

Norwich
History
Festival

July
14-24
2026

Why History Matters



norwichhistoryfestival.co.uk



University of
East Anglia
Norwich

RETURNING...

Norwich History Festival

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Norwich History Festival. This year we have chosen the theme of 'Why History Matters' to try and show the forces and events that have shaped our lives and continue to inform modern issues.

We have a huge variety of talks across the 11 days of the Festival. These include well known historians such as Antony Beevor and Kate Williams as well as several experts in their field who will help portray how Norwich developed in Roman, Viking and Tudor times leading to the modern city of Norwich. We also have 30 walks as part of the Festival this year which is such a great way to learn about the city and its historical stories.

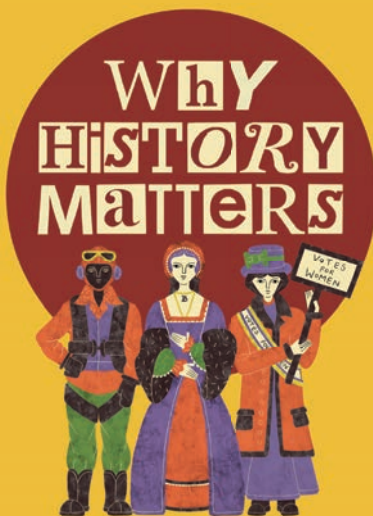
We have several unique events that have been planned especially for this Festival including three ambitious music events, two debates and even a bus tour of some of the WW2 American air bases in Norfolk. There are also family events, films, and exhibitions and we are delighted to be in partnership with the Museum of Norwich and the Common Lot who are both producing significant public events.

Many thanks to the small team that has helped put these events together. Tabitha Burrell has been an invaluable general assistant, Breeze Barrington has helped with programming, Lucy Moore Fuller has coordinated the walks, Milly Kirby has facilitated a great partnership with the Museum and Emma Turner has done an amazing job designing this brochure. Also big thanks to Hannah Tough and Nick Grant from UEA who have facilitated the important partnership with UEA.



STUART HOBDAY
Festival Director

Our aim is to shout about Norwich's incredible history, help the city centre economy, and engage people with history who aren't currently engaged. So please tell your friends about this festival and encourage them to buy some tickets as it will really help us establish this as an annual event.



HEADLINE TALKS

Tue 14 Jul | 5pm | The Octagon Chapel | £8

REGINA: A NEW HISTORY OF WOMEN IN POWER

Kate Williams

Kate Williams is a historian and broadcaster as well as a specialist in modern history, royal and constitutional affairs. From Cleopatra to Grace Kelly, an epic new history of royal women that shatters the myths we have built around them.



Wed 15 Jul | 5pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

HISTORY'S MOST EPIC FIBS AND FAILS

Athena Kugblenu

Athena Kugblenu is a stand-up comedian and author of children's history books including *History's Most Epic Fibs!* and *History's Most Epic Fails!* At this event, she will present some of the best fibs and fails she has discovered.



Thu 16 Jul | 7pm | The Octagon Chapel | £8

HISTORIC FOOTPATHS

Nicholas Crane

In this talk, tv-presenter Nicholas Crane explores the hidden history of Britain's coast-to-coast web, from prehistoric routeways walked by European migrants 12,000 years ago to pilgrim ways and coffin roads, turnpikes, towpaths and city pavements.



Fri 17 Jul | 3pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

THIS LITTLE WORLD – IN CONVERSATION WITH BREEZE BARRINGTON

Nandini Das

This event offers a startlingly new, globally resonant vision of England's past and what it meant to be English. It is a story of a nation in the making - on the cusp of empire - told through the traces of those often written out of it.



Sat 18 Jul | 3pm | UEA Lecture Theatre | £10

RASPUTIN

Antony Beevor

Was Grigori Rasputin a visionary, a fraud, or a victim of history? Antony Beevor, author of *Stalingrad*, searches for the truth about the great seducer of the Romanovs, the wild mystic who laid the ground for the Russian Revolution.



Mon 20 Jul | 6pm | Dragon Hall | £8

CRICK: A MIND IN MOTION

Matthew Cobb

Matthew Cobb will be discussing his major new biography of Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, pioneering neuroscientist, and twentieth-century genius. In association with the John Innes Centre.



Mon 20 Jul | 7.30pm | Dragon Hall | £8

ELIZABETH BOLEYN: THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN'S MOTHER

Sophie Baccus- Waterman

For the first time, the infamous rise and fall of the Boleyn family is told from Elizabeth Boleyn's perspective.



Tue 21 Jul | 7.30pm | Dragon Hall | £8

ANNE BOLEYN AND THE FRENCH

Estelle Paraque

Estelle's latest book is *Thorns, Lust and Glory: the betrayal of Anne Boleyn*. In this talk, Estelle will discuss the relationship between Anne Boleyn and the French court.



Wed 22 Jul | 6.30pm | Old Meeting House | £8

HISTORY AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE

Iain Sinclair

Iain Sinclair is a pioneer of 'psychogeography'. In his book *London Orbital*, he described modern London as a modern art of darkness. Iain is interested in writing history as a form of resistance.



Fri 24 Jul | 5pm | Cinema City | £8

USING HISTORY IN ART

Jeremy Deller

Jeremy Deller is one of the country's leading artists. This event will explore how he has used historical events in his public artworks.



Tue 14 Jul | 1pm | Old Meeting House, Colegate | £5

NORWICH- CITY OF MAVERICKS AND PIONEERING WOMEN

VisitNorwich

Norwich History festival launches with a fun event that which will see ten individual speakers give a five-minute talk about their hero or heroine from Norwich's past and why that person should be better remembered. Part of VisitNorwich's 20th anniversary series Twenty Stories.

Tue 14 Jul | 5pm | The Octagon Chapel | £8

REGINA: A NEW HISTORY OF WOMEN IN POWER

Kate Williams

Kate Williams is a historian and broadcaster. A specialist in modern history, royal and constitutional affairs, she's Professor of Modern History at Reading University. From Cleopatra to Grace Kelly, an epic new history of royal women that shatters the myths we have built around them.

Wed 15 Jul | 1pm | The Great Hospital | £5

THE NORWICH SHAWL INDUSTRY

Pippa Lacey & Caroline Whiting

The Costume and Textile Association present an overview of the amazing history of the Norwich shawl industry, illustrating the growth in popularity of the shawl as a fashion item in the 17th and 18th century.

Wed 15 Jul | 3pm | The Great Hospital | £5

NORWICH SUFFRAGETTES: 'DEEDS NOT WORDS'

Gill Blanchard

Discover the long history of women's fight for right to vote. Looking at the broader context of women's campaigns and protests in the decades after the Great Reform Act of 1832 up to 1928 when all women could vote on equal terms to men.

Wed 15 Jul | 5pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

HISTORY'S MOST EPIC FIBS AND FAILS

Athena Kugblenu

Athena Kugblenu is a stand-up comedian and author of children's history books including *History's Most Epic Fibs!* and *History's Most Epic Fails!* At this event, she will present some of the best fibs and fails she has discovered.

Wed 15 Jul | 6:30pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

BOUDICCA'S DAUGHTER

Elodie Harper

Elodie Harper is a journalist and author. Boudicca. Infamous warrior, queen of the British Iceni tribe and mastermind of one of history's greatest revolts. But what of the woman who grew up in her shadow? Born to a legend. Forced to fight. Determined to succeed, meet Solina, Boudicca's Daughter.



Thu 16 Jul | 1pm | The Great Hospital | £5

THE NORWICH SOCIETY: OVER 100 YEARS OF MAKING HISTORY MATTER TO NORWICH.

Jonathan Hooton

The decision to demolish Bishop Bridge was the catalyst that brought the Norwich Society into being in 1923. This is the story of how they managed to save this part of our heritage. We will take a virtual tour around Norwich covering many of the other successful campaigns to protect Norwich's heritage, (as well as some failures). Without the Society's activities, Norwich would look very different today.

Thu 16 Jul | 3pm | The Great Hospital | £5

INTERPRETING THE NORWICH BLITZ AND ITS AFTERMATH

Steve Snelling

Having researched and written a people's history of the Baedeker raids on Norwich, Steve Snelling re-examines the impact of the blitz on the civilian population and the post-war redevelopment of the city.

Thu 16 Jul | 5pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

WHAT DID THE ROMANS DO FOR NORFOLK?

William Bowden

William Bowden is a professor of Roman Archaeology at the University of Nottingham. The Romans get a poor press in Norfolk. This talk will look at who lived in Roman Norfolk and their long-term legacies in the region. In association with Norfolk & Norwich Archeological Society.

Thu 16 Jul | 7pm | The Octagon Chapel | £8

HISTORIC FOOTPATHS

Nicholas Crane

In this talk, tv-presenter Nicholas Crane explores the hidden history of Britain's coast-to-coast web, from prehistoric routeways walked by European migrants 12,000 years ago to pilgrim ways and coffin roads, turnpikes, towpaths and city pavements.

Fri 17 Jul | 1pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

BLOODY BRILLIANT TUDORS

Elizabeth Goff

Elizabeth is well-known as the @the_historical_gal on TikTok and Instagram. From Henry VII to Elizabeth I, *Bloody, Brilliant Tudors* answers all these questions and more. Elizabeth will delve into the people and places behind the world-famous Tudor myths and legends.

Fri 17 Jul | 3pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

THIS LITTLE WORLD – IN CONVERSATION WITH BREEZE BARRINGTON

Nandini Das

Nandini Das is a Professor of Early Modern English Literature and Culture at the University of Oxford. This event offers a startlingly new, globally resonant vision of England's past and what it meant to be English. It is a story of a nation in the making – on the cusp of empire – told through the traces of those often written out of it.

Fri 17 Jul | 6pm | Marzano Cafe Bar at The Forum | £5
UK PUNK’S FIRST RECORD: 50 YEARS ON
Richard Balls

Punk exploded in Britain in 1976, changing music forever. As it marks its 50th anniversary, we are delighted to be joined by author Richard Balls who chronicled the story of Stiff Records, the London label that released the UK’s first punk record - The Damned’s incendiary debut New Rose.

Fri 17 Jul | 6:30pm | St Peter Mancroft | £5

**WHY THE BACON PAPERS MATTER:
CELEBRATING A TUDOR PUBLISHING TRIUMPH**
Norwich Record Society presents... Rev. Professor Diarmaid N. J. MacCulloch, Kt, DD, FBA

Diarmaid MacCulloch will present the latest research on the papers of the prominent Bacon family of Suffolk and what they tell us about the religious controversies of Tudor Britain. Image: copyright Barry Jones.

Sat 18 Jul | 1pm | Old Meeting Hosue, Colegate | £5
A WORLD OF TYRANNY
Jackson van Uden

Historian and broadcaster Jackson van Uden will explore the tyrannical world that we live in and the current state of democracy. Taking us from the Stalinist dictatorship of the Kim family in North Korea, to Xi’s totalitarian China, to the former Communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe and Russia, before detailing how this is impacting the West by examining the biggest threat to liberal democracy, Donald J. Trump.

Sat 18 Jul | 3pm | UEA Main Lecture Theatre | £10
RASPUTIN
Antony Beevor

Was Grigori Rasputin a visionary, a fraud, or a victim of history? Antony Beevor, author of Stalingrad, searches for the truth about the great seducer of the Romanovs, the wild mystic who laid the ground for the Russian Revolution.

Sat 18 Jul | 7pm | Waterstones | £5

**THE GRACES:THE EXTRAORDINARY UNTOLD LIVES
OF WOMEN AT THE RESTORATION COURT**
Breeze Barrington

Dr Breeze Barrington is a cultural historian specialising in the artistic cultures of the 17th century, with a particular focus on women’s history and female artists. *The Graces: The Extraordinary Untold Lives of Women at the Restoration Court* is Breeze’s first book. It resurrects the lives of Maria, later Mary of Modena, and the talented group of women she surrounded herself with at the Restoration courts of Charles II and James II.

Mon 20 Jul | 1pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5
WHY HISTORY MATTERS DEBATE
*With a panel chaired by Nicholas Grant (UEA)
and including Clive Lewis*

Three prominent figures will discuss why history is important to modern society.



Mon 20 Jul | 3pm | Forum Auditorium | £5
WHY THE GLOUCESTER SHIPWRECK MATTERS?
Claire Jowitt

The Gloucester Project is a significant historical research project exploring the life and times of the Gloucester frigate. Professor Claire Jowitt of UEA will present an update on the Gloucester Project and what it has taught us

Mon 20 Jul | 4:30pm | Forum Auditorium | £5
CUTTING THE MUSTARD
Robin Ireland

Long time Norwich City fan Robin Ireland charts the gradual commercialisation of football over the last 50 years using the rollercoaster ups and downs of the Canaries as a good example. This event will also ask: how important is club history to the fans?

Mon 20 Jul | 6pm | Dragon Hall | £8
CRICK: A MIND IN MOTION
Matthew Cobb

Matthew Cobb is a professor emeritus at the University of Manchester. Matthew Cobb will be discussing his major new biography of Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, pioneering neuroscientist, and twentieth-century genius.

In association with the John Innes Centre.

Mon 20 Jul | 7:30pm | Dragon Hall | £8
**ELIZABETH BOLEYN:
THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN’S MOTHER**
Sophie Baccus-Waterman

Sophie Baccus-Waterman will discuss Elizabeth’s early years, her marriage to Thomas Boleyn, and her long career in Katherine of Aragon’s household before either Mary or Anne Boleyn caught Henry VIII’s eye. For the first time, the infamous rise and fall of the Boleyn family is told from Elizabeth Boleyn’s perspective.

Tue 21 Jul | 1pm | Weston Room, Cathedral | £5
DEBATE: THE BOLEYN FAMILY INTRIGUE
Breeze Barrington, Sophie Baccus-Waterman, Estelle Paranke

Three prominent historians will discuss why there is so much modern interest in the Boleyn Family members and their political intrigues from Tudor times. They will consider how the implications of the actions of this one family have resonated down the ages.

Tue 21 Jul | 3pm | Weston Room, Cathedral | £5
ST BENEDICT AND HIS RULE FOR LIFE
The Reverend Dr Peter Doll, Vice-Dean of Norwich Cathedral

The Reverend Dr Peter Doll will portray the original rule for life as laid out by St Benedict in the 6th century. The year 540, formed the basis of the original monastery on the site of Norwich Cathedral.

Tue 21 Jul | 4:30pm | Weston Room Cathedral | £5

REMEMBERING MIRIAM MAKEBA

Anna Mudeka

Anna Mudeka has just completed a UK tour portraying the South African singer and anti-apartheid campaigner, Miriam Makeba. In this event, she will reflect on her experience and discuss why Makeba should be remembered.

Tue 21 Jul | 6pm | Dragon Hall | £8

JAMES I: PASSION AT THE HEART OF THE MONARCHY

Gareth Russell

Gareth Russell is the author of *Queen James* (a BBC History Book of the Year). His latest book, chronicles James I life from neglected child to unpopular monarch - and explores the six love affairs that shaped James' journey.

Tue 21 Jul | 7:30pm | Dragon Hall | £8

ANNE BOLEYN AND THE FRENCH

Estelle Paraque

Estelle Paraque is an Associate Professor in History at Northeastern University London. Her latest book is *Thorns, Lust and Glory: the betrayal of Anne Boleyn*. In this talk, Estelle will discuss the relationship between Anne Boleyn and the French court.

Wed 22 Jul | 1pm | Norfolk Record Office | £5

SEEKING MEA ALLAN - FLEET STREET'S FORGOTTEN PIONEER

Felicity Goodall

War correspondent Mea Allan was a household name during World War II. She interviewed IRA bombmakers, was the only woman to report from Belsen, and the first woman on a Fleet Street news desk. For three years, Felicity Goodall followed a breadcrumb trail through archives in the UK, Germany and Salzburg to build the story of a fascinating life

Wed 22 Jul | 3pm | Old Meeting House, Colegate | £5

THE POLITICAL NARRATIVE OF THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

David Musgrove

David Musgrove, editor of History Extra will show how the political narrative of the Bayeux tapestry continues to dominate the political understanding of the 1066 story.

Wed 22 Jul | 5pm | Old Meeting House, Colegate | £5

THE VIKINGS! THEIR IMPACT AND LEGACY

Tim Pestell

What do we know? How do we know it? Exploring the archaeological evidence for Vikings in Norwich and Norfolk. In association with Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society.



Wed 22 Jul | 6:30pm | Old Meeting House, Colegate | £8

HISTORY AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE

Iain Sinclair

Iain Sinclair is a pioneer of 'psychogeography'. In his book *London Orbital*, he described London as a modern art of darkness. Iain is interested in writing history as a form of resistance.

Thu 23 Jul | 1pm | Friends Meeting House | £5

THE DEPTH AND SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICAN HISTORY

Luke Pepera

Historian and writer Luke Pepera tells stories from his debut book *Motherland: A Journey Through African History, Culture and Identity* that highlight the impact and influence that African peoples, societies and civilisations have had on the world. From the origins of humankind to the medieval global gold trade, discover the role Africa has played in the stimulation and development of monumental world events. This ground-breaking exploration of African culture and identity illuminates the subject, providing some much-needed answers.

Thu 23 Jul | 5pm | The Guildhall | £5

THE GENERAL STRIKE IN NORWICH

Reuben Harvey

It's 100 years since the momentous General Strike of 1926. Reuben will outline the extent to which the strike was carried out in Norwich and the effect it had on the lives of the time.

Thu 23 Jul | 6:30pm | Forum Auditorium | £5

SIGNS OF TIMES PAST

John Trevelyan

John Trevelyan from the Norwich Society will explore some of the signs of the past that can be uncovered when walking around Norwich. This includes plaques, boundary markers, street name signs, flood level markers and memorials.

Thu 23 Jul | 7:30pm | UEA Main Lecture Theatre | £10 or under 18s £5

WILLIE, WILLIE, HARRY, STEE

Charlie Higson

Charlie Higson, leading light of The Fast Show, has written a funny and irreverent history of Britain's Kings and Queens. This event will find out how he has got enthused with history but will also explore Charlie's own history with the city of Norwich.

Fri 24 Jul | 5pm | Cinema City | £8

USING HISTORY IN ART

Jeremy Deller

Jeremy Deller is one of the country's leading artists. This event will explore how he has used historical events in his public artworks.

TALKS

MUSIC



Fri 17 Jul | 8pm | The Octagon Chapel | £8

WHY SILENT CINEMA SHOULD BE REMEMBERED

Silent cinema has its own language, its own immediacy thanks to live music, and its own impact thanks to great visual storytelling by visionary film-makers. Join TV's Neil Brand and film historian Lawrence Napper on a journey back in time to discover the magic of cinema before synchronised sound. Their show will introduce some of the greatest moments of early fiction and comedy film-making as well as featuring scenes made in our region.

Sat 18 Jul | 7pm & 9:30pm | The Octagon Chapel | From £18

THE VOICE PROJECT - DIVING DREAM

In July 2025 the co-directors of the Voice Project, Sian Croose and Jon Baker, attended a talk in the Octagon by Philip Hoare that was part of the first Norwich History Festival. Hoare shared his illuminating enthusiasm for the artistic visions of William Blake and how they held a key place in the imagination of so many artists, writers, filmmakers and thinkers.

Diving Dream is a montage of ideas, images and visions, from the dark of the middle of the night, to the bright spark of starlight. There is swimming, walking and flying, sleeping and waking, rising and dreaming.

Performed by The Voice Project choir as well as a brilliant ensemble of professional performers, Diving Dream features music written by Jon Baker, Helen Chadwick, Sian Croose Orlando Gough, as well as words by Emily Dickinson, Coleridge and William Blake.

Tickets from £18 at www.voiceproject.co.uk



Image supplied by
Picture Norfolk

Wed 22 Jul | 7:30pm | The Mad Cat Pub | £5

A SHORT HISTORY OF BLACK ANNA AND THE JOLLY BUTCHERS

Daughter of migrants and friend of the hard done by, Black Anna was a huge character and part of what makes Norwich a fine city. Join The Rotter's Club and Reel Connections as we take a trip back in time to her pub, the Jolly Butchers and meet the queen of the jazz scene. With stories gathered from newspaper film archives and first hand accounts, we aim to give you the Jolly Butchers experience complete with songs, drinks and good times. Join us at the Mad Cat Pub for a knees up in honour of one of Norwich's more interesting citizens.

DEBATES

Mon 20 Jul | 1pm | The Octagon Chapel | £5

WHY HISTORY MATTERS

With a panel chaired by Nicholas Grant (UEA) and including local MP Clive Lewis

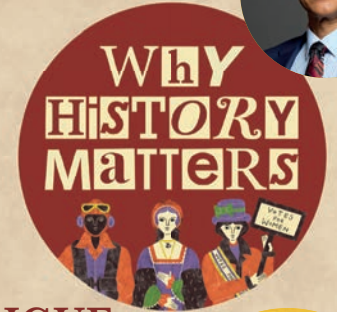
Three prominent figures will discuss why history is important to modern society.

Tue 21 Jul | 1pm | Weston Room, Cathedral | £5

THE BOLEYN FAMILY INTRIGUE

Breeze Barrington, Sophie Baccus-Waterman, Estelle Paranque

Three prominent historians will discuss why there is so much modern interest in the Boleyn Family members and their political intrigues from Tudor times. They will consider how the implications of the actions of this one family have resonated down the ages.



FILM

Wed 15 Jul | 6pm | Cinema City | £8.50 or £5.50 for Cinema City Members

HESTER STREET (PG) + Q&A

Yankel Bogovnik is a Russian Jew who moves to America to earn money and bring his wife, Gitl and their son to stay with him but he falls for another woman and must choose between the two.

The film will be followed by a Q&A.



Wed 22 Jul | 6pm | Cinema City | £8.50 or £5.50 for Cinema City Members

SUFFRAGETTE (12A) + Q&A

In 1912 London, a young working mother is galvanized into radical political activism supporting the right for women to vote, and is willing to meet violence with violence to achieve this end.

The film will be followed by a Q&A.



CALENDAR

- TALKS
- WALKS
- MUSIC / FILM / FAMILY / BUS

CALENDAR

TUESDAY 14TH

10.30am	Carrow House and the Forgotten Vaults Shoebox Old Carrow House £20; Child £8.50
11am	Norwich Over the Water City Tourist Guides Maddermarket Theatre £9
1pm	Norwich - City of Mavericks and Pioneering Women VisitNorwich Old Meeting House £5
2pm	Black Tower and the Southern City Walls City Tourist Guides bandstand, Chapelfield Gardens £9
5pm	Regina: A New History of Women in Power Kate Williams Octagon Chapel £8

WEDNESDAY 15TH

11am	The Pastons in Norwich - Lessons from the 15th Century Paul Dickson St Andrews Hall £9
1pm	The Norwich Shawl Industry Pippa Lacey & Caroline Whiting Great Hospital £5
2pm	Ale Tales: A Tour of Norwich's Pubs Old and New City Tourist Guides outside Sir Garnet pub £9
3pm	Norwich Suffragettes: 'Deeds Not Words' Gill Blanchard Great Hospital £5
5pm	History's Most Epic Fibs and Fails Athena Kugblenu Octagon Chapel £5
6pm	Hester Street Cinema City £8.50 or £5.50 for Cinema City Members
6.30pm	Boudicca's Daughter Elodie Harper Octagon Chapel £5

THURSDAY 16TH

10 & 11.30am	The Old Rifle Range & Underground Norwich Shoebox St Giles' Church gates £20; Child £8.50
11am	Elm Hill City Tourist Guides outside St Andrew's Hall £9
1pm	The Norwich Society Jonathan Hooton Great Hospital £5
1pm	A Walk Through Deep Time Roxanne Matthews Fye Bridge £10
3pm	Interpreting the Norwich Blitz and its Aftermath Steve Snelling Great Hospital £5
5pm	What Did the Romans do for Norfolk? Will Bowden Octagon Chapel £5
5.30pm	Explore Radical Norwich Bridget McKenzie St Gregory's Church Green £8
7pm	Historic Footpaths Nicholas Crane Octagon Chapel £8

FRIDAY 17TH

11am & 2pm	Behind the Scenes at Fatface - the Curat House City Tourist Guides Fat Face Free
1pm	Bloody Brilliant Tudors Elizabeth Goff Octagon Chapel £5
2pm	The Magnificent Marble Hall & the Bignolds Shoebox Lloyds Bank £20; Child £8.50
3pm	This Little World – In Conversation with Breeze Barrington Nandini Das Octagon Chapel £5
6pm	UK Punk's First Record: 50 Years On Richard Balls Marzano £5
6.30pm	Norwich Record Society presents... Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch St Peter Mancroft £5
8pm	Why Silent Cinema Should Be Remembered Neil Brand Octagon Chapel £8

SATURDAY 18TH

11am	Fire and Water: How They Have Shaped the City Centre City Tourist Guides outside the Forum £9
11am & 1pm	History Alive! Family show Lives of the Past Whiffler Theatre £5
1pm	A World of Tyranny Jackson van Uden Old Meeting House £5
3pm	Rasputin Antony Beevor UEA £10
7pm	The Graces Breeze Barrington Waterstones £5
7 & 9.30pm	Diving Dream Voice Project Octagon Chapel from £18

SUNDAY 19TH

11am	The Streets Remember: An LGBT History Walk Queer Norfolk outside the Forum PWYC
11am & 1pm	History Alive! Family show Lives of the Past Whiffler Theatre £5
2pm	Norwich: A Black History Paul Dickson outside the Forum £9

MONDAY 20TH

11am	The Bridges of Norwich City Tourist Guides Bishop Bridge, outside Red Lion pub £9
1pm	Debate: Why History Matters Clive Lewis and guests Octagon £5
2pm	When Elizabeth I Came to Stay Guildhall Guide Shea Fiddes Guildhall £5
3pm	Why the Gloucester Shipwreck Matters Claire Jowitt Forum £5
4pm	Norwich City of Stories Part 1 Norwich Story Walks steps of City Hall £10
4.30pm	Cutting the Mustard Robin Ireland Forum £5
6pm	Crick: A Mind in Motion Matthew Cobb Dragon Hall £8
7.30pm	Elizabeth Boleyn: The Life of the Queen's Mother Sophie Baccus-Waterman Dragon Hall £8

TUESDAY 21ST

10am	Bus tour of American airbases Castle Meadow coach stop £10
10.30am	Carrow House and the Forgotten Vaults Shoebox Old Carrow House £20; Child £8.50
1pm	Debate: The Boleyn Family Intrigue Weston Room, Cathedral £5
2pm	Mousehold Heath Inspired Art Workshop (8-14 years) Sophia Shuvalova Britannia Rd £8
3pm	St Benedict and His Rules For Life Peter Doll Weston Room, Cathedral £5
4.30pm	Remembering Miriam Makabe Anna Mudeka Weston Room, Cathedral £5
6pm	James I: Passion at the Heart of the Monarchy Gareth Russell Dragon Hall £8
7.30pm	Anne Boleyn and the French Estelle Paranke Dragon Hall £8

WEDNESDAY 22ND

10am	Bus tour of American airbases Castle Meadow coach stop £10
11am	What the Victorians Did (and Didn't Do) for Our Fine City Paul Dickson outside the Forum £9
1pm	Seeking Mea Allan Felicity Goodall Norfolk Record Office £5
2pm	Hidden Histories: A Walk On the West Side City Tourist Guides Norwich Arts Centre £9
3pm	The Political Narrative of the Bayeux Tapestry David Musgrove Old Meeting House £5
5pm	The Vikings! Their Impact and Legacy Tim Pestell Old Meeting House £5
6pm	Suffragette Cinema City £8.50 or £5.50 for Cinema City Members
6.30pm	History as a Form of Resistance Iain Sinclair Old Meeting House £8
8pm	Evening with Black Anna Mad Cat £5

THURSDAY 23RD

11am	Shopping for History City Tourist Guides outside the Forum £9
1pm	The Depth and Significance of African History Luke Pepera Friends Meeting House £5
2pm	Medieval Norwich Creative Workshop (8-14 years) Sophia Shuvalova Guildhall £8
5pm	The General Strike of Norwich Reuben Harvey Guildhall £5
6.30pm	Signs of Times Past John Trevelyan Forum £5

FRIDAY 24TH

11am & 2pm	Behind the Scenes at Fatface - the Curat House City Tourist Guides Fat Face Free
11am	From Faith to Faith City Tourist Guides outside the Forum £9
11am	Norwich in the 1920s Paul Dickson & Museum of Norwich outside John Lewis £5
2pm	Two Englishmen Abroad: John Dowland and Thomas Simpson Peter Holman Octagon £5
2pm	The Magnificent Marble Hall & the Bignolds Shoebox Lloyds Bank £20; Child £8.50
4pm	Using History in Art Jeremy Deller Cinema City £5
5.30pm	Norwich City of Stories Part 2 Norwich Story Walks steps of City Hall £10

THE SHOEBOX EXPERIENCES

TO BOOK: CALL 01603 850309

Tue 14 & Tue 21 Jul | 10:30am | Adult: £20 Child: £8.50
CARROW HOUSE AND THE FORGOTTEN VAULTS

Meet at Old Carrow House

Fri 17 & Fri 24 Jul | 2pm | Adult: £20 Child: £8.50
MAGNIFICENT MARBLE HALL AND THE BIGNOLDS

Meet at Lloyds Bank, Gentleman's Walk

Thu 16 Jul | 10am & 11:30am | Adult: £20 Child: £8.50
THE OLD RIFLE RANGE AND UNDERGROUND NORWICH

Meet outside St Giles' Church gates



BRIDGET MCKENZIE

TO BOOK: norwichhistoryfestival.co.uk

Thu 16 Jul | 5:30pm | Minimum age: 8 | £8
EXPLORE RADICAL NORWICH

Meet at St Gregory's Church Green

GUILDHALL GUIDE SHEA FIDDES

TO BOOK: norwichhistoryfestival.co.uk

Mon 20 Jul | 2pm | Minimum age: 12 | £5
WHEN ELIZABETH I CAME TO STAY

Meet at Guildhall



PAUL DICKSON TOURS

TO BOOK: pauldicksonstours.co.uk

Wed 15 Jul | 10am | £9
THE PASTONS IN NORWICH
- LESSONS FROM THE 15th CENTURY

Meet outside St Andrews Hall

Sun 19 Jul | 2pm | £9
NORWICH: A BLACK HISTORY
- SLAVERY, ABOLITION, AND AFRICANS IN NORFOLK

Meet outside The Forum

Wed 22 Jul | 11am | £9
VICTORIAN NORWICH
- WHAT THE VICTORIANS DID (AND DIDN'T DO) FOR OUR FINE CITY

Meet outside The Forum



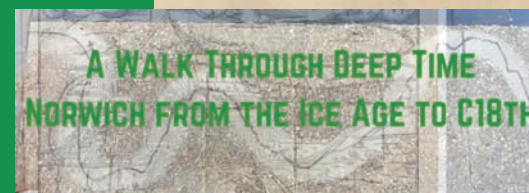
ROXANNE MATTHEWS

TO BOOK: tickettailor.com/events/treowoodforestschool/2123244

Thu 16 Jul | 1pm | £10

A WALK THROUGH DEEP TIME:
NORWICH FROM THE ICE AGE
TO THE 18th CENTURY

Meet at Fye Bridge



QUEER NORFOLK

TO BOOK: tickettailor.com/events/queernorfolk/2106591

Sun 19 Jul | 11am | Minimum age: 14 | Pay what you can

THE STREETS REMEMBER:
AN LGBT HISTORY WALK THROUGH NORWICH

Meet outside The Forum

QUEER
NORFOLK

NORWICH STORY WALKS

TO BOOK: norwichstorywalks.co.uk

Part 1: 20 Jul | 4pm
Part 2: 24 Jul | 5:30pm
£10 for each walk

THE NORWICH “20 STORIES, 1 CITY” STORY WALKS

Meet at City Hall steps, between the lions

Wander Norwich exploring why tales of 20 individuals from the city's past still matter. Conducted in the eccentric and extravagant style of Norwich Story Walks.

This theme is experienced over 2 walks of 10 stories each. You do not need to attend both.



CITY GUIDES

TO BOOK: eventbrite.com/cc/norwich-history-festival-walking-tours-4826715

Tue 14 Jul | 11am | £9

NORWICH OVER THE WATER: COSLANY, COLEGATE AND FYE BRIDGE

Meet outside Maddermarket Theatre

Tue 14 Jul | 2pm | £9

BLACK TOWER AND THE SOUTHERN CITY WALLS

Meet at the Bandstand, Chapelfield Gardens

Wed 15 Jul | 2pm | £9

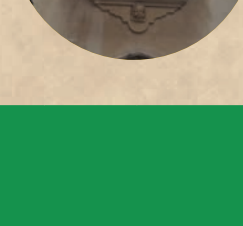
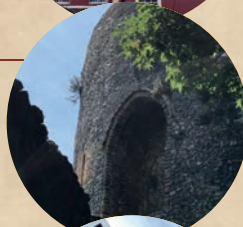
ALE TALES: A TOUR OF NORWICH'S PUBS OLD AND NEW

Meet outside Sir Garnet Pub

Thu 16 Jul | 11am | £9

ELM HILL: FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CITY'S FINEST STREET

Meet outside St Andrew's Hall



Sat 18 Jul | 11am | £9

FIRE AND WATER: HOW THEY HAVE SHAPED THE CITY CENTRE

Meet outside The Forum

Mon 20 Jul | 11am | £9

THE BRIDGES OF NORWICH: A WALK ALONG THE WENSUM

Meet at Bishop Bridge



Wed 22 Jul | 2pm | £9

HIDDEN HISTORIES: A WALK ON THE WEST SIDE

Meet at Norwich Arts Centre

Thu 23 Jul | 11am | £9

SHOPPING FOR HISTORY: WHAT OUR SHOPS TELL US ABOUT THE CITY'S PAST

Meet outside The Forum

Fri 24 Jul | 11am | £9

FROM FAITH TO FAITH: EXPLORE THE LEGACY OF THE REFORMATION IN THE CITY

Meet outside The Forum

Fri 17 & Fri 24 Jul | 11am & 2pm | FREE

THE CURAT HOUSE: SEE BEHIND THE SCENES AT FAT FACE

One of the most popular tours during Heritage Open Days, City Guided are delighted to offer an extra opportunity to see this gem of Norwich history. Today it's a clothes shop, previously it was a wine bar, but its origins go back centuries.

Meet outside The Forum

MUSEUM OF NORWICH

FAMILY 

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

PART OF NORWICH HISTORY FESTIVAL



MUSEUM of
NORWICH
at the Bridewell

FREE ENTRY

16 - 18 July inclusive | 10am - 4.30pm

Enjoy free admission over three days of the festival.

Museum admission applies at other times.

Generously funded by Freeman of Norwich, to celebrate the museum's centenary.

WALK: NORWICH IN THE 1920s

Fri 24 July | 11am | £5 (includes entry to the Museum of Norwich)

Start location: outside John Lewis on All Saints Green

Join Paul Dickson on a walking tour of the city, as he visits key locations and shares some of the stories of this fascinating decade. This tour is part of the centenary celebration of the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell.

Tickets on sale soon at:
museums.norfolk.gov.uk/events



Museum of Norwich front window | 14 - 24 July | FREE
**BRIDEWELL ARTISTS: CELEBRATING
GRACE MARCON & THE NORWICH
SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT**



Image: the wellbeing group outside the museum



Image: artwork of Grace Marcon | Claire Ivory

The museum's Bridewell Artists collective draws inspiration from our city's extraordinary heritage. This year we are proud to present an evolving artwork by collective member Claire Ivory. This piece is inspired by a surveillance photograph taken of Norwich Suffragette Grace Marcon, at Holloway Prison.

The group are also exhibiting a new banner created to celebrate 100 years of the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell.

Sat 18 & Sun 19 Jul | 11am & 1pm (both days) | Whiffler Theatre, Castle Gardens | £5



HISTORY ALIVE WITH LIVES OF THE PAST!

Come and enrol at The Norwich College of Archeological Adventures to begin your journey into the past wonders of Norwich. Prepare to uncover all sorts of mysteries, there will be more than meets the eye! Be ready for some hands on fun, adventure and earn your place amongst Norwich's most distinguished archeological minds. Fun for all the family, history comes to life in this interactive show. Be ready for the unexpected!

In association with Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society.

WORKSHOPS BY SOPHIA SHUVALOVA

Tue 21 Jul | 2 - 4:30pm | Mousehold Heath | Ages 8 - 14 | £8

MOUSEHOLD HEATH INSPIRED ART WORKSHOP

Meet at Britannia Road car park

This workshop will explore Mousehold Heath as a place of both historical and ecological significance.

We will walk through the heath, stopping to sketch in a variety of locations while exploring its history and natural environment, thinking about the landscape as layers of history embedded within the ground.

We will look at how the heath has been important to people: from Neanderthals and early humans, through building the city, to Kett's Rebellion and World War II activity. The young people will engage with the location through drawing and mapping the area, looking at both the history and ecology of Mousehold Heath.

Thu 23 Jul | 2 - 4pm | Guildhall | Ages 8 - 14 | £8

MEDIEVAL NORWICH CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Norwich Guildhall is one of the country's grandest medieval city halls and was the centre of city government for 500 years.

The impressive history of this building provides the starting point for this drawing workshop. We will look at the architecture of the period, as well as work by artists who have been inspired by the Guildhall. The young people will discover how Norwich was governed in the 15th century, how systems have changed and the ways in which they still influence society.

Through this workshop we will delve into the historical heart of the city of Norwich and spark our creativity.



Tue 21 & Wed 22 Jul | 10am - 3pm | £10

BUS TOUR OF WW2 AMERICAN AIR BASES

Join the American Library for an airbase adventure in Norfolk this Summer.

We will be exploring the stories of the American men and women who served with the US Army Air Forces in World War Two.

There is a piece of this history every few miles in the countryside around Norwich and we'll be taking a Routemaster bus to visit these sites.

You will hear tales of love, loss and friendship, see original artefacts from the time and meet the dedicated locals who preserve these stories.



Norfolk Record Office, MC 376/206

EXHIBITIONS

14 - 24 Jul | FREE

NORWICH THROUGH TIME

City Bookshop, Norwich, Davey Place



An exhibition showing Norwich's pivotal moments of interest.

Journey through centuries of transformation, from the construction of Norwich's iconic gates and walls to moments of crisis and resilience, including the devastating Baedeker Raid of 1942, the great floods, and the 1994 library fire.

14 - 18 & 21-24 July | 10am - 4.30pm | FREE (during 16-18 July)

BRIDEWELL: 100 YEARS OF THE MUSEUM OF NORWICH

An exhibition marking the museum's centenary, exploring what life was like in 1920s Norwich and the museum's foundation by shoe manufacturer Sir Henry Holmes.

Free entry during 16-18 July

Usual admission fees apply at other times.

Find out more: museumofnorwich.norfolk.gov.uk

BRIDEWELL 100
100 years of the
Museum of Norwich
at The Bridewell

21-26 Jul | 7:30pm (3pm Sunday) | FREE

'ON THE HUH!' BY THE COMMON LOT

Starting on Hay Hill

Join Norwich's The Common Lot for a free, city centre promenade event taking a light hearted look at nearly a thousand years of Norwich Market - the beating heart of our city.

Expect silliness, songs and some startling history.

ON THE HUH!
900 YEARS OF
NORWICH MARKET



SUITABLE FOR ALL

Free to attend but come early to get a good view.

Supported by Norwich City Council, The Forum Trust and many others.

NORWICH HISTORY FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS 2026:



RATHBONES



**NORWICH
City Council**

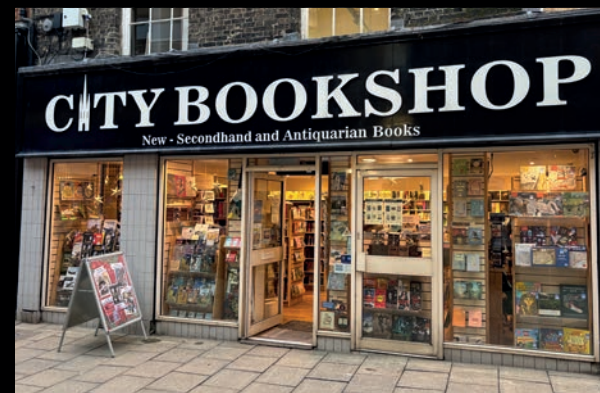




A unique 4 day festival of Lute music to be held at The Octagon Chapel in Norwich featuring music performances, workshops and talks celebrating the Elizabethan life and work of composer John Dowland.

Visit dowland400.co.uk for details and tickets.

Supported by The Lute Society and the Angel Music Trust



'Norwich Through Time'
FREE
Exhibition
14-24 JULY

New- Secondhand and Antiquarian Books

Situated in the heart of Norwich , City Bookshop is an independent family run bookshop with over 30 years experience in the book trade. Selling remaindered, secondhand and antiquarian books on a range of subjects including local history, art, children's, history, military, transport etc.

www.citybookshopnorwich.co.uk Davey Place, NR2 1PQ

The natural choice for friendly, expert advice on all aspects of financial planning.

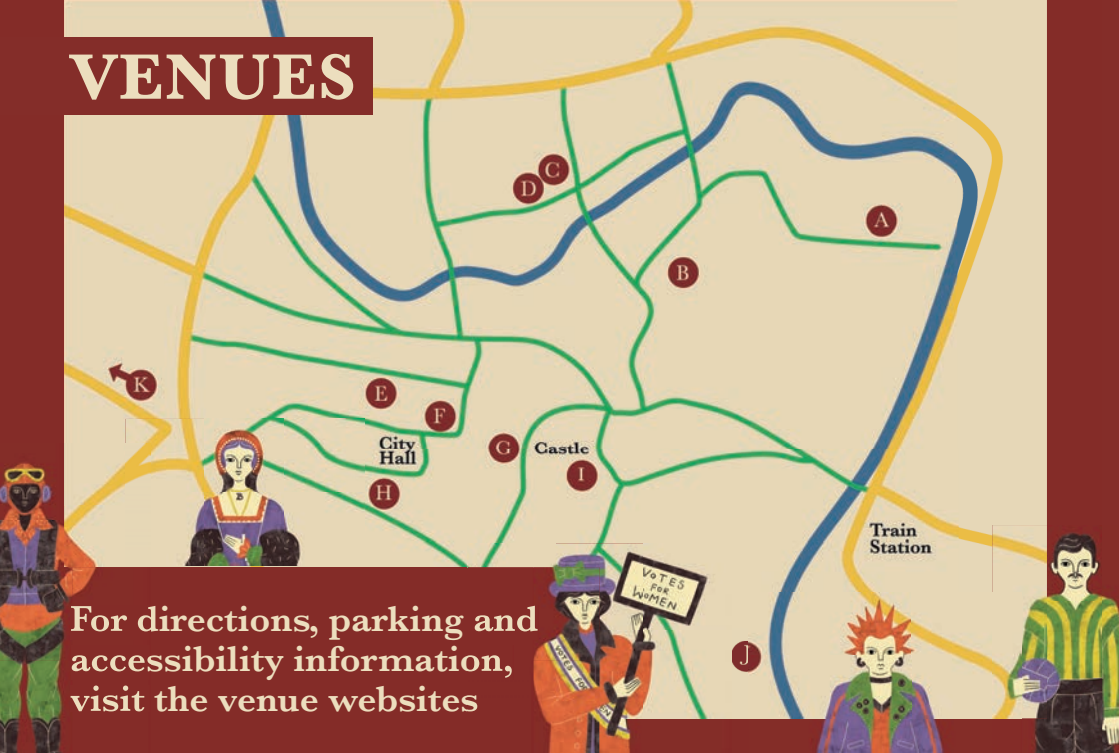
- ✓ Wealth management
- ✓ Savings and investments
- ✓ Retirement planning
- ✓ Employee benefits



NORFOLK VINTAGE BUS HIRE



VENUES



For directions, parking and accessibility information, visit the venue websites

A. GREAT HOSPITAL
greathospital.org.uk

B. NORWICH CATHEDRAL
cathedral.org.uk/visit

C. OLD MEETING HOUSE
oldmeetinghousechurch.org.uk

D. THE OCTAGON CHAPEL
octagonchapelnorwich.org.uk

E. FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
norwichquakers.org.uk

F. GUILDHALL
nfestival.org.uk/venue/the-guildhall

G. WATERSTONES
waterstones.com/bookshops/norwich

H. FORUM AUDITORIUM
theforumnorwich.co.uk/visit-us

I. WHIFFLER THEATRE

J. DRAGON HALL
nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/plan-your-visit

K. UEA LECTURE THEATRE
uea.ac.uk



To book tickets: norwichhistoryfestival.co.uk