

Annex 1

2012 – A calendar of events and activities supporting York 800

York wants to mark the anniversary in a big way throughout 2012. The city is rightly already known as the City of Festivals, and there is a plethora of activity already planned for the anniversary year. The legendary York Cycle of Mystery Plays is being revived in the Museum Gardens throughout August for the first time since the 1980s, and there will also be enhancements to the Viking Festival, Illuminating York and the Residents First Festival, a new Chocolate Festival, a specially-themed Big City Read and plans for a medieval summer.

There'll be an emphasis on York's civic history, with attention on the city's unique collection of archives, the Lord Mayor, and how the city has developed since 1212. York800: York stories will give everyone a chance to digitally record their history and what it's like living in York creating a new archive record for the city.

As well as all these chances to celebrate, the exact anniversary of the granting of York's Charter (9th July) will be marked with a long weekend of events, featuring the Festival of the Rivers, which next year is aiming to include a regatta of boats along the River Ouse as its centrepiece, and the climax of a unique project called Ebor Vox – over 20 local choirs and singing groups performing specially commissioned works across the city centre. The close of York's anniversary year will also be marked with a special celebration at the Minster.

York's young people will be asked to create a new charter for the city as an extension to the highly successful Taking Part programme. In support of community programmes and activities all ward committees are being asked to create a budget to enable direct support at community level.

2012 Month	Event s and Activities	Comment
January	Holocaust Memorial Day	Speak up: Speak Out theme to include the voices of all our communities.
	Residents Festival (28-29 January)	York 800 theme – talks, showcasing the guilds and city archives

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February	Venturefest Viking Festival (13-17 Feb)	Celebrating York's entrepreneurial spirit. Enhancement of programme
March	Launch of York800: York Stories Fashion City York Spooksfest	Ward level activity and collection of stories running throughout the year. Expansion of FCY event Spooksfest will be very strong re: stories
April	New Chocolate Festival at Easter Opening of medieval gallery at Yorkshire Museum	Enhancement of City of festivals programme Tie this into medieval summer activity programme
May	Young Footballers Gala Mayor Making	Organised by Hamilton Panthers – community activities Enhancement of civic activity
June	Freedom of the City day parade by Armed forces Big City Read Railfest NRM: (2-10 June) Olympic Torch Relay (19-20 June) Festival of Ideas and Innovation	Could be start of June or start of August. Author Susanna Gregory (medieval detective fiction) book is set in York. Enhancement of City of Festivals activity Major event with citywide impact. Enhancement of City of Festivals Activity
June/July/ August	Science and Innovation Grand Tour	Up to 100 images of science and innovative discoveries associated with York to be displayed on buildings around the city

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July	7 th , 8 th and 9 th Charter weekend celebrations Early Music Festival York 800 Ward Parties	7 th - River regatta with a flotilla of York800 boats down the Ouse! 8 th special dragon boat races 9 th Charter Day - Ebor Vox a choral work by Benjamin Till (who wrote BBC Symphony for Yorkshire). Enhancement of City of Festival Activities Community activities
August	2012 Mystery Plays Medieval Festival	Museum Gardens – over 1000 community volunteers involved Proposed by York Archaeological Trust activities include an excavation of medieval remains behind the Mansion house, possible medieval market , links to Big City Read
September	Festival of Food and Drink	Enhancement of City of Festivals activity.
October	Illuminating York (24-27 October)	Enhancement of City of Festivals activity
November	York Business Week Aesthetica Short Film Festival St Nicholas Fayre	Celebrating York's entrepreneurial activity 2 nd year with some specially commissioned shorts to tie in with York800:York Stories Special 800 years theme to the market
December	Festival of Angels (1&2) Event at the Minster Community New Year's Eve	Enhancement of City of Festivals activity Minster new interpretation programme opened Enhancement of activity for 2012.

Calendar up to date as of September 2011. More events and activities will be added to the calendar as they are confirmed.