

WEST: The news from where you live

Community Involvement Officers

Jack Woodhams
(Rural West)

t: 01904 553965

e: jack.woodhams@york.gov.uk

Michal Czekajlo
(Acomb, Dringhouses and
Woodthorpe, Westfield)

t: 01904 551841

e: michal.czekajlo@york.gov.uk

Claire Taylor
(Holgate)

t: 01904 551810

e: c.taylor@york.gov.uk

York named top cultural hotspot in UK



Credit image: Duncan Lomax, Ravage Productions

YORK is the UK's most culturally vibrant city, according to a recent study by the European Commission.

The city has been listed first in the UK for cultural vibrancy by the commission's cultural and creative cities monitor, in the medium city category.

The monitor takes into account the number and variety of cultural venues in a city together with participation levels and the number of jobs held in the creative sector.

The latest ranking puts York 7th in the list of EU cities, with 100,000 – 250,000 inhabitants, ranking it above cities such as Bruges, Granada and Maastricht for cultural vibrancy.

Talking about the city in its report, the monitor said: "Over the past decade, York has championed investment in its cultural institutions, initiating several iconic activities such as the Illuminating York Festival and the revival of York Mystery Plays.

"Through these initiatives, York has emphasised the value of culture in the city's hospitality, education and marketing sectors and media arts are the engine of York's continued development."

In 2014, as recognition of York's commitment to combine technology and art to breathe new life into the city's heritage, York became the first UK city to be designated a UNESCO City of Media Arts.



A new chapter for York libraries

The council has agreed plans to invest £4m in York's libraries.

In October members of the Executive agreed to appoint a project manager to push forward an extensive investment programme.

The council will work with Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual (Explore) - the organisation which runs the city's libraries and explore centres on behalf of the authority - to co-locate the city's libraries with other community amenities, moving away from stand-alone library buildings. Extra facilities such as cafes, will also be added to encourage non-users to visit the centres.

Set out in the new, £34.25 million, 15 year library service contract agreed in April, we will take the lead on developing Explore Library Learning Centres in Acomb and Clifton and Explore will lead on the future development of the nine Gateway Libraries.



Fun in the sun raises £700 for charity



The Woodthorpe York Community Group held their annual Fun Day in July and raised hundreds of pounds for charity.

Entertainment included bands and dance acts, stalls, fairground rides, and even Star Wars character Kylo Ren making an appearance.

Headline acts were ukulele band Grand Old Ukes of York while The Entertainment Company had the crowd up on their feet dancing.

Local businesses all came out to support the day and thanks to the great work of volunteers, stall holders, and generous locals, £700 was raised for this year's nominated charity, St Leonard's Hospice.

If you are interested in taking part next year, either with a stall or as a volunteer, get in touch via the facebook page, Woodthorpe York Community Group, to keep up to date.

£1 million boost for school

Westfield Primary School has undergone a £1m investment programme over the last two years, with £425,000 being spent this year on refurbishing the east wing.

The most recent phase of the refurbishment has focused on the area of the school which houses foundation stage children through to Year 1 pupils. It has included replacing 104 windows, re-roofing two sections and removing a 40-year-old temporary double classroom.

The work has not only improved the condition of the school but has also increased the school's 'environmental credentials' by reducing energy wastage.