

FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

Full Weekend Programme



2 - 4 May 2026
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations



Activity	Location
Roman Market 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.	Castle Square LN1 3AA
Viking Arena 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.	City Square LN5 7ET
Norman Camp 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.	Cornhill Square LN5 7HE
Knight Academy 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. 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 mail shirts and full plate, and you can try pieces on for some great photo moments.	St Paul in the Bail LN1 3AN

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



2 - 4 May 2026
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations

Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	Skilled stonemasons 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 chance to win a hand-carved fleur-de-lis made from stone , a unique piece created by the masons themselves.	Lincoln Cathedral LN2 1PX
2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	Dive into some local history at the three-day pop-up exhibition on the 1986-87 Fulbeck protest, featuring digitised footage and original campaign materials, with a dedicated talk on Saturday afternoon. 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. 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. At its heart, this is a story of place, memory, and resistance at the heart of Lincolnshire.	St Mary's Guildhall LN5 7SF
2 & 4 May 10am - 4pm 3 May 12pm - 4pm	Explore an exhibition all about the 1882 restoration of St Mary Magdalene, uncovering the stories and craftsmanship behind this Victorian makeover. During the day, drop in for creative art activities, and later on enjoy a relaxed evening with tea and classic Victorian cakes.	Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene LN1 3AR

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



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Time	Activity	Location
2 - 4 May 10am - 4pm	Celebrate Lincolnshire's rich aviation heritage with the International Bomber Command Centre during Lincoln's Festival of History. As a stop on the Lincoln Sightseeing Tour Bus, it's easy to visit and enjoy a variety of free, family-friendly activities designed to bring the stories of Bomber County to life. There will be lots to discover throughout each day; try our ATA transport game using walkie talkies to explore the Lincolnshire Peace Gardens; get creative with aviation-themed crafts and participate in our Animals of War Spring Trail. Our free guided tours of the Spire, memorial walls, and grounds will also be available to join. You can also get hands-on with interactive sessions 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.	International Bomber Command Centre LN4 2HQ
2 May 12pm - 4pm	Meet St Gilbert 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 Southside. Stand overlooking the very stones that formed the ancient building and appreciate a modern interpretation, on video, on the life of Gilbert himself. PLUS an immersive medieval soundscape! Entry: Free (donations greatly appreciated)	Southside LN5 8DW

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



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2 - 4 May 10am - 4pm	A new display in the Clore Gallery features finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, including a case of early Anglo Saxon brooches 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. This discovery has changed how historians understand Lincoln in the early medieval period. 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. 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.	Usher Gallery LN2 1PX
2 - 3 May 10am - 4pm	Step back in time at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life and experience the sights, sounds and stories of the Victorian era at our special Festival of History event. Throughout the museum, history will be brought to life with living history demonstrations and activities that reveal what everyday life was like in Victorian Lincolnshire. 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! Adult: £3.00 Children: £1.50 Concession: £2.00 Family ticket: £6.00 (2 adults and up to 3 children)	Museum of Lincolnshire Life LN1 3LY

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



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11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations

Location & Time	Activity
Lincoln Castle 2 - 4 May 10am - 5pm	Step into History at Lincoln Castle! (£ Ticketed) 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. Lady Agatha Worthy – A keen archaeologist eager to show you fascinating finds uncovered within the Castle walls. Professor Athelstan Worthy – A passionate historian ready to reveal what he's learned from ancient Castle documents, including dramatic tales from the Battle of Lincoln in 1217. Clement & Clementina Worthy – Famous actors seeking inspiration for their next play. Ezekiel Worthy – A drainage engineer investigating unpleasant goings-on beneath the Prison. Captain Absalom Staffage – 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. The Ultimate Festival of History Experience is included in the Castle Day ticket and free for annual pass holders. The Castle grounds remain free to explore, with a jester entertaining visitors throughout the day.
Cornhill Market 2 - 4 May 11am - 5pm	Reimagining Lincolnshire is launching a series of free digital trails across the city from May 2026. Visit the Festival Info Stand at Cornhill Market to find out how to get started! FlightPaths by Electric Egg 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.

TALKS & TOURS



2 - 4 May 2026
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations



Time	Activity	Location
1 May (SOLD OUT)	Join us for an evening with David Olusoga , 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 LN2 1PX
2 May 11:30 & 3pm 3 May 1:30 & 2pm 4 May 11:30 & 2:30pm	Enjoy guided tours of St Mary's Guildhall with Vic Hughes , 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 LN5 7SF
3 May 3pm	Enjoy a talk exploring the Victorian Gothic Revival and the 1882 restoration of St Mary Magdalene 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 LN1 3AR
2 & 4 May 11am 3 May 1:30pm	Join Dorothy Moss for a Jewish Heritage Walking Tour 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 LN1 3AA
See link for times.	Lincoln BIG tour bus operating over weekend offering a 50% offer. Visit www.lincolnbig.co.uk/experience/tour-bus/ to see the full timetable.	Citywide

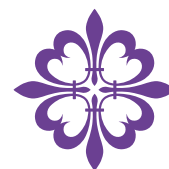
TALKS & TOURS



2 - 4 May 2026
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations



Time	Activity	Location
2 May 9:45am 11am 1:00pm 2:15pm 3:30pm	Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the University of Lincoln's conservation labs and discover how historic objects are cared for and brought back to life. 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 Tours last around an hour and can accommodate up to 20 people per group. More details and booking can be found on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/take-a-tour-of-the-university-of-lincolns-conservation-labs-tickets-1985566903057	Peter De Wint Building University of Lincoln LN6 7DQ
2 - 4 May 9:30am - 5pm	The International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) 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. 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. 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.	International Bomber Command Centre LN4 2HQ Easily accessible via Lincoln BIG bus

TALKS & TOURS



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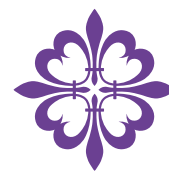


Time	Activity	Location
3 May Doors: 18:00 Start time: 18:30	Tea with Queen Elizabeth I There is no doubt that Gloriana had one of the most profound effects on English and European politics. The Protestant queen in the cold bed was given a matter of months on the throne by observers of the day believing 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. Here is a chance to meet Her Majesty at her political zenith and already an icon in the English psyche of the time. 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. And to follow, included in the ticket price; tea, cake and an audience with Her Majesty! This is a ticketed event, please visit www.southsidelincs.com/events to book. 16+ (those aged 16 must be accompanied by an adult)	Southside LN5 8DW
2 - 4 May	Living Lincoln - A Virtual Literary Trail This trail follows the steps and notes taken by the Lincolnshire author, Bernard Samuel Gilbert (1882-1927). The writer toured Lincoln's streets over a hundred years ago. Gilbert recorded in wonderful detail the life of the city that he saw around him. Gilbert's descriptions of the Lincoln scene were published as a series of articles in the Lincolnshire Echo through 1914. A selection of extracts forms the basis of this trail. Gilbert's observations offer some of his most graphic accounts of the sights and sounds of the city on the eve of World War One. Find out more at www.livinglincoln.co.uk/	Citywide

TALKS & TOURS



Lincoln Guildhall
LN2 1DH



Time	Activity
2 - 4 May 10am 12pm 2pm	Join John Clayworth, MA student of Medieval Studies at the University of Lincoln on a tour of the streets of down-hill Lincoln. The tours will start from outside Lincoln Guildhall on Saltergate, and finish outside the Postern Gate entrance on Saltergate approximately 80m from the start point. Please arrive in good time as the tours will commence promptly at the advertised start time. IMPORTANT INFORMATION This tour will include one flight of steps which participants must be able to negotiate. There is an alternative route which can be taken, so please do highlight at the time of booking if you will require this. Thank you.
2 May 10:30am	A talk on the Myths and Legends around Oliver Cromwell and Lincoln by Jonathan Fitzgibbons. Oliver Cromwell was Here? Myths, Legends and Memories of the English Civil Wars in Lincolnshire. Given that the Civil Wars of the mid-seventeenth century were among the bloodiest conflicts in British history, it is unsurprising that they should live on in both popular and local memory. The figure of Oliver Cromwell, above all others, has come to epitomize the events of those turbulent times, giving rise to many local myths and legends. This talk will explore the ways the English Civil Wars have been remembered, forgotten and commemorated in Lincoln and Lincolnshire, revealing the rich and contested afterlife of the conflict from the seventeenth century down to the present day.
4 May 1pm	Time Team's Big Disney Dig: The inside story of Time Team's hunt for Walt Disney's ancestors in a village near Lincoln This talk by Professor Carenza Lewis, original member of Channel 4's Time Team and now at the University of Lincoln, will reveal how and why the new 'digital age' Time Team carried out nearly 30 archaeological excavations over one weekend in Norton Disney, the significance of the remarkable discoveries made, and what this all told archaeologists about the impact of Walt Disney's medieval ancestors on this intriguing Lincolnshire village.

TALKS & TOURS



Lincoln Guildhall
LN2 1DH



Time	Activity
These events are part of " A Lamentable Tragedy " Performance and Lecture Series at Lincoln's Historic Guildhall as part of Lincoln's 2026 Festival of History .	
2 - 3 May 3pm 7pm	A Lamentable Tragedy - Guild of Amateur Theatrics A Tale of Murder, Loyalty, and Sixteenth-Century Justice Based on a real double-murder which took place in London in the 1594; this is a tale of gritty street-level double homicide by an ordinary man, desperate for money, and his sister who was compelled to help him conceal his crimes, and to face the consequences..
2 May 6pm	Immerse yourself in the history behind "A Lamentable Tragedy" with Lucy Ryell's talk on True Crime on the Early Modern Stage . This lecture will explore the little-known play, Two Lamentable Tragedies (c. 1601) . As a notable example of early modern domestic tragedy, the drama prefigures a contemporary fascination with true crime narratives. Focusing on the first plot, in which alehouse keeper Thomas Merry murders his neighbour, Thomas Beech, the talk will examine how the play dramatises criminal process, investigation and punishment. It explores how everyday spaces and people outside the social elite become the focus of public spectacle, and considers how the play invites audiences to reflect on notions of morality and justice. In doing so, it reveals striking parallels between early modern theatre and modern true-crime storytelling.
3 May 6pm	Explore the time period of "A Lamentable Tragedy" with Dr Martin Roberts' lecture on wives, wills and wool, which provides an introduction to the Church courts of the medieval diocese of Lincoln.

ENTERTAINMENT



2 - 4 May 2026
11am - 5pm



Lincoln city centre
various locations

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 LN1 3AA
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 LN1 3AA
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 LN5 7AR
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 LN1 3AA
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 LN2 1PX