# WordFest 1-31 May 2024

Festival Brochure featuring Storytelling, Music and movement, Poetry, Puppetry, Author talks, Workshops and Crafts. Our Festival theme is Our Heritage, Our Stories.

This May, local libraries and other venues across the district are joining together to deliver an extra special WordFest, celebrating words in their widest sense with a huge range of exciting events and activities for all ages. 2024 is Our Year, a year to celebrate what’s special about our district, and this has inspired our WordFest theme of ‘Our Heritage, Our Stories’, offering the opportunity to look into the fantastic array of unique stories on our doorstep.

Do you want to join in the WordFest fun? For more information on the (mostly free) events taking place this festival month and to book your place head over to expwake.co/WordFest.

## Festival social media channels

Website: expwake.co/WordFest

Instagram, TikTok and X: @WFLibraries

Facebook: WakefieldLibraries

Festival Hashtags: #WordFest and #MakeWordsCount

## Events for Babies and toddlers

### Tales of Wonderment by What’s the Story?

Storytellers Jackie and Jo return as What’s The Story? To delight and engage toddlers and their adults in Wakefield Tales of Wonderment! Carefully formulated for young children these workshops can be enjoyed by children and their adults of all ages! Free Event, Booking required.

Thursday 2 May 10am Castleford Library

Thursday 2 May 2pm Featherstone Library

Friday 3 May 10am Airedale Library

Friday 3 May 2pm Normanton Library

Friday 10 May 10am Hemsworth Library

Friday 10 May 2pm Pontefract Library

Tuesday 14 May 10am Stanley Library

Tuesday 14 May 2pm Sandal Library

Tuesday 21 May 10am South Elmsall Library

Tuesday 28 May 2pm Wakefield Library

Wednesday 29 May 11am Horbury Library

Wednesday 29 May 2pm Walton Community Library

### WordFest Library Storytimes at Wakefield Libraries and the Makaton Rhyme Challenge 2024

Join in with the Makaton Rhyme Challenge fun at our WordFest Library Storytimes. There will be stories, songs and rhymes with a new Makaton sign to learn each week. The Rhyme Challenge is a fun way to encourage children and families to learn some simple Makaton signs, with a special certificate for joining in with the stories, songs and rhymes. Free events, no booking required. This year we will be singing and signing: If You’re Happy and You Know it, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, I am a Rocket and Wind the Bobbin Up. Free event, no booking required.

Airedale Library Mondays 9.30am - 10am and Wednesdays 9.30am - 10am

Castleford Library Tuesdays 10am - 11am and Thursdays 10am - 11am

Featherstone Library Thursdays 10am -10.30am

Hemsworth Library Mondays 10am -11am and Fridays 10am -11am

Horbury Library Wednesdays 10.30am - 11am, Thursdays 10.15am -10.45am and Fridays 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Normanton Library Fridays 10am - 10.15am

Pontefract Library Mondays 10am - 11am and Wednesdays 10am - 11am

Sandal Library Wednesdays 10.30am - 11am and Fridays 10.30am - 11am

South Elmsall Library Tuesdays 10am - 10.45am and Fridays 10am - 10.45am

Stanley Library Mondays 11am - 12 noon

Wakefield One Library Tuesdays 10am, Tuesdays 1.30pm and Fridays 10am

### Festival fringe events for babies and toddlers

Our World in Books Saturday 18 May 10am - 12pm St Marys Community Centre, Chequerfield, Pontefract. Family fun morning with books, rhymes and more, suitable for under 5s. Free event, booking required.

Whose Shoe? Thursday 30 May 10.30am and 1pm Wakefield Museum Learning Zone Everyone has lost their shoes! Can you find them? A rhyming, finding session with storytelling and lots of stomping fun. Move, match and make some noise with fun activities and crafts. Suitable for ages 2-5. £2.50 per child. Booking required. Book online at bit.ly/WMandCTickets

Darn’ t’pit at the Addy Tuesday 28 May 10am - 11.30am The Old Quarry Adventure Playground, Knottingley Mining themed wild tots outdoor play session for the under 5s. Free event, booking required.

## Primary-aged and family events

### Up and Away! By Tmesis Theatre

Join us on an exciting journey as we take you back to the Merrie Fair, Wakefield 1827, as the crowds gather to witness the daring hot air balloon mission of the mysterious Brown Brothers! An interactive family friendly show using words, puppetry, and physical theatre, in a celebration of hope and dreaming the impossible! Free event, booking required.

Tmesis Theatre are an acclaimed physical theatre company based in Liverpool. www.tmesistheatre.com

Saturday 4 May 10am Hemsworth Library

Saturday 4 May 2.30pm National Coal Mining Museum, Overton

Saturday 11 May 10am Horbury Library

Saturday 18 May 10am Stanley Library

Saturday 18 May 2pm Wakefield Library

Saturday 25 May 10am Normanton Library

Saturday 25 May 2pm Pontefract Library

Tuesday 28 May 10am South Elmsall Library

Thursday 30 May 10am Featherstone Library

Saturday 1 June 10am Airedale Library

Saturday 1 June 2pm Pontefract Castle

### Telling Tales and Talking Tunes with Charlie Wells

Join Charlie and Nick to create new music and sounds as we explore stories about where you live. This two-hour workshop will include sharing stories, creative writing, poetry and exploring music using live and electronic instruments, loop pedals, synths and drum machines. You can bring your own instrument, or just yourself, and use the resources we provide. No musical or writing experience necessary, this is about having a go and working together to share our heritage and stories. Free event, booking required.

Saturday 4 May 1pm Pontefract Library

Thursday 9 May 4pm Stanley Library

Saturday 18 May 10am Hemsworth Library

Saturday 25 May 1pm Wakefield Library

Friday 29 May 2pm St Swithuns Community Centre, Eastmoor

Thursday 30 May 2pm Castleford Library

Friday 31 May 2pm Balne Lane Community Centre

### Design your Family Coat of Arms with ButterCrumble

This creative workshop is led by Buttercrumble, a Yorkshire-based creative studio known for its playful designs. The immersive session invites children and their families to delve into the rich tapestry of their family stories. Inspired by Wakefield’s Our Year theme, participants will learn about the historical significance of coats of arms and how to turn their stories into a bespoke emblem. Through hands-on illustration and collage, participants can explore meaningful words that encapsulate their family values, feelings, and aspirations. They can then sketch and design their coat of arms, incorporating symbols and colours that reflect their heritage and individuality. Families will leave with a personal artwork and a deeper appreciation for their unique heritage.

Saturday 11 May 10am Sandal Library

Saturday 11 May 2pm Wakefield Library

Wednesday 29 May 10am The Addy, Knottingley (under 5s)

Wednesday 29 May 1pm The Addy, Knottingley (over 5s)

Thursday 30 May 3pm The Addy, Knottingley (SEND families)

Friday 31 May 10am Pontefract Library

Friday 31 May 2pm South Elmsall Library

Saturday 1 June 10am Normanton Library

### Festival Fringe events for Primary and Family

### Family fun across Castles and Museums this half term.

Book online at bit.ly/WMandCTickets

Wandering Words Trail Saturday 25 May Sunday 2 June Pontefract Castle

All week, during castle opening hours, explore a wordy trail around the castle, discover old and unusual words you might not have encountered, and even create some of your own. Free event, no booking required.

Seed Paper Workshops Wednesday 29 May 10am (Relaxed SEND session), 11.30am and 2pm Pontefract Castle

Learn about the medieval garden at Pontefract and the plants that were grown there in the past. Recycle old paper into new and create your own special seeded paper card or bookmark to take home. Suitable for 6-11 year olds. £2.50 per child, booking required.

Write like a Roman Tuesday 28, Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May\* 10am- 3pm (\*Relaxed SEND session) Castleford Museum

Seals, stamps and styli! This half term learn to write like a Roman. Discover how the Romans kept their post private. Make your own sealed letter and try writing on a wax tablet. Free event, no booking required.

Time to Shine Wednesday 29 May 10.30am and 1pm Pontefract Museum

Time flies when you are making history! Learn about watchmaker Maria Taylor and other local Victorian businesswomen. Build a working clock and decorate it with your own letters and patterns. Suitable for ages 6 and over. Free event, no booking required.

## Events for Young People & Teens

### Let’s Get Crankie! With Storytrails

Crankie Theatres are storytelling machines that allow the storyteller to create and show moving panoramas (also known as story scrolls). They are lots of fun to watch and to make, and Let’s Get Crankie! is your chance to have a go! Come along and discover a local story being wound through our Crankie Theatre, then create your own cardboard crankie, complete with a story scroll. This workshop will introduce you to crankie theatres, some fundamentals in visual storytelling and using story scrolls, and will support you to create your own crankie and accompanying story. Free event, booking required.

Saturday 4 May 10am Normanton Library

Saturday 11 May 10am Hemsworth Library

Saturday 18 May 10am Airedale Library

Saturday 25 May 10am Horbury Library

Tuesday 28 May 2pm Sandal Library

Wednesday 29 May 10am Featherstone Library

Thursday 30 May 10am St Georges Community Centre, Lupset

Friday 31 May 10.30am Upton Community Library

### Chronicles of Culture with Wakefield LitFest

This practical writing workshop will provide budding writers aged 16-25 with skills to unlock ideas and craft stories inspired by culture, community, and heritage. We’ll start with how to create initial ideas and then develop these into compelling narratives. Workshops will be facilitated by a professional writer and members of the Wakefield LitFest young people’s board. All you’ll need is a notebook and pen or your preferred alternative. Free event, booking required.

Thursday 2 May 4pm Stanley Library

Saturday 11 May 10am Airedale Library

Saturday 18 May 1pm Pontefract Library

Saturday 25 May 10am Hemsworth Library

Saturday 1 June 1pm Wakefield Library

## Festival Fringe events for Young People and Teens

### Build Our Futures - Young People’s Summit

Saturday 11 May 12pm - 4pm

This is our ninth summit where young people have the chance to talk aboutthings that are important to them in Wakefield. There are lots of interactive workshops and interesting things to see and do. This event will be hosted by young people. Free event, booking required. For more information contact buildourfutures@wakefield.gov.uk or call 01924 302116

### Letter Art

Thursday 30 May 10am and 1.30pm Pontefract Castle

Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. In this workshop for 12-16 year olds, see some examples from our collections. Try beautiful and unusual techniques to make decorative letter art. Have a go at illuminating your words with gold leaf to make your art shine. £2.50 per teenager, Booking required. Book online at bit.ly/WMandCTickets

## Adults’ Book and Writing Events

### Author Events in Libraries.

Lucy Adlington - Author ‘The Dressmakers of Auschwitz’ Tuesday 7 May 1pm Pontefract Library Free events, Booking required.

Catherine Yaffe - Crime author Saturday 11 May 1pm Castleford Library , Tuesday 14 May 2pm Normanton Library and Monday 20 May 2pm Sandal Library Free events, Booking required.

R.C. Bridgestock - Crime authors Monday 20 May 2pm Stanley Library Free events, Booking required.

### Creative Writing

Creative Writing with Ian Clayton Tuesday 7 May and Tuesday 21 May 1pm - 3pm Queens Mill, Castleford. Free event, booking required.

Poetry with Michael Wilkinson Tuesday 14 May 10.30am - 12noon Castleford Library Free event, booking required.

Getting Gobby Saturday 4 May 1pm - 3pm Wakefield Library. Adult poetry workshop. Free event, booking required.

### Our Year Key to the North talks Find out more at expwake.co/our-year-kttn/

Joanne Harris OBE - Multi-award winning author Wednesday 15 May 5pm - 6.30pm Wakefield Library £5 Booking required

George Webster - BAFTA winning author, actor and presenter and ambassador for people with Downs Syndrome Wednesday 29 May 5pm - 6.30pm Wakefield Cathedral £5 Booking required

Jacquie Rogers - Roman historical fiction author Saturday 1 June 4pm - 5.30pm Castleford Library £5 Booking required

### Beyond the Bassline Exhibition

Friday 26 April - Saturday 15 June at Wakefield Library and Monday 24 June - Sunday 25 August at Pontefract Library.

Discover the best of Black British music, its origins and greatest innovators at this free exhibition hosted in partnership with the British Library Living Knowledge Network.

## Adults’ Local Heritage Events

### The John Goodchild Collection - A Window on the West Riding Exhibition.

Saturday 18 May 10am - 4pm West Yorkshire History Centre, Wakefield Join us for the opening of this new exhibition, drop-in and explore some exciting discoveries from this fantastic archive collection, a treasure trove of local heritage collected over the lifetime of this eminent local historian.

Hear from Archivist Helen Walker about her work on this archive collection and what has been revealed and enjoy familyfriendly creative activities. Free exhibition, no booking required

### Learn Rag Rugging at Wakefield Library

Tuesday 14 May 10am and 1pm Once a necessity in ordinary Yorkshire homes, recycling old textiles into colourful rag rugs is a craft that’s once again growing in popularity. Learn the skill to make a beautiful addition to your home with Darn It workshops. Free event, booking required.

### Life in Scott’s Yard

Book launch and author talk Monday 20 May 10am - 1pm Wakefield Library Join Wakefield Historical Society for the launch of this fascinating new book about life in one of Wakefield’s many historic yards. Free event, booking required

### Swapping Stories - Memories of Walton Hall

Saturday 11 May 10am - 3pm Waterton Park Hotel, Walton Reminisce with Friends of Waterton’s Wall who will be collecting stories from anyone who has a connection to the Walton Hall site through the years. Free event, no booking required.

### Our Heritage, Our Stories Drop-In events

During WordFest we wish to showcase the amazing work local heritage groups are doing to protect and celebrate our heritage. Are you interested in

Come along and celebrate where you live and find out more about local history and how to get involved by talking to people who are passionate about our heritage.

There will be displays, talks and inspiring conversation where your questions and ideas about how to protect and celebrate our heritage can be discussed with 16 local heritage groups across four library venues.

Wednesday 8 May Wakefield Library 11am-4pm

Monday 13 May Castleford Library 12pm-4pm

Wednesday 15 May Horbury Library 11am-4pm

Friday 17 May Pontefract Library 11am-4pm

Our Heritage, Our Stories is a project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. For further details contact [heritage@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@wakefield.gov.uk)

## Booking

### To book free place at any of the events mentioned please visit expwake.co/bookwordfest

## Beyond WordFest

Discover what Wakefield Libraries have to offer beyond WordFest all year long. Read, learn, connect and relax in our welcoming libraries. With thousands of books to choose from free internet access, events, activities, local history resources and much more there is something for everyone. Libraries are free to join and use, fines are no longer charged and no ID is required to join! Discover the full library timetable at www.wakefield.gov.uk/libraries-andlocal- history/libraryevents

### Know Your Neighbourhood!

Tackling loneliness and isolation across Wakefield District throughout 2024 and beyond. Meet new friends, volunteer and learn something new via fun events in libraries and community centres.

During May you could try:

Make and bake for adults Wednesday 1 May 2pm Horbury Library

Afternoon Tea for adults Tuesday 7 May 12.30pm Stanley Library

Crafts for young people 16+ Saturday 11 May 10am Castleford Library

Family Board Games Saturday 18 May 10.30am Featherstone and Sandal Libraries

LGBT+ Young people’s social group (16+) Saturday 18 May 10am Castleford Library

Quiz and social afternoon Monday 20 May 10.30am Knottingley Club

Lets Get Cooking for families Thursday 30 May 1pm Featherstone Library

### Castleford Roman Festival

Saturday 1 June 2024 10am - 4pm Castleford Library and Museum will be buzzing with activity as we help the town celebrate the annual Roman Festival. Drop in to the library and museum for:

Festival information point, Roman dress-up photobooth, Roman-themed family craft workshops, Badgemaking, Discover real Roman museum artefacts, Roman hair and make up demonstrations, Roman jewellery workshops

### The Summer Reading Challenge 2024: Marvellous Makers!

Children can drop into any Wakefield Council library from Saturday July 6 to register for free and pick up a collector pack, then just choose and read six books over the summer.

Marvellous Makers who complete the challenge will receive a prize, certificate and a medal. There is also special challenge for children aged three and under, too!

So join us as we get creative this summer.

### Summer S’cool

Free creative video game workshops for young people are happening in the summer holidays at a library near you. Discover more at summer s’cool ([www.wfdsummers.cool](http://www.wfdsummers.cool))

### WordFest is part of Our Year 2024. Discover new events and activities every day across the Wakefield District at ouryear2024.co.uk