

Leicester's
biggest
FREE
festival

LEICESTER RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 7 & SUNDAY 8 JUNE 2025



**Bede Park, Western Boulevard, River Soar,
DMU Campus and Castle Gardens**



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Get ready for a weekend of fun, excitement, and adventure! Leicester Riverside Festival is making a big splash in the city on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June.

With the River Soar's Mile Straight at its heart, the festival will fill Bede Park, Castle Gardens, Western Boulevard, The Newarke and the De Montfort University campus with activities for all ages.

From thrilling performances to family-friendly attractions, there's something for everyone.

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Music



Riverside Festival has been championing homegrown music for years, giving hundreds of local singers, bands and performers the stage they deserve.

Piazza Stage

This year, the Piazza Stage, generously sponsored by JTH, is back and ready to bring you an unforgettable weekend of live music. Expect an eclectic mix of styles and sounds from some of Leicester's most exciting talent, featuring performances curated by HQ Recordings, EAVA FM, 2 Funky Arts, Soft Touch Arts, Leics Introducing and much more.

Don't miss performances from our amazing local choirs, including Leicester Amika, Red Leicester, Sing to Breathe Easy and Global Harmony.

Acoustic Sessions

Head to the maypole area at Castle Gardens for laid back acoustic jam sessions with the Riverside Collective from 1pm each day.

Images used in this publication are from previous events and do not imply that the individuals will be performing or attending.



CULTURAL EXCHANGES @ RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY-CAMPUS CENTRE

12:00PM DMU DANCE/ MOVING TOGETHER
12:15PM SHU YU
12:30PM INGEUS GOT TALENT
13:15PM DMU CREATIVE WRITING
13:30PM YONGHAO ZHOU
13:45PM JIALI HOU
14:00PM DMU CREATIVE WRITING
14:15PM DMU DANCE
14:45PM ROHAN JOSHI
15:00PM TAWANDA NYAMADZAWO
15:20PM JOSHUA CHAMBERLAIN
16:00PM DJ KTZ
17:00PM MARCUS JOSEPH

SUNDAY- CAMPUS CENTRE

12:00PM CONTRAST STEEL BAND
13:15PM CDCA ACADEMY
15:00PM HONEST DAVE
16:15PM PALMS

PAGE 1 - SATURDAY - 19:00PM
SUNDAY- 18:00PM
ENTRY BY TICKET

THE 3RD SIGN BY PAUL GOSLING
ONE ACT PLAY FROM CROOKED HAND
PRODUCTIONS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
14:00-16:00 KNITTED SKIES
CHANTRY BUILDING



**DMU
CAMPUS
CENTRE**

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East Midlands
Creative Consortium

ARTS & FESTIVALS MANAGEMENT

DR JACQUI NORTON, SIMON BROWN, DR STEVEN HADLEY

**MARKETING: CHARLOTTE CHAPMAN, YAA DARKWA-
AMPADU, WEIHUA LI, JIALI HOU, LIKE TIAN & ROMEE BOD**

**ADMINISTRATION: HANNAH FITZGERALD, TILLY MAYNARD,
SIMONE FEARON, GEGE SHANGGUAN, WEIHUA LI**

**OPERATIONS: EMMA WOOLFORD, YONGHAO ZHOU, CHANEL
THACKRAY, THALIA MANNOURI, LEIA ALEXANDRA VAN
WEERS**



"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO CULTURAL EXCHANGES 2025 - AN ECLECTIC WEEKEND OF PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS. AS CULTURAL EXCHANGES MARKS ITS 24TH YEAR, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW HOME AS PART OF RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL, IN COLLABORATION WITH LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL. WHETHER YOU ARE A REGULAR SUPPORTER OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES OR ARE EXPLORING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE."

JILL COWLEY, DEAN, FACULTY OF ARTS, DESIGN AND HUMANITIES.

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



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**OPENING HOURS
THURSDAY - MONDAY 10-5PM**

 **Keepmoat**

DMU Campus

The celebrations continue across the river at De Montfort University, come and join the fun with loads to see and do for all ages. A welcoming quieter space with relaxed entertainment, perfect for taking a break and enjoying the festival atmosphere at your own pace.

- Arts & Crafts
- Ferris Wheel
- Crazy Golf Course
- Stalls & Pop-ups
- Outdoor Theatre
- Walk about Entertainers
- BookBus

Upstream

Outdoor Theatre from Smoking Apples

Meet Lyra, water explorer extraordinaire. One night, she camps out under the stars by her favourite willow tree. Daylight turns to moonlight and the tree comes to life, a spectacular giant puppet called Old Mother River.



Enjoy your membership access at 7 leisure centres across Leicester!

[f](#) [in](#) [v](#) @ActiveLeicester

De Montfort University



Guided tours of the Stephen Lawrence Exhibition Space

Saturday 12noon - 4pm

Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, Hugh Aston Building,
Hawthorn Square, De Montfort University

Inspired by the loan of archival materials by Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the exhibition guides visitors through the story of Stephen's life as well as documenting the Lawrence family's fight for justice in the wake of their son's tragic murder and the far-reaching impact of Stephen's legacy in Britain today. Spaces are limited so to guarantee a space on the tour please book at dmu.ac.uk/events. The centre will also be open from 12pm - 6pm for drop ins.

Visit Leicester
visitleicester.info





Explore DMU's Heritage Sites

12noon - 4pm

Step into Leicester's history.

Explore Leicester Castle's Great Hall, Trinity Chapel, the peaceful Herb Garden, and the DMU Museum.

Free and open to all.

Sunday: Bookable tours available of heritage sites. Please visit dmu.ac.uk/museum for more information

Leicester Gallery

Saturday 12noon - 6pm

& Sunday 12noon - 5pm

Drop in for Play More Games: Riverside Edition! Try out board games and creative activities in our Art Schools of the Midlands exhibition. There's also a lovely selection of unique gifts to browse.



Let's Talk About... Having Your Say!

Sunday

12noon - 4pm

Leicester Gallery, Vijay Patel Building, Mill Lane, De Montfort University.

12noon - 3pm: **Free drop-in workshops** including visual art, eco-planting, music-making and creative games tables.

3pm - 4pm: **Celebratory spoken word performance** by rapper and Coventry's poet laureate John Bernard.

Join The Spark Arts for Children and fantastic local artists, including John Bernard, Saintly Amok, Corey Mwamba, Sim Mistry and Open Play, for a relaxed afternoon full of creativity, conversation and fun for all ages. Bring your ideas to life and enjoy making memories together!



- What to do
- Where to go
- Where to eat
- Where to stay



Leicester & Leicestershire



22 NOV - 11 JAN

The Sound of Music

MUSIC **RICHARD RODGERS**
LYRICS **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**
BOOK **HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE**
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp
Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

DIRECTOR **NIKOLAI FOSTER**
MUSICAL SUPERVISOR **GEORGE DYER** CHOREOGRAPHER **EBONY MOLINA** SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER **MICHAEL TAYLOR**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **MARK HENDERSON** SOUND DESIGNER **NICK LODGE** CASTING DIRECTOR **OLIVIA LAYDON**

CURVEONLINE.CO.UK
CURVE THEATRE, LEICESTER



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



Curve is run by Leicester Theatre Trust, a registered charity (no. 230708). We gratefully acknowledge and welcome the continued support of and partnership with the above organisations.



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. From exact timings and stage schedules to activity zones and site information, everything you need will soon be at your fingertips.

Stay up to date with the latest timetables - including what's happening on our main stage by following us on social media. We'll be sharing updates, sneak peeks, and handy reminders to help you make the most of your day.



leicesterfestivals



leicesterfest #LeicesterRiverside

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.

Ride Leicester

Ride Leicester will be at this year's Riverside Festival with two free, secure bike parks, so you can leave your bike with peace of mind and enjoy the festival.

Back by popular demand, they'll also be joined by Danny Butler's jaw-dropping BMX stunt show and the amazing Cyclone Works, bringing cycling fun and entertainment for all ages.



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.



Toilets



Information &
Missing Child



Waterside Activities



Bars



First Aid



Heritage Hotspot



Cash Point



Stalls



Selfie Spot



Street Food



Art on the River



Entrance/Exit



Bike Park



Seating Area



#LeicesterRiverside



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 leicester.gov.uk/fostering



SUMMER IN THE CITY

Summer in Leicester is going to be full of fantastic fun for the whole family. Follow the **LOROS Stomp Elephant** trail round the city to discover why Leicester is known as the UK's Festival city.

Celebrate South Asian culture at **An Indian Summer** and **Leicester Mela**, get a taste of the Islands at the **Caribbean Carnival** or bring some colour to the city with **Leicester Pride**.

Celebrate the city's artistry at the **Re/Action**, **Cosmopolitan Arts** and **Print Festivals**.

Food and drink lovers are in for a treat with **Leicester Food Festival**, the return of **BrewBeat** and **Leicester Beer Festival**. There's also music coming to the city's parks plus **Love of Jazz** in the city centre.

Take a look at all the events at visitleicester.info/summerinthecity



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[Leicesterchildrenscentres](#)



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Bede Park

Bede Park is bursting with energy this Riverside Festival, packed with stalls, street food, activities and the ever-popular funfair delivering thrills and spills for all ages.

Tipi in the Park

Our tipi is *the* place for sunshine sounds and good times all weekend. Supported by Leicester's Family Hubs, it transforms into a lively family zone from 12pm–2pm. Filled with children's entertainment, bubbles, playful beats, mini disco fun and plenty to keep little ones laughing, dancing, and smiling.

From 2pm onwards, the music shifts up a gear with feel-good classics and laid-back summer tunes; making it the perfect spot to kick back, catch up with friends, and soak up the festival atmosphere.

Plus, the fully licensed bar is ready with refreshing drinks to keep you cool.

Opal22 is back with a bang, and this time, it's all about coconuts and culture. Step up and take on our creative history challenge: smash a coconut, reveal the question hidden inside and test your knowledge of Black history. Answer right and walk away with a prize. Fun, fast-paced, and full of facts, come celebrate Black excellence with a game that gets your mind moving.





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Siege of Leicester

380th Anniversary Commemoration

In June 1645, Leicester faced the bloodiest 48 hours in its long history. Just 2,000 brave defenders, many of them civilians, stood against over 11,000 Royalist troops in a siege that changed the course of the English Civil War.

Hidden Histories Heritage Events presents a powerful re-enactment weekend that brings this forgotten story back to life.

- 17th-century Living history camp
10am - 5pm
- The Siege Soldiers' Drill Demo
11am
- The Siege Childrens' Drill
11.30am
- The Siege free public talks
Newarke Houses Museum
12noon, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
- Free public talks at Newarke
Houses Museum

Live Battle

Skirmish re-enactments through The Newarke, including safe musket and cannon demonstrations
2pm - 3pm

Learn more about this hidden chapter in our local and national history by watching the Hidden Histories of Leicester episode: An UnCivil War.

**HIDDEN HISTORIES
OF LEICESTER**

Western Boulevard



Over the festival weekend, Western Boulevard becomes a vibrant marketplace, alive with local creativity and irresistible global flavours.

Art on the River

Take a stroll along the riverside and discover an open-air pop-up gallery, showcasing an exciting lineup of local artists and makers. Browse and buy unique pieces from paintings and prints to handcrafted gifts and meet the talented creatives behind the work.

Street Food

Get ready for a flavour-packed journey. Riverside's street food stalls will be dishing up a delicious array of international cuisine, perfect for grabbing a quick bite or settling in for a full-on foodie experience.

There's something for everyone, with plenty of vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options. Allergy information will be available from each stallholder.

Stalls

Explore a fantastic selection of local crafts, artisan goods and unique finds, Western Boulevard is bursting with treasures to discover. Plus, keep an eye out for live demos from Leicester Fire and Rescue Service and make use of the free bike park to keep your cycle safe while you enjoy the festival. Come for the art, stay for the food... or the other way around!



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of her future

Girls 11 - 18 years



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Castle Gardens



Phoenix

**LEICESTER'S IND
& DIGITAL ARTS**

**4 CINEMA SCREENS | G
ROOF TERRACE BAR | C**



Nestled amongst the flowers in Castle Gardens, you'll find a fully licensed bar, street food stalls and a variety of vibrant vendors. Enjoy acoustic sessions hosted by the Riverside Collective, arts and crafts activities, falconry and more.

Creative Health at Riverside Festival

Celebrate 25 years of BrightSparks Arts in collaboration with the Share Project, as we share deaf culture and creativity. Join us in Castle Gardens for a blend of BSL art activities, music, dance, poetry, crafts, body art and comedy, led by deaf and hearing artists and performers.

This welcoming, accessible chill-out area is open to everyone, with BSL interpreters throughout the weekend. Enjoy free activities for all ages and abilities, including those with mental health challenges, neurodiversity and disabilities.

Highlights include the launch of the Green Room Gardener's new book, Dose of Dance sessions, Leicester Hospitals' Museum collection display, performances by Rob Gee, the Comedy Asylum and the Smoothie Collective. You can also enjoy live art, create your own body art, and perform poetry. Come relax, get inspired and explore the power of creativity!

Restore the Soar

Did you know the River Soar flows through the heart of Leicester? This beautiful and historically rich waterway plays a significant role in the city's landscape.

Restore the Soar is a National Lottery Heritage Fund project, led by Leicester City Council, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust and the Canal & River Trust. It focuses on the river corridor from Frog Island to Watermead Country Park, aiming to reconnect people with this natural treasure.

Student Art Showcase

As part of the project, Leicester College Art students have responded to the theme 'Restoring the Soar' with creative works that celebrate the river's wildlife, heritage, and potential for renewal. See their artwork, paintings, textiles, ceramics, digital art and more on display along the riverside railings at the Riverside Festival. Let their creativity inspire you to rediscover Leicester's River.

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The River



Flowing through the heart of the festival, the River Soar takes centre stage, with plenty happening on and around the water to keep all ages entertained.

Fun on the River

Get closer to the action with a range of river activities for everyone:

- 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
- Prefer to stay on dry land? Stroll along the towpath and catch live demos from the Sea Cadets

Dragon Boat Racing (Sunday)

Back by popular demand, Dragon Boat Racing returns to the waters opposite Castle Gardens bridge! Teams of 10 will battle it out in this fast-paced, fun-filled race. No experience needed just energy, teamwork, and plenty of enthusiasm.

All teams raise funds for PROSTaid, supporting people affected by prostate cancer across Leicestershire, Rutland, and Northamptonshire. Think you've got what it takes to be a Dragon Master? Email rob@prostaid.co.uk to enter your team.

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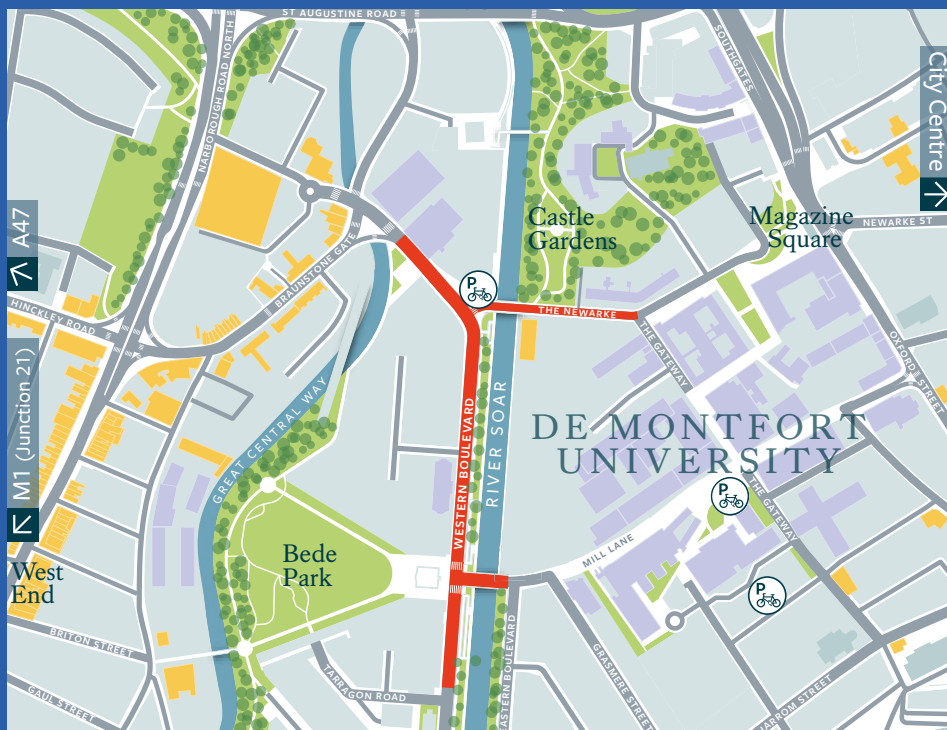
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LET'S TAKE IT ON.



**Leicester Riverside Festival takes place on:
Saturday 7 June from 12noon - 6pm and Sunday 8 June from 12noon - 5pm.**

To visit the festival by bus,
telephone Traveline on
0871 200 2233.

To visit the festival by bike,
visit leicester.gov.uk/cycling
Free secure bike park on site.
We also recommend
choosehowyoumove.co.uk for
advice on planning your
journey.

Parking around the area is
limited, so we recommend
parking in the city centre which
is a short walk from the festival.

**An access support hub and quiet
space will be on DMU Campus.**

For further information contact:
W: visitleicester.info
E: info@visitleicester.info
T: 0116 299 4444