

WORD FEST

MAKE WORDS COUNT

1-31 May 2024

Storytelling
Music and movement
Poetry
Puppetry
Author talks
Workshops
Crafts

 expwake.co/WordFest

 @WFLibraries  @WFLibraries

 WakefieldLibraries  @WFLibraries

#WordFest #MakeWordsCount



Welcome to WordFest 2024!

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 or scan the QR code below.



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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!

Join them in a whistlestop tour of Wakefield district's heritage and experience real life stories in a way you have never done before, engaging all the senses. Sing, dance, create and absorb yourselves in a truly interactive and memorable workshop.

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

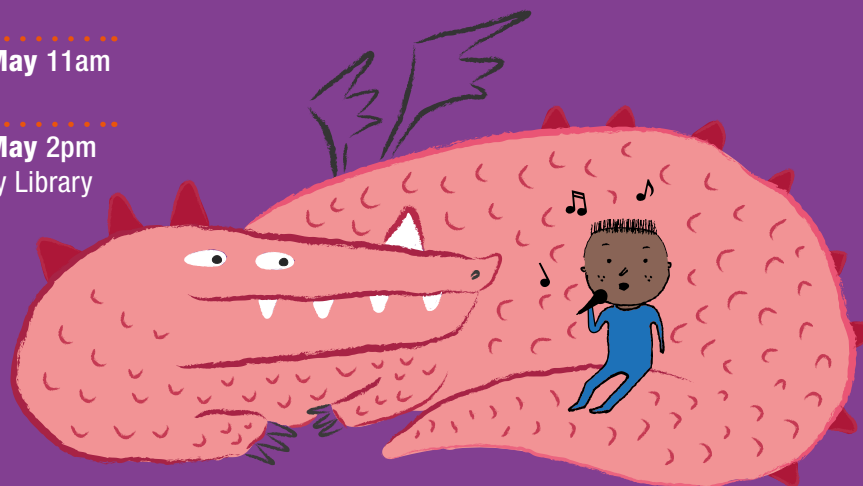
Tuesday 14 May 2pm
Sandal Library

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

WordFest Storytimes 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
- Wind the Bobbin Up

Storytimes

Airedale Library
Monday 9.30am - 10am
Wednesday 9.30am - 10am

Castleford Library
Tuesday 10am - 11am
Thursday 10am - 11am

Featherstone Library
Thursday 10am - 10.30am

Hemsworth Library
Monday 10am - 11am
Friday 10am - 11am

Horbury Library
Wednesday 10.30am - 11am
Thursday 10.15am - 10.45am
Friday 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Normanton Library
Friday 10am - 10.15am

Pontefract Library
Monday 10am - 11am
Wednesday 10am - 11am

Sandal Library
Wednesday 10.30am - 11am
Friday 10.30am - 11am

South Elmsall Library
Tuesday 10am - 10.45am
Friday 10am - 10.45am

Stanley Library
Monday 11am - 12 noon

Wakefield One Library
Tuesday 10am
Tuesday 1.30pm
Friday 10am



Discover more...

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.

Our Year Nurture and Nourish Festival

Celebrate growing, cooking and
eating fresh food in your community
with two fantastic family events this
May.

Find out more at [expwake.co/
nurture-nourish](http://expwake.co/nurture-nourish)

Free event, no booking required.

Spring Friday Funday

Friday 31 May

12 noon - 3pm

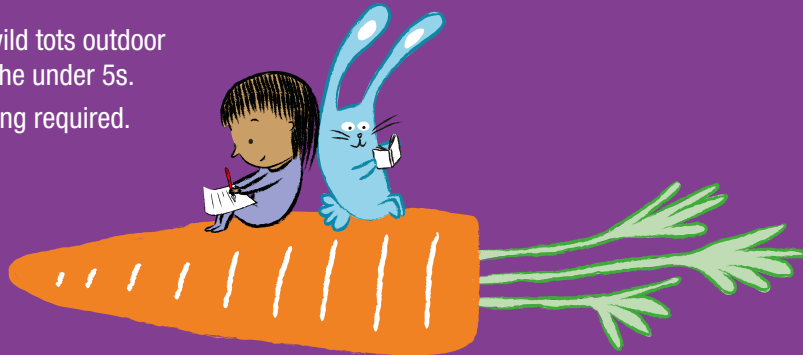
St Georges Community Centre, Lupset

Sunflower Tea Party

Friday 31 May

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Portobello Community Centre



Primary and Family

FREE
EVENT
BOOKING
REQUIRED

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!

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



Primary and Family



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.

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

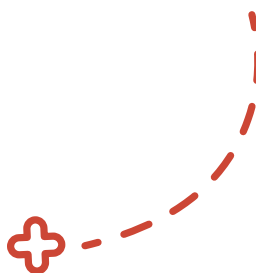
St Swithuns Community Centre, Eastmoor

Thursday 30 May 2pm

Castleford Library

Friday 31 May 2pm

Balne Lane Community Centre



Primary and Family

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



Discover more...

Beat the Street

Wednesday 15 May -
Wednesday 12 June

Featherstone

A free, fun walking and cycling game which gets children, families and individuals out and about exploring in their local area, having fun and keeping healthy. Pick up a Beat the Street card or use the app and swipe Beat Boxes across Featherstone to win prizes.

Free trail, no booking required.
expwake.co/moving-festival

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*, 11.30am and 2pm (*Relaxed SEND session)
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.

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

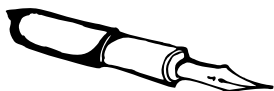
Pontefract Library

Saturday 25 May 10am

Hemsworth Library

Saturday 1 June 1pm

Wakefield Library



FREE EVENT
BOOKING REQUIRED



Discover more

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 about things 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' Events

Celebrating stories and storytellers

Author Events in Libraries

Lucy Adlington - Author 'The Dressmakers of Auschwitz'

Tuesday 7 May 1pm
Pontefract Library

Catherine Yaffe - Crime author
Saturday 11 May 1pm
Castleford Library

Tuesday 14 May 2pm
Normanton Library
Monday 20 May 2pm
Sandal Library

R.C. Bridgestock - Crime authors
Monday 20 May 2pm
Stanley Library

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
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
Find out more at
expwake.co/our-year-kttn/

Discover more

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.

MOVING FESTIVAL
2024



Our Year Moving Festival

Several free outdoor events are taking place in May including mobility scooter social rides, bike rides, foraging walks and picnics.

To find out more visit
expwake.co/moving-festival



Celebrating Our Heritage

John Goodchild Legacy Exhibition

Saturday 18 May
10am - 4pm

West Yorkshire History Centre, Wakefield
The John Goodchild Collection -
A Window on the West Riding Exhibition.

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 family-friendly creative activities.

Free exhibition, no booking required

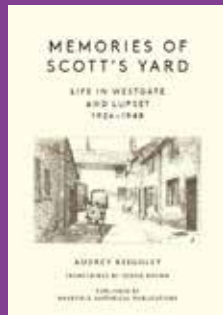
Learn Rag Rugging at Wakefield Library

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.

Discover more



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

During WordFest we wish to showcase the amazing work local heritage groups are doing to protect and celebrate our heritage. Are you interested in knowing more about Eastmoor housing estate? Learning about the oral history project Stories of Castleford? Or are you interested in discovering the Horbury Community Archive of over 1500 photographs or about the 150th anniversary of the Pontefract Choral Society? Whatever the heritage, we have a packed programme highlighting the work of local heritage groups and societies.

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 the four library venues.

Each afternoon we will have a variety of local heritage groups showcasing the great work they do at the following libraries:

Wednesday 8 May

Wakefield Library

Monday 13 May

Castleford Library

Wednesday 15 May

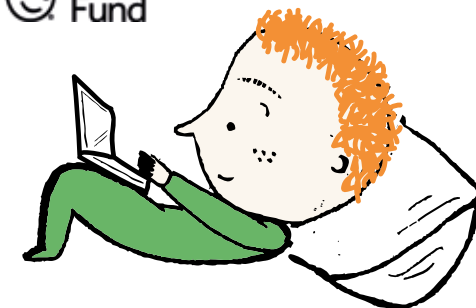
Horbury Library

Friday 17 May

Pontefract Library

Events will start at 11am until 4pm (Castleford 12noon-4pm). Please check with the library as times are subject to change.

Our Heritage, Our Stories is a project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. For further details contact heritage@wakefield/.gov.uk



Booking

To book free place at any of the events mentioned please visit expwake.co/bookwordfest or scan the QR code opposite.



Contacts

Airedale Library

01977 724040
airedalelibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Castleford Museum

01977 722084
museums@wakefield.gov.uk

Balne Lane Community Centre

01924 373558
admin@balnelanecommunitycentre.co.uk

Castleford Library

01977 722085
castlefordlibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Featherstone Library

01977 722745
featherstonelibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Hemsworth Library

01977 722270
hemsworthlibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Horbury Library

01924 303060
horburylibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Knottingley Club

01977 672392

National Coal Mining Museum

01924 848806
info@ncm.org.uk

Normanton Library

01924 302525
normantonlibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

The Old Quarry Adventure Playground (The Addy)

01977 670953

Pontefract Castle

01977 723440
castles@wakefield.gov.uk

Pontefract Library

01977 727692
pontefractlibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Pontefract Museum

01977 722740
museums@wakefield.gov.uk

Portobello Community Centre

07799 534702
infopcfwakefield@gmail.com

Queens Mill, Castleford

01977 556741
info@castlefordheritagetrust.org.uk

Sandal Library

01924 303355
sandallibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

South Elmsall Library

01977 723220
southelmsalllibrary2@wakefield.gov.uk

St George's Community Centre

01924 369631
info@stgeorgeslupset.org.uk

St Mary's Community Centre

01977 705341
stmarys@stmaryscommunity.co.uk

St Swithun's Community Centre

01924 361212
info@eastmoorcommunity.co.uk

Stanley Library

01924 303130
stanleylibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

Upton Community Library

01977 649317
unef21703@gmail.com

Wakefield Library

01924 305376
wakefieldlibrarymuseum@wakefield.gov.uk

Wakefield Museum

01924 302104
museums@wakefield.gov.uk

Walton Community Library

01924 917627
waltoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com

West Yorkshire History Centre

0113 5350142
wakefield@wys.org.uk

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-and-local-history/libraryevents

Keep up to date with everything happening for WordFest and beyond on social media. Make sure to tag us! **#WordFest #MakeWordsCount**



@WFLibraries

@WFLibraries

WakefieldLibraries

@WFLibraries

expwake.co/WordFest

wakefieldlibraries.wordpress.com/

Beyond WordFest

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

Don't miss our afternoon author talk by **Jacque Rogers** author of **Quintus Valerius Roman Britain mysteries**.

Saturday 1 June 4pm - 5.30pm
£5, booking required



Beyond WordFest

Get creative with Wakefield Council libraries this summer and join **The Summer Reading Challenge 2024, Marvellous Makers!**

Creativity is theme for this year's challenge, so you can expect a fun packed programme of events to inspire young people to express themselves in creative ways, tap into a world of imagination and storytelling, and - of course - to read.

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 explore how stories can be told through reading and creative art.

We can't wait to get creating this summer!

Love video gaming? Want to learn how to make your own game?

FREE creative workshops for young people are happening in the summer holidays at a library near you. Discover more at summer s'cool (www.wfdsummers.cool)



SAVE THE DATE
28 JUNE - 7 JULY 2024

DISCOVER OUR PROGRAMME

BRADFORDLITFEST.CO.UK

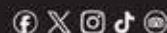


FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS BOTH WEEKENDS

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

Wakefield, Yorkshire

**Unearth the
Unexpected!**



Plan your visit at ncm.org.uk

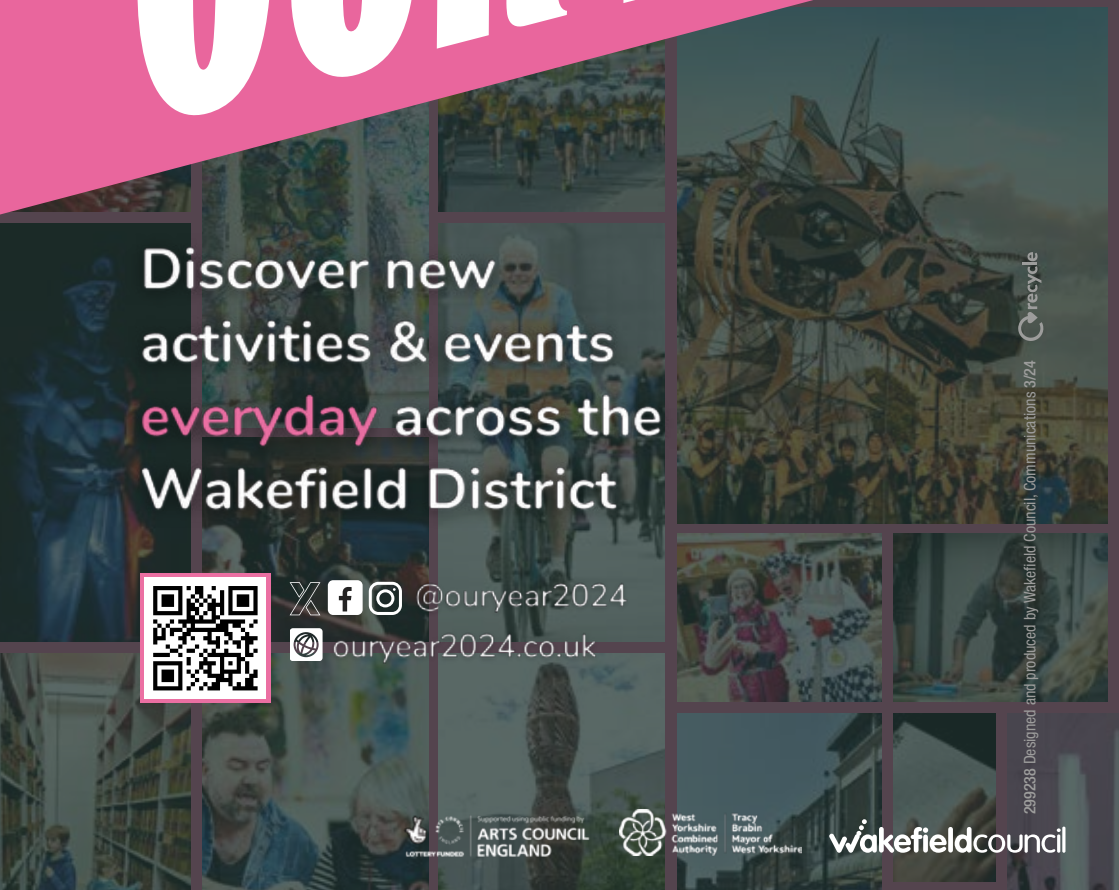
OUR YEAR
Wakefield District 2024

THIS EVENT IS PART OF **OUR YEAR**

Discover new activities & events **everyday** across the Wakefield District



@ouryear2024
 ouryear2024.co.uk



299288 Designed and produced by Wakefield Council, Communications 3/24



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



West Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

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Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

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