

York Festival of Ideas



YORK FESTIVAL OF
ideas

M a k i n g W a v e s

31 May to 13 June 2025
yorkfestivalofideas.com

Over 150 **Free** Events to
Educate, Entertain and Inspire

York Festival of Ideas 2025 Key Supporters



We are proud of the University of York's role in establishing and leading York Festival of Ideas since 2011. The Festival is an expression of the University's commitment as a university for public good: through the Festival we demonstrate the major contribution of education to the economic, social and cultural vitality of York and Yorkshire.

Together with our Festival partners we are committed to showcasing the importance and relevance of ideas and research, and to engaging with new and diverse audiences.

The University is pleased to support the Festival through the Higher Education Innovation Fund, which facilitates the communication of new knowledge and its benefits to society.

Charlie Jeffery, Vice-Chancellor



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is an independent social change organisation whose mission is to inspire action and change to solve UK poverty. JRF is therefore delighted to support York Festival of Ideas in its ambition to provide a platform for informed debate on key contemporary issues through a programme of accessible events.

This year marks 100 years since the death of York confectionery businessman, social reformer and philanthropist Joseph Rowntree. We are proud to work in collaboration with York Festival of Ideas to explore his remarkable life and the impact of his work through Festival Focus sessions on *Making Waves: Building on Joseph Rowntree's legacy* (page 49).



For more than a century we have been bringing families and friends together across the UK by train. We provide vital transport links that connect cities along our over 900-mile-long route stretching from Aberdeen and Inverness to York and London. Our passion is to connect businesses and communities supporting them to thrive. Our ambition is to be the most responsible and sustainable way to travel for generations to come.

We are proud to support York Festival of Ideas Discovery Zone family events (pages 16 and 65) and to present Festival Focus sessions on *Beyond the Tracks: Innovation and transformation* (page 55).

Welcome to York Festival of Ideas 2025



Welcome to the 2025 edition of York Festival of Ideas as we present an exciting programme of over 200 mostly free in-person and online events.

Welcome also to York, a city celebrated for its history and heritage but also a dynamic and evolving city of innovation encapsulated in our 2025 theme, Making Waves. We are celebrating pioneering individuals and the benefits of a restless spirit of curiosity combined with rigorous enquiry. We live in an uncertain world but however difficult things have been in the past or may be in the future, extraordinary people have done extraordinary things, and that spirit of creativity will endure and inspire.

York Festival of Ideas, which is led by the University of York, attracts a regional and global audience of nearly 60,000, working in partnership with more than 100 local and national

organisations all of whom share a commitment to public good. We are driven by a belief that education and ideas transform lives and indeed 'make waves'!

Michael Morpurgo has been making waves since his very first publication and we invite you all to join our inaugural Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day. We celebrate not only Michael's eighth Festival appearance but his first as Festival Patron.

This year's programme also includes inspirational speakers and performers such as historians William Dalrymple and Tracy Borman, geographer Danny Dorling, writer Shamini Flint, biologist Kathy Willis, journalists Ros Atkins and Isabel Berwick, Carnatic singer Supriya Nagarajan and BBC *Countryfile* presenter Tom Heap. And we have embarked on an exciting new media partnership with *The Northern Agenda*, the must-read daily newsletter for everyone who cares about the North.

One of the Festival's strengths is its ability to bring people with different experiences together to try to understand complex, fast-moving challenges. We know world events will have moved on by June, so are taking an agile approach to our Festival Focus sessions. Giving you a chance to join in the conversation, these events will cover important issues including the security of Europe, AI and the future of work, the creation of a more equal society and next generation rail transport.

Finally, my sincere thanks to our partners for their continued support, to our sponsors and donors without whom we would not be able to deliver so many events for free, and to you, our audience, for your enthusiasm to engage in activities and debates.

Joan Concannon
Director of York Festival of Ideas

2015: The Mozart Question
at York Minster

Introducing Our New Patron – Michael Morpurgo

Stories That Inspire

Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain's best loved writers for children with sales of over 35 million copies.

And from *War Horse* to *The Mozart Question*, his inspiring and moving performances have been a highlight of York Festival of Ideas for the past 11 years. Taking place at some of York's most iconic venues, the free events have entertained and delighted thousands of people of all ages.



“I am hugely honoured to become Patron of the wonderful York Festival of Ideas. Over the years, having the opportunity to perform and share my stories as part of a festival that enables everyone to come who wants to come, has been incredibly inspiring.

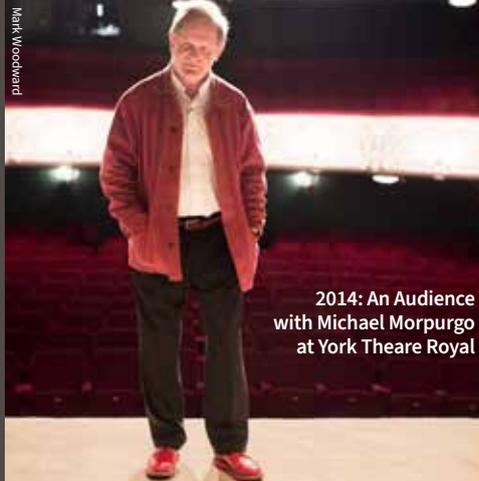
“York Festival of Ideas’ commitment to making ideas accessible to all by offering free events is something I would love to see happen more often. I strongly believe that there should be no barriers to ideas. I’m very much looking forward to taking part in this year’s festival as Patron, both online with my friends in schools and in person at York Theatre Royal.”

Michael Morpurgo

.....

“We are delighted that Michael has accepted our invitation to become Patron of York Festival of Ideas. This role cements the bond developed over the past 11 years, during which Michael has provided many unforgettable performances to thousands of people from York and beyond. It also recognises our shared commitment to delivering inspiring, quality events to diverse audiences for free.”

*Joan Concannon,
Director of York Festival of Ideas*



Mark Woodward

2014: An Audience with Michael Morpurgo at York Theatre Royal



2018: The Mozart Question at York Minster

Ian Mearnsdale



2023: War Horse at York Theatre Royal

Ian Mearnsdale

Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day

To mark Michael Morpurgo’s eighth Festival appearance – and his first year as Patron – we’re designating Tuesday 3 June 2025 as Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day. Read more about our plans on pages 36 and 37.



2024: War Horse at York Central Hall, University of York

Alex Holland

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A huge thank you to our donors and supporters

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Venues, maps and information about accessibility

Information is correct at the time of going to print.
Any programme alterations, our full up-to-date programme
and further details can be found at yorkfestivalofideas.com.



Bee Hudson Smith



Alex Holland

Making the Most of the Festival

We are proud to return with a packed programme of more than 200 inspiring in-person and online events. Here are some handy hints to help you make the most of your Festival experience.



PLANNING AHEAD

Festival programme

Browse the Festival brochure to find your perfect events. Look out for world-class speakers, exhibitions, performances, guided walks, family-friendly activities and more. Most of the events listed in the brochure are in person, but you'll also find brief details of 30 online events which you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home. You can find more information about all our events and speakers on the York Festival of Ideas website.

Calendar of events

All our events are listed in date order beginning on page 16. Don't miss our Pre-Festival Events, including our interactive family activities, and remember to check out the Throughout the Festival pages.

Exploring York

Themes

To help you find events that are right for you, we've divided our programme into 15 broad themes, such as Exploring York, Performances and Of Women. You'll find an outline of each theme on pages nine to 11. As you browse our in-person events, look out for the coloured tab above each entry as this tells you the theme it falls under (examples above).

Family activities

A number of our events are specifically designed for families to enjoy. Search for the pink Fun for Families tab as you look through the brochure. You'll also find a selection of family events on pages 12 to 15.

Venues

Festival events take place across the city of York. You'll find a list of venues, brief information about wheelchair access, as well as maps on pages 92 to 95. Each event entry includes an icon with a number which will help you locate the venue on the map (examples above).

Accessibility

Information about accessibility can be found on the web page for each individual event. Please contact the Festival team if you cannot find the answer to your query or have a specific request. Email: yorkfestivalofideas@york.ac.uk

Booking your ticket

To avoid disappointment, check if your chosen event requires a pre-booked ticket. To reserve a ticket, simply follow the instructions given for each event in this brochure. Most events will be bookable online.



ON THE DAY

In-person events

For ticketed events, please show your ticket on your smartphone via the Eventbrite app, or print out a copy to bring along. There are no reserved seats and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure you arrive in good time if you'd like a front-row view.

Online events

Most of our online talks take place live via Zoom, so you'll need to download the free app/software. Please be aware that our online sessions provide automated live-captioning but this may not be 100 per cent accurate and can vary in quality.

Photography and videography

Photography, filming and/or recording will be taking place at a number of our events. Please inform a member of the Festival team before the event if you do not wish to be photographed, filmed or recorded.

Food and drink

A number of our city venues have cafés serving refreshments. Check the organisation's website for details. If you are attending events at the University of York, refreshments will be available to purchase at most campus venues.

Travel and transport

Festival events are taking place at a wide range of venues across the city. You can plan your journey by public transport using

the York Journey Planner at itravel.york.info/plan-journey. For those travelling to York by car, the planner also includes details of the city's six park and ride sites. Information on central York car parks can be found at york.gov.uk/parking. Parking facilities at venues outside the city centre will vary, so please see the venue's website for information.

Many of this year's Festival events are taking place on Campus East and Campus West at the University of York. First Bus runs a frequent service (bus numbers U1 and U2) between the city centre and the University. If travelling by car, parking on both campuses is free after 6pm and on weekends. You can find more information about travel and transport on the Festival web pages.

Our Festival Themes

All our events are grouped under 15 broad themes to make it easier for you to identify what might be of interest to you.

Check out the summaries of each theme, then look out for the matching coloured tab at the top of each event (see page 16 onwards).

A Date with History



Explore the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell, how ancient India transformed the world and a history of scandalous dance. Don't miss a rollicking account of pirates' codes.

Arts and Creativity



Experts discuss illuminated manuscripts, *British Vogue* and music/science partnerships. Take part in a bookbinding or dance workshop and view inspiring exhibitions.

Eoforwic: Anglian-era York



Find out how ancient DNA is helping us understand the movement of people in the early Middle Ages, and enjoy puzzles and Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose in the pub.

Evolving Society



Why not join us at our Festival Focus sessions to discuss creating a more equal society, and AI and the future of work? Don't miss York's colourful Pride celebrations.

Exploring York



Enjoy walking tours of the city on a variety of themes, learn about plans to address York's deteriorating archaeological deposits, and hunt for medieval masons' marks.

Fun for Families



Spark children's imaginations with an exploration of space, an indoor archaeological dig or an interactive concert. Don't miss our Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day.

Health and Wellbeing



Discover the benefits of singing and acting, strategies for tackling loneliness at work, and how early diagnosis and intervention can protect our vision and heart health.

Power of Politics



The *Guardian's* political sketch writer John Crace views politics through a humorous lens, while our expert panels take stock of European security and Trump's second term.

Revealing the Ancient World



Learn how and why historical interpretations of Alexander the Great have changed in recent years and take an ancient tour of death and the afterlife.

Science and Technology



Find out how accidental discoveries have changed humanity, the wavy nature of nature and the secret of stem cells. Look out for Soapbox Science in the city centre.

Natural World



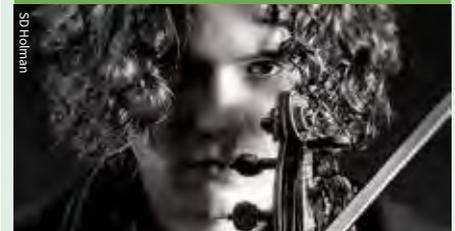
Take part in some balsam bashing on a guided nature walk, discover the alien microbes living in the Earth's crust and hear from BBC *Countryfile* presenter Tom Heaps.

Of Women



Our speakers challenge prevailing myths around housework, reveal what a 17-century Queen knew about daffodils in Africa and explore troubling biases in the legal system.

Performances



Enjoy an array of concerts, films and plays, including music from Rossini and Verdi, and Finnish acapella. Don't miss OAE TOTS' performances for children.

The Mind and the Brain



Explore the wonders of the human mind and brain as experts discuss the phenomenon of nocturnal monsters and protecting the brain while healing hearts.

Way with Words



Step inside the TARDIS to discover how ideas emerge and survive or explore the history and future of print. Join us to discover the art of explanation and the power of words.



Share your photos and experiences from the Festival using **#YorkIdeas**

 @YorkFestofIdeas

 YorkFestivalofIdeas

 yorkfestivalofideas

 yorkfestofideas.bsky.social

FAMILY EVENTS

EXPLORE SPACE @DISCOVERY ZONE



Wed 28 May, 1pm to 4pm
New Earswick Folk Hall,
Hawthorn Terrace
Free. No booking required.



Spark children's imaginations
with some interactive
space-themed fun.

SEE PAGE 16

FOSS FAIRY TRAIL



Throughout the Festival
Starts at Heworth Green Gate
Free. No booking required.



Explore a magical world built
by fairies on the banks of
the river Foss.

SEE PAGE 18

THE LITTLE VIKINGS I SPY TRAIL



Throughout the Festival
Starts/ends at Museum Street
Free. No booking required.



Can you spot 22 weird
and wonderful things in
York city centre?

SEE PAGE 21

STEP INTO NATURE WITH ST NICKS



Sat 31 May, 10am to 12 noon
and 1pm to 3pm
Meet at the University
Boathouse, Fulford Ings
Free. No booking required.



Learn about Himalayan
balsam on a gentle 2km
nature walk.

SEE PAGE 22

FAMILY EVENTS

HUNT FOR MEDIEVAL MASONS' MARKS



Sat 31 May, 10am to 3pm
Fishergate Postern Tower,
Piccadilly

Free. Booking required.



Come and hunt for
medieval masons' marks in
a 500-year-old tower.

SEE PAGE 22

INDOOR DIG: BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE



Sat 31 May, 11am to 12 noon
and 2pm to 3pm

The Centre @ Burnholme,
Mossdale Ave

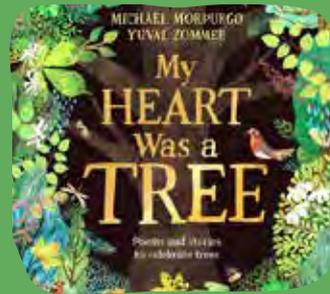
Free. Booking required.



Unearth the clues and find
out what it's like to be an
archaeologist.

SEE PAGE 24

MY HEART WAS A TREE: THE CONCERT



Mon 2 June, 6pm to 7.15pm

York Theatre Royal,
St Leonard's Place

Free. Booking required.



Join children's author
Michael Morpurgo for
poetry and music.

SEE PAGE 36

YORK ARMY MUSEUM FAMILY DAY



Sat 7 June, 10am to 4pm

York Army Museum,
Tower Street

Free. No booking required.



Learn about D-Day and view
Second World War vehicles
and equipment.

SEE PAGE 53

FAMILY EVENTS

CURIOUS MINDS DISCOVERY ZONE



Sat 7 June, 11am to 4pm
Ripon Wing,
York St John University
Free. Booking required.



Solve puzzles, enjoy games
and discover facts about
the human brain.

SEE PAGE 56

PRIDE PARADE MARCH AND FESTIVAL



Sat 7 June, 12 noon to 1.30pm
Meet outside York Minster,
Deangate
Free. No booking required.



Take part in the Pride Parade
March and have fun on the
Knavesmire.

SEE PAGE 57

FESTIVAL FRINGE FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON



Sat 7 June, 1pm to 4pm
Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York
Free. No booking required.



Join us for creative, crafty,
puzzling, scientific and
historical fun.

SEE PAGE 59

HOW BIG IS SPACE?



Sat 7 June, 2pm to 3pm
Bootham School, Bootham
Free. Booking required.



Take a journey through the
stars, planets and galaxies.

SEE PAGE 60

FAMILY EVENTS

DISCOVERY ZONE



Sun 8 June, 11am to 3pm
Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York
Free. No booking required.



Meet robots, have fun with numbers and try on VR goggles.

SEE PAGE 65

WHEN SMARTPHONES AND NATURE MEET



Sun 8 June, 2pm to 3pm
Harriet Centre, York Cemetery
Free. Booking required.



Bring along your smartphone and join an interactive nature tour.

SEE PAGE 69

SPIN, SPIN A STORY



Sun 8 June, 4pm to 5pm
National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate
Ticket charges apply.
Booking required.



Enjoy an interactive concert full of magic spells and mischief.

SEE PAGE 70

THE FAIRY QUEEN



Wed 11 June, 6pm to 7.30pm
Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall,
University of York
Ticket charges apply.
Booking required.



Welcome to the enchanted forest at a delightful family concert.

SEE PAGE 79

pre-Festival Events

Explore Space @Discovery Zone



Wed 28 May, 1pm to 4pm

New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace  Free. No booking required.

Come along and enjoy some space-themed family fun as we spark imaginations with a range of interactive activities. Venture into the Cosmodome (an inflatable planetarium), meet robots and have a go at driving a mini space rover. Prepare to glimpse new worlds and other planets with virtual reality (VR), get hands-on with a genuine meteorite and find out about the constellations.



Uncomfortable York Tour



Fri 30 May, 4pm to 5.30pm

Meet outside Bennett's Café & Bistro, High Petergate  Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join Uncomfortable York for an insightful walking tour uncovering York's diverse and untold histories. Go beyond conventional narratives to explore the impact of women, people of colour, and LGBTQIA+ individuals. Prepare to view the city landscape and its history in a new light as the tour encourages you to reimagine York as a vibrant, global city rather than just a historic English town.



Ultimate Breath



Fri 30 May, 6.30pm to 7.30pm
 Berrick Saul Building, University of York 
 Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Sonic Threads (Carnatic singer Supriya Nagarajan and harpist Lucy Nolan) perform their latest work *Ultimate Breath* and take part in a panel discussion about the partnership of science and music. Join them for a special meditative musical performance, as together with atmospheric chemist Alastair Lewis of the University of York, they explore the impact of visible and invisible air pollution on our environment and health.



The Pollinator Project Trail



Throughout the Festival
 Rowntree Park, Terry Avenue 
 Free. No booking required.

From buzzing bees to fluttering butterflies, pollinators are the unsung heroes of Rowntree Park. Discover more on a fun and engaging trail presented by the Friends of Rowntree Park. Suitable for all ages, the trail features the work of local artist Emma Feneley alongside information. Find the trail on the Friends of Rowntree Park website or pick up a printed copy at the Rowntree Park Reading Café. (Please also see page 25.)



A Labyrinth for Wellbeing



Peter Clark

Throughout the Festival

King's Manor, Exhibition Square **25**
Free. No booking required.

Come along to (re)discover how enriching walking a labyrinth can be. In the atmospheric setting of King's Manor, explore a labyrinth that reflects its natural surroundings, laid out in a pattern which is instantly recognisable but one you won't have walked before. Access your calm and confidence as you walk or view the labyrinth, which is suitable for both those familiar with labyrinths and those just beginning to learn.



Foss Fairy Trail



Throughout the Festival

Starts at Heworth Green Gate **23**
Free. No booking required.

Enjoy the Foss Fairy Trail, a magical hidden world built by fairies on the banks of the river Foss. Explore the fairy village and discover the folklore, flora and fauna of their enchanted home. Walk into a small woodland to find another fairy village, further hidden fairy houses, a wildlife area and pond. From there, head up to the cycle track which leads to other interesting areas including St Nicholas Fields.



A Queen's Book of Flowers Exhibition



Throughout the Festival

Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green **58**
Free. No booking required.

What did a 17th-century queen know about daffodils in Africa? How did books (and gardens) shape the world for women who couldn't travel? Visit a letterpress display at Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print, reimagining women's knowledge about plants. Discover a book of flowers written for a queen and explore questions about women's floral worlds. Visit thinicepress.org for more information. (Please also see page 54.)



Fragments



Emma Saul

Throughout the Festival

King's Manor, Exhibition Square 125
Free. No booking required.

View an inspiring exhibition examining how fragmented pieces – whether physical, emotional or conceptual – can come together to create something greater than the sum of their parts. The works, by the Art 9 collective, invite viewers to reflect on the interplay between the physical and the emotional, the individual and the collective, and the human drive to find order and meaning in life's fragments. *(Please also see page 25.)*



Micklegate Arts Trail



Navigators Art

Throughout the Festival

Micklegate 132
Free. No booking required.

Local artists, makers, performers and traders collaborate in a street-long celebration of the arts, devised by the York collective Navigators Art. Shops, cafés, pubs, restaurants and other venues in and around the beautiful and historic street of Micklegate play host to a dazzling range of local creatives, transforming the area into York's biggest art gallery. Pick up an event map from local outlets. *(Please also see page 86.)*



NAVIGATORS ART

Sociologically Imagining York: Podcasted-walk



Wayne Brcliffe

Throughout the Festival

City Centre 18
Free. No booking required.

Prepare to see our city in a new light on a self-guided sociological tour of York's historic city centre. Developed by University of York sociologists, the Sociologically Imagining York podcasted-walk features an exploration of 16 sites, including Museum Gardens, Evil Eye and SPARK. At each location enjoy a short podcast by York researchers offering new perspectives on familiar sights via a sociological lens. Visit sociologicallyimaginingyork.com



York Death & Culture Walk



Wikimedia Commons/Ville Center for British Art

Throughout the Festival

Starts at St George's Graveyard **14**
Free. No booking required.

Explore death, dying and the dead on a self-guided podcast walking trail around the ancient city of York. Beginning at St George's Graveyard, the trail takes you to locations including the cholera burial ground and the North Eastern Railway War Memorial. Download the podcasts and discover more about human mortality, both past and present.

York Crime Walk



Throughout the Festival

Starts at Walmgate Bar **162**
Free. No booking required.

Delve into York's dark past with this self-guided podcast walking tour and prepare to view the city's buildings, landmarks, people and places in a new light. Starting at Walmgate Bar – where in the 14th century heads of executed criminals were displayed – the trail reveals York's hidden history of crime, justice and punishment.

Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print



Alex Holland

Throughout the Festival

Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green **158**
Free. No booking required.

Explore the fascinating history and vibrant future of traditional printing at Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print. Set in the idyllic gardens of St Anthony's Hall, the Centre's working pressroom, museum and gallery offers exhibitions, workshops and activities for all ages. Visit thinicepress.org to find out more about the Centre's regular programme of events and opening times.



The Little Vikings I Spy Trail



Throughout the Festival

Starts/ends at Museum Street 

Free. No booking required.

I spy with my little eye a clock, a cat and a flag! Enjoy a circular walking route around York city centre, with 22 weird and wonderful things to spot along the way. The family I Spy Trail will have you strolling down snickleways, gazing at the city's medieval gates and ambling down the Shambles, ticking off iconic and eccentric landmarks as you go. Simply download a map or pick one up from the Visit York Information Centre.



Good Nature



Sat 31 May, 10am to 11am

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Did you know that cedar enhances cancer-fighting cells in our immune system? Or that touching wood makes us feel calmer (the woodier, the knottier, the better)? Or that the scent of roses helps people drive more calmly and safely? Eminent biologist Kathy Willis, author of *Good Nature*, takes a science-based look at how, by bringing nature into our towns and cities to interact with our senses, we can create a better, happier and healthier environment.



Step into Nature with St Nicks



Sat 31 May, 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm

Meet at the University Boathouse,
Fulford Ings **159**

Free. No booking required.

As part of the York Cares' Environment and Sustainability week, volunteers are supporting St Nicks' work at Fulford Ings to learn more about Himalayan balsam and take part in some balsam bashing. Come along and find out more about this work on a gentle 2km walk. *Suitable for all abilities and ages 8+.*



Untold Stories of Migration and Belonging in York



Sat 31 May, 10am to 12.30pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street **164**

Free. No booking required.

York attracts millions of history enthusiasts, but what does York history mean for its residents? As part of a research project about hidden histories of York's diverse communities, this workshop invites people to rethink their relationship to the city. Whether you have lived in the city for a few months or many generations, why not drop by and share what York means to you?



Hunt for Medieval Masons' Marks



Sat 31 May, 10am to 3pm

(pre-bookable entry times until 2pm)

Fishergate Postern Tower, Piccadilly **118**

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Come along and hunt for medieval masons' marks in the 500-year-old Fishergate Postern Tower. We know there are at least 81, so why not see how many you can find? With three floors, a spiral staircase and an unusually complete medieval toilet (known as a 'garderobe'), there's plenty for all the family to explore. Then watch a professional stonemason cut a mark on stone and, if you like, design your own!



Insights in a Flash

Sat 31 May, 10.30am to 1.20pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

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Take a journey of discovery into the amazing world of research with a series of flash talks presented by the University of York. Covering a diverse range of topics, each talk lasts just 20 minutes. Sign up for one session or join us for the whole morning.



explore
Libraries and Archives

The Humber Hovercraft

10.30am to 10.50am

Explore the hidden history of a remarkable hovercraft that whizzed passengers directly between Hull and Grimsby in the late 1960s. Join Paul Drury-Bradey of the Humber Hovercraft project.
.....

Sagaland: A history of British writers in Iceland

11am to 11.20am

Postgraduate researcher Hannah Armstrong of the University of York examines a 19th-century form of literary tourism which saw readers of medieval sagas sail to Iceland to see where their Viking heroes lived and died.
.....

Dogs, Religion, Hogwarts and Military Culture

11.30am to 11.50am

Join retired US Marine Steve Van Riper as he discusses the cultures of the US military services – Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines – through some interesting analogies about dog breeds, religious denominations and Hogwarts' houses.

Inequalities and Meningitis

12 noon to 12.20pm

Maisie Green and Rebecca Naylor of the York Health Economics Consortium explain inequalities associated with meningitis and why treatments should target socioeconomically deprived areas.
.....

Revealing the Secrets of Stem Cells

12.30pm to 12.50pm

Discover how stem cell and bone marrow research at York could help improve the understanding of blood cell and blood cancer development. Join postgraduate student Charlotte Titterington-Colman.
.....

Bob Ross, Health Equity and Decision Making

1pm to 1.20pm

Using the medium of art, Robert Malcolm, Project Director at York Health Economics Consortium, explores the trade-offs that need to be made when funding medical interventions.

York World Heritage Bid: From the riverfront



Ian Tempest

Sat 31 May, 10.30am to 12 noon

Meet at Marygate Landing Tower 

Free tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/bibts

Enjoy a walking tour around the riverfront of the Ouse as we showcase York's highlights and illustrate the role of the river in York's World Heritage Bid. In 2023, York was placed on the UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites as a 2,000-year-old continuously inhabited city. Becoming a UNESCO World Heritage site would earn international recognition for the city's great history, environment, buildings and archaeology.

Indoor Dig: Bringing the past to life



Sat 31 May, 11am to 12 noon and 2pm to 3pm

The Centre @ Burnholme, Mossdale Ave 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

What's it like to be an archaeologist? And what was daily life like in the prehistoric past? Join archaeologist and broadcaster Julian Richards for an 'indoor dig' and find out. Our interactive session introduces families to excavation, evidence gathering, interpretation and rebuilding. The clues are there, so why not become a dig detective and help unearth them? *Suitable for ages 5+.*

Thomas Cromwell: His rise and fall



Sat 31 May, 11.30am to 12.30pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Thomas Cromwell is one of the most famous – or notorious – figures in English history. As depicted in the hit BBC series *Wolf Hall*, the self-made 'ruffian' (as he described himself) came effectively to run the Kingdom of England for Henry VIII in the 1530s, but fell dramatically from power. Author and broadcaster Diarmaid MacCulloch examines Cromwell's true place in the making of modern England and Ireland, for good and ill.

Fragments



Sat 31 May, 12 noon to 3pm

King's Manor, Exhibition Square 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join us for the launch of a thought-provoking exhibition by Art 9, an eclectic group of artists, exploring the theme of 'fragments' in varied media. Hear from the painters and ceramicists who use actual fragments of the landscape in their work, as well as artists exploring small parts of natural or urban landscapes, the human form or the normally unseen world of microscopic images. *(Please also see page 19.)*



Make Space York: Are parks inclusive?



Sat 31 May, 1pm to 3pm

Meet near the Rowntree Park Reading Café 
Free. No booking required.

How can the design of parks be more welcoming for women and girls? Currently girls' use of parks drops as they enter their teenage years, and this can have an impact on how women access and feel in public spaces in later life. How can we challenge and change this? Drop by, find out more and share your ideas at an interactive Make Space York pop-up exhibition organised by the Friends of Rowntree Park. *(Please also see page 17.)*



Four Points of the Compass



Sat 31 May, 1.15pm to 2.15pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

North, south, east and west: almost all societies use the four cardinal directions to orientate themselves, to understand who they are by projecting where they are. For millennia, these four directions have been the foundation of our navigation and exploration and are central to the imaginative, moral and political geography of virtually every culture. Join historian Jerry Brotton for a journey of directional discovery.



Common Ground



Sat 31 May, 2pm to 3pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join us at a creative workshop and find out about Common Ground, a University of York-funded initiative providing music workshops for the refugee and asylum seeker community. Open to all, the workshop is a chance to learn about Common Ground's work. Discover how small actions of welcome, creativity and community can affect participants' lives. *No previous musical experience is needed.*

British Vogue: The biography of an icon

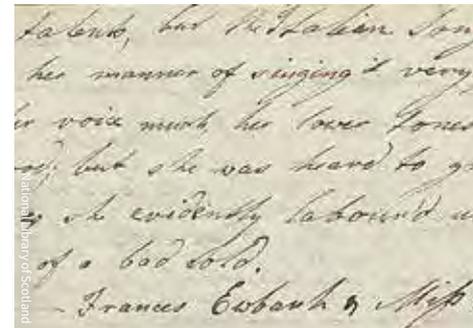


Sat 31 May, 3pm to 4pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

British Vogue has always been far more than just a fashion magazine. For more than a century it has defined the tastes and style of successive generations, playing a leading role in the continuing story of Britain's national identity. Author Julie Summers' beautifully illustrated talk features images from the *Vogue* photographic collections, and draws on previously unseen archives and interviews with magazine insiders.

Jane Ewbank's Music – 1805



Sat 31 May, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

What sort of music did diarist Jane Ewbank hear and perform as a well-to-do young woman living in early 19th-century York? What role did music play in her social life? Musicologist Rachel Cowgill explores Jane's soundworld from subscription concerts in the Assembly Rooms to musical parties with friends, offering a new take on Georgian York. *Followed by a guided walk of Jane Ewbank's York – please see the Festival website for details.*

Medieval Mayors, MPs and Mariners of York



Mick Sault

Sat 31 May, 4pm to 5pm

Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Robert de Holme Sr (d.1396) and Nicholas de Blackburn (d.1432) were two of the most prominent of York's post-Black Death citizens. Migrants to York, they made their money from trade, especially wool and cloth. Both became Mayors of York and subsequently MP for the City. Join Pat Cullum, lead volunteer at Holy Trinity Goodramgate, as she reveals how Robert and Nicholas made waves by taking to the waves.



The Mercian Chronicles



Sat 31 May, 4.45pm to 5.45pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

In early medieval Britain two kings Æthelbald (716-757) and Offa (757-796) dominated the political landscape of the rising power of the kingdom of Mercia. During their reigns monasteries became power houses of royal patronage, economic enterprise and trade, and the geography of England's parishes was crystallised. Join writer Max Adams as he discusses the landscape, politics and society of a fascinating century of change.



God and AI: A reflection through Choral Evensong



Sat 31 May, 5pm to 6pm

All Saints Church, North Street 
Free. No booking required.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making waves and changing the world around us. Join us for an exploration of how Christian faith is affected by AI within the context of Choral Evensong. The juxtaposition of a traditional service (including music, readings and prayers) with a discussion about Artificial Intelligence is designed to be both informative and thought-provoking. *(Please also see pages 44 and 77.)*



Play, Place and Print: Gaming local histories



Sat 31 May, 5pm to 8pm

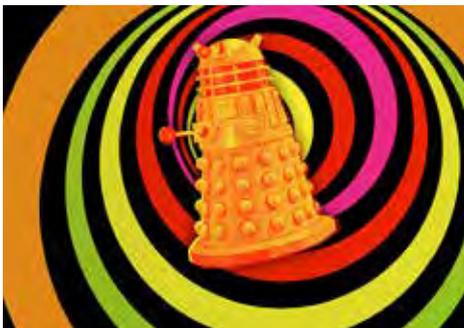
Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Use your power of imagination to bring to life York's unique role in print history. Our interactive role-playing game session is set in Renaissance York and features women printers operating in the city. Come along and discover how researchers from York and Edinburgh are exploring how games use world-building to recover, complicate or reimagine local histories. *Suitable for ages 18+ and all experience levels.*



Exterminate/Regenerate: The story of Doctor Who



Sat 31 May, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

On screen, *Doctor Who* is a story of monsters, imagination and mind-expanding adventure. But the off-screen story is equally extraordinary – a tale of failed monks, war heroes and self-sabotaging broadcasting executives. Step inside writer John Higgs' TARDIS to discover how ideas emerge and survive despite the odds, why we are so addicted to fiction, and why a wonderful wandering time traveller means so much to so many.



The Newsmongers: A History of Tabloid Journalism



Sat 31 May, 8pm to 9pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

From the first printed 'Strange Newes' sheets of the 16th century to the sensationalism of today's digital age, author Terry Kirby reveals the seedy history of tabloid journalism. Take a journey from Regency gossip writers through New York's 'yellow journalism' battles, to the 'sex and sleaze' *Sun* of the 1970s; and from the Brexit-backing populism of the *Daily Mail* to the celebrity-obsessed *Mail Online* of the 2000s.



S u n d a y

1

York's Hidden History



Liam Herringshaw

Sun 1, Fri 6 and Sun 8 June, various times

City Centre ¹⁸

Tickets: £6

tiny.cc/yorkshiddenhist

Discover the ancient, natural and scientific secrets of the city on a York's Hidden History tour. From the story of the fiery poo-bison to the history of flooding, join expert guides Simon Rogerson and Liam Herringshaw to discover more about our amazing city. Check out the Festival website for details of three tours – The Filthy, Beastly Tour of York; York's Hidden History of Flooding; and York: Present and Future Flooding.

AIR
FIRE
EARTH
WATER

Recognising Unique Wellbeing Needs



Prashay

Sun 1 June, 11.15am to 12 noon

York Explore Library, Museum Street ⁶⁴

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

It's widely recognised that people from underrepresented backgrounds face unique challenges that affect their wellbeing. While this has led to numerous support initiatives, psychologist Karisha George argues these continue to ignore the complex realities of those with multiple underrepresented identities. Learn why a more holistic 'intersectional lens' approach recognising individuals' distinctive experiences is required.

explore
Libraries and Archives

Ancient DNA, West Africa and the Early Medieval Migration



Duncan Sayer

Sun 1 June, 12 noon to 1pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens ¹⁵⁰
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Migration is a big topic today and it was equally important in our past. Archaeologist Duncan Sayer reveals how ancient DNA is helping us understand the movement of people in the early Middle Ages. Hear about the northern European ancestry of one of York's Roman soldiers, and find out about two individuals identified with West African ancestry – 'Updown girl' from the East coast and a second individual from the west of England.



The Wavy Nature of Nature



Sun 1 June, 12.15pm to 1pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street ¹⁶⁴
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Did you know scientists describe the Universe first and foremost in terms of waves? The microscopic world can be thought of as a collection of interacting 'probabilistic' waves obeying quantum mechanical rules. Even the nature of space and time, unified as 'spacetime', is wavy, and this gives rise to gravity. Benito Juárez Aubry of the University of York explores whether at the end of the day, everything's just wavy.



Making with Jane Austen and JMW Turner



Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

Sun 1 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 2pm to 3pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street ¹⁶⁴
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the births of novelist Jane Austen and artist JMW Turner. Our immersive workshop, which coincides with a landmark exhibition on Austen and Turner at Harewood House co-curated by the University of York's Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, focuses on the materials of their creativity. Use watercolour paints, inks and textiles, and learn about Austen and Turner's innovative techniques. *Suitable for ages 14+.*

The Jane Moody in
Memoriam Event

The Path to Net Zero



Sun 1 June, 1.15pm to 2pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street ¹⁶⁴
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

How do we overcome the technical and financial challenges in the path to net zero, especially in a political environment critical of the concept? David Trousdale, Principal Advisor for Climate Change and Net Zero at Newcastle City Council, explains how he and his team are successfully driving change in the city, including evidencing the benefits beyond emission reduction. Join us to hear about Newcastle's award-winning work.

Creative Bookbinding Skills



Sun 1 June, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Borthwick Institute for Archives,
University of York ¹⁶
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Explore the skills and techniques of bookbinding with archive conservator Catherine Firth and book and paper conservator Emma Lloyd-Jones. Make a simple wave-shaped dos-a-dos binding covered in 'paste paper'. Learn the basics of this centuries-old technique of decorating paper with patterns in coloured paste. All materials and tools are provided. No experience is necessary but practical hand skills are required.
Suitable for ages 16+.

The Art of Explanation



Sun 1 June, 1.45pm to 2.45pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens ¹⁵⁰
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Explanation – identifying and communicating what we want to say – is an art. And BBC presenter and journalist Ros Atkins, creator of the viral 'Ros Atkins on...' explainer videos, is something of a master of the form. Ros shares the secrets he has learned from years of working in high-pressure newsrooms, identifying the elements of a good explanation and the steps you need to take to express yourself with clarity and impact.

Aallotar: Women's voices in Finnish acapella



Sun 1 June, 2pm to 4pm

Creative Centre, York St John University 
Free tickets: yorks.ac.uk/events/

Discover the important role of women's voices in two collections of Finnish folk poems and songs, the Kalevala and Kanteletar, in the company of acapella choir Enkelit. Finnish women composers continue to be inspired by these epic but everyday poems, giving women such as those in Enkelit the opportunity to share songs of hope, defiance, despair and happiness that delve deeply into the fullness of women's lived experiences.

Est.
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

He Said, She Said



Sun 1 June, 2.15pm to 3pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Award-winning barrister Charlotte Proudman has dedicated her working life to representing women who find themselves in need of help from the family law courts. Through real-life cases spanning forced marriage, domestic abuse, child abduction and female genital mutilation, she highlights the troubling biases and shocking prejudice that underlie our legal system, putting forward her own inspiring vision for long-term change.



Making (Sound) Waves: Exploring vocal authenticity



Sun 1 June, 3.15pm to 4pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Using speaking/singing performance, documentary footage of singing groups in Middlesbrough and live analysis of vocal recordings, University of York researchers demonstrate the benefits of community singing and acting. Find out how these activities improve wellbeing for vulnerable groups, restoring a connection to the voice. *This interactive session is based on an interdisciplinary project funded by YorVoice/SPARKS.*

explore
Libraries and Archives

A Pub for All Seasons



Sun 1 June, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Ever since he was old enough to enjoy them, journalist and beer-expert Adrian Tierney-Jones has been visiting and drinking in pubs all over the country. From mellow, gentle inns in autumn to bright, lively bars in spring, what makes a pub great? Adrian explains how a simple quest to find a nice place to sit and drink revealed so much more: the secret to what truly makes the perfect British local across the four seasons.



Sounding Bombe: Enigma project



Sun 1 June, 4pm to 5pm

York Army Museum, Tower Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

A journey from electro-mechanical computation to electro-acoustic composition, this 50-minute piece of music for violin and found-sound is the accumulation of five years of study and discovery. Written in collaboration with the National Museum of Computing in Bletchley, it uses the beauty of music to celebrate scientific evolution and revolution and the human spirit's resistance of evil and tyranny. Join violinist Jack Campbell live in concert.



Landsmart



Sun 1 June, 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

BBC *Countryfile* presenter Tom Heap discusses how we can use land cleverly to give both people and nature space to thrive. We need land for humanity's growing needs, such as food, renewable energy and housing. Traditionally, we've stolen it from nature, but this has led to a mounting toll of extinction and pollution that is now punishing us. As there's no land left to take, how do we get more from the same, or preferably less?



Ripples in the Gene Pool That Made Us Who We Are



Sun 1 June, 7pm to 8pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

What do we expect when we send off a DNA test that offers to trace our distant ancestry? Were our ancestors part of the Norman invasion of 1066? Are we 'Celtic' or Viking? The reality is that most of us are an amazing, but perhaps unsurprising, mixture. Archaeologist Julian Richards explores the genetic history of the British Isles from hunter gatherers to Huguenots and beyond, drawing on genetic studies and archaeology.



Touch Transmission



Mon 2 June, 6pm to 7pm

School of ACT, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Touch is often used to control musical instruments, but research is uncovering the ways in which experiencing touch affects not only how performers 'feel' the music, but also how listeners respond. Discover the power of musical touch through performance and a hands-on workshop with pianist and musicologist Catherine Laws, theatre and Feldenkrais Method practitioner Teresa Brayshaw and psychologist Natalie Bowling.



IN THE SERVICE OF THE SHOGUN



 **Mon 2 June, 11am to 12 noon**

Author Frederik Cryns traces William Adams's remarkable rise from humble English pilot to a position of immense influence in Japan's foreign relations in the 1600s.

PROTECTING THE BRAIN WHILE HEALING HEARTS



 **Mon 2 June, 1pm to 2pm**

Discover how specialised brain training programmes can boost recovery and quality of life after heart surgery with clinical neuropsychologist Kalliopi Megari.

BETWEEN THE SALT AND THE ASH



 **Mon 2 June, 6pm to 7pm**

Take a journey into the soul of Northumbria with writer Jake Morris-Campbell as he seeks to understand the deep past and uncertain future of his homeland.

MOTORBIKES AND MARATHONS: ANDY IBBOTT'S STORY



Joshua Rich

 **Mon 2 June, 6pm to 7pm**

Hear the incredible story of how renowned motorcycle racing instructor Andy Ibbott turned adversity into opportunity after suffering a life-changing stroke.

FAMILY ROMANCE: SARGENT AND THE WERTHEIMERS



 **Mon 2 June, 8pm to 9pm**

Join author Jean Strouse for the riveting story of portrait artist John Singer Sargent and his relationship with an eminent Edwardian family, the Wertheimers.

THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A CLIMATE CRISIS



 **Mon 2 June, 8pm to 9pm**

How can those in higher education work together to address the challenges of a global climate crisis? Our expert panel discusses some unique new approaches.

Making Waves Through Words –

 **IN PERSON**

My Heart was a Tree: The concert

Mon 2 June, 6pm to 7.15pm

York Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place 

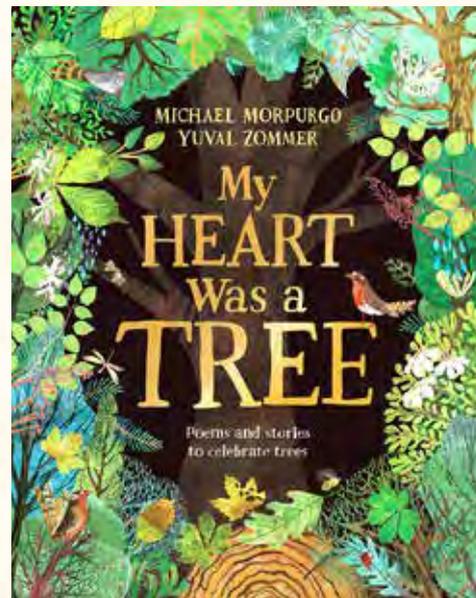
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Enjoy a mesmerising programme of poetry and music inspired by our beautiful British countryside in the company of renowned children's author Michael Morpurgo.

Along with his wife and fellow author Clare Morpurgo, and Carol Hughes, who was married to poet Ted Hughes for the last 28 years of his life, Michael shares some of his favourite poems, rejoicing in the wonder and magnificence of nature.

The poignant readings are interspersed with music by Elgar, Haydn, Max Richter and Vaughan Williams, performed by the Iddesleigh String Quartet.

This moving family-friendly concert includes readings from Michael's beautifully illustrated children's book *My Heart Was a Tree* (Two Hoots), as well as the Ted Hughes poem which gave the book its title. *Suitable for ages 9+*.



Steven Hutton

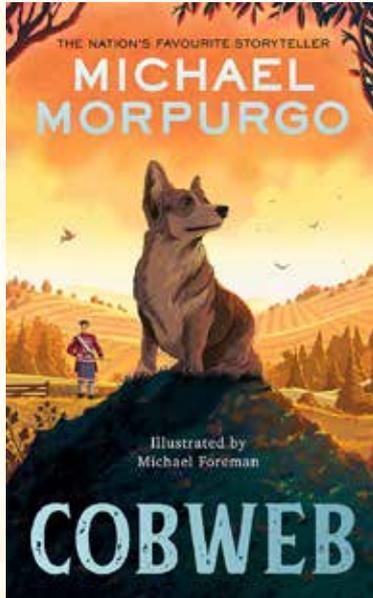
Michael Morpurgo

Inspiring Audiences Through Storytelling

Michael Morpurgo's powerful and moving performances have been a much-loved highlight of York Festival of Ideas for the past 11 years. And to mark Michael's eighth Festival appearance – and his first as Patron – we're designating Tuesday 3 June as Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day!

We hope you'll join us to celebrate the acclaimed author's amazing power as a writer, communicator and advocate of the arts at two very special events. On the eve of the Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day, enjoy poetry and music in the grandeur of York Theatre Royal. Then, on the celebration day itself, schools and home educator groups are invited to join us for a unique online event.

Celebrating Michael Morpurgo



ONLINE Cobweb

Tues 3 June, 10am to 10.45am

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

"They call me Cobweb. I'll tell you why later. I may be a dog, but I know and understand a lot more than people think I do."

Enjoy readings from Michael Morpurgo's latest work, *Cobweb* (HarperCollins), a stunning tale of courage and kindness. Exploring humanity, animals and the heartbreak of war, the powerful, moving adventure is inspired by the extraordinary true story of the French Drummer Boy of Waterloo.

Our live online event is hosted by Katie Razzall, BBC News Culture and Media Editor, and forms the centrepiece of our Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day. Schoolchildren are invited to join us for this unique opportunity to hear Michael read excerpts from *Cobweb*, and to ask him questions about his work, inspiration and love of animals and nature.

Please note, this event is for schools and home-educator groups, not the general public.

Connect with Us

How are you marking the Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day on 3 June?

We'd love to hear your plans! Share your experiences and photos using #MorpurgoDay

-  @YorkFestofIdeas
-  YorkFestivalofIdeas
-  yorkfestivalofideas
-  yorkfestofideas.bsky.social



Free Walking Tours



Explore York and enjoy its rich and distinctive history at any time of the year on a free guided walking tour of the city.

The volunteer team of local experts from the Association of Voluntary Guides to the City of York (AVG) is on hand to showcase our beautiful city every day except Christmas Day. Find out more about the two-hour tours and pre-book your ticket at avgork.co.uk.

Step into 2,000 years of history...

T u e s d a y

3

Evolving Society

York Cares Summer Sparkle



Tues 3 June, 5pm to 7pm

The Hiscox Building, Peasholme Green 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Put a bit of sparkle in your life as York Cares, in partnership with Hiscox, hosts its second Summer Sparkle Social Club. Enjoy cake, music and dancing with the added bonus of building connections with people from across the city. Designed to bring older and younger neighbours together, this event is aimed at younger neighbours (18+) and older neighbours (65+).



DOOMSCROLLING AND MENTAL HEALTH



🕒 Tues 3 June, 1pm to 2pm

Anna G Orfanidou of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus examines how to break the cycle of doomscrolling – the compulsive consumption of negative news.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS



🕒 Tues 3 June, 6pm to 7pm

Find out about an evidence-based mental health and wellbeing curriculum for primary schools with Joshua Stubbs, Head of Research at the PSHE Association.

KING TYRANT



🕒 Tues 3 June, 6pm to 7pm

Join palaeontologist and artist Mark P Witton for a stunningly illustrated talk on what we now know about the fearsome and extraordinary king of the dinosaurs.

CAN WE CREATE A BETTER TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURE?



🕒 Tues 3 June, 7pm to 8pm

We're living in the technological future, but is it the one we want? Join in the discussion as we explore if digital technologies are solving the right problems.

NO ONE WANTS TO SEE YOUR D*CK



🕒 Tues 3 June, 8pm to 9pm

As the epidemic of male violence towards women and girls reaches new heights, campaigner Jess Davies provides a toolkit to understand and tackle online misogyny.

THE EVOLUTION OF IMPERFECTION



🕒 Tues 3 June, 8pm to 9pm

Discover the science of why we are not and cannot be perfect with Laurence Hurst, an expert on evolution and genetics from the University of Bath.

Captured at Sea: Piracy, prize and the circulation of art



Wikimedia Commons

Tues 3 June, 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Berrick Saul Building, University of York **4**
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Alongside painters, patrons and dealers, privateers formed part of Europe's early modern art world. Rebecca Earle of the University of Warwick explores 'capture at sea' as a means through which paintings and other artworks moved into and around early modern Europe. Hear an alternative perspective on the era's expanding world of goods and discover the significance of war and violent encounters at sea in circulating art.

Annual Aylmer Lecture

Beer and Beowulf



Wikimedia Commons

Tues 3 June, 6pm to 8pm

Duke of York Pub, King's Square **16**
Free. No booking required.

Beer and poetry often went together in Anglo-Saxon England and the hall was celebrated as the place of community and creativity. Join us in the *beorsele* or beer-hall of the Duke of York pub for an evening of beer and Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose. A retinue of reciters from the University of York perform a selection of readings, both in translation and in the original, on the theme of making waves.



The Quest for Eric Milner-White



The Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge

Tues 3 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

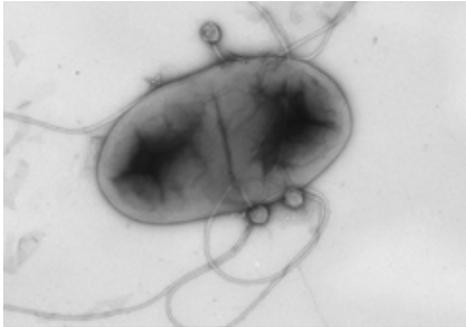
Merchant Taylors' Hall, Aldwark **31**
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

A prominent churchman for over 50 years, Eric Milner-White is best known for inaugurating the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. This, for many, became the beginning of Christmas across the English-speaking world. But what do we know of this notoriously secretive man's life? Historian Allen Warren explores the life and legacy of York's most remarkable 20th-century Dean.



The Company of
Merchant Taylors
of the City of York

Bacteriophages: The good viruses



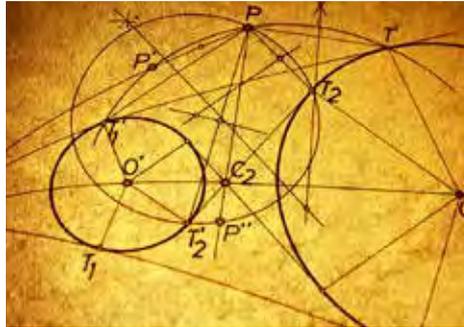
Tues 3 June, 7pm to 8pm

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

In an era of increasing antimicrobial resistance, we desperately need new ways to tackle infectious diseases. Martha Clokie of the University of Leicester explains how bacteriophage (viruses) are natural bacterial enemies that can be used to medicate diseases that are otherwise difficult to treat. Find out how these viruses – derived from places like our oceans, mud or even excrement – attack strains of bacteria that harm us.



A Brief History of Mathematics



Tues 3 June, 7pm to 8pm

Bootham School, Bootham 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

James Ratcliffe, Deputy Head at Bootham School, is on a mission to make maths fun and accessible for all. Join him for a whistle-stop tour from 25000 BCE to 1000 CE and find out about the men and women who made the modern mathematical world possible. Explore the ways in which the study of mathematics developed across the ancient world and how discoveries from that age still impact our lives today. *Suitable for 11+ years.*



Share your photos and experiences from the Festival using **#YorkIdeas**

 @YorkFestofIdeas

 YorkFestivalofIdeas

 [yorkfestivalofideas](https://www.instagram.com/yorkfestivalofideas)

 yorkfestofideas.bsky.social



York Festival of Ideas is one of the largest free festivals of its kind in the UK.

At the centre of the Festival is a belief that education and ideas have the power to transform lives. That's why we feel passionately that everyone across the world should have free access to ideas, as well as an opportunity to learn, explore and discuss those ideas together in a safe and welcoming environment.

If you share our belief, please consider supporting York Festival of Ideas with a donation today. Every pound given really does make a difference.

Support us:

yustart.hubbub.net/p/festival-of-ideas



W e d n e s d a y

4

York's Changing Waterscapes



Llanelli/Instagram

Wed 4 June, 10am to 4pm

Rowntree Park, Terry Avenue 

Free. No booking required.

How can people's enjoyment of the waterscapes of York be enhanced? How can flooding and other aquatic issues be better understood and communicated? Come along and tell the team from the York Waterscapes project at this interactive event examining the past, present and future of water in the city. *Please meet outside the Reading Café.*



THE FRIENDS OF
ROWNTREE PARK

Object Journeys



York Army Museum

**Wed 4 June, 10.30am to 12.30pm and
2pm to 4pm**

York Army Museum, Tower Street 

Free. No booking required.

York Army Museum is working in partnership with the British Museum to host a new exhibition *Object Journeys*, opening in October 2025. Find out about the background to this exciting exhibition and have input into the choice of archives and objects included. Drop by and let us know what kind of questions you'd like to ask about the objects and the journeys they've made. *Supported by the Weston Loan and Art Fund Programme.*

YORK ARMY
MUSEUM

Council for British Archaeology Open Day



Neil Redfern

Wed 4 June, 11am to 3pm

De Grey House, St Leonard's Place 

Free. No booking required.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) warmly welcomes you to an open day to find out more about archaeology and their work across the UK. Chat to staff, have a go at some hands-on activities and share what archaeology means to you. All are welcome, just drop in between 11am and 3pm. You don't need to have any previous knowledge or experience with archaeology, just an interest in finding out more. *(Please also see page 83.)*

Council for
British Archaeology

Ecclesiastical Architecture: History and future



Favergel Productions

Wed 4 June, 2pm to 3pm

All Saints Church, North Street 🏠
Free. No booking required.

Join conservation architect Christopher Cotton as he explores the history of ecclesiastical architecture and leads a discussion about its future. Learn how churches have developed over the centuries and enjoy a guided tour around one of England's most important ecclesiastical buildings by the team responsible for its recent restoration. *(Please also see pages 27 and 77.)*



A Story in Stone: World Heritage and York City Walls



John Oxley

Wed 4 June, 2pm to 4pm

Meet at Library Square, Museum Street 28
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Since the establishment of the Roman legionary fortress in 71CE, the stories of defence, power, status and ambition have been expressed through the successive expansion and development of the defences of the city of York. Archaeologist John Oxley leads a guided walk exploring how these narratives evidence and support York's case for World Heritage status. Come along and discover York's story in stone.

The Next Crisis: What we think about the future



Wed 4 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 39
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Every month, surveys around the world ask people to tell them what they are really thinking. The results are at times reassuring, sometimes chilling and often unexpected. Leading UK geographer Danny Dorling unpacks polling data and shows that our global crises are often very different from what's in the headlines. Discover where our greatest threats come from, what the future looks like to most people and what we can do about it.



Shamini Flint Talks Crime



Wed 4 June, 6.30pm to 8pm

Church Lane Building, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

'Low Crime doesn't mean no Crime!' says a poster from the Singapore police department. Adorning taxis on the island state, could this slogan be one of the reasons many people do not think 'crime fiction' when they think of the Asian novel? Ex-lawyer and writer Shamini Flint explains why she believes dipping our toes into the bloody bath of crime fiction writing is a great way to explore the tensions within modern Asian society.



ONLINE EVENTS

ACCIDENTAL: UNINTENTIONAL SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS



 **Wed 4 June, 6pm to 7pm**

Prepare for a rip-roaring adventure through science gone wrong with author Tim James and discover how accidental discoveries have changed humanity for the better.

AUSTEN AND TURNER: CREATIVITY AND CONNECTION



Yale Center for British Art

 **Wed 4 June, 6pm to 7pm**

Learn how contemporary artist Lela Harris and writer Rommi Smith create new work through creative practices in connection with Jane Austen and JMW Turner.

CHINESE AND ANY OTHER ASIAN



Parthiva Niven

 **Wed 4 June, 8pm to 9pm**

Writer Anna Sulan Masing explores what it means to be East and South East Asian in Britain today and celebrates the varied experiences that make up ESEA identity.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE DEAD



 **Wed 4 June, 8pm to 9pm**

Find out how ancient peoples dealt with death as classicist Robert Garland explores the beliefs and practices of a wide range of cultures and traditions.

ABC: Art, biodiversity and collaboration

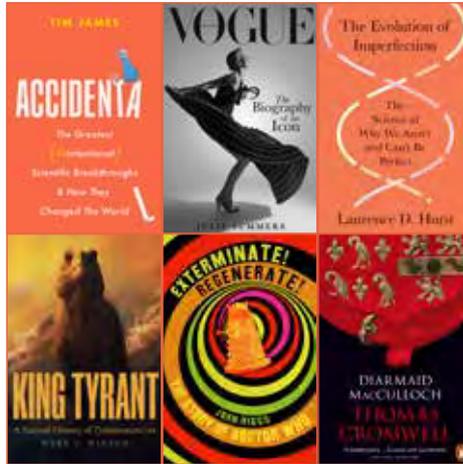


Wed 4 June, 6.30pm to 8pm

Department of Biology, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

An expert panel of artists and scientists share their work and perspectives, and discuss how collaboration can stimulate reflection, strengthen understanding and promote positive change for biodiversity and landscapes. Come along and chat with our speakers, interact with exhibits, and be part of a new collaboration for biodiversity-themed art at York.



**FOX LANE
BOOKS**

Independent bookseller Fox Lane Books will be providing both in-person and online sales of many of our speakers' books.

Visit foxlanebooks.co.uk

T h u r s d a y

5

Dirty Dancing: A history of scandalous dance



Thurs 5 June, 6pm to 7pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Throughout history the way we move our bodies to music has always been a source of contention. While dancing historically was widely regarded as a way to demonstrate grace and elegance, it was still often decried as evil or immoral by certain parts of the community. Take a trip through time with Lottie Adcock of Dance the Past to find those dances that broke boundaries and shocked polite society. (Please also see page 68.)



The Unexpected Side of Old Coins



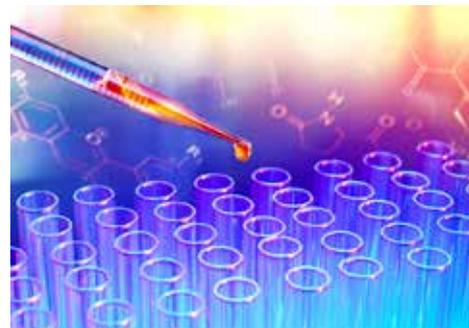
Thurs 5 June, 6pm to 7.30pm

Department of Biology, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Coins seem like such a simple object. Even an old coin that is almost 2,000 years old or an unfamiliar coin from another country should be easy to understand. After all, we know how coins work and what they are for? Not always so, says archaeologist Barry Crump. Join him and discover some of the more unusual and unexpected ways people have made and used coins from the Roman period onwards.



Bioscience: The musical



Thurs 5 June, 6pm to 8pm

School of ACT, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Inspired by the hit musical *Six*, Biology early career researchers at the University of York have collaborated closely with student performers to develop musical performances about their work. Come along and learn more about the innovative bioscience research being carried out in our city as you watch a concert-style musical.



FRAMING: THE SOCIAL ART OF INFLUENCE



📶 **Thurs 5 June, 6pm to 7pm**

Sociologist Mikael Klintman offers a toolkit for exposing and analysing the rhetoric that saturates our everyday lives in today's chaotic media landscape.

THE POWER OF CUTE



📶 **Thurs 5 June, 6pm to 7pm**

From emojis to Hello Kitty, philosopher Simon May explores the worldwide obsession with cuteness and what it reveals about our age.

DOCTORS BY NATURE: HOW ANIMALS HEAL THEMSELVES



📶 **Thurs 5 June, 8pm to 9pm**

Join biologist Jaap de Roode to hear the astonishing story of how animals from ants to apes use medicine and what it can teach us about healing ourselves.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS HARASSMENT OF BRITISH MPS



📶 **Thurs 5 June, 8pm to 9pm**

To what extent does the general public tolerate abuse and harassment of MPs? Does counter-narrative messaging reduce this tolerance? Hear from expert speakers.

F r i d a y



Making Waves: Building on Joseph Rowntree's legacy

Free tickets:
yorkfestivalofideas.com

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is partnering with York Festival of Ideas to mark 100 years since the York confectionery businessman, social reformer and philanthropist Joseph Rowntree died. Exploring his remarkable life, we'll look at the impact of his work on the city and how his legacy continues to support a vision of a more equal society, free from poverty.



Economic Growth: Who actually benefits?



Fri 6 June
11am to 12.30pm

The Guildhall, Coney Street 

The UK maintains unacceptably high levels of poverty and extreme inequalities of wealth. A strong economy can increase wages and employment, but evidence suggests this alone won't reduce poverty. In a time of global geopolitical instability, rising energy prices and changing Government spending priorities, our expert panel examines the impact of economic growth on households' financial resilience.

Sustainable Futures Through Regional Growth



Fri 6 June
1pm to 2.30pm

The Guildhall, Coney Street 

Join in the discussion as we examine the economic forces shaping our lives and explore the intersecting challenges of inequality, health, social relations and the planet. How can new devolved economic powers help improve key areas such as housing, education, health and social care, energy and transport? And how can we rethink an economic system to promote both growth and improve quality of life for all?

Climate Fresk Workshop



Fri 6 June, 12.30pm to 3.30pm
Sustainability Clinic, University of York **49**
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Interested in joining a climate science workshop? Climate Fresk is a three-hour workshop based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. This interactive session will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action through small-group discussion, reflection on emotions and collaborative action planning. *Suitable for ages 16+.*



Past, Present and Future: Printing in York



Fri 6 June, 1pm to 2pm
Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green **58**
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Printing in York has a long and distinctive history. Join Helen Smith, Director of Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print, to learn about Europe's earliest wallpaper, how a book can be a magpie, entrepreneurial widows, printing on ice, type made of Viking wood and much more. Discover how Helen and her colleagues are planning to make old-fashioned print endure for another half millennium.



INTRATERRESTRIALS: DISCOVERING THE STRANGEST LIFE ON EARTH



Fri 6 June, 6pm to 7pm

Learn what alien microbes living in the deepest, darkest recesses of Earth's crust can reveal about the dawn and future of our planet with biologist Karen Lloyd.

THE NATIONAL DEBT: A SHORT HISTORY



Fri 6 June, 6pm to 7pm

From medieval times to the 2008 financial crash and the present day, economist Martin Slater explores the central role and changing fortunes of the National Debt.

What Did Jeremy Think?



Wikimedia Commons

Fri 6 June, 7pm to 8pm

Bootham School, Bootham 5

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Lauded as ‘the greatest public servant of our time’, Jeremy Heywood was confidant and trouble shooter for both Conservative and Labour Prime Ministers, and a key figure in dealing with major crises such as the Global Financial Crisis and Brexit. His command of detail and ability to analyse situations and knowledge of the public sector were legendary. Suzanne Heywood talks about her late husband and his life of public service.



Interactive Media Showcase



Fri 6 June, 7pm to 11pm; Sat 7 and Sun 8 June, 10.30am to 3.30pm

School of ACT, University of York 42

Free. No booking required.

Join us at the Interactive Media Showcase, an annual event hosted by the University of York’s School of Arts and Creative Technologies (ACT). Enjoy the phenomenal work and ideas created by York students and explore projects ranging from games and mobile applications to virtual reality experiences and web designs. The showcase begins with a ticketed Gala on Friday. *Booking required for the Gala.*



Anyone for Coffee?



Planning to attend events at the stunning Ron Cooke Hub or elsewhere on Campus East, University of York? Then why not pay a visit to the Hub Café?

With an impressive lakeside setting, the Hub Café offers an excellent selection of snacks and drinks, including York Emporium coffee, delicious homemade cakes and pastries, sandwiches and a selection of hot food.

Ask about the YORCUP scheme and find out how you can save money and reduce the number of disposable cups on the University campus.

Card payment only.

s a t u r d a y

7

A Day Out with the Vikings



Sat 7 June, 9.30am to 1pm

De Grey Court, York St John University 

Tickets: £16

yorkarchaeology.co.uk/events 01904 615505

Join in the discussion as expert speakers look at the past, present and future of festivals and public events on a Viking theme at the 2025 Richard Hall Symposium. Re-enactments, reconstructed Viking ships and Viking festivals across the British Isles and Europe come under the spotlight, together with the JORVIK Viking Festival. *Organised in conjunction with the School of Humanities, York St John University.*

 York
Archaeology

Partners in Progress: People in research



Sat 7 June, 10am to 12 noon

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Who are the real experts when it comes to research? Scientists? Or patients, caregivers and the public? Come along to an interactive workshop to discover how patient and public involvement is improving clinical and biomedical science research at the University of York by disrupting the status quo, with the aim of benefitting healthcare for all. Our event is presented by York Biomedical Research Institute and Involvement@York.

INVOLVEMENT
@YORK

Medieval Masons' Marks Tour



Sat 7 June, 10am to 3pm
(pre-bookable entry times until 2pm)
 Fishergate Postern Tower, Piccadilly **18**
 Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Fishergate Postern Tower is unusual in having so many Medieval masons' marks in good condition on its internal walls – 81 of them to date. Hear what current expert opinion is on their purpose and view them with torches on a guided tour. Then watch a professional stonemason cut a mark on stone and, if you like, design your own. *Suitable for adults. Families please see page 22.*



York Army Museum Family Day



Sat 7 June, 10am to 4pm
 York Army Museum, Tower Street **163**
 Free. No booking required.

Learn about D-Day with the East Yorkshire Regiment Living History Group at the York Army Museum and the Eye of York. View vehicles and equipment that would have been used in the Normandy Landings and find out the stories of the men who landed on the beaches on 6 June 1944. *No booking required, just drop in.*

YORK ARMY
MUSEUM

Comes in Waves



Sat 7 to Fri 13 June, 10am to 5pm
 Ron Cooke Hub, University of York **139**
 Free. No booking required.

The sound piece *Comes in Waves* explores the fragile nature of human relationships through sound. Using a robotic piano, machine learning and ambisonic surround sound, the autonomous piece creates a rich soundscape across a body of water outside the Ron Cooke Hub, allowing listeners to walk around the lake and experience the evolving generative soundscape. Discover the installation created by Ben Eyes of the University of York.



York's Three Minute Thesis Competition



Sat 7 June, 10.30am to 12 noon
 Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
 Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Be inspired and hear from ten talented University of York postgraduate researchers about their cutting-edge work. In a challenge against the clock, the competing York Three Minute Thesis finalists have just three minutes to outline the power of their research and explain how it will improve society and our lives. Join us at the live final, vote for your favourite and see who wins.



A Queen's Book of Flowers



Sat 7 June, 10.30am to 12 noon and 12.30pm to 2pm
 Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green 
 Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

What did a 17th-century queen know about daffodils in Africa? How did books (and gardens) shape the world for women who couldn't travel? Visit a letterpress display at Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print, reimagining women's knowledge about plants. Join in a botanical printing activity and discover a book of flowers written for a queen. *Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.*



Making Sound Waves: Musical transformations



Sat 7 June, 10.45am to 11.45am
 Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
 Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Music can make a huge difference to the quality of life of young people who face enormous challenges. Find out how Jessie's Fund is playing an important role in giving children access to both music therapy and creative music-making. Watch film clips of specialist music practitioners working with children and young people, and enjoy a short performance by schoolchildren with special educational needs and disabilities.



Beyond the Tracks: Innovation and transformation

Free tickets:
yorkfestivalofideas.com

York has a proud history as a rail hub and ambitious plans for the future. Join us as we celebrate 200 years of the modern railway with a series of events presented in partnership with LNER. Discover the transformational power of rail – past, present and future – and its impact locally, regionally and nationally.



Transforming York: Rail's legacy



Sat 7 June
11am to 12.30pm

Law and Sociology Building,
University of York

On 27 September 1825, George Stephenson's steam-powered Locomotion No. 1 travelled 26 miles between Shildon, Darlington and Stockton. Discover how this journey changed the world forever, as our expert speakers discuss 200 years of rail history and its impact on York.

York: A 21st-century rail hub



Sat 7 June
1.30pm to 3pm

Law and Sociology Building,
University of York

Learn about the major changes taking place in the heart of our city centre, driven by York's Masterplan and the ambitious York Central regeneration scheme. How will these developments drive economic, social and cultural growth? Hear from our speakers and join in the conversation.

Rail: A gateway to the future



Sat 7 June
3.30pm to 5pm

Law and Sociology Building,
University of York

What will the next generation rail transport look like? How will it contribute to a sustainable future? Our speakers discuss rail travel from a technological, environmental and customer perspective, revealing how the spirit of invention and innovation of rail's early pioneers lives on.

See the Viking Ship Carving on Pikeing Well



Sat 7 June, 11am to 3pm

Pikeing Well, New Walk 
Free. No booking required.

A carving of a Viking ship has recently been discovered on a stone on Pikeing Well. Research has established it's probably 10-11th century and unique in the city. Come and meet members of Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society and learn about the carving and the 18th-century Well House on New Walk which overlooks the river Ouse. *Drop in anytime between 11am and 3pm. Pikeing Well is on New Walk by the steps from Harfto Street.*



Making Waves... of Words



Sat 7 and Sun 8 June, 11am to 4pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free. No booking required.

What's migration got to do with feminism? And what have they got to do with you? Drop by and take part in our interactive activities and see how we're all involved in meaning-making. Learn about the latest trends in European literatures and languages, give voice to your crafty self and contribute to our multilingual wor(l)d-map with a word, a sketch or a drawing. *Suitable for all ages.*



explore
Libraries and Archives

Curious Minds Discovery Zone



Sat 7 June, 11am to 4pm

Ripon Wing, York St John University 
Free tickets: yorks.j.ac.uk/events/

Explore the world of children's minds. Find out about psychology research at York St John University in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Solve puzzles, enjoy games and discover facts about the human mind and brain. Chat with researchers about their work and learn how they contribute to our understanding of children's developing minds. Join us for a special science engagement event that combines learning and fun.

Est. 1841
**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**

Swing Dance Festival



Sat 7 June, 11am to 4pm
Belfrey Hall, Stonegate [2](#)
Free. No booking required.

York Lindy invites you to a free one-day swing dance festival, featuring a pop-up exhibition, dance classes, history and music talks. Come along and learn about the fascinating African-American history of jazz and swing dance, hear about the musicians and dancers who made the ballrooms of Harlem swing, and listen to authentic music. Don't miss the opportunity to try Lindy Hop, Charleston and Jazz dancing.

**YORK
LINDY**

Pride Parade March



Sat 7 June, 12 noon to 1.30pm
Meet outside York Minster, Deangate [165](#)
Free. No booking required.

York Pride gets off to a fabulous start with the Parade March from York Minster through the city centre streets to the Knavesmire. The loud and proud Parade is a colourful celebration of our community and a march for equality and LGBT+ human rights in the UK and around the world. It's our chance to show what a diverse and inclusive place York is and to show that hatred and prejudice have no place in our city.

York Pride Festival

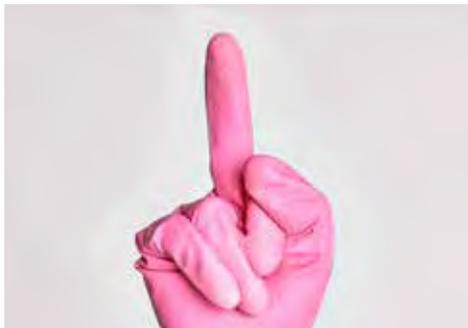


Sat 7 June, 1pm to 7pm
Knavesmire [126](#)
Free. No booking required.

York Pride returns to the Knavesmire with a vibrant afternoon of entertainment and family-friendly activities. Why not come along and celebrate inclusivity and diversity, and make some new friends? Featuring live entertainment, food vendors, a bustling Pride marketplace and the iconic main and cabaret stages, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for music, laughter and unforgettable moments.

**YORK
PRIDE**

The Return of the Housewife



Sat 7 June, 12.15pm to 1.15pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Housework is good for you. Housework sparks joy. Housework is beautiful. Social media is flooded with images of the perfect housewife. Yet housework remains one of the world's most unequal institutions. Sociologist Emma Casey asks why these inequalities matter and why they persist after a century of dramatic advances in women's rights. Join her as she offers a powerful call to challenge the prevailing myths around housework.



Holbein and the Year That Changed Tudor England



Sat 7 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

The year 1533 changed everything for Henry VIII and his kingdom. By the end of it, England had a new queen, Anne Boleyn, a new church and a new royal heir, the future Elizabeth I. This turbulent year was captured forever by Hans Holbein, the most famous court painter of the age. Historian Tracy Borman unlocks the mysteries of Holbein's enigmatic artwork *The Ambassadors*, revealing the secrets it tells us about the Tudor court.



Let's Talk About Non-Visible Disabilities



Sat 7 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Law and Sociology Building, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

It's common knowledge that not every disability is immediately visible, but how much do you really know about non-visible disabilities? Join award-winning writer and speaker Pippa Stacey to learn about the realities of living with non-visible disabilities in 2025. Discover the key facts you should know, and crucially, how we can build a society that's more compassionate and inclusive for all.



Pushing Boundaries in Biomedicine



Dani Markovic

Sat 7 June, 1pm to 3pm

Foss Building, York St John University 

Free tickets: yorks.ac.uk/events/

Scientists have been responsible for the most important advances in medicine and healthcare. These include identifying new drug treatments, driving vaccine development, discovering antiseptics and unlocking the secrets of our genes. Join scientific experts at York St John University for a hands-on journey through some of these advances. Examine your own microbiome, analyse DNA and look at what's in blood.

Suitable for ages 10+.

Est
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Festival Fringe Family Fun Afternoon

Sat 7 June, 1pm to 4pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free. No booking required.

Join us for an afternoon of energetic, creative, crafty, puzzling, scientific and historical fun with the University of York's Humanities Research Centre at this year's Festival Fringe Family Fun Afternoon.

Activities are particularly suitable for five to 11-year-olds, but other family members are welcome too.

No ticket needed – just come along.



Alex Holland, University of York

Soapbox Science



Sat 7 June, 1pm to 4pm

St Sampson's Square 

Free. No booking required.

Listen to top female and nonbinary scientists as they take science to the streets of York – while standing on a soapbox. Soapbox Science promises a summer of fun and fantastic science with events across the world. Catch the York event and meet inspirational speakers from the University of York as they explain their research and promote the visibility of women and non-binary people in science.



Mathletics: How statistics is changing the game in sport



Sat 7 June, 1.45pm to 2.45pm

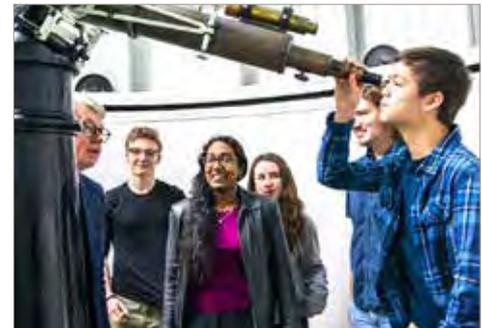
Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

In 2002, the Oakland Athletics changed baseball (and the rest of the sporting world) forever. With a budget less than a third of the New York Yankees' the A's were supposed to be underdogs. Instead, they won an astonishing 103 games and made it to the playoffs. Their secret weapon? Data. Discover how the sporting world is harnessing the power of statistics to make decisions on tactics, strategy and recruitment.



How Big Is Space?



Sat 7 June, 2pm to 3pm

Bootham School, Bootham 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Take a journey through the stars, planets and galaxies as Mike Shaw, Head of Astronomy at Bootham School, uses engaging storytelling to introduce you to the scale of the Universe and our significance in it. Using simple maths and everyday examples, he'll build up a sense of distance from our back gardens to the most distant galaxies. Enjoy plenty of audience interaction and a Q&A afterwards. *Suitable for ages 8-11.*



John Crace in Conversation



Sat 7 June, 2pm to 3pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

One of the *Guardian's* most beloved columnists, political sketch writer John Crace has kept us amused with his waspish humour for the last ten years. Join him as he discusses the state of politics today and introduces his satirical memoir, *Taking the Lead*. Written from the viewpoint of his beloved dog Herbie, expect some hilarious insights into Westminster and modern-day Britain.



A Green Future: Community action and inclusion



Sat 7 June, 2pm to 3pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

How can we create a greener future that leaves no one behind? Dilay Celebi Gonidis of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus explores real-world stories of community-led projects that are making a difference by combining environmental action with social equity. Join Dilay and learn about inspiring efforts across different regions and communities to build a fairer, more resilient future in the face of climate change.



Reflections on Fear and Love



**Sat 7 June, 2pm to 3.30pm (in person) and
Thurs 12 June, 7pm to 8.30pm (online)**

Friargate Quaker Meeting House, Friargate 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Fear and love are the two great forces that shape our lives. When fear is dominant in our life, we live in misery and isolation. When love is dominant, we feel connected to others and can experience contentment and joy. Michael Guilding, a retired psychotherapist, examines fear and love from the perspective of human biology and reflects on what each of us might do to shift the balance between these forces.



Shout, Grow, Mend: Stories of disability



Sat 7 June, 2.30pm to 4pm

York Explore Library, Museum Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Following the success of Explore York's recent showcase of *Shush, Snip, Rip*, which explored the histories of disabled people inspired by the city's archive collections, the exhibition returns with a new performance-based curation by the award-winning, disability-led theatre company Next Door But One. Join us for a Playback Theatre performance which encourages attendees to share their own stories from 2025 connected to York's history of disability.



explore
Libraries and Archives

Delights of Football



Sat 7 June, 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

From sportswashing to ticket prices, we hear much that is critical about modern football – but what remains magic about the game? From the beauty of floodlights to the glorious moment when a referee falls over, author Daniel Gray lyrically celebrates the simple joys of the beautiful game. Join in the conversation at an event hosted by Soccer-Mad Boffins Alex Gillett and Kevin Tennent of the University of York.



Her Secret Service



Sat 7 June, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Since the inception of the Secret Service Bureau back in 1909, women have worked at the very heart of British secret intelligence – yet their contributions have been all but written out of history. From encoding orders and decrypting enemy messages to penning propaganda and infiltrating organisations, writer Claire Hubbard-Hall brings to light the pivotal role of women in the First and Second World Wars.



Alexander the Great: Lives and legacies



Sat 7 June, 5pm to 6pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Learn more about Alexander the Great's life, personality and impact as historian Stephen Harrison of Swansea University offers a fresh perspective on his reign. Join Stephen as he re-examines Alexander's military victories and personality, while also exploring the impact of his campaigns on the people he conquered. Discover how and why historical interpretations of Alexander have changed in recent decades.



Come, Let Us Reason Together



Sat 7 June, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

As part of the Joseph Rowntree Centenary, The Rowntree Society explores the story of Rowntree's relationship with Trade Unions during the 1920s. Hear about chief shop steward Fred Hawksby and his assistant Irene Pickup and find out how Joseph and Seebohm Rowntree dealt with industrial relations in their company, inspired by their Quaker values and liberal politics.



Puzzles in the Pub



Sat 7 June, 6pm to 8pm

The Black Swan Inn, Peasholme Green 
Free. No booking required.

Just before the year 800, Alcuin of York sent Charlemagne a collection of arithmetical puzzles which he said were to be solved for fun. They included problems found in Greek and Roman sources that still appear in modern books of brain teasers. Why not join us at the Black Swan Inn for an informal session in the ancient and medieval arithmetical gymnasium?



John and Paul: A love story in songs



Sat 7 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

John Lennon and Paul McCartney were more than friends, rivals or collaborators. They were intimates who both had the fabric of their world ruptured at a young age and who longed to make emotional connections – with each other and audiences. Writer Ian Leslie traces the twists and turns of their relationship through the music it produced and offers rich insights into the nature of creativity, collaboration and human connection.



Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle



Sat 7 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

St Lawrence Parish Church, Lawrence Street 

Tickets: £22 (£20 concessions, £5 students)

ncem.co.uk 01904 658338

The *Petite Messe Solennelle* is neither small nor solemn but a fascinating late masterpiece from a composer who had abandoned opera decades earlier. Written for two pianos and a small choir it is a powerfully direct musical statement filled with optimism and a sense of faith. Rossini's often-operatic vocal writing blends drama, playfulness and musical bravado in a unique setting of the mass.



Sam Kelly and The Lost Boys



Sat 7 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate 

Tickets: £25.00 (£23.00 concessions)

ncem.co.uk 01904 658338

Enjoy a performance by one of the UK's most exciting folk acts. BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winner Sam Kelly leads the powerhouse band The Lost Boys, known for electrifying performances that blend traditional tunes, original songs and surprise rock classics. With virtuosic players on banjo, cello, whistles, melodeon and drums, their sound is vibrant, inventive and utterly captivating.



S u n d a y

8



Bec Hudson Smith

Discovery Zone

Sun 8 June, 11am to 3pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free. No booking required.

Join us for some family fun as we spark children's imaginations with a range of hands-on, interactive activities. Meet robots, have fun with numbers and get crafty decorating a brain hat. Or maybe find out some fun facts about British animals or try on VR goggles? Why not come along and meet York researchers and find out how their cutting-edge work is improving the world we live in?

LNER
LONDON NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY



Protecting Vision and Heart Health



Sun 8 June, 11am to 12 noon

Vanbrugh College, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

As we age, maintaining good health isn't just about living longer – it's about preserving quality of life. Richard and Chris Gale, leading consultants and researchers in ophthalmology and cardiology, explore how early diagnosis and intervention can transform outcomes for age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Atrial Fibrillation (AF). Learn about the importance of nutrition, lifestyle choices and timely medical care.

The James Burgess Lecture

York's Monument Men and Women



Sun 8 June, 11.30am to 12.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Peter Addyman, former Director of York Archaeology, explores the work of the team who produced the five groundbreaking Royal Commission volumes on the Archaeology and Architecture of the City of York from Roman times to the 20th century. Created in the 1960s and 70s, they formed the groundwork for the City's Conservation Plan. Without them, much of the city within and close to the Walls might have been destroyed.

Sheldon Memorial Trust

DNA: Discovering new adventures



Sun 8 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

How do our bodies make DNA? How do we destroy intruders' DNA? How do we repair our DNA when it's damaged? By looking at questions like these, scientists have learned to read DNA and even create the DNA we want. Jenny Hayes of the University of York discusses new medical discoveries and the tools collected from exotic organisms, from super-tough microbes living in volcanic vents to poisonous mushrooms and deadly bacteria.



A World in Crisis?

Free tickets:
yorkfestivalofideas.com

Democracy, national security and sovereignty all appear to be under threat. With a handful of powerful men seemingly dictating world politics, what does the future hold? Our experts discuss issues including disinformation, Trump's second presidency and the security of Europe.



Presented in collaboration with the Morrell Centre for Legal and Political Philosophy, which is generously supported by the C and JB Morrell Trust

Disinformation and Polarisation



Sun 8 June
11am to 12.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York

Across the globe, political disagreement is characterised by allegations that opponents are 'traitors', disputes over basic facts and an unwillingness to consider compromise. Our expert speakers examine how disinformation is driving and maintaining this polarisation.

A New World Order?



Sun 8 June
1.30pm to 3pm

Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York

With Trump's second presidency, are we returning to an era of Great Powers and 'might means right'? What are the threats of this new world disorder and the implications for international organisations and sovereign nations? Join in the discussion with our expert speakers.

Is Europe Safe?



Sun 8 June
3.30pm to 5pm

Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York

There is a serious possibility that the US might withdraw its security guarantees for Europe, in place since 1945. Our speakers review the options and consider what the future of Europe might look like. How do we balance change with a relationship with the US?

Sunday Best: Travels through the day of rest



Sun 8 June, 1pm to 2pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Closed shops and roast dinners. Bulky newspapers and the hum of lawnmowers. Strolls to nowhere in particular and visiting snoozing grandparents. Television theme tunes cueing bath time and a sudden dread of the looming week ahead. Join author Daniel Gray as he entertainingly charts the 'People's Day'. How have Sundays changed over time? Has anything interesting ever happened on a Sunday? Have we forgotten how to *do* Sunday?



Dirty Dancing: A workshop of scandalous dance



Sun 8 June, 1pm to 4pm

The Mount School, Dalton Terrace 
Tickets: £10
dancethepast.co.uk/events

Throughout history the way we move our bodies to music has always been a source of contention. While dancing historically was widely regarded as a way to demonstrate grace and elegance, it was still often decried as evil or immoral by certain parts of the community. Join a Dance the Past workshop and take a trip through time to learn some of the most scandalous dances in history. *No experience needed.*



Exploring the Fairy Tale Structure



Sun 8 June, 2pm to 3pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join postgraduate researcher Lacey Allen of the University of York for an interactive workshop exploring the fairy tale structure and its components. Learn about six plot functions found in fairy tales and work in groups to develop a collective story. Enjoy a session highlighting the importance of the fairy tale, its role in society and media accessibility. *This event is designed for adult participants.*



When Smartphones and Nature Meet



Sun 8 June, 2pm to 3pm

Harriet Centre, York Cemetery 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Over the past two decades citizen science – where the public and scientists work together to conduct real-world research – has boomed. Why not bring along your smartphone and join an interactive nature tour to find out how you can get involved? As well as hearing about the positive impacts of citizen science from your guides, you'll have the chance to put it into practice as you make biodiversity observations along the way.



A Queer Walk of York



Sun 8 June, 2pm to 4pm (drinks and conversation 4.30pm to 5.30pm)

Meet at the City Screen entrance, Coney Street 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

In what ways have LGBTQI+ people contributed to the history, culture and development of our city? Initiated by researchers at StreetLife York, this guided walk takes in sites of both historical and current relevance. Hear stories, anecdotes and memories exploring the experience of being and growing up LGBTQI+ in York. Afterwards, relax with drinks and conversation on the theme Spaces of Queer Activism in York.



Law and Death



Sun 8 June, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

The fate of the dead is a compelling and emotive subject which raises complex legal questions about the disposal and post-mortem fate of the deceased. Law expert Heather Conway uses cases surrounding corpse disposal, exhumation and the posthumous treatment of the dead to explore how such legal contests are resolved by courts.



Innit Marvellous? The world of Hancock and Steptoe



Sun 8 June, 4pm to 5pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Celebrate the comedic genius of Ray Galton and Alan Simpson at an event showcasing the archive acquired by the University of York in 2024. Join Keeper of Archives and Research Collections Gary Brannan for an illustrated talk and explore rare treasures, including original scripts, memorabilia and unseen gems from *Hancock's Half Hour* and *Steptoe and Son*. Discover how these icons reshaped British humour, with a few delightful surprises along the way.



Spin, Spin a Story



Sun 8 June, 4pm to 5pm

National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate 
Tickets: £7 (£4 under 16)
ncem.co.uk 01904 658338

Enjoy an enchanting story full of magic spells and much mischief at a fun-filled interactive concert with OAE TOTS... Once there lived a king and queen in a magical forest full of wonder, laughter and song. They both decide to throw a grand party on the longest day of the year, but then end up having a competition to see who can host the best party.



The Virtues of Underwear



Sun 8 June, 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Modesty, flamboyance, filth. Writer Nina Edwards unravels the intimate narratives woven into the fabric of our most personal garments. From the first loincloths to the intricate layers of shapewear, she explores the concealed world of underwear as a silent communicator of individual desire and societal affiliation. Join Nina as she illuminates the profound, often hidden stories told by the garments beneath our outer layers.



Kingmaker



Sun 8 June, 5.45pm to 6.45pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Our world is crying out for good leadership in a time of uncertainty and anxiety. But what is leadership exactly? What motivates leaders' pursuit of power and influence? Author Sonia Purnell discusses the complexities and mysteries of leadership, highlighting lessons from the life of Pamela Churchill Harriman, daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill, who played important but largely misunderstood roles in transatlantic politics.



When We Ruled: African queens and warriors



Sun 8 June, 7pm to 8pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Njinga Mbande. Nana Yaa Asantewaa. Makobo Modjadji VI. Ranavalona the First. These queens and warriors ruled vast swathes of the African continent. Yet, beyond the lands they called home, few of us have ever heard their names. Join author Paula Akpan for a revelatory history as she takes you into the worlds of these powerful figures, revealing their stories and how they came to rule and influence the futures of their people.



The Ghosts in My Bedroom



Sun 8 June, 7.15pm to 8.15pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Ever since records began, there have been stories of people being visited or attacked in the night by nocturnal monsters. Typically, these accounts describe victims paralysed in their beds while a monstrous being approaches them before trying to strangle them. Psychologist Dan Denis explores this cultural history and discusses the progress made by modern science to understand this worldwide phenomenon.



M o n d a y

9

📶 ONLINE EVENTS

LEFTOVERS: A HISTORY OF FOOD WASTE AND PRESERVATION



📶 **Mon 9 June, 12 noon to 1pm**

Historian Eleanor Barnett charts the ingenious ways people have sought to extend the life of food and reuse leftovers from the 16th century to the present day.

BACK ON TRACK: RETURN TO WORK TOOLKIT



📶 **Mon 9 June, 12 noon to 1pm**

Simon Gilbody, a leader in the field of mental health interventions, discusses a toolkit to help those experiencing long-term sickness absence back into work.

Evolving Society

Eighth-Century Twinning? York and Münster



Mon 9 June, 5.30pm to 6.30pm

King's Manor, Exhibition Square 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Twin cities York and Münster have much in common. Did you know both have a famous eighth-century theologian? St Liudger, first Bishop of Münster, studied in York with Alcuin. Liudger was given books when he left York, precious fragments of which shed light on this early period of intellectual exchange. Nowadays, the York-Münster friendship means school exchanges, intriguing connections and new activities, encouraged by the twinning association.

Motherland: African culture and identity



Mon 9 June, 6pm to 7pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join us for a ground-breaking exploration of African culture and identity as author Luke Pepera journeys through 500,000 years of history to connect with his extraordinary heritage. Exploring aspects of African identity from nomadic culture to matriarchal society, Luke introduces some intriguing characters such as Mansa Musa, the wealthiest man who ever lived, and the Kandake Queen Amanirenas, who defeated the Romans in Nubia.



Presence: The strange science of the unseen other



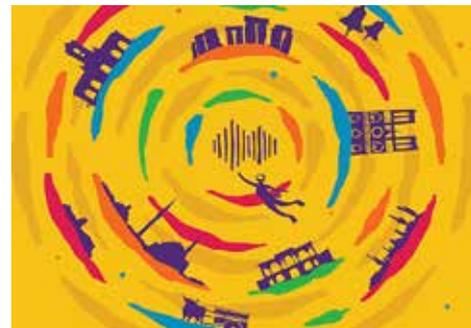
Mon 9 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

We all know the feeling: you're alone but it's like there's someone there with you – a mysterious presence lurking just out of sight. Throughout history this experience has been the subject of religious and supernatural speculation. But does science have the answer? Psychologist Ben Alderson-Day digs into historical accounts and contemporary cases of 'felt presence', hunting for the key to unlock this strange phenomenon.



Sonic Pasts



Mon 9 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

School of ACT, University of York 
(In person and live-streamed)
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

How do researchers study the sounds of the past? Mariana López of the University of York discusses how different disciplines have studied the fields of acoustical heritage and historical soundscapes and examines intrinsic biases. Discover the connection to heritage more widely, including the concept of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), and how sound is represented within UNESCO heritage listings.



At Sea with Viking Poetry



Mon 9 June, 7pm to 8pm

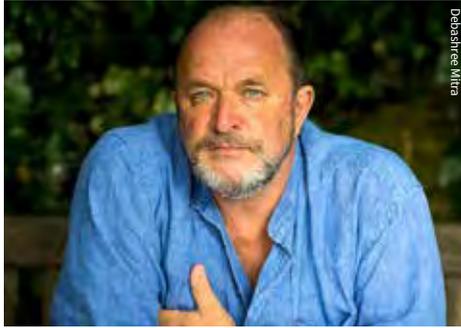
North South Café Bar, Bootham 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Following last year's sell-out event, Alicia Maddalena and Matt Townend of the University of York return to present another selection of Old Norse poetry from the Viking world – this time, exploring poetry about ships and the sea, sailing and journeys. Come along and hear poetry about Viking voyages, waves and waters, and discover what really happened when the great god Thor went fishing for the world serpent.



The Golden Road



Debashree Mitra

Mon 9 June, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

The Memorial Hall, St Peter's School 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

For a millennium and a half, India was a confident exporter of its diverse civilisation, creating around it a vast empire of ideas. Indian art, religions, technology, astronomy, music, dance, literature, mathematics and mythology blazed a trail across the world, along a Golden Road that stretched from the Red Sea to the Pacific. Historian and bestselling author William Dalrymple explores how ancient India transformed the world.



T u e s d a y

10

Lunchtime Organ Recital



Tues 10 June, 12.30pm to 1.15pm

St Helen's Church, St Helen's Square 
Free, but a retiring collection will be taken.
No booking required.

Daniel Cook, Master of Choristers and Organist of Durham Cathedral, demonstrates the power and versatility of the magnificent 1959 Walker organ. Enjoy six pieces ranging from JS Bach to Mendelssohn, Hubert Parry and Francis Jackson's *Chorale Prelude on East Acklam*. Fittingly, Jackson was Director of Music at York Minster for 36 years, and architect and designer of the St Helen organ on which his composition will be played.



A Greener York as the White Rose Forest Grows?



Tues 10 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

De Grey Court, York St John University 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

How do trees contribute to our sense of place within urban communities? Discover how imagining city treescapes is more than fanciful tree-visioning. Layering up rooty and broad canopy images harvested from citizens' stories in three English cities, our speakers animate ideas about their characteristics and connections to people. Explore how this space-based approach could colour a green-print for York as a White Rose Forest city.



Medieval Britain in Twelve Illuminated Manuscripts



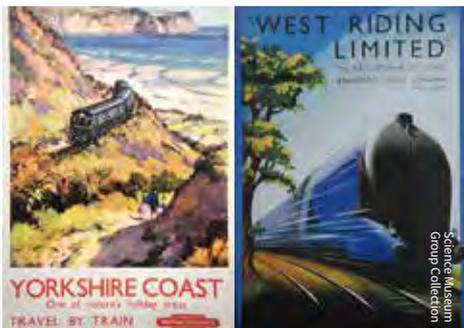
Tues 10 June, 6pm to 7pm

Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Take a journey across time and space, and explore the history of medieval Britain through the biographies of illuminated manuscripts and their creators. Each remarkable manuscript serves as a gateway into the lives of its makers and commissioners, and as a springboard into the era of its creation. In her beautifully illustrated talk, author Michelle P Brown examines this intricate and fascinating form of medieval evidence.



So Bracing: A potted history of the railway poster



Tues 10 June, 7pm to 8pm

Bootham School, Bootham 5

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the modern railway, rail historian Roger Backhouse examines how railway posters developed from the mid-19th century. Join him as he looks at some Yorkshire and North Eastern poster developments and how a York resident changed the way posters were displayed. Discover how Yorkshire attractions were presented, how posters could dissuade travellers and some unfortunate poster mistakes. *Part of the Café Scientifique series.*



Two Treasures of Herat



Tues 10 June, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate 30

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

The *Khamsah* (Quintet) of Nizami, composed in the 12th century, is one of the most frequently illustrated works of Persian literature. Its five books cover moral matters, romances, a frame story with seven dependent parts, and a life of Alexander the Great (Iskandar). Barbara Brend, a specialist in the field of Persian painting, examines two manuscripts illustrated in late 15th-century Herat.

Annual Bruce Wannell
Memorial Lecture

Wednesday

17

Securing Our Future

Free tickets:
yorkfestivalofideas.com

In collaboration with the French Embassy in the UK we examine two key contemporary issues – the future of our oceans and the impact of AI on work. Our discussions follow two major international conferences on these themes in France. Why not come along and hear from our experts and join in the conversation?



Higher Education,
Research and
Innovation
Department



Protecting Our Blue Planet



ONLINE

Wed 11 June,
12 noon to 1pm

Warming seas, plastic pollution, overfishing – our oceans are at risk and our future depends on them, wherever we live on this planet. Echoing the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, our panel of experts from France and the UK discusses the challenges and solutions.

AI and the Future of Work



IN PERSON

Fri 13 June,
6.30pm to 8pm

Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York

Should we fear or embrace the introduction of AI in the workplace? Will it open up new opportunities or threaten traditional patterns of work? Following the 2025 AI Action Summit in Paris, our expert speakers from France and the UK examine the pros and cons.

Stained Glass: Conservation and restoration



Wed 11 June, 2pm to 3pm

All Saints Church, North Street 
Free. No booking required.

Conservator Alison Gilchrist discusses the significant collection of stained glass at All Saints and its recent restoration by the internationally respected team from York-based Barley Studio. Join Alison on a tour of the windows and find out about the future of stained-glass conservation. *(Please also see pages 27 and 44.)*



THE LIBERATION OF VOICE THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING

Photo from thebay



🕒 **Wed 11 June, 1pm to 2.30pm**

Discover in this interactive workshop how creative writing can foster connection and community, with case studies from people with lived experience of mental ill health.

THE PIRATES' CODE



🕒 **Wed 11 June, 6pm to 7pm**

What was life really like aboard a pirate ship? Historian Rebecca Simon offers a rollicking account of pirates' codes – the strict rules essential for survival at sea.

CAN WE FIND A SHARED WAY FORWARD ON HOUSING?



🕒 **Wed 11 June, 7pm to 9pm**

How do we solve the housing crisis? Take part in an innovative workshop focusing on shared goals. Role-play different perspectives and explore solutions in York.

⌘ YorkIdeas WATCH AGAIN

Missed an event that sounded fantastic? Want to see a talk you enjoyed once more? Good news – we're recording many of our festival events. Watch these as well as previous years' content on youtube.com/YorkIdeas

Archaeology and Ideas of Progress in 1970s York



🕒 **Wed 11 June, 2.30pm to 3.30pm**

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens  Free. No booking required.

York Archaeological Trust was founded in 1972 to rescue traces of the city's past before their erasure by development. The Friends of the Trust were formed three years later. Celebrating the Friends 50th anniversary, author and archaeologist Richard Morris revisits and reflects on 1970s York, evoking the city on the eve of the Trust's formation. *Presented with the generous support of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.*



FRIENDS OF YORK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Fairy Queen



Wed 11 June, 6pm to 7.30pm

Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall,
University of York 

Tickets: £4 (£2 under 16)
ncem.co.uk 01904 658338

Welcome to the magical forest. As you make your way through it you'll soon discover that the journey to the Fairy Queen's party is not a straightforward path. Strange things happen all around as sprites and pixies enchant and trick, but the only real obstacle is ourselves. Enjoy a delightful family concert presented by OAE TOTS.



Exploring the University of York Art Collection



Wed 11 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

University Library, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Explore the hidden treasures of the University of York's art collection on a guided walk with its inaugural curator, Helena Cox. The art collection consists of a wide range of works, including many by acknowledged masters. Although formed over the last 60 years, a curator was not appointed until 2022. Join Helena to find out more about the art in this exciting collection. *Participants need to be able to walk/stand for one hour.*



Echoes of the Moon



Wed 11 June, 7pm to 9pm

School of ACT, University of York 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join us for an unforgettable evening as Syncretism presents a mesmerising music concert that transcends the ordinary. Lose yourself in a world where spectacular lighting, immersive projections, captivating dance performances and epic music fill the theatre. *Echoes of the Moon* explores aspects and stages of the moon throughout its cycles, delving into their symbolism and impact on existence. *Suitable for ages 13+.*



Diminishing Horizons



© Bob Cooper/PA/ARND BRONKHORST

Wed 11 June, 7pm to 9pm

DIG, St Saviourgate 15

Tickets: £10

yorkarchaeology.co.uk/events

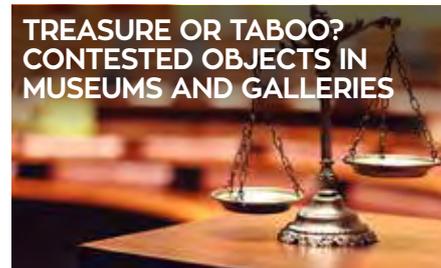
01904 615505

York's archaeological deposits are deteriorating in the face of climate change. Archaeologists Paul Flintoft, Kristina Krawiec and John Schofield explain how the City of York Deposit Model Project and the MICROPLASS project aim to address this issue by creating dynamic heritage management systems.



ONLINE EVENTS

TREASURE OR TABOO? CONTESTED OBJECTS IN MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES



Thurs 12 June, 12 noon to 1pm

Emma Waring and Donna Yates of the York-Maastricht Partnership explore ethical dilemmas surrounding T-Rex fossils and controversial art in museums and galleries.

BENEATH OUR FEET



Thurs 12 June, 1pm to 2pm

From the 3,500-year-old Ringlemere Cup to the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire Hoard, hear about amazing treasures unearthed by detectorists, mudlarks and fieldwalkers.

Sax Forte: Making sound waves for you



Thurs 12 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm
 St Helen's Church, St Helen's Square 
 Free, but a retiring collection will be taken.
 No booking required.

Sax Forte returns to the Festival with an entertaining programme that includes a brief history of the saxophone and a demonstration of the four different pitched instruments. Join the quartet at St Helen's Church as they display the range, versatility, sensitivity and beauty of the saxophone across a range of music, including classical and baroque.



Baptismal Fonts in Medieval Parish Churches



Thurs 12 June, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
 St Helen's Church, St Helen's Square 
 Free, but a retiring collection will be taken.
 No booking required.

A physical place of spiritual transformation and initiation, the baptismal font is a key focal point of popular religion in medieval Christianity. Historian Carolyn Twomey explores the varied social and ritual roles of the font in the premodern past and its significance to parish communities. Discover the history of baptismal architecture in Britain with a focus on the stone fonts of Yorkshire.



Clay Fever: A passion for pots



Thurs 12 June, 6pm to 8pm
 Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate 
 Free tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights

Clay Fever is a tender and revealing play, opening up the world of the 20th-Century Studio Pottery movement through the decades-long friendship between collector Bill Ismay and potter Michael Cardew. Enjoy a filmed performance and accompanying talk with pottery handling by York Museums Trust curator Helen Walsh – whose research inspired the play – and playwright Bridget Foreman.



York Art Gallery

Loneliness at Work



Thurs 12 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Berrick Saul Building, University of York  4
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

According to Mental Health UK, one in five people feel lonely at work on a typical working day. While flexible working has helped many find a better work/home life balance, for others it has led to social isolation. Journalist Isabel Berwick, who leads the *Financial Times*' Working It brand, and Simon Gilbody, an expert on mental health therapies, discuss the issues and offer some practical advice and solutions.



A Quaker Philosophy of Education



Thurs 12 June, 7pm to 8pm

Bootham School, Bootham  5
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

For over 300 years, York has been central to the history of the Quakers, or Society of Friends. Much of what makes York so loved today relates to this shared heritage. Deneal Smith, Head of Bootham School, examines the core values of Quaker action – simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship – through the lens of education in the 21st century. What should schools be doing for students and the community?



Pressure Waves: Role playing the end of the world



Thurs 12 June, 7pm to 8pm

English Heritage Offices, Tanner Row  17
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

In 1983, civil servants role-played the descent into nuclear conflict. Acting as senior politicians in the exercise WINTEX-CIMEX, they tested decision-making and psychological responses to an almost unimaginable situation. *Pressure Waves* considers the WINTEX-CIMEX document in the political context of the time and within our current global situation through dramatised extracts from the WINTEX-CIMEX document and an expert discussion panel.





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F r i d a y

13

Exploring York

An Archaeological Ramble Around York



Fri 13 June, 11am to 1.30pm

Meet at De Grey House, St Leonard's Place 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Learn more about York's fascinating heritage on a guided walk with Neil Redfern, Executive Director of the Council for British Archaeology. After growing up north of York, Neil has spent the last 23 years living and working in the city. Actively involved in the management of the city's archaeology and heritage, this Archaeological Ramble focuses on some sites and stories that have interested him the most. *(Please also see page 43.)*

Council for
British Archaeology

The Art of Spanish Guitar



Fri 13 June, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

St Helen's Church, St Helen's Square 
Free, but a retiring collection will be taken.
No booking required.

Internationally acclaimed guitar virtuoso Galina Vale returns to St Helen's Church with a new programme of classical, flamenco and folk guitar music from Spain, Latin America, Eastern Europe and beyond. Praised in reviews for her 'deep fiery performance' and exuberant style, critics have styled her 'La Diva de la Guitarra'. *Early arrival advised as previous visits have attracted a full house.*



Printing Sounds



Fri 13 June, 2pm to 4pm

Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join our interactive workshop to learn to print and sing tonic solfa – a system of musical notation popular in 19th-century Britain and used by missionaries throughout the world. Explore examples of missionary printing and archival material, learn to set and print a hymn in tonic solfa notation, and enjoy a singing session.



The Willow Experience



Fri 13 June, 6pm to 11pm (one-hour sessions)

City Screen, Coney Street 
Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Love it or hate it? The Willow Disco was an infamous part of York's nightlife culture for 42 years. Re-experience the Willow through your senses and bring those memories to life. Touch, smell and taste the free prawn crackers, watch the Willow archive films, and hear from owner Tommy's daughter Vicki Fong and guests. Join us to mark the 10th anniversary of the Willow's closure and the launch of the Willow Community Digital Archive.



The Old School Tie



Fri 13 June, 6pm to 7pm

The Quad, York St John University 

Free tickets: yorks.ac.uk/events/

Nick and Cath went to the same school in Belfast; Nick at the beginning of what was to be called the 'Troubles'; Cath, over the period that saw the gradual reduction in hostilities and the 1998 Good Friday agreement. The Irish Sea can be rough – they were two people caught in a storm, each finding ways through their teenage years. Enjoy a storytelling performance by Cath Heinemeyer and Nick Rowe of York St John University.

Est
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

AI and the Future of Work



Fri 13 June, 6.30pm to 8pm

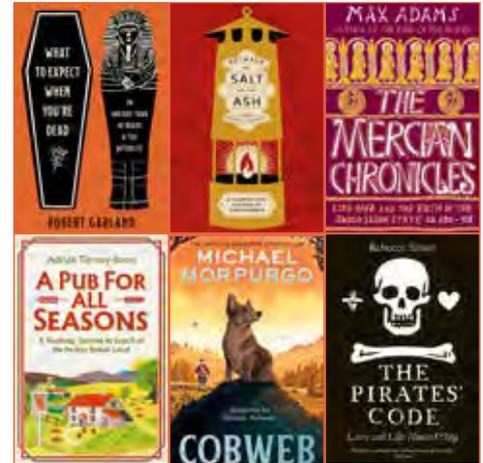
Ron Cooke Hub, University of York 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Discussions about introducing AI in the workplace can divide opinion. Should we see this future trajectory as releasing workers from repetitive tasks and increasing efficiency and productivity? Or is there a risk of jobs being lost and a decrease in empathy and human interaction? Following the 2025 AI Action Summit in Paris, our expert speakers examine the pros and cons.

AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU ROYAUME-UNI
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Higher Education,
Research and
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Department



**FOX LANE
BOOKS**

Independent bookseller Fox Lane Books will be providing both in-person and online sales of many of our speakers' books.

Visit foxlanebooks.co.uk

Post-Festival
Events

About Time, York!



Sat 14 June, 9am to 5pm and 7pm to 9.30pm

St Olave's Church, Marygate 47

Free, but donations welcome.

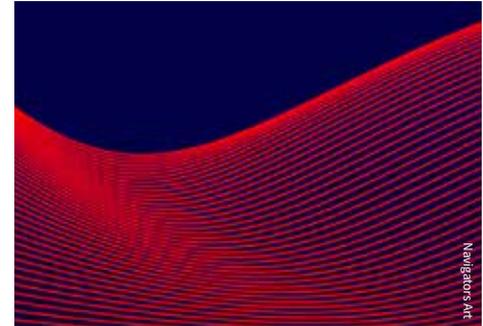
No booking required, but please register your interest to help with planning.

Welcome to a celebration of all things time related. During the day, hear a series of short talks on topics ranging from the 'philosophy of time' via sundials, historic clocks and time balls, to the effect of 'doing time' on those incarcerated. In the evening, enjoy poetry and music presented by Navigators Art & Performance at About Time Too. Details at abouttimeyork.org and bit.ly/nav-events



NAVIGATORS ART

Making Waves Live



Sat 21 June, 4pm to 10.30pm

City Screen, Coney Street 9

Booking and details: bit.ly/nav-events

Navigators Art, a diverse collective of York-based artists, writers, musicians and performers, presents an inspiring programme of original music, spoken word and comedy. The eclectic event rounds off the Micklegate Arts Trail which runs throughout the Festival and showcases the incredible talent and creativity of local artists. In addition to the trail, don't miss an art exhibition at City Screen from 8 June to 4 July. (Please also see page 19.)



NAVIGATORS ART

Verdi's Requiem



YMS releases in York Minster by Allen Harris

Sat 21 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

York Minster, Deangate 

Tickets: £27.50/£20/£12 (£6 students and u18; u13 free with adult)

yorkminster.org/whats-on/

Verdi's setting of the Requiem Mass has all the drama of opera, with thrilling solos, thunderous choruses and symphonic writing for the orchestra. York Musical Society (YMS) invites you to enjoy all the beauty and drama of this work in the magnificent surroundings of York Minster.



York Design Awards: Winners presentation



Mon 30 June, 6pm to 9pm

City Screen, Coney Street 

Free tickets: yorkfestivalofideas.com

Join us for the 17th annual York Design Awards winners presentation in categories covering residential, community and commercial buildings, and open spaces. York Design Awards promotes and celebrates excellence in architectural design and innovation in the York area. Good sustainable design and conservation support the city's special heritage and contribute to the wellbeing of its residents and visitors, creating a vibrant future.



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Festival partners

We would like to thank the following partners for making York Festival of Ideas 2025 happen:



York St John University

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The National Centre for Early Music

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St Helen Stonegate

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All Saints North Street

Ambassade de France au Royaume-Uni – Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department

Annual Aylmer Lecture

Annual Bruce Wannell Memorial Lecture

Arts Council England

Association of Voluntary Guides to the City of York

Athena Swan Steering Group, University of York

Atlantic Books

BBC History Magazine

Bloomsbury Publishing

Bootham School

Café Scientifique

C and JB Morrell Trust

Centre for Lifelong Learning

Churches Conservation Trust

CITY College, University of York Europe Campus

Climate Fresk

Complex Trauma Institute

Council for British Archaeology

Dance the Past

Doug James at Mode

Duke of York Pub

Ebury

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

English Heritage

EUTERPE

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Faber

FERA

First Bus

Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society

Fox Lane Books

Friends of York Archaeological Trust

Friends of York Walls

HarperCollins

Headline Publishing Group

Head of Zeus

Heritage for Global Challenges Research Centre

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Hiscox

Humanities Research Centre

Hurst Publishers

Institute for Safe Autonomy

Interactive Media Showcase

Involvement at York

Jaipur Literature Festival

Jane Moody Fund

Jessie's Fund

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust

Le Puits The Story Well

Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity

Life of Pippa

Little Brown Book Group

Little Vikings

LNER

LUMA

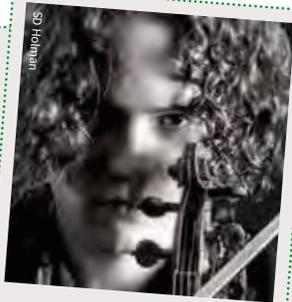
Macmillan Publishers

Make It York

Make Space

Manchester University Press

Morrell Centre for Legal and Political Philosophy



York Army Museum

Page 33



York Lindy

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Bootham School

Page 60



Thin Ice Press

Page 20

MySight York
 Navigators Art & Performance
 Next Door But One
 North South Café Bar
 Our City Hub
 Orion Books
 Penguin
 Princeton University Press
 Professor Phil Harris and Mrs Irene Harris
 PSHE Association
 Queer Arts
 Reaktion Books
 Riding Lights Theatre Company
 Sacristy Press
 Sheldon Memorial Trust
 Soapbox Science
 Sociologically Imagining York

St Helen Stonegate
 St Nicks
 St Olave's Church
 St Peter's School
 StreetLife
 TALKSHOP
 Thames & Hudson
 The Black Swan Inn
 The Borthwick Institute for Archives
 The Burgess Family
 The Company of Merchant Taylors of
 the City of York
 The Foss Fairy Trail
 The Friends of Rowntree Park
 The Institution of Engineering and
 Technology
 The National Centre for Early Music
 The Northern Agenda

The Rowntree Society
 Thin Ice Press: the York Centre for Print
 ThomFong
 Three Minute Thesis
 Two Hoots
 Uncomfortable York
 University of York
 Visit York
 Yale University Press
 York Archaeology
 York Army Museum
 York Art Gallery
 York Biomedical Research Institute
 York Cares
 York Central
 York Climate Commission – York
 Waterscapes Working Group

York Concerts
 York Conservation Trust
 York Crime Walk
 York Death & Culture Walk
 York Design Awards
 York Lindy
 York-Maastricht Partnership
 York-Münster Twinning Association
 York Museums Trust
 York Musical Society
 York Pride
 York's Hidden History
 Yorkshire Bach Choir
 Yorkshire Philosophical Society
 York St John University
 York Theatre Royal
 York World Heritage Steering Group



We express our deepest gratitude to all the individuals and organisations that so generously support York Festival of Ideas.

C and JB Morrell Trust and the Morrell Centre for Legal and Political Philosophy

The C and JB Morrell Trust is a core funder of the Festival. The Morrell Centre for Legal and Political Philosophy, which is generously supported by the Trust, is proud to sponsor a series of themed events on *A World in Crisis?* (page 67). The Centre is dedicated to legal and political philosophy with a particular focus on toleration as an idea and as a practice.

French Embassy in the UK

The Higher Education, Research and Innovation (ESRI) Department of the French Embassy in the United Kingdom is recognised as a partner for British Institutions and their French counterparts. The ESRI is very happy to work with York Festival of Ideas to present two events under the theme *Securing Our Future* (page 77), bringing together experts from France and the UK.

York Central

York Central is one of the UK's largest and most exciting city centre regeneration schemes. Located right next to the city's railway station and the National Railway Museum, it is a project of world-class ambition which is set to create a brand-new quarter for our glorious city. York Central is proud to be able to support and sponsor York Festival of Ideas.



The Institution of Engineering and Technology

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is the largest multidisciplinary professional engineering institution in the world. The North Yorkshire Network of the IET is a proud sponsor and collaborator of York Festival of Ideas. This year we will be supporting *The Path to Net Zero* (page 31).

Jane Moody Fund

With thanks to the Jane Moody Fund for supporting *Making with Jane Austen and JMW Turner* (page 30). Professor Jane Moody, who died in 2011, was founding Director of the University of York's Humanities Research Centre and co-founder of York Festival of Ideas.

The Burgess Family

Ashley Burgess OBE and Gill Burgess are delighted to support *Protecting Vision and Heart Health* (page 66).

Professor Phil Harris and Mrs Irene Harris

Professor Phil Harris and Mrs Irene Harris are very pleased to support two handling artefacts sessions for blind and partially sighted people, hosted by archaeologist Julian Richards.

Athena Swan

The Athena Swan Charter recognises the advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all. The University of York has held a bronze award since 2006. The University's Athena Swan Steering Group is delighted to support *He Said, She Said* (page 32) and *When We Ruled: African queens and warriors* (page 71).

The Northern Agenda

Read and listened to by policymakers from the North's town halls to Whitehall, *The Northern Agenda* provides a bitesize guide to the stories that matter in our region from journalists outside the Westminster bubble. We are very pleased to work with York Festival of Ideas as a media partner.

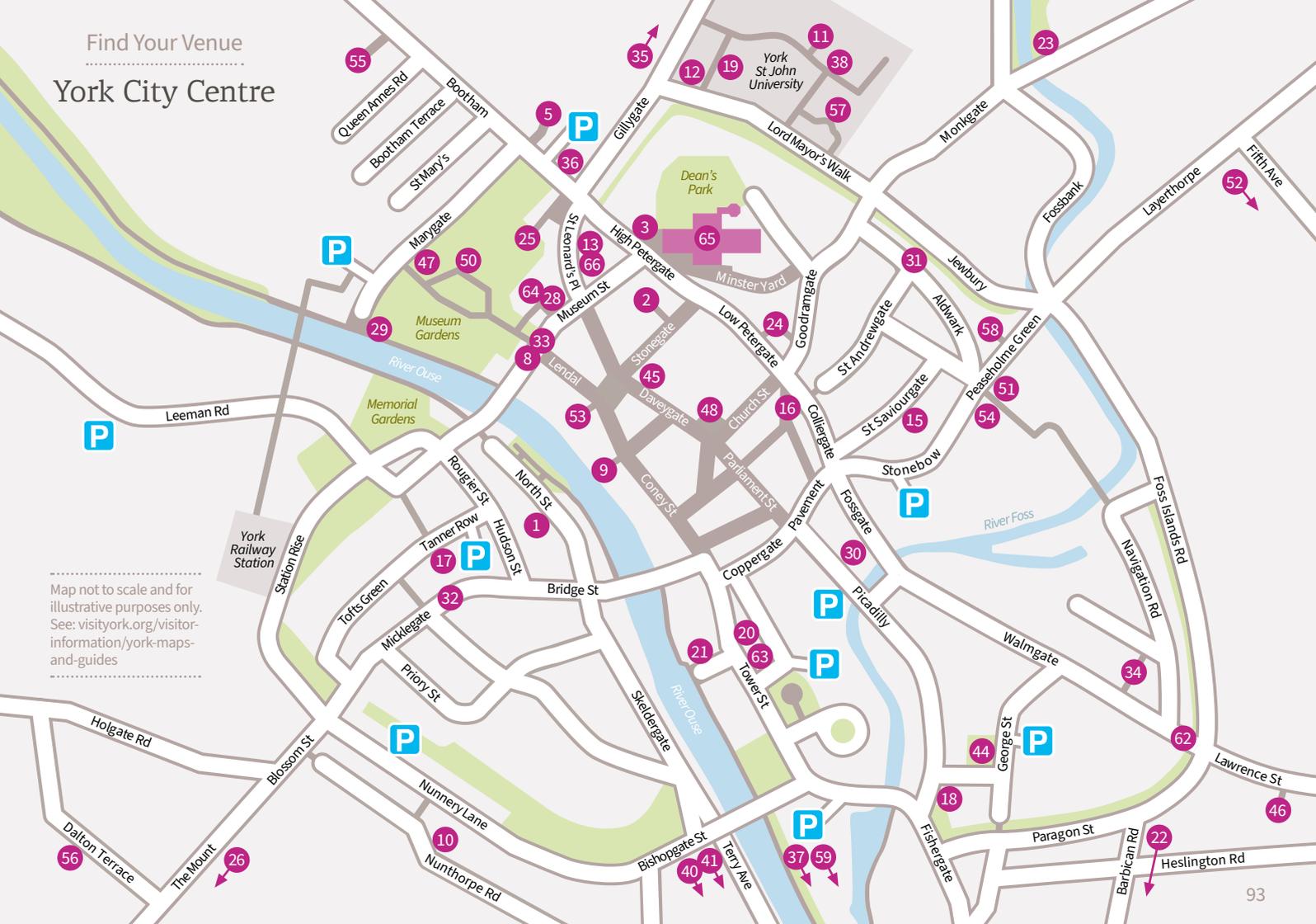
Our thanks to those donors and supporters who wish to remain anonymous. If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please email the Festival team at yorkfestivalofideas@york.ac.uk.

Find Your Venue

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1 All Saints Church
North Street | 16 Duke of York Pub
King's Square | 34 National Centre for Early Music
Walmgate | 52 The Centre @ Burnholme
Mossdale Avenue |
| 2 Belfrey Hall
Stonegate
<i>No wheelchair access</i> | 17 English Heritage Offices
Tanner Row | 35 New Earswick Folk Hall
Hawthorn Terrace | 53 The Guildhall
Coney Street |
| 3 Bennett's Café & Bistro
High Petergate | 18 Fishergate Postern Tower
Piccadilly
<i>Partial wheelchair access</i> | 36 North South Café Bar
Bootham | 54 The Hiscox Building
Peasholme Green |
| 4 Berrick Saul Building
University of York | 19 Foss Building
York St John University | 37 Pikeing Well
New Walk | 55 The Memorial Hall
St Peter's School, Clifton |
| 5 Bootham School
Bootham | 20 Friargate Quaker Meeting House
Friargate | 38 Ripon Wing
York St John University | 56 The Mount School
Dalton Terrace |
| 6 Borthwick Institute for Archives
University of York | 21 Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
<i>No wheelchair access</i> | 39 Ron Cooke Hub
University of York | 57 The Quad
York St John University |
| 7 Church Lane Building
University of York | 22 Harriet Centre
York Cemetery | 40 Rowntree Park
Terry Avenue | 58 Thin Ice Press
Peasholme Green |
| 8 City Centre | 23 Heworth Green Gate | 41 Rowntree Park Reading Café
Richardson Street | 59 University Boathouse
Fulford Ings |
| 9 City Screen
Coney Street | 24 Holy Trinity Church
Goodramgate | 42 School of ACT
University of York | 60 University Library
University of York |
| 10 Clements Hall
Nunthorpe Road | 25 King's Manor
Exhibition Square
<i>No wheelchair access to K159
No parking</i> | 43 Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall
University of York | 61 Vanbrugh College
University of York |
| 11 Creative Centre
York St John University | 26 Knavesmire | 44 St George's Graveyard
Lead Mill Lane | 62 Walmgate Bar
Foss Islands Road |
| 12 De Grey Court
York St John University | 27 Law and Sociology Building
University of York | 45 St Helen's Church
St Helen's Square | 63 York Army Museum
Tower Street |
| 13 De Grey House
St Leonard's Place
<i>Limited wheelchair access
Please see Festival website</i> | 28 Library Square
Museum Street | 46 St Lawrence Parish Church
Lawrence Street | 64 York Explore Library
Library Square, Museum Street |
| 14 Department of Biology
University of York | 29 Marygate Landing Tower | 47 St Olave's Church
Marygate | 65 York Minster
Deangate |
| 15 DIG
St Saviourgate | 30 Merchant Adventurers' Hall
Fossgate | 48 St Sampson's Square | 66 York Theatre Royal
St Leonard's Place |
| | 31 Merchant Taylors' Hall
Aldwark | 49 Sustainability Clinic
University of York | |
| | 32 Micklegate | 50 Tempest Anderson Hall
Museum Gardens | |
| | 33 Museum Street | 51 The Black Swan Inn
Peasholme Green | |

ACCESSIBILITY: All in-door venues are wheelchair accessible unless otherwise stated. For guided and self-guided tours, please check the event details on the Festival website.

Find Your Venue
York City Centre



Map not to scale and for illustrative purposes only. See: visityork.org/visitor-information/york-maps-and-guides

Find Your Venue
University of York

Campus West buses:
U1, U2

York City Centre

Siwards Way

University Road

University Road

Innovation Way

Church Lane

Windmill Lane

Field Lane

School Lane

Main Street

Main Street

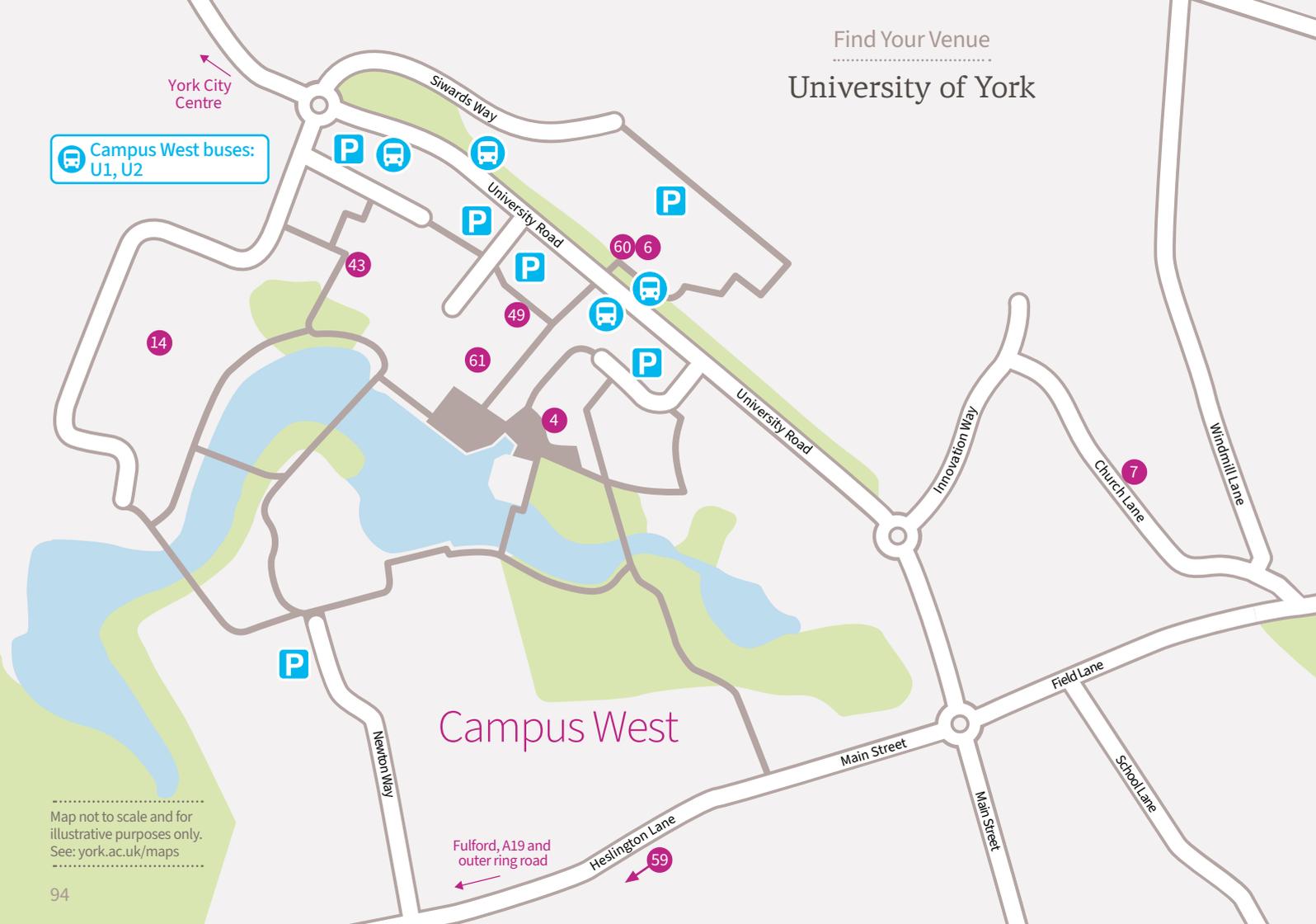
Heslington Lane

Fulford, A19 and
outer ring road

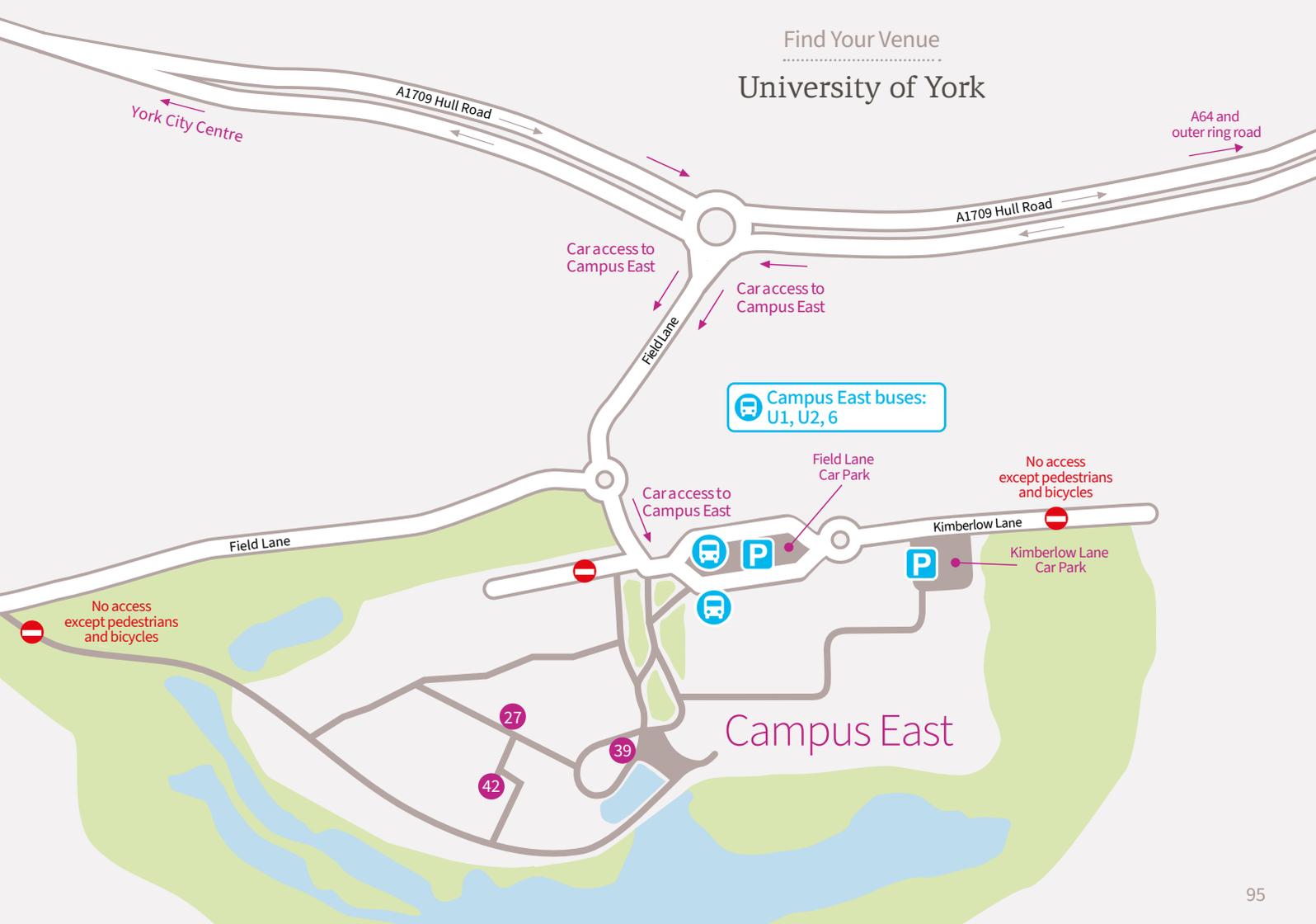
Newton Way

Campus West

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illustrative purposes only.
See: york.ac.uk/maps



Find Your Venue
University of York



York City Centre

A1709 Hull Road

A1709 Hull Road

A64 and outer ring road

Car access to Campus East

Car access to Campus East

Field Lane

Campus East buses:
U1, U2, 6

Field Lane Car Park

Car access to Campus East

No access except pedestrians and bicycles

Field Lane

No access except pedestrians and bicycles

Kimberlow Lane

Kimberlow Lane Car Park

Campus East

27

42

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Open Lectures

Are you looking for inspiring events throughout the year? The University of York offers a free Open Lectures programme featuring a wide range of thought-provoking talks by expert speakers.

Just like York Festival of Ideas, the Open Lectures programme is accessible to all and aims to educate, entertain and inspire. Look out for in-person and online events, with many talks also available to watch again on the York Ideas YouTube channel.

⌘ York Ideas



Ian Martindale

Design by Doug James at Mode

York Festival of Ideas