

# FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

## Full Weekend Programme



2 - 4 May 2026  
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre  
various locations

Activity	Location
<p><b>Roman Market</b></p> <p>Castle Square will come alive as a bustling Roman encampment, complete with traditional tents and plenty to explore. Each tent offers something different, from craft demonstrations to themed traders, creating a colourful snapshot of life in ancient Rome.</p>	<p>Castle Square <b>LN1 3AA</b></p>
<p><b>Viking Arena</b></p> <p>Step into a lively Viking settlement and feel like you've travelled back in time. Explore cosy tents filled with craft demonstrations, stories, and little details that bring Viking life to the surface. All around you, the space is packed with atmospheric props and wandering Vikings who stay in character as they joke, chat, and bring the era to life.</p>	<p>City Square <b>LN5 7ET</b></p>
<p><b>Norman Camp</b></p> <p>The Festival of History will feature a lively Norman camp made up of six characterful tents, each offering a different glimpse into the Norman world. Visitors can wander into a busy camp kitchen with tasters of historic dishes, browse a fully stocked armoury, chat to a medieval surgeon, and meet a military engineer showing off a full-sized siege engine.</p>	<p>Cornhill Square <b>LN5 7HE</b></p>
<p><b>Knight Academy</b></p> <p>The event bursts into life with a colourful medieval activity zone, complete with a gazebo and a crew of knights who stay in character as they chat, joke, and show off the world they come from.</p> <p>Visitors can watch lively weapon demonstrations, pick up real (blunt!) medieval weapons, and even test their strength by striking a training post with guidance from the knights. A brilliant armour display shows off everything from helmets and gauntlets to maille shirts and full plate, and you can try pieces on for some great photo moments.</p>	<p>St Paul in the Bail <b>LN1 3AN</b></p>

# CULTURE AND HERITAGE



2 - 4 May 2026  
11am - 5pm



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Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	<p><b>Skilled stonemasons</b> will be set up outside Lincoln Cathedral, carving and showcasing their craft for visitors to watch up close. Drop by the event and fill in the short survey for the <b>chance to win a hand-carved fleur-de-lis made from stone</b>, a unique piece created by the masons themselves.</p>	Lincoln Cathedral <b>LN2 1PX</b>
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	<p>Dive into some local history at the <b>three-day pop-up exhibition on the 1986–87 Fulbeck protest</b>, featuring digitised footage and original campaign materials, with a dedicated talk on Saturday afternoon.</p> <p>Nearly forty years ago, the village of Fulbeck found itself at the centre of a national debate over nuclear waste. When it was identified as a potential disposal site, local residents didn't stay quiet. Farmers, families, and activists came together to defend their landscape.</p> <p>This event brings those histories back into view. Drawing on oral histories, archival research, and rarely seen media footage, hear historians from the University of Lincoln share what they have uncovered about the Fulbeck campaign—how it unfolded, and why it mattered. The talk will be accompanied by an exhibition of archival material, bringing the story of the protests to life.</p> <p>At its heart, this is a story of place, memory, and resistance at the heart of Lincolnshire.</p>	St Mary's Guildhall <b>LN5 7SF</b>
2 & 4 May 10am - 4pm	<p>Explore an <b>exhibition all about the 1882 restoration of St Mary Magdalene</b>, uncovering the stories and craftsmanship behind this Victorian makeover.</p> <p><b>During the day, drop in for creative art activities</b>, and later on enjoy a relaxed evening with <b>tea and classic Victorian cakes</b>.</p>	Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene <b>LN1 3AR</b>

# CULTURE AND HERITAGE



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Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 10am - 4pm	<p><b>Celebrate Lincolnshire's rich aviation heritage</b> with the International Bomber Command Centre during Lincoln's Festival of History. As a stop on the <b>Lincoln Sightseeing Tour Bus</b>, it's easy to visit and enjoy a variety of free, family-friendly activities designed to bring the stories of Bomber County to life.</p> <p>There will be lots to discover throughout each day; <b>try our ATA transport game using walkie talkies</b> to explore the Lincolnshire Peace Gardens; get creative with aviation-themed crafts and participate in our <b>Animals of War Spring Trail</b>. Our <b>free guided tours of the Spire, memorial walls, and grounds</b> will also be available to join.</p> <p>You can also get hands-on with <b>interactive sessions</b> led by local experts offering insights into Lincolnshire's Aviation history. Among them, join Lincolnshire Portable Radio Club's activities with morse code, Aldis signal lamps, Lancaster bombsight demonstrations, and radio communication.</p>	International Bomber Command Centre <b>LN4 2HQ</b>
2 - 3 May 2pm - 10pm	<p><b>Meet St Gilbert</b></p> <p>Founder of the medieval priory of St Katherine, on what is now the South Common, and one of the most influential figures in Lincoln's history, St Gilbert (or Gilbert of Sempringham, as he was known before his Sainthood) is celebrated in the former church of St Katherine, now a Grassroots venue known as <b>Southside</b>.</p> <p>Stand overlooking the very stones that formed the ancient building and appreciate a modern interpretation, on video, on the life of Gilbert himself.</p> <p>PLUS an <b>immersive medieval soundscape!</b></p> <p>Entry: Free (donations greatly appreciated)</p>	Southside <b>LN5 8DW</b>

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2 - 4 May 10am - 4pm	<p>A new display in the <b>Clore Gallery</b> features finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, including a <b>case of early Anglo Saxon brooches</b> discovered by metal detectorists at Cammeringham. These ornate pieces led to a rescue excavation that uncovered an Anglo Saxon burial ground just north of Lincoln.</p> <p>This discovery has <b>changed how historians understand Lincoln in the early medieval period</b>. It shows that Anglo Saxon communities were settling in the area earlier and closer to the city than previously thought, challenging older ideas that a Romano British community remained in control while incoming groups stayed further out.</p> <p>The brooches highlight the skill of early medieval metalworkers, with intricate designs and sophisticated techniques. Their patterns and symbols offer rare insights into the beliefs and world view of the people who wore them, which the display explores in more detail.</p>	Usher Gallery <b>LN2 1PX</b>
2 - 3 May 10am - 4pm	<p><b>Step back in time at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life</b> and experience the sights, sounds and stories of the Victorian era at our special Festival of History event.</p> <p>Throughout the museum, history will be <b>brought to life</b> with living history demonstrations and activities that reveal what everyday life was like in <b>Victorian Lincolnshire</b>.</p> <p>From the routines of daily life to the energy of Victorian industry, there's something for everyone. Join us for a lively and engaging day where Lincolnshire's' past comes to life!</p> <p>Adult: £3.00 Children: £1.50 Concession: £2.00 Family ticket: £6.00 (2 adults and up to 3 children)</p>	Museum of Lincolnshire Life <b>LN1 3LY</b>

# CULTURE AND HERITAGE



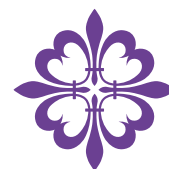
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Location & Time	Activity
<b>Lincoln Castle</b> 2 - 4 May 10am - 5pm	<p><b>Step into History at Lincoln Castle! (£ Ticketed)</b> Explore the Victorian Prison and meet a lively cast of characters as they share stories and legends inspired by the Castle's remarkable past. With storytelling, character encounters, and plenty to discover, it's a fun day out for curious minds of all ages.</p> <p><b>Lady Agatha Worthy</b> – A keen archaeologist eager to show you fascinating finds uncovered within the Castle walls.</p> <p><b>Professor Athelstan Worthy</b> – A passionate historian ready to reveal what he's learned from ancient Castle documents, including dramatic tales from the Battle of Lincoln in 1217.</p> <p><b>Clement &amp; Clementina Worthy</b> – Famous actors seeking inspiration for their next play.</p> <p><b>Ezekiel Worthy</b> – A drainage engineer investigating unpleasant goings-on beneath the Prison.</p> <p><b>Captain Absalom Staffage</b> – A showman with a collection of wonders to amaze and entertain! Meet additional colourful characters from the Ragged Victorians and enjoy thrilling fire-juggling displays from What A Palaver in the Castle grounds.</p> <p>The Ultimate Festival of History Experience is <b>included in the Castle Day ticket and free for annual pass holders</b>. The Castle grounds <b>remain free to explore</b>, with a jester entertaining visitors throughout the day.</p>
<b>Cornhill Market</b> 2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	<p><b>Reimagining Lincolnshire</b> is launching a series of free digital trails across the city from May 2026. Visit the Festival Info Stand at <b>Cornhill Market</b> to find out how to get started!</p> <p><b>FlightPaths by Electric Egg</b> is an audio-visual experience that shares stories of individuals from across the former British Empire who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War, whilst The People's Market: Everyday Activists of Lincoln by Human Studio brings the historic marketplace to life through stories of local people who made change through everyday actions.</p>

# TALKS & TOURS



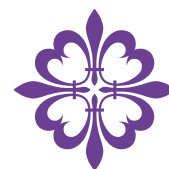
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Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 10am - 5pm	Join us for an <b>evening with David Olusoga</b> , one of Britain's most well-known historians and writers. This special talk marks the first event in a new series taking place at Lincoln Cathedral this March offering a chance to hear insightful stories and perspectives from a leading voice in history	Lincoln Cathedral <b>LN2 1PX</b>
2 & 4 May 11:30pm 1:30pm 3pm  3 May 1:30pm 2:30pm	<b>Enjoy guided tours of St Mary's Guildhall with Vic Hughes</b> , who brings the building's history to life through stories, insights, and a look inside one of Lincoln's most fascinating historic sites.  A grade I listed building and a Scheduled Monument, formerly known as John o'Gaunt's Stables, the building dates back to 1157, and was once a major domestic building of the highest social status and possibly the town house of King Henry II.	St Mary's Guildhall <b>LN5 7SF</b>
3 May 3pm	<b>Enjoy a talk exploring the Victorian Gothic Revival and the 1882 restoration of St Mary Magdalene</b> by Dr Shirley Brook, offering a closer look at the ideas and craftsmanship that shaped the building. Afterwards, stay for tea and a selection of Victorian cakes.	Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene <b>LN1 3AR</b>
2 & 4 May 11am  3 May 1:30pm	<b>Join Dorothy Moss for a Jewish Heritage Walking Tour</b> through Lincoln. The tour starts outside the VIC, heads up to the Cathedral, and then winds down Steep Hill, lasting around an hour.  If access to Jew's Court is available on the day, the group will also visit the upstairs room once used as a synagogue. No booking is needed — just turn up and join the walk.	Visitor Information Centre <b>LN1 3AA</b>
2 - 4 May Time TBC	A talk on the <b>Myths and Legends around Oliver Cromwell and Lincoln</b> by Jonathan Fitzgibbons.  A talk on the <b>Big Disney Dig</b> by Carezza Lewis.	Lincoln Guildhall <b>LN2 1DH</b>

# TALKS & TOURS



2 - 4 May 2026  
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Time	Activity	Location
2 May 9:45am 11am 1:00pm 2:15pm 3:30pm	<p><b>Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the University of Lincoln's conservation labs</b> and discover how historic objects are cared for and brought back to life.</p> <p>Each tour includes a short welcome and introduction to the work conservators do, a look around the teaching labs, with the chance to see students working on real objects and chat with them about their projects and a visit to the commercial conservation lab, where you can learn about easel painting conservation, historic interiors research, 3D scanning and printing, and more</p> <p>Tours last around an hour and can accommodate up to 20 people per group. More details and booking can be found on Eventbrite: <a href="http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/take-a-tour-of-the-university-of-lincolns-conservation-labs-tickets-1985566903057">www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/take-a-tour-of-the-university-of-lincolns-conservation-labs-tickets-1985566903057</a></p>	Peter De Wint Building University of Lincoln <b>LN6 7DQ</b>
2 - 4 May 9:30am - 5pm	<p><b>The International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC)</b> in Lincoln honours the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of Bomber Command. As the world's most comprehensive record of the Command, it ensures that generations to come can learn about the vital role these men and women played in protecting the freedoms we enjoy today.</p> <p>Every day, volunteer guides lead free tours of the memorial grounds and Spire, sharing stories of personnel, missions, and the wider impact of the air campaign. Visitors gain a deeper understanding of Bomber Command's history and the enduring message of remembrance and peace.</p> <p>Across 10 acres of landscaped grounds, two peace gardens provide quiet spaces for reflection, completing the experience of remembrance and honour. Both are free to access and invite visitors to pause and connect with the legacy of those commemorated.</p>	International Bomber Command Centre <b>LN4 2HQ</b>  Easily accessible via Lincoln BIG bus

# TALKS & TOURS



2 - 4 May 2026  
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Time	Activity	Location
3 May Doors: 18:00 Start time: 18:30	<p><b>Tea with Queen Elizabeth I</b></p> <p>There is no doubt that Gloriana had one of the most profound effects on English and European politics. The Protestant queen in the cold bed was given a matter of months on the throne by observers of the day believing she could not hope to survive. Queen Elizabeth, in fact, went on to rule England longer than any other monarch before her. Her passionate belief in the English people and her lack of martial ambition combined with a brilliant mind and outstanding political skills is why she was so hugely successful. Confounding all.</p> <p>Here is a chance to meet Her Majesty at her political zenith and already an icon in the English psyche of the time.</p> <p>This glittering presentation, in a ravishing costume, from Lesley Smith, former curator of Tutbury Castle and well-known historian specialising in medieval matters, will transport the audience back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance.</p> <p>And to follow, included in the ticket price; tea, cake and an audience with Her Majesty!</p> <p>This is a ticketed event, please visit <a href="http://www.southsidelincs.com/events">www.southsidelincs.com/events</a> to book. 16+ (those aged 16 must be accompanied by an adult)</p>	Southside <b>LN5 8DW</b>
See link for times.	<p><b>Lincoln BIG tour bus</b> operating over weekend offering a 50% offer. Visit <a href="http://www.lincolnbig.co.uk/experience/tour-bus/">www.lincolnbig.co.uk/experience/tour-bus/</a> to see the full timetable.</p>	Citywide

# ENTERTAINMENT



2 - 4 May 2026  
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre  
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Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	Stroll around the Lincoln Makers Market, packed with local creators, handcrafted pieces, and unique finds made right here in the city.	Castle Hill Car Park <b>LN1 3AA</b>
2 - 3 May 11am - 5pm	Browse an antiques market packed with curios, collectibles, and vintage treasures. A great chance to discover something unique.	Castle Hill Car Park <b>LN1 3AA</b>
2 - 3 May 10am - 5pm 4 May 10am - 4pm	Discover traditional crafts and goods from costumed traders, explore an impressive armour display, and meet a few charming owls along the way!	St Mary Le Wigford <b>LN5 7AR</b>
2 - 4 May 11am - 3pm	Beatrix the Bubble Jester will be popping up along the High Street and in the Cornhill Quarter, filling the area with giant bubbles, colour and playful fun.	Downhill
2 - 4 May 11am - 3pm	A stilt-walking medieval knight will be roaming the Bailgate - clearly lost after wandering away from the Knight Academy!	Uphill
2 - 4 May 11am - 4pm	The Ridiculous Romans will be out on the Strait and Steep Hill - wild, wacky walkabout characters keeping everyone entertained and encouraging visitors to keep exploring as they go.	Steep Hill & The Strait
2 - 4 May 10am - 5pm	In the free-to-enter grounds, enjoy pop up performances including the spectacular What a Palaver, back with fire juggling and jaw-dropping stunts - but the real magic awaits inside.	Lincoln Castle <b>LN1 3AA</b>
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	Meet the Lincoln long wool sheep, a breed of sheep native to Lincoln dating back to the Roman period, brought to Lincoln Cathedral.	Lincoln Cathedral <b>LN2 1PX</b>