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**BBC LEARNING TURNS BACK TIME ON UK'S HIGH STREETS**  
**Experience shopping in the 1930s as part of new BBC One Series**

High streets across the UK are going back in time this autumn as part of an exciting new **BBC Learning** Hands on History project and landmark **BBC One** series.

Across weekends in October, November and December an empty shop in 11 different towns will be transformed into a 1930s grocer's store, giving today's shoppers the chance to travel back in time and experience living history.

The project, which is set to visit Armagh, Bradford, Chatham, Clacton, Louth, Paisley, Poole, Stockport, Sunderland, Truro and Wolverhampton will give communities the chance to learn more about their local history in a fun, exciting and hands-on way. Visitors will be able to touch, hear and even smell what life was like on their local high street around 80 years ago, as well as share their own memories, photographs and mementoes.

With the help of local history groups, museums and archives the BBC Learning team aims to explore the past of other shops in the towns using documents such as posters, ads, bills and letters, all helping to create a high street time line. Communities can also help create a photographic 'Now and Then' archive of their area with the project's dedicated Flickr group or download a special guide to researching the history of their high street at [bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory](http://bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory).

The shops are part of the new six-part BBC One series ***Turn Back Time - The High Street*** which takes four empty shops back to the 1870s and propels them through 100 years of change. ***Turn Back Time*** will see a group of shopkeeping families from a variety of trades travel back in time where they'll face the challenge of living and working in six very different eras of British history, from Victorian Britain right through to

the 1970s, all recreated in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. ***Turn Back Time starts in November.***

And to bring the high street history strand right up to date, **BBC English Regions** TV current affairs series ***Inside Out*** will be examining how our modern day high streets are coping with the challenging economic climate across each of its 11 regional programmes. The films will be broadcast on BBC One across England in early December.

Launching the Turn Back Time shops, BBC Learning Campaign Executive Nina Bell said:

*“This is a fantastic opportunity to bring history alive and give everyone a chance to celebrate their high street. And it’s not just about the high streets with pop up shops; BBC Learning is working with local history partners right across the UK to develop engaging, hands-on events to bring the history of their local area to life and encourage Britain to fall in love with its high streets again You can find all the details on our website at [bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory](http://bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory).”*

### **Notes to editors**

1. The 11 pop up shops will be appearing in the following locations (venues and dates to be confirmed). They will be open during the day from Friday to Sunday unless otherwise stated.

Poole (Oct)

Truro (Oct)

Clacton (Nov)

Chatham (Nov)

Stockport (Nov)

Wolverhampton (Nov)

Sunderland (Nov)

Paisley (Nov) (Thurs–Sat)

Bradford (Dec)

Louth (Dec)

Armagh (Dec) (Thurs–Sat)

More information can be found at [bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory](http://bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory)

3. BBC Learning plays a central part in meeting the BBC's purpose of promoting education and learning. Utilising the power of the BBC's big brands and key talent, the department puts learning right at the heart of the BBC and provides a variety of resources and learning opportunities for children, teachers, parents and adult learners. Working with partners and in local communities, BBC Learning aims to stimulate interests and encourage engagement through a variety of campaigns across all BBC genres and platforms.

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