather dependent.

### Silver Swans Ballet

10am-12 noon • Artist: Sarnai Byamba



Our goal is to introduce the joy and benefits of ballet to our senior community; enhancing strength, balance, and overall well-being. You will explore basic ballet positions and warm-ups in a relaxed social setting, all tailored to senior participants by an expert practitioner. Aimed at older learners.

### Monster Painting

12-2pm • Artist: Liz Wilkinson



Work some hilarious magic and embellish an unloved painting with a monstrous creation of your own! Inspired by the monster paintings of Chris McMahon, you'll be given an unloved painting so you can let your imagination and creativity run wild. All materials provided (or bring your own!)

### An Introduction To Spoken Word

2-4pm • Artist: Becky Doran-Brown



Reflecting on what has been and a chance to look forward to what possibilities the year ahead brings! There will be tips and tricks to get you started, space to write new material, or work on ideas you already have as well as time to share with the group. Spoken word is meant to be heard!

### Silent Reading Club

10am-12 noon • Artist: Shirley Bailey



Grab your latest read and come along to The OE Gallery: no assigned reading, no need to be insightful, and no pressure to get to the end of a chapter, just the joy of sharing a lurvely space with a good book and like-minded people in a companionable silence. With a cuppa, of course.

### Poetry Theatre Workshop

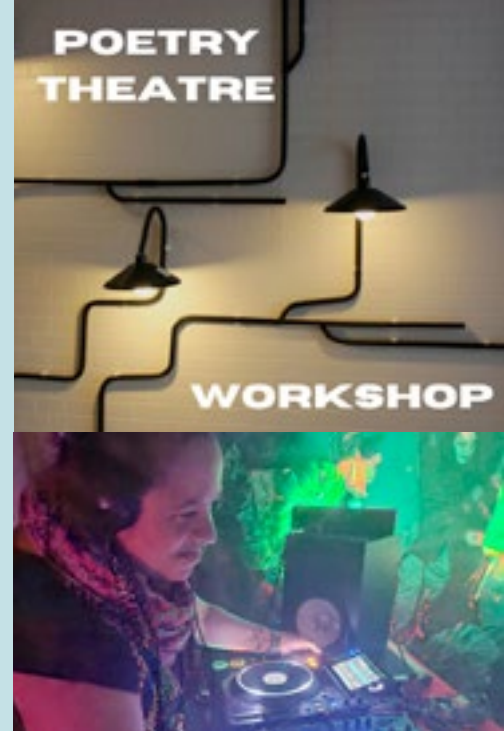
12-2pm • Artist: Linda Hampton

Poetry Theatre is the staging of poetry as part of a combined arts performance. We'll look at examples, consider performance elements and start to develop a new piece for performance. For actors and writers with some experience, those with a love of language and a curiosity for exploring new genres.

### Beginners Digital DJing

2-4pm • Artist: DJ Devolicious

Love dance music? Want to be able to play and share your selections with energetic flow? Wanna get the party started and keep the dance floor filled? Ever wondered what DJs are doing up there twiddling knobs? Come have a play, get a new, fun, cool skill under your belt!



### Jan-NEW-ary Schedule at a glance

#### Monday 1 January

10am-12noon Coffee + Creative Confirmations  
12-2pm Happy Boxes

#### Tuesday 2 January

10am-12noon FlipchART  
12-2pm DJ Workshop  
2-4pm Relax, Recharge + Write

#### Wednesday 3 January

10am-12noon Burlesque for Body Positivity  
12-2pm Mapping a Matriarchy  
2-4pm Colour Walking

#### Thursday 4 January

10am-12noon Silver Swans Ballet  
12-2pm Monster Painting  
2-4pm An Introduction To Spoken Word

#### Friday 5 January

10am-12noon Silent Reading Club  
12-2pm Poetry Theatre Workshop  
2-4pm Beginners Digital DJing

Places are limited and booking is essential. All places will be charged at £2.50 pp in the hope that this will, in some small way, deter those who book and then don't turn up. Thanks for your support.

If you'd like to book in person, we'll be in the venue until Friday 22 December 2023 and then back in on Monday 1 January 2024. We do accept cash payments.

This programme is aimed at anyone aged 18+ years.



## CROWN جرات

Date: Friday 23 February • Time: 7pm  
Price: £8 • Age: 14+

CROWN is a performance combining contemporary dance, classical Persian dance and Sufi movement to explore identity, displacement and body sovereignty. To a live soundtrack of classical Persian music and electronica, the dancers embark on a journey to find HOME. CROWN features brilliant contemporary and classical dancers and virtuoso musicians to bring you a moving, exhilarating, and energetic experience. POST-SHOW Q+A



## As SHE Likes It

Date: Saturday 9 March • Time: 7pm  
Price £8 • Age: 13+

Kiss the Hollywood happy ending goodbye!

As SHE Likes It is inspired by the story of #MeToo pioneer Patricia Douglas. A darkly comedic explosion of multimedia, verbatim, cabaret and drag; a contemporary Brechtian-style play that poses the question: How much has changed between the Hollywood of yesteryear and now? POST-SHOW Q+A



## Amy Johnson: Last Flight Out

Date: Friday 15 March • Time: 7pm  
Price £8 • Age: 14+

Amy Johnson, born in the era of the Wright Brothers' inaugural flight, embraced her ambitions. Captivated by the romantic allure of flying, she became the world's first female ground engineer and, in 1930, the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

Amy's life unfolds through a mosaic of memories, desires, wishes, and ambitions, revealing the tools she employed to turn her dreams into reality. POST-SHOW Q+A

## Blackpool School of Arts BA Hons Acting Presents...



## Two by Jim Cartwright

Dates/Times: Tuesday 26 + Thursday 28 March 2pm +  
Wednesday 27 March 7pm • Price: £10 • Age: 14+

Behind the bar of their northern pub, the Landlord and Landlady welcome their regulars with open arms. Lending an ear for stories of celebration, of loss, of love and of despair, the bickering couple work together to keep the locals in high spirits – with drinks, conversation, and laughter.

Performed by two actors playing all 14 characters, Jim Cartwright's poignant play takes audiences into the world of one working-class pub over the course of one night. Weaving together rich stories full of human emotion, this dark comedy gives an intimate insight into a variety of characters and will make you laugh, and cry, in equal measure.

## The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh

Dates/Times: Tuesday 26 + Thursday 28 March 7pm +  
Wednesday 27 March 2pm • Price: £10 • Age: 14+

In a totalitarian state a writer is questioned by the authorities about a spate of murders that bear similarities to her short stories. Is this life imitating art or something more sinister?

This black comedy, widely regarded as one of the greatest plays of the past 25 years, examines the role of the artist in society and asks what price do we pay for freedom of expression.



## *The Tigerface Show*

Date: Friday 26 April • Time: 7pm • Price: £8  
Age: 16+ (Adult themes)

Thrown head first into the colour-filled world of kid's TV, TigerFace struggles to keep his adult-cynicism at bay. This weird + wonderful comedy performance asks us to re-think what it was we wanted to be when we grew up in the hopes of finding some child-like happiness in adulthood! POST-SHOW Q+A. Workshops available, please contact Melanie on [info@theoldelectric.co.uk](mailto:info@theoldelectric.co.uk) to discuss.



## *I Hate It Here Sweet Beef Theatre*

Date: Friday 17 May • Time: 7pm • Price: £8  
Age: 12+

An interactive devised piece about zero hours contracts and instability. It centres on Plang, an elderly care worker who loves a boogie, Tara, a nurse with a penchant for Anne Robinson, and Spud, a teenage fast-food worker who would just love a date with fit Clare. You will be asked to participate in game shows, sign up for shifts and have the power to change the outcome. A funny and poignant look at in-work poverty. Workshops Available, please contact Melanie on [info@theoldelectric.co.uk](mailto:info@theoldelectric.co.uk), to discuss.



## *The Metamorphosis*

Date: Friday 24 May • Time: 7pm • Price: £8  
Age: 10+

As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a monstrous insect. Gregor works hard in a job which he dislikes in a society which he does not understand, but which allows him to provide a decent life for his family. Following his shocking metamorphosis into a giant insect he begins to learn what makes him human. But is it too late? As his mind adapts to his new life Gregor grows ever more distant from the world, struggling to hold on to his humanity. POST-SHOW Q+A

## *BREATHE Academy Workshop*

Date: Sunday 2 June • Time: 2.30-5pm  
Price: FREE • Age: 12-25

BREATHE Academy is a pilot youth project open to ages 12-25, empowering marginalised young people from across the UK to harness creativity and unite against suicide.

These young people will be the very first members of a brand new nationwide scheme called BREATHE Academy, launching in partnership with suicide helpline CALM by international beatboxing star and CALM ambassador SK Shlomo.

BREATHE Academy covers more than beatboxing: it's about inspiring young people from diverse backgrounds, especially female/non-binary, LGBTQIA+, disabled and/or from the global majority, to be their true selves, through any creative means, with budding artists collaborating live on stage with SK Shlomo at some of the UK's most prestigious festivals and venues, plus having their creations platformed online.

For more information about how to get involved with this workshop, please email Melanie on [info@theoldelectric.co.uk](mailto:info@theoldelectric.co.uk)



## *SK Shlomo BREATHE*

Date: Sunday 2 June • Time: 7pm • Price: £10  
Age: 12+

SK Shlomo returns with an award winning show described by The Times as a "one-person music festival", international non-binary beatboxing star SK Shlomo returns with award-winning gig-theatre solo show BREATHE: a rollercoaster love-letter to the lifesaving power of beats, bass & breathing.

★★★★★

"Absolutely Superb" BBC 5 Live





## Bits 'n' Pieces

Date: Friday 14 June • Time: 7pm • Price: £8 • Age: 14+

Follow the exploits of Tommy, Matty and Dougie as they look to ditch the day job for the disco. But with the disco comes the drugs. What does that matter? Everybody takes drugs. True. But Matty didn't take them seriously. This challenging dark comedy authentically represents society attitudes towards recreational drugs and the culture that surrounds them. It explores the dangers of drug stigma, the menace of media misinformation and the perils they hold for mental health.

In this assault on the senses, with temptation and terror, tunes and trauma from every angle, Bits 'n' Pieces reveals what it's like to come of age in the midst of Scotland's drug-death crisis. Saltire Sky Theatre Company is indebted to the collaboration of support workers within NHS Scotland and local harm reduction and drug information organisation, Crew 2000.



## MANikin

Date: Saturday 15 June • Time: 2pm • Price: £8  
Age: 14+

It's lonely at the top, especially at the top of Scotland. Set in the small Town of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, join Fraser Patterson as he wrestles with his mind and body in his struggle with playing the bit-part role of The Big Guy. Brutal playground initiation evolves into real-world tribulation in a society riddled with stigma and prejudice.

MANikin provides an honest interrogation of society's views on obesity and body image, seeking how these issues arise, escalate and become life threatening.

## Singing + Music Making

Dates: Mondays starting from 8 Jan + 19 Feb for 5-weeks + 15 April for 6-weeks  
Time: 6.30-8.30pm • Price: FREE • Age: 18+

Join our 2-hour session for singers and instrumentalists of all levels. Vocalists work with Liz Wilkinson in the Gallery, instrumentalists with Lucy Hunt in the Mezz—both enhancing skills. Later, groups combine to rehearse new material. Open to all (18+), make your Monday evenings musical and enjoyable!



## Electric Pink Voices

Dates: Tuesdays starting from 9 Jan + 20 Feb for 5-weeks + 16 April for 6-weeks  
Time: 6.30-8.30pm • Price: FREE • Age: 18+

Blackpool's LGBTQ+ Choir. In partnership with Manchester's The Sunday Boys is an inclusive singing group who sing great tunes, perform and make new friends. No audition. To support the running we just ask for a voluntary sub, 'pay what you can/want'.

If you are exploring gender identity and would feel more comfortable using a taxi service to attend these sessions, please contact us.



## Life Drawing

Tuesdays starting from 9 Jan + 20 Feb for 5-weeks + 16 April for 6-weeks  
Time: 6.30-8.30pm • Price: £35-£42 • Age: 18+

Develop your drawing skills by working with a live nude model, observing and drawing the form, and learn how to look and make marks that translate your experience onto paper. You'll also receive guidance and support where needed, and gain a new creative perspective on the human form and condition.





## Playwriting Course

Dates: Wednesdays starting from 10 Jan for 12-weeks culminating in a sharing event on Friday 7 June at 7pm • Time: 6.30-8.30pm • Price: FREE  
Age: 18+ • Online + In-person

Following the framework of National Theatre's programme for emerging playwrights, through practical exercises, you will develop approaches to Story, People, Narrative, Scenes, Style and Stagecraft to create new plays and/or hone existing work.

This course culminates in an exciting Scratch Scenes event where playwrights from this course will be invited to workshop their scenes with professional actors and then to share them in front of an audience to gain new insight and feedback about their writing. Scratch Sharing will take place Friday 7 June at 7pm. It is free to attend but booking is essential.



## Monthly Script Sharing

Dates: Wednesday 31 Jan, 28 Feb, 24 Apr  
6.30-8.30pm • Price: FREE • Age: 18+  
Online + In-person

A monthly online and in-person group aimed at anyone interested in writing for the stage. Each month we read aloud new work by members of this group or other playwrights. A peer-supported group for writers who have ideas, scenes or whole plays they have developed; a safe environment for sharing, feeding back and being first to hear about new writing initiatives.



## Clubbercise

Dates: Wednesdays starting from 10 Jan + 21 Feb for 5-weeks + 17 Apr for 6-weeks • Time: 7-8.30pm  
Price: £6-£30 • Age: 18+

Fun easy-to-follow dance workout to club anthems from the 90s to today's hits. Bring ya energy. Shake ya shimmy and have a laugh with some old skool tunes. Glow Sticks provided.

## Monthly Creative Network Breakfast

Dates: Thursdays 1 Feb, 7 Mar, 2 May, 6 June  
Time: 9-10.30am • Price: FREE • Age: 18+  
Online + In-person

A monthly online and in-person networking opportunity open to any creative professionals living or working in Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre.

A place to share ideas, to connect with peers, develop strategic partnership links, learn from each other and to nurture an open and transparent approach to programming in the area.

Please note new time!



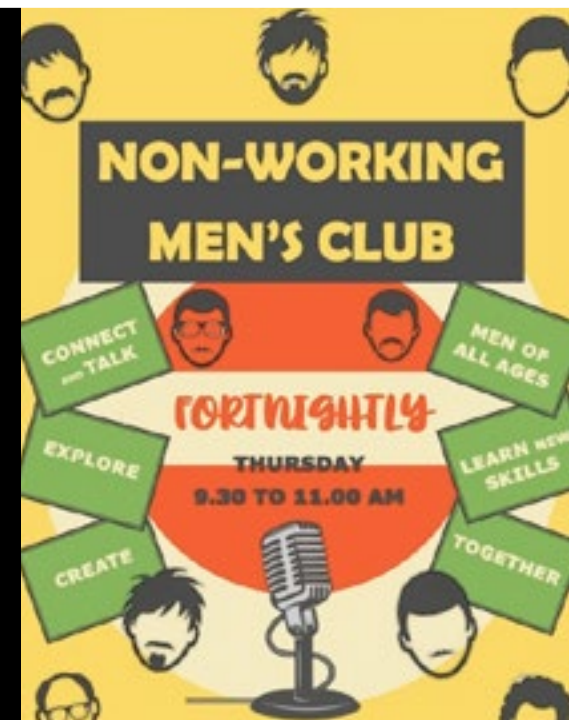
## Non-Working Men's Club

Dates: Thursday 11+25 Jan, 8+22 Feb, 14+28 Mar, 25 Apr, 9+23 May  
Time: 9.30-11am • Price: FREE • Age: 18+

Embark on a fresh bi-weekly adventure, where men of every age converge to foster connections and engage in meaningful conversations.

This unique opportunity provides a platform to explore diverse topics, unleash creativity, and acquire new skills—such as delving into the exciting realm of podcasting.

Join us in this dynamic gathering, where camaraderie, exploration, and the pursuit of knowledge intertwine to create an enriching experience for all involved.







## *Creative Sign Language*

Dates: Thursdays starting from 11 Jan for 5-weeks  
Time: 6.30-7.30pm • Price: FREE • Age: 8+

Creative Sign Language is a beautiful, accessible art form delivered by TramShed Theatre Company. Using British Sign Language, we adapt the signs creatively, to interpret popular music through movement. The workshops are relaxed, fully accessible and delivered in a safe and encouraging environment.



## *Burlesque for Body Positivity*

Dates/Time: Saturdays starting from 13 Jan for 5-weeks - 2-4pm + Sundays starting from 20 Apr for 6-weeks - 6.30-8.30pm  
Price: £35-£42 • Age: 18+

These session will be about playing with movement and props, exploring different styles of music and how they change the mood and movement. We will workshop our ideas collectively, sharing solutions and words of encouragement. It is my firm belief that there is no wrong or right way to do Burlesque. You are the artist, you choose what we see, that's the empowering element at the heart of this programme.



## *Drama for Confidence*

Dates: Saturdays starting from 19 Feb for 5-weeks  
Time: 11am-1pm • Price: £35 • Age: 18+

Be welcomed by our Associate Artist Liz Wilkinson and take part in a short course which will help you discover how you can improve your confidence and self-esteem. Using a series of fun and simple activities, in a friendly, low-pressure environment, we'll support each other and develop skills which you can transfer into your social life or workplace!



## *Th'ESPs Myths Project Development*

Dates: Thursdays starting from 11 Jan + 22 Feb for 5-weeks + 18 April for 6-weeks  
Time: 6.30-8.30pm • Price: FREE • Age: 18+

Open to women, non-binary + those identifying as women. A collaborative project led by Melanie Whitehead, Aishley Docherty and Janine Walker.

This is a brand new multi-arts project, where we explore connections to our past, present and futures through a variety of art-forms including movement, writing, making, music and others; we invite you to join us each week to take part in whatever way you feel comfortable. We will come together to explore myths associated with women, with a view to creating a brand new localised performance in Summer 2024 (not all participants will be expected to perform unless they want to although we hope to create a safe space in which everyone can feel supported to share their creative expression).

## *Developmental Workshop: "What We Said to Danny in the Strip Club"*

Dates: Friday 1 March • Time: TBC • Price: FREE  
Age: 18+

"What We Said to Danny in the Strip Club" is a new performance that uses reportage-style storytelling, movement and an explicit soundtrack.

Creators Lucy and Allie are hosting a free interactive workshop/presentation of work-in-progress for participants who are interested in examining gender, power, and employment, and pose questions about stigmatisation of strippers and sex work.

Please contact Melanie on [info@theoldelectric.co.uk](mailto:info@theoldelectric.co.uk) for further information.



## Space Hire

Whether you're looking for a place to meet, rehearse, perform or make, we've got a welcoming, fully accessible, and unique space to suit your needs.

To check availability, to book in for a show round, or to discuss rates, access and capacities, please do get in touch via the website: Visit Us / Spaces & Hires.



## Support Us

We're always looking for new ways to connect with individuals and organisations. We love hearing from businesses who want to support our objectives and we seek to find ways to build meaningful partnerships that benefit all.

You can also give the gift of arts and creativity to others by paying it forward. Every contribution, no matter the size, is hugely valuable and allows us to keep doing what we do, long into the future. Just see our website for further details.



### Newsletter Sign Up

The best way to keep up to date with what's happening is by signing up for our newsletter. You can register at [www.theoldelectric.co.uk](http://www.theoldelectric.co.uk) and then you'll never miss a thing!



### Find us

The Old Electric is just a stone's throw from Blackpool's iconic Golden Mile, Blackpool North Station and the Tower. Our address is, 23 Springfield Road, Blackpool, FY1 1QW



### Volunteer

People are our power, and we're always on the lookout for more community members to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in as part of our volunteer programme. With many different roles available, there's something to suit everyone.

Find out what roles we have available now at [www.theoldelectric.co.uk/supportus](http://www.theoldelectric.co.uk/supportus)



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Check our website + social media channels and register for our e-newsletter to keep up to date with new activities and event details.