

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Big Draw, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, and the National Trust come together to launch a global celebration of drawing, creativity, and community**

Sunday 14th September 2025  
East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley BD20 5EL  
Free | Drop-in creative activities: 11:30am-4:30pm

The world's biggest drawing festival is marking its 25th birthday in style - with a free, fun-filled festival launch in Keighley in Bradford District, sponsored by Ringtons. The Big Draw is delighted to be working with Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture and the National Trust to bring the day to life.

On Sunday 14th September, the historic grounds of East Riddlesden Hall will be transformed into a buzzing creative hub for the launch of The Big Draw Festival 2025: Drawn Together - a free, drop-in event open to all and packed with creative activities for families and people of all ages.

This flagship launch event marks the beginning of The Big Draw Festival, a month-long festival of drawing, with events taking place across the UK and around the world throughout October.

With the theme 'Drawn Together', this year's Big Draw Festival celebrates the power of creativity to connect us across generations, borders, and backgrounds. The Keighley launch will embody this theme, with East Riddlesden Hall acting as the central hub for a weekend of activity spilling out into venues across the town as part of a wider Big Draw takeover!

The event is made possible by the generous support of Ringtons.

**Matilda Barratt, Director of The Big Draw, said:**

*"For 25 years, The Big Draw has championed the simple but powerful idea that creativity belongs to everyone. We're thrilled to be launching this special anniversary year in a place bursting with creativity and community spirit."*

*“Our 2025 theme, Drawn Together, celebrates what The Big Draw has always stood for: using creativity to bring people closer, and making space for joy, connection, and self-expression. This launch is a call to join a global movement that invites everyone, of every age and ability, to make their mark!”*

*“We’re incredibly grateful to our sponsors Ringtons for helping make this event possible, and of course to Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture and the National Trust for bringing this day to life with us.”*

**Shanaz Gulzar, Creative Director of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture said:**

*“We’re really excited to be launching The Big Draw Festival here in Bradford District, at a stunning National Trust property in Keighley.*

*“At the centre of this year’s UK City of Culture is creativity and Bradford communities, so the theme ‘Drawn Together’ couldn’t be more fitting. We look forward to encouraging more people to rediscover this activity of expression and celebrate the 25th birthday of The Big Draw.”*

**Joanne Hudson, General Manager for East Riddlesden Hall, National Trust said:**

*“We’re delighted to welcome The Big Draw Festival 2025 to East Riddlesden Hall for this landmark 25th anniversary celebration.*

*“Community is at the heart of everything we do at East Riddlesden Hall, ‘Drawn Together’ beautifully captures the spirit of the hall, and we’re proud to be part of a celebration that brings people of all ages and backgrounds together through the joy of making and sharing.*

*“This special event reflects our commitment to creating welcoming spaces where people can come together, be inspired, and connect through creativity.”*

The Big Draw is excited to be collaborating with the National Trust for The Big Draw Festival 2025. This launch event in Bradford marks the beginning of a wider programme of creative activities happening at a range of National Trust sites across the UK throughout October.

From pencil to paper, chalk to charcoal, sketching to storytelling - *The Big Draw Festival Launch: Drawn Together* is a day for everyone. Come along, make some marks, and join a global movement that proves creativity belongs to us all.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Event Details:**

The Big Draw Festival Launch 2025: Drawn Together  
Sunday 14th September 2025, 11:30am-4:30pm

East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley BD20 5EL  
Free | Drop-in | All ages welcome

Full event listings and booking information will be available on:

[www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org)

[www.bradford2025.co.uk](http://www.bradford2025.co.uk)

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/east-riddlesden-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/east-riddlesden-hall)

**Social Media:**

@thebigdraw | @bradford\_2025 | @eastriddlesdenhall\_nt | @nationaltrust

Hashtags: #DrawnTogether #BDF2025 #Bradford2025 #KeighleyBigDraw

**About The Big Draw:**

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is an arts education charity that celebrates drawing and creativity in all its forms. By making drawing accessible and fun for everyone, The Big Draw encourages people of all ages and abilities to pick up a pencil, connect with their creativity, and have fun.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival - the world's biggest celebration of drawing. What began as a one-day celebration in October 2000 is now a global movement. While the Festival itself takes place throughout October, Big Draw events and creative activities run all year round.

[www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) | Charity no. 1114811

**About Bradford City of Culture 2025:**

Bradford 2025 is the UK's City of Culture - a year-long celebration of creativity, community and heritage across the Bradford District. From large-scale performances to grassroots events, the programme showcases the district's vibrant contemporary culture, shaped by one of the UK's youngest and most diverse populations. With hundreds of events taking place across the city and beyond, Bradford 2025 is set to inspire, connect and create lasting change through culture.

[www.bradford2025.co.uk](http://www.bradford2025.co.uk)

**About the National Trust:**

The National Trust is Europe's largest conservation charity, dedicated to protecting and caring for nature, beauty and history so that people and wildlife can thrive. Founded in 1895 by Octavia Hill, Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, the Trust was established to preserve natural and historic places for public benefit.

Today, with the support of millions of members, volunteers, staff and donors, the Trust looks after over 890 miles of coastline, 250,000 hectares of land, 500 historic buildings and nearly a million works of art across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. From rugged clifftops to historic gardens, the National Trust champions access for all, working with communities to ensure these treasured places are protected for everyone, forever.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) | Charity no. 205846

### **About Ringtons**

The Ringtons' story dates back to 1907 when founder Samuel Smith OBE began selling tea from a horse and cart in Newcastle upon Tyne. Fast forward to today and Ringtons remains a family business in its 5th generation, with tea at its heart.

Local Ringtons rounds have been serving the community for over 100 years and whilst the horse and cart might have gone, their ethos hasn't - you'll always find their baskets full of the finest and tastiest teas, coffees, biscuits and treats for you to buy on the comfort of your doorstep or at the click of a button.

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