



YORK800

800 YEARS OF THE CITY OF YORK

**Initial programme of
events for 2012**

www.york800.com

York is gearing up to celebrate its 800th year of local democracy in 2012

York will be celebrating in a big way in 2012. It will be 800 years since the city was granted a Royal Charter by King John in 1212, allowing York to take charge of its own affairs by electing a council, creating the post of mayor, and giving a voice to its people. The city wants to get its residents, businesses and visitors involved in the year-long celebration, to understand the city's unique past, create a sense of belonging in the city of today, and making a step change for the future.

A plethora of events is planned. Highlights will include the legendary York Cycle of Mystery Plays being staged in the open air for the first time since the 1980s, and, for the first time, a Medieval Summer festival. The exact anniversary of the Charter being granted – Monday 9 July – will be marked with a whole weekend of events, including the climax of Ebor Vox, when choirs and singing groups from all over the city will come together to perform specially commissioned works. The weekend will also include a flotilla of hundreds of boats on the River Ouse as part of The Festival of the Rivers, which will feature a new choral work by Benjamin Till.

But there's much more besides, from Railfest to the Chocolate Festival, from York Stories to Illuminating York. This initial programme shows the key events during the year (details correct at October 2011), designed to appeal to – just about everybody!! The programme will grow and grow, so keep visiting the website to stay right up to date. If you would like to add an event to the programme, email york800@york.gov.uk

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January 2012

20 January into February **Speak Up Speak Out**
Reflecting York and its diverse communities

28-29 January **Residents Festival**
Many York attractions open their doors free to York residents with Yorkcards

February 2012

February - September **The Eight Mysteries of York Minster**
Over these eight months celebrate eight centuries of mystery at the Minster through talks, tours, trails and activities

8 February **Venturefest**
One day event to showcase entrepreneurs, at York Racecourse

March 2012

March **York Stories launch**
A chance for residents to record their stories about their home city for posterity

April 2012

1 April - 31 August **Views of York: Portrait of a City – 1610 to the Present Day**
An exhibition at Fairfax House of paintings, drawings, photographs, watercolours and prints of the city

Early April Opening of the new medieval gallery at the Yorkshire Museum **'1212 : The Making of the City'**

6-9 April **York Chocolate Festival**
Celebrating our traditions with York's first chocolate festival



May 2012

6 May

Youth Football Gala

24 May

Mayor Making as part of the Annual Council meeting

May-July

York Science and Innovation Grand Tour 2012
Showcasing York's innovative past, present and future around the city

June 2012

2-10 June

Railfest, National Railway Museum

Get fired up at Britain's biggest rail celebration

4-5 June

Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

16-30 June

Festival of Ideas and Innovation

This year's theme 'Metamorphosis and Transformation' at venues across the city

19 June

Olympic Torch Relay and Knavesmire Concert

19 June -
29 August

Sports participation activity across the city (until the Paralympics)

Late June

Medieval Summer including:

Big City Read; archives exhibition; Mystery Plays; archaeological dig

July 2012

6-14 July

Early Music Festival

Reflecting the Olympic ideals of excellence and aspiration with music from the Renaissance.

7-22 July

Festival of the Rivers

Annual celebration of the Rivers Ouse and Foss, featuring a flotilla of boats on the River Ouse



July 2012

9 July

Charter Day

800 years to the day since York was granted its City Charter by King John. Climax of Ebor Vox – York choirs singing across the city. Unveiling of York 800 schools tapestry

July

Youth Charter

The young people of York will create and present a new Charter for the city

Mid July

Archives Exhibition, York Explore

The best archives outside London open their doors to the public whose histories they hold

Mid July

Big City Read

Featuring a specially commissioned medieval murder mystery novel set in the Minster, by Susanna Gregory

End July

Archaeological dig, Mansion House

York Archeological Trust will be running a professional dig to discover the roots of the home of democracy in the city

August 2012

2-27 August

York Cycle of Mystery Plays

The magnificent Mystery Plays return to their outdoor setting in the Museum Gardens for the first time since the 1980s

4-12 August

Medieval Festival

A celebration of York's medieval history

September 2012

September

Festival of Food and Drink



October 2012

October **Launch of Stories in Glass and Stone**
New interactive galleries in the Minster allowing visitors to reflect on the scale and craftsmanship of the Great East Window

24-27 October **Illuminating York**
York transformed into a wonderland

November 2012

November **Aesthetica Short Film Festival**

November **Inter-Faith Festival**
A celebration of the different traditions, beliefs and values represented across the city

Mid November **York Business Week**

29 November **St Nicholas Fayre**
- 2 December

December 2012

Early December **A York Christmas/Festival of Angels**

31 December **Community New Year's Eve**