



British Senate 2022
"Salt of the Earth" Cheshire Weekend
Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September 2022

Friday 9th September afternoon Silk Experience

We have an additional option to explore the Silk heritage of Macclesfield. There are 2 private guided tours available, running for about 1.5 hrs at an additional cost:

- 1 Silk Museum and the Pattern books £10
- 2 Silk Museum and Paradise Mill £15

We would be looking at a 14:30 start in the Museum in the town centre (own/shared transport), . Hotel check-in does not open till 15:00 anyway and is about 3 miles away from the museum.

Note that Paradise Mill has no disabled access, but the Silk museum does have a lift to the 1st floor where the Pattern books are available.

In addition, a [pub lunch](#) can be arranged for anyone looking to arrive about 13:00 onwards

This event is available to book even if you can't do the full weekend

The Silk Museum reveals Macclesfield's 300-year story as a global centre for silk



production, textiles and design. It includes the part the silk industry played in WW2, materials and costumes, a collection by the local wildlife artist Tunncliffe and the Brocklehurst Egyptian collection. Find out about the people connected to the industry and how they led Macclesfield to become a global centre for design and silk manufacturing.

The Pattern books are particularly special and if your hands are clean you might be able to touch them. The Silk Museum holds over 1,000 pattern books, 40,000 textiles samples, 300 Point Paper designs and 150 Jacquard Card Sets within its design archive, as well as about 150 Printing Blocks and Printing Block Tools.. As the patterns date from 1800s – 1990s you can discover how styles changed and how society and politics influenced designs, particularly during the World Wars. There are also some well-known designs within the collection such as David Whitehead and Liberty patterns.



[Michael Portillo](#) featured a pattern book at Langley in his TV series when he tried silk screen printing and these are now at the museum.

At the Paradise Mill, expert Guides will give you a personal tour of Europe's largest known collection of Jacquard silk handlooms in their original setting. See all stages of the Jacquard silk weaving process from cocoon to the finished fabric, including a



British Senate 2022
"Salt of the Earth" Cheshire Weekend
Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September 2022

demonstration on one of the restored looms. This is a technology that laid the foundations for our digital age.



Check out the museum website <https://macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk/venues/the-silk-museum>