

# Step into Holmfirth

## A town of contrasts

FROM streets humming with activity to cobbled lanes steeped in history, traditional rows of shops to modern retail outlets, a stroll around Holmfirth reveals a market town of many contrasts – with more than a few surprises in store.

Tantalising window displays of freshly baked bread and cakes, fruit and veg, meat, fish and dairy produce are a wonderful blast from the past for visiting shoppers, especially if you come from an area where the major supermarkets rule supreme and your once-thriving high street is but a shadow of its former self.

Retailers at your service in Holmfirth are there because they have bucked the trend and survived the toughest trading conditions in living memory - thanks to the support of their regular customers who have remained loyal year in, year out.

They appreciate the courteous service, attention to detail, the quality and not least, the convenience – exactly the same qualities that ‘outsiders’ find so appealing.

Wherever you go, within easy

walking distance you will find independent – often family-run – local businesses continuing a proud tradition which can be traced back over several generations.

Within easy walking distance you will find shops specialising in clothes and shoes, arts and crafts, toys, cards and gifts, to mention just a few.

Holmfirth has so much more to offer including pubs, cafes and tearooms, bistros, cafe bars and restaurants, if you looking for somewhere to enjoy a quiet pint, a quick snack and a cuppa, a light lunch or main meal.

The town is also well known for its markets including the Wednesday vintage market, featuring antiques, collectibles and retro goods.

There is also a Thursday general market and Saturday craft and food market. Holmfirth Farmers Market takes place on the third Sunday of each month, 8am to 2pm.

Anyone just passing through might think there is little to see or do beyond the busy thoroughfare of Huddersfield Road, Victoria Street and Towngate.

Take time out for a closer look

around and you begin to realise there is so much more, including the quaint little shops which seem almost to spill out on to the narrow pavements of Hollowgate.

Tucked away behind Victoria Square is The Nook pub which was way ahead of its time in trailblazing the real ale revival of recent years. Adding to the already impressive choice of ales served at the legendary local – and also available at the neighbouring Carniceria cafe bar – are The Nook's own beers, brewed in its micro-brewery.

Other hidden gems of Holmfirth can be found in the area behind the parish church and along the cobbles of Daisy Lane, just off Towngate.

Norridge Bottom has a nicely relaxed, continental atmosphere with al fresco tables and seating outside Hervey's Bar and in front of the neighbouring Old Bridge Hotel. This thriving riverside area is also home to another of the town's treasures – the historic Picture-drome cinema. In recent years the venue has become well known for staging live music concerts.

■ For concert and ticket details call in at the Box Office bar any weekday evening, 7-10pm.



**COSMOPOLITAN TASTES:** Holmfirth town centre car park is transformed by the visiting continental stalls for the annual Food and Drink Festival

## Al fresco food and drink festival

A FABULOUS outdoor market will be at the heart of Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival later this month.

With stalls lining the streets from the market hall on Hollowgate over to Norridge Bottom, a myriad of mouthwatering aromas will waft through the town centre during the weekend of Saturday and Sunday September 24 and 25.

The festival bar will be based at Towngate Car Park, along with a food court featuring an array of local eateries inviting you to taste and buy.

Among the many tempting treats will be farmhouse and artisan cheeses and butters, home-made pasta sauces, Italian pickles, fresh fish and seafood, Aberdeen Angus beef, venison steak burgers and sandwiches, vegetarian and vegan dishes, organic fruit and veg,

ciders, wines and beers, and cakes 'with a twist' including chocolate chilli fudge, dandelion and burdock, fresh ginger and lemon.

As in previous years, there will be cookery demonstrations in the market hall and, scheduled for the Saturday morning, the Ready Steady Chef challenge: Holmfirth High School v Honley High School.

A free park and ride scheme will be operating on both days, with car parking available at Dunsley Heating on Huddersfield Road and a minibus service to the town centre from 9.30am to 6.30pm.

■ For latest information visit the website [www.holmfirthfoodanddrinkfestival.com](http://www.holmfirthfoodanddrinkfestival.com) Phone enquiries: 01484 223730 or e-mail: [maria.cotton@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:maria.cotton@kirklees.gov.uk)

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