

Leicester's
biggest
FREE
festival

LEICESTER RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2026



Bede Park • Western Boulevard • River Soar
The Newarke • DMU Campus • Castle Gardens

Leicester
visitleicester.info



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER**





Loughborough
Schools Foundation

Nursery • Fairfield • Grammar • High

Arrange a

Taster Day



lsf.org/our-schools

Get ready for a fantastic weekend at Leicester Riverside Festival on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June. Enjoy live music, performances, family activities and riverside fun for all ages. With the Main Stage now in Bede Park running to the later time of 8pm on Saturday and 7pm on Sunday, there's even more time to relax, explore and celebrate.

Leicester City Council would like to thank De Montfort University, Arts Council England, and PPL PRS for their support of Riverside Festival 2026.

Bede Park  9	DMU Campus  10 & 11	Cultural eXchanges  13
The River  14	Western Blvd  19	The Piazza  21
Castle Gardens  23	The Newarke  25	Leicester Heritage  26

Images are from previous events and do not indicate attendance or performance.

INDIGO PRODUCTIONS and CROSSROADS LIVE
in association with CURVE present

1 - 15 AUG

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
THOMAS HARRIS

STAGEPLAY WRITTEN BY
GINA GIONFRIDDO

DIRECTED BY
NIKOLAI FOSTER



BEVERLEY KNIGHT

SHARON ROSE

24 SEP - 3 OCT



SYLVIA

A MUSICAL REVOLUTION



TICKETS 0116 242 3595
WWW.CURVEONLINE.CO.UK



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

© 2016 Indigo Productions. All rights reserved. Indigo Productions is a registered charity no. 1077866. Indigo Productions is a registered member of Arts Council England and the producer of our shows including Life in 1492, The Secret Garden and The Book of Mormon.



Music

Get ready for a weekend of live music, local talent and unexpected surprises across Riverside Festival.

The Main Stage (Bede Park) curated in partnership with Leicester Music Board and supported by PRS/PPL and JTH Stage Hire, features bands, DJs and performances for all tastes.

The Cultural eXchanges Stage (DMU Campus) run by DMU students, showcases student-led shows and creative collaborations.

BrightSparks Arts Creative Health Stage (Castle Gardens) curated by BrightSparks Arts, presents live performance, spoken word, music, comedy and dance in a relaxed creative space.

BUSK Leicester @ Riverside (Castle Gardens & DMU Campus) brings street performers, spoken word artists and musicians across the festival site throughout the weekend.

The Riverside After Party (2Funky Complex) organised by 2Funky Arts, keeps the energy going into the evening.

Celebrate Leicester's creative scene, discover new talent, and enjoy the rhythm of Riverside Festival.

LEICESTER RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

Leicester's biggest **FREE** festival

MAIN STAGE BEDE PARK
SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2026

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

19:00
THE OLD BOY
17:45
HQ Familia
16:15
Eava FM
1 City 1 Celebration
15:30
Natzel
14:00
Soft Touch Collective
13:15
Mirchi Mob
12:00
Tots Rave - DJ Juvie x Louisa Darling

18:00
SIMON PHILIP
16:30
2Funky Presents Project LIVE
15:45
Nupur Arts x KAINE
15:15
Pretty Dirty Rats
14:30
Harry Pentony
13:15
Leics Connect
12:00
Tots Rave - DJ Juvie x Louisa Darling



leicesterfestivals #LeicesterRiverside



Leicester
visit leicester.info





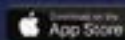
MY
LEICESTER

**DISCOVER LEICESTER WITH
THE MY LEICESTER APP**

**DISCOUNTS - EVENTS
LOYALTY REWARDS - TRAILS
COMPETITIONS - CHEAP PARKING**



BIDLEICESTER.CO.UK/MYLEICESTERAPP



Phoenix

Leicester's independent
cinema & art centre,
located in the heart
of the Cultural Quarter



Scan to see
what's on



Films | **Food & Drink** | Exhibitions
Festivals & Events | **Courses & Workshops**
Venue Hire | Private Screenings

4 Midland Street, Leicester, LE1 1TG
phoenix.org.uk    @PhoenixLeic



Bede Park

Bede Park is the heart of Riverside Festival and, for the first time in 2026, home to the Main Stage, showcasing a vibrant mix of music and dance across both days.

Explore a wide range of street food stalls, traders and seating areas, or bring a blanket or fold-out chair and relax as you enjoy the day. A main bar and family funfair will also be on site, adding to the festival experience.

Opening times:

Saturday: 12noon – 8pm

Sunday: 12noon – 7pm

This year brings an exciting change, with the Main Stage moving into Bede Park, allowing the site to stay open later so you can enjoy the music, funfair and atmosphere for longer.



Please note: Bede Park is the only site with extended opening hours this year. All other festival areas will close at their standard times. No alcohol can be brought into the site. This change helps support the event and ensures we can continue delivering Riverside Festival free for everyone. Please support the traders during your visit.



DMU Campus

A vibrant mix of art, performance, and community engagement, offering something for everyone and a perfect spot to explore, learn, and have fun.

Story Corner

Pre-Festival Fun: Leicester Library Workshops

Join award-winning storyteller **Tim Ralphs** and **Leicester Libraries** for free family crafts and storytelling workshops. Create props, explore storytelling, and each family will receive a free copy of the book.

Part of the **National Year of Reading** take part in sessions to help shape interactive performances at Riverside Festival.

Westcotes Library: Mondays

11 & 18 May 4pm – 6pm

Central Library: Tuesdays

12 & 19 May 4pm – 6pm

Look out for **Literati Arts** pop-up poetry performances and **MBD** Virtual Reality experiences.

Live Well Zone

Visit this interactive space to get active, try new activities, and learn about your health and wellbeing. Enjoy smoothie bikes, sports tasters, seed planting, and advice on stopping smoking, oral health, and blood pressure. Follow the Festival trail to find the Live Well Zone.

Leicester Communities Together

Discover opportunities to live your life the way you want and get connected to support, activities and services available in Leicester.



GREAT DEAL

ACROSS LEICESTER

New Lubbethorpe
LE19 4DE



BAF

Repair and Upcycling Drop-In
Location: DMU Campus,
Food Court

Saturday only

With **Fashion-Enter Ltd** and the **Fashion Technology Academy**. Refresh your wardrobe, learn new skills, and explore sustainable fashion.

Take part in **DMU Fashion & Textiles T-shirt customisation**, with photography support from **DMU students**. Beginners welcome.

The Leicester Gallery & Gift Shop

Saturday and Sunday:
12noon-5pm

Location: **Leicester Gallery**,
Vijay Patel Building,
De Montfort University

Residue... what remains

A playful exhibition featuring artists inspired by music and dance.

Saturday Participate in **Frans van Lent's Concept Bank** and become a performance artist for the day.

Outdoor Theatre & Workshops
Smoking Apples outdoor theatre shows on Saturday, plus a hands-on workshop exploring nature and mini creatures.


Highly Sprung: Grow a 45-minute sensory show created with accessibility at its heart, incorporating **Makaton**.
Hula Hoop Workshops – daily sessions to get everyone moving with show-stopping fun.

HOUSES AVAILABLE
LEICESTERSHIRE

ERRATT
HOUSES

Wigston Meadows
LE18 3AE



 :culturalexchanges

CHECK INSTAGRAM TO SEE OUR
LINEUP AND LEARN MORE!

ARTS AND FESTIVALS
MANAGEMENT
STUDENTS PRESENT....

Cultural eXchanges

@ Riverside Festival

6th - 7th June 2026

DMU FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY
@ DMU STUDENT UNION

COME AND CHAT TO US AT THE
STALL NEXT TO THE STUDENT
UNION TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
OUR LINEUP!

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



UNITE
STUDENTS



EMC²
East Midlands
Creative Consortium

Cultural eXchanges

@ Riverside Festival

SATURDAY

- 12:00PM - TALENT 25
- 12:15PM - DMU DANCE / MOVING TOGETHER
- 12:55PM - CHRIS MAPONGA
- 13:15PM - PHILIPPA STEEL
- 13:50PM - DMU CREATIVE WRITING
- 14:05PM - CD CREATIVES
- 14:20PM - DMU CREATIVE WRITING
- 14:50PM - WQE BATTLE OF THE BAND WINNERS
- 15:30PM - SYSTON SCOUT BAND
- 16:15PM - LEX PRETORIUS
- 17:15PM - MIRCHI MOB

WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY

- 13:00PM WALLACE AND GROMIT CRAFT WORKSHOP
- 17:00PM MARY O'NEILL IN CONVERSATION WITH NEVIL HOLT FESTIVAL
- ALL DAY - WQE ARTS AWARD WORKSHOP

SUNDAY

- 12:00PM - SYSTON SWING BAND
- 13:00PM - CURVE YOUTH DANCE GROUP
- 13:15PM - AAKASH OEDRA DANCE COMPANY
- 13:45PM - DMU DRAMA SOCIETY
- 14:15PM - BEZLJAL ALBERT & SATHUSKA
- 14:45PM - ANISH PATEL
- 15:10PM - SAM THE RAPPER
- 15:45PM - CASHMERE.FM

SUNDAY

- 13:00PM - POOJA SHAH KNITTING WORKSHOP

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

25
YEARS

The River

Hosted by



Canal &
River Trust
Making life better by water



Flowing through the heart of the festival, the River Soar is alive with action and adventure for all ages.

On the Water

- Try kayaking with **Paddle Plus.**
- Enjoy a relaxing boat trip with **Sibley Mill.**
- Climb aboard **Sunbeam II**, a fully accessible boat from local disability charity **Mosaic.**

On the Towpath

Prefer to stay dry? Stroll along the riverside and catch live demonstrations from the **Sea Cadets.**

Dragon Boat Racing – Sunday

Back by popular demand, Dragon Boat Racing returns opposite Castle Gardens Bridge! Teams of 10 race in a fast-paced, fun-filled challenge. No experience needed – just energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm. All teams raise funds for **PROSTaid**, supporting men affected by prostate cancer in Leicestershire, Rutland, and Northamptonshire. Think you've got what it takes to be a Dragon Master?

Email rob@prostaid.co.uk to enter.



Funded by
UK Government

Leicester
Adult
Education

Art Courses at Leicester Adult Education



We offer a range of flexible courses that allow you to develop your skills, improve your wellbeing and aspire to creative careers.

- Crafts
- Creative Glass
- Drawing
- Jewellery
- Painting
- Pottery
- Printing
- Textiles

Our full range of daytime, evening and Saturday courses includes:

- History and Literature, Languages, Personal Development, Yoga
- Skills for Work, Digital Skills and Working with Children and Adults
- English, Maths and ESOL

0116 454 1900

leicesteradulthood.ac.uk

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**





NO GLASS bottles to be taken onto the parks
Dogs MUST be kept on leads

All details were correct at the time of going to print.

#LeicesterRiver

-  Disabled Toilets
-  Toilets
-  Bars
-  Cash Point
-  Street Food
-  Bike Park
-  Information & Missing Child
-  First Aid
-  Stalls
-  Art on the River
-  Seating Area
-  Changing Place
-  Waterside Activities
-  Heritage Hotspot
-  Music
-  British Sign Language
-  Story Corner
-  Taxi drop off point
-  Entrance/Exit





COULD YOU BE A CHILD'S SAFE PLACE?

Foster for Leicester and you could make a huge difference to the life of a child or young person.

- ✓ Direct financial and practical support
- ✓ Your own dedicated supervising social worker
- ✓ Foster carer benefits package and peer support
- ✓ Ongoing training opportunities

With flexible fostering options to work around you, your family and your career, don't rule yourself out. If you are over 21 years old and can provide a safe, loving home where a child or young person will thrive, then you could foster.

Find out more:



- ☎ 0116 454 4500
- 🌐 leicester.gov.uk/fostering
- ✉ fostering.information@leicester.gov.uk



Western Boulevard

Over the festival weekend, Western Boulevard transforms into a vibrant hub of creativity, flavours, and fun.

Art on the River

Stroll along the riverside and explore an open-air pop-up gallery featuring local artists and makers. Discover paintings, prints, and handcrafted treasures — and meet the creatives behind the work.

Street Food

Savour a delicious mix of global flavours at Riverside's street food stalls. From quick bites to full meals, there's something for every palate, including **vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, and healthy options.**

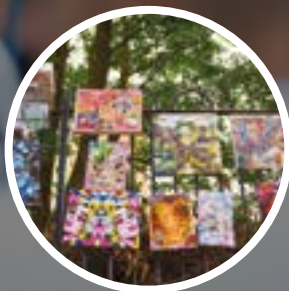
Stalls & Demos

Browse local crafts, artisan goods, and unique finds. Enjoy live demos from Leicester Fire and Rescue Service and make use of the free bike park while you explore.

Come for the art, stay for the food — or do both!

Leicester Fire and Rescue Service

Meet Leicester's firefighters, watch live life-saving demonstrations, and discover how they help keep our city safe.



A young girl with a joyful expression is in a swimming pool. She is wearing a white swimming cap with the brand name "ZOGOS" printed on it. She is also wearing a pink and yellow lifebuoy. The background is a blurred blue pool with light reflections.

SWIMMING LESSONS

/collective noun/

A place where learning is fun

**FIND
OUT MORE**





leicester.gov.uk

Stay Connected

As we draw closer to the big weekend, we'll be revealing more of the finer details to help you plan your visit. Stay up to date with the latest timetables - including what's happening on our main stage by following us on social media.

Printed timetables, including full stage listings, will be displayed on A-boards and large-print signs at all event sites. You'll also find QR codes around the site for quick and easy downloads straight to your phone.

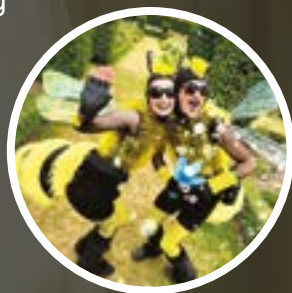
  [leicesterfestivals](#) [#LeicesterRiverside](#)
visitleicester.info/riverside-festival

The Piazza

The perfect place to take a moment and decide where to head next. With the Main Stage now in Bede Park, this space offers a relaxed setting to pause and enjoy the festival atmosphere. Grab your favourite street food and make use of the designated seating area, an ideal space to eat, chat, and relax.

Walkabout Entertainment Look out for roaming performers, and interactive fun along the riverside.

Festival Fun Enjoy face painting, hair braiding, and other activities that add a little extra sparkle to your weekend. Take a moment, refuel, and get ready for your next riverside adventure!





Family friendly
BSL interpreted
Scan to see more



The Bloom Creative Health area offers an accessible chill out space at Riverside Festival with live performances, exhibitions and drop-in workshops for all ages.

Saturday June 6th 12-6pm and Sunday June 7th 12-5pm
Find us at Castle Gardens: what3words://nature.label.dwell

What inspires and ignites you?

Open mic
Art activities
Creative writing
Heritage shows

What makes you bloom?

Live art
Exhibitions
Comedy & poetry
Music & dance



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



COMMUNITY FUND

CLICK
ARTS FOUNDATION



Find out more and donate at brightsparksarts.uk

Castle Gardens

Castle Gardens comes alive with a variety of stalls, street food, and a bar. Enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, grab a bite, and soak up the festival spirit.

BrightSparks Arts Creative Health

Led by **BrightSparks Arts**, this family-friendly, accessible space celebrates creativity and wellbeing. Enjoy free live performances, exhibitions, and drop-in workshops exploring art, heritage, and play for all ages. Catch a vibrant mix of art, crafts, poetry, comedy and stage performances at the Bloom Stage throughout the weekend, something for everyone to enjoy.



Busk Leicester @ Riverside

Acoustic performers and street entertainers have been invited to attend the Maypole area to share their talent with festival visitors. Hosted by The Riverside Collective.

Enjoy the lively atmosphere, try something new, and let creativity and music guide your day in Castle Gardens!

The Beatbox Jukebox

Roaming across festival sites throughout the weekend, Leicester-based beatboxer **Mr Shay** brings an interactive live sound experience where audiences choose a style and watch beatbox loops created in real time. From drum & bass to hip-hop and techno, each performance is built live using looping and vocal effects for all ages.





FREE Secure Bike Parking at Riverside Festival

Ride Leicester Pop-Up Bike Parks - 3 Locations On-Site
Free for all Cycle Hub Members!



Arrive by bike and get
**FREE annual Cycle Hub
membership! (usually £10)**

Check the festival map for the bike park locations.
Visit the Ride Leicester team to claim your membership.



www.leicester.gov.uk/cycleleicester





The Newarke

Discover creativity, heritage and hands-on exploration at The Newarke.

Graffwerks

Live graffiti art in action as **Graffwerks** create bold, colourful works across the weekend. Watch artists at work and see public art take shape.

Vintage Vehicles

Explore vintage vehicles from **Leicester Museums Technology Association (LMTA)**, a volunteer group supporting Abbey Pumping Station and preserving local engineering heritage.

Vintage Buses

Step aboard beautifully restored buses and discover Leicester's transport history with the **Leicester Transport Heritage Trust**.

Leicester Wheels For All

A range of accessible bikes for all ages and abilities, including wheelchair users, plus a bike taxi service to help visitors get around the festival.

Exploring Leicester's Heritage



DMU Heritage Sites
Saturday & Sunday 11am – 4pm
Step into Leicester's history!
Explore **Leicester Castle Great Hall, Trinity Chapel, the peaceful Herb Garden**, and the **DMU Museum**. Free and open to all. Bookable tours are available at 10am on both days – visit dmu.ac.uk/museum for details.



Newarke Houses Museum & Gardens
Saturday only 11am – 4.30pm
Step inside Wygston's Chantry House and Skeffington House (built c.1511) to explore Tudor-era objects, toys spanning centuries, a recreated First World War trench, and a 1950s street scene. Relax in the beautiful gardens framed by English Civil War walls.

EST. 2013
Abbey Support & Services

Abbey Support and Services is a family-run care provider supporting adults across Leicestershire. We offer reliable, compassionate care tailored to individual needs, delivered by fully trained and DBS-checked carers who are committed to helping people live safely and independently at home.

Carers available in LE1, LE2, LE3, LE4, LE5, and LE7

07718 170 186
0116 222 8866

70 Anchor Street,
Leicester, UK, LE4 5PU

abbeysupportandservices.com
info@abbeysupportandservices.com





Mary de Castro Church
Saturday 12noon – 6pm,
Sunday 12noon – 5pm

Visit the church where King Richard III worshipped and King Henry VI was knighted. Enjoy a quiet pew, admire the stained glass, explore the gargoyles and discover historic gravestones in the churchyard. Refreshments available throughout the weekend.

Bells will ring at 12 noon on Saturday to mark the start of the festival. **Choral Evensong** will take place at 5pm on Sunday.



Jewry Wall: A Real Roman Experience

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm

Jewry Wall offers a real Roman experience to all Riverside Festival visitors. Tickets are £10 adults, £5 children – quote Riverside Festival at reception. Celebrate 2,000 years of history with Roman re-enactments and hands-on activities for all ages.

The Castle Pub
All weekend

A historic micro pub with outdoor seating, perfect for pausing and soaking up Leicester's vibrant streetscape while exploring the city.

MAG East Midlands Airport

THE EASY WAY TO GET AWAY

Flights to over 70 destinations in Europe and North Africa

eastmidlandsairport.com

2FUNKY
COMPLEX

RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY

06.06.2026

2FUNKY COMPLEX, NEW PARK ST, LEICESTER

MR VIBE CULTURE • CAM MILLION • DJ ELI.B
WEAVER • RYAN BEACH • WORMSALT • DAZ LYNCH
7URY • HORIZYN • DEIAH GREEN • BADABOOM BASI
HAZE AND STATIC • THE MARLINAS
MAMA QUILLA BAND • MYA MISTRY
JOHN FRYER • LAFAMILIA LATIN BAND

DOORS OPEN 6PM | £5 ENTRY ON THE DOOR
ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE **FATSOMA®**

LEICESTER
CITY FESTIVAL



2FUNKY
COMPLEX

RADIO2FUNKY
LEICESTER
94.1 FM

Accessibility at Riverside



Access Support Hub Kimberlin Library, DMU Campus

A calm space to rest or get information.

Accessible Toilets

Available on both parks and all indoor festival venues across the site.

Changing Places facility at Jewry Wall Museum.

Getting Around

Taxi Drop-Off Points Western Boulevard | The Gateway | Castle Street.

Leicester Wheels for All will be at **The Newarke** with adaptable bikes and a bike taxi service. Wayfinders and large print maps will be on display.

BSL Support at selected Castle Gardens activities.

Accessible Boat Trips with charity **Mosaic**.

Business Gateway Growth Hub
Supporting local business

Hello local business.
We help you grow.

- Free 1-to-1 business advice
- Expert guidance & support
- Workshops & local events

Funded by UK Government

bizgateway.org.uk

Talk with a business adviser

Scan to get started

Getting Here

Walking, cycling and public transport are the easiest ways to reach the festival.

Walk or Cycle

- Short walk from the Clock Tower and Leicester Railway Station
- Riverside walking route via the River Soar towpath
- Connected to National Cycle Network Route 6 and Great Central Way
- Around 10 minutes by bike from the station

Bus

Nearby stops: Walnut Street
| Duns Lane | Welford Road
(HOP!)

Park & Ride

- Frequent service every 15–20 mins, 7am - 7pm (Enderby 9pm)

Plan ahead

Use Choose How You Move:
choosehowyoumove.co.uk/jpinfo
Please allow extra time during busy periods.

UNITE THE UNION - EAST MIDLANDS REGION

Joining Unite:

- protects your rights and job security
- promotes equality and fairness in every workplace
- provides access to expert advice and support

Safeguard your life, your job, and your future - join Unite the Union today.

FOLLOW US @UNITEEASTMIDS OR CALL 0116 2532020



WHAT'S ON



demontforthall.co.uk 0116 233 3111



SHALAMAR
Sunday 5 July 2026



**FUN FOR LITTLE ONES –
A TRIBUTE TO MS RACHEL**
Saturday 26 September 2026



**SCIENCE MUSEUM:
THE SPACE EXPLORERS
ACADEMY**
Sunday 11 October 2026



**AN EVENING WITH
LEICESTER CITY LEGENDS**
Monday 19 October 2026



**HARRY ENFIELD AND
NO CHUMS**
Monday 26 October 2026



**THE LEGENDS IN VEGAS –
AFTER HOURS**
Thursday 29 October 2026



THE PROCLAIMERS
Friday 6 November 2026



K POP FANTASY
Saturday 14 November 2026



**EAST 17 WITH SPECIAL
GUEST BLAZIN' SQUAD**
Wednesday 18 November 2026



Leicester Riverside Festival takes place on: Saturday 6 June from 12noon - 6pm and Sunday 7 June from 12noon - 5pm, with extended hours on Bede Park only.

For further information contact:

W: visitleicester.info/riverside-festival

E: info@visitleicester.info

T: 0116 299 4444

  [leicesterfestivals](https://www.facebook.com/leicesterfestivals) #LeicesterRiverside

