



FREE/low cost activities for children & families across the Harrogate district – Summer 2025

FREE places to visit throughout the summer

Kingfisher Kiosk @ Conyngham Hall, Knaresborough

Games, pitch & putt, crazy golf, a tennis court, children's activities and more, all available for a small donation. Homemade cake, hot and cold sandwiches to buy plus lots of seating and a great area for kids to play. Find it behind Conyngham Hall, along from Henshaws Arts & Crafts Centre. Open 9am to 4pm every day during the summer holidays and at other times open Thursday to Sunday 9am to 4pm.

www.facebook.com/p/The-Kiosk-at-Conyngham-100086756349532

Horticap

Horticap's nature trail features bird hides, giant metal sculptures of animals, ponds, and an observation centre. Little ones can spend a while in the 'fairy wonderland' area. Hopkins Café is open Monday-Saturday from 9.30am-4.30pm and Sundays from 10am-4pm.

www.horticap.org

Henshaws Arts & Crafts Centre

The Centre will be open throughout the summer holidays from 9am to 3.30pm. You can explore the accessible facilities including cafe, shop, woodland walk and outdoor spaces.

www.henshaws.org.uk/arts-crafts-centre

Ripon Walled Garden

Ripon Walled Garden, Palace Road, Ripon

FREE entry, café on site. Various summer activities including Storytime, Beach Week, Boomwacker sessions and a Danceathon. See attached leaflet for more information or visit www.riponcommunitylink.org They also have a new play area launching soon!

Harrogate, Starbeck, Knaresborough & Ripon Libraries

Your local library is a great place to visit during the school holidays. Joining the library is free and children can borrow books to take home or just enjoy reading them in the library. Many libraries have colouring activities out all the time and offer fun, low or no-cost activities during the school holidays. You can find the contact details for your local library here: www.northyorks.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/libraries/local-libraries

Saturday 12th July to Saturday 6th September

Story Garden – Summer Reading Challenge 2025

Children aged 4-11 can now sign up for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge with the theme of 'Story Garden'! This year's challenge will inspire children to discover new books, take part in fun activities and explore the connection between stories and nature.

Additional FREE events at Starbeck Library:

- **Tuesday 12th August, 10-12pm:** Free-smoothie-making session with North Yorkshire Rotters. Suitable for all ages.
- **Tuesday 19th August, 10:30-12pm:** Hunting bugs with Starbeck in bloom in the library garden; a fun free drop-in session.
- **Friday 22nd August, 2-4pm:** Junk-modelling for 4–11-year-olds; a fun free drop-in session, all materials provided.
- **Friday 29th August, 2-4pm:** Wild robot story and collaborative craft display for 7–11-year-olds. Free of charge, but reservations required at library.

Visit Starbeck Library on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StarbeckCommunityLibrary>

North Yorkshire Libraries are also running a **junior photography competition** as part of the Summer Reading Challenge in 2025, with the theme "North Yorkshire Nature". Children aged 7 to 11 who are residents of the UK can participate by submitting photos taken in North Yorkshire. The winning photos will be featured on limited edition library cards. Max 3 entries per child, closing date 13th September. Email your pictures (JPEG format preferred, landscape, maximum 4MB) to library.secretaries@northyorks.gov.uk

Staveley Nature Reserve

Staveley is a superb wetland reserve with something for everyone, from experienced birdwatchers to people who just fancy a leisurely stroll on its network of paths. Staveley is a great place for seeing otters, sometimes in the middle of the day. You might also see roe deer and foxes. The reserve has good accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies. Free (including free parking) and open at all times

<https://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/staveley-nature-reserve>

Hackfall Woods

Ancient woodland with grottos and glades, rustic temples and waterfalls, three miles from Masham and on the doorstep of the village of Grewelthorpe. Free (including free parking) at the Woodland Trust car park.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/hackfall/>

Spofforth Castle

Explore ruins dating from the 14th century. A fun, free day out in a lovely village near Harrogate. No car park but parking is free along the roadside in the village. Connexions X70 bus and the Transdev 7 stops in the village. Open 10am-6pm daily. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/spofforth-castle>

Harrogate BID Floral Trail

From Friday 18th July (for at least 3 weeks)

Fabulous summery floral arches and designs, peaceful picnic benches and classy, cheerful creations will all feature in the celebration trail. Locations include The Yorkshire Hotel, the Cenotaph, Cross James Street, Beulah Street, Harrogate Theatre, Montpellier Hill, West Park Church, Library Gardens and Nicholls Tyreman on Albert Street <https://harrogatebid.co.uk/fantastic-floral-displays-set-to-return-for-harrogate-celebration-in-just-one-week/>

Open Country Breakfree Trails

www.opencountry.org.uk/breakfree

Available to download for FREE on the Open Country website, the packs feature easy going walks/cycle routes across the local area. These packs have been developed with wheelchair users in mind but they also appeal to families with young children and pushchairs, cyclists, anyone who might struggle with exercise and older people with limited mobility. The trails have clear, colour maps for each location, with all the information you need to help plan your day. For a hard copy of the Trail pack call Open Country on 01423 507227.

Mumbler Summer Holiday Activity Sheet

<https://harrogate.mumbler.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Summer-Activity-Ideas-Sheet-Harrogate-Mumbler-2022.pdf>

If you want a simple plan for the summer with a good mix of free, paid for and at home options then just download Mumbler's summer holiday activity sheet. There's one all filled out for you (with a few spaces for you to add in your favourite things) and also a blank version so you can plan your own fun summer. The idea is to print it out, stick it on the fridge and complete all the activities, colouring them in as you go!

Special events - FREE

Long Lands Common Community Summer Fair

Saturday 19th July, from 12.30pm

Music, arts and crafts for adults and children (including bush crafts, green-wood-working and clay sculpture), a citizen science bio-blitz, a site rangers' exhibition, a tea and cake stall and guided tours of the Common and Forest Park www.longlandscommon.org

North Yorkshire Youth Pride Picnic

Sunday 20 July, 11am – 3pm

Carlton Lodge, Carlton Miniott, YO7 4NJ

Join us for a day of fun, food, and wellbeing at the NYY Pride Picnic 2025 — a vibrant event where young people (aged 11+) can come together to relax, connect, and show their pride. Whether you're part of the LGBTQ+ community or a proud ally, everyone is welcome to join this inclusive celebration! www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-yorkshire-youth-pride-picnic-2025-tickets-1383960024689

Ripon YMCA – Youth picnic in the park

Tuesday 22nd July, 4-6pm at Spa Park

For young people aged 11+, Parents and carers welcome. Join us for free food and fun, games, sports, arts and crafts. Come down and find out what's on offer for young people in Ripon. Follow Ripon YMCA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiponYMCA>

Royal Pump Room Museum and Mercer Art Gallery - Make & Take

Wednesday 23rd July to Wednesday 27th August

A fun and free activity for children of all ages and their grown-ups! Includes colouring, making bookmarks, plants, toys, and learning about railways and Yorkshire Day. Limited spaces so book online in advance here: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/harrogate/royal-pump-room-museum/make-take>

Pine Street Allotments Open Day

Sunday 27th July, 10am – 1pm

Jams, chutney, pickles, marmalade. Plants, vegetables, flowers, fruit. Garden Tools, Crafts, Books, Tombola, Raffle. Tea, Coffee and Cakes. Live Music with the No Lazy Dancing Dance Band. All proceeds in aid of North Yorkshire Horizons, Bilton Conservation Group and Bilton Library.

Summer in Jennyfields Park

Thursdays – 31st July, 7th August, 14th August, 21st August

For ages 11-19, FREE! Games, music, badminton, football, arts & crafts wellbeing and refreshments! For more information please contact: Rachel Rabjohns, Youth & Community Development Worker – rachel@nyy.org.uk or 07881 797716.

North Yorkshire Youth also has a directory of clubs and projects for young people

<https://nyy.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/Harrogate%20Youth%20Directory%20%281%29.pdf>

Yorkshire Day celebrations in Masham

Friday 1st August, 12pm – 4pm

As well as stalls and entertainment there are FREE children's activities all afternoon including Zip wire for soft toys, Hook a Duck, Hop Scotch, sheep card making, colouring Ridings flags, Brio build, poems and stories, cake decoration, Roses Quiz, Circus Skills. <https://visitmasham.com/events/yorkshire-day-celebration/>

St Wilfrid's Day Procession

Saturday 2nd August (Procession starts at 1.40pm)

A FREE annual community event celebrating the feast day of St. Wilfrid, a significant figure in the city's history. The procession is a lively event with a carnival-like atmosphere, featuring decorated floats, marching bands, and dancers following a route through the historic streets of Ripon. Route and timings available at <https://stwilfridsprocession.com>

Masham Children's Sports Day

Thursday 7th August

Join in the fun at Masham Children's Sports Day with traditional events including the sack race and tug of war. Activities will start from 3pm at the Rec. Tuck shop open providing hot and cold drinks, crisps, sweets and ice cream. Alternative date Tuesday 12th August. Visit <https://mashamcommunity.org/community-event/?evnt=8387>

FEVA Festival, Knaresborough

8 – 17 August

<https://feva.info/>

Lots of FREE family friendly activities including lots of street performances, a family bike ride <https://feva.info/events/feva-family-bike-ride>, a celebration service at St John's <https://feva.info/events/feva-celebration-service-5>, Storytime with CREATE at The Kiosk at Conyngham Hall <https://feva.info/events/storytime-with-yorkshire-create> and the FEVA opening ceremony <https://feva.info/events/feva-opening-ceremony-2>

Ripon Together Summer FunFest

11th – 13th August

A FREE event packed with exciting activities for local school children! 3 days of activities for 6–18-year-olds (under 11s will need to be accompanied by a parent or carer). All days must be booked in advance. Visit www.ripontogogether.com/summer-fun-fest

Lower Ure Conservation Trust – Birds and Words

Tuesday 12th August, 10am-12pm.

Free family workshop at Nosterfield Nature Reserve with award-winning poet Caroline Matusiak. Book tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birds-and-words-tickets-1423482166479?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&gl=1*18idxp5*up*MQ..*ga*MTEwODM0MDU5OC4xNzUwNDE1NTA5*gaTQVES5V6SH*cze3NTA0MTU1MDgkbzEkZzAkDE3NTA0MTU1MDgkajYwJGwwJGgw

Family Fun Event in Valley Gardens

Thursday 21st August, 10am – 1pm.

A morning of family fun and games for all ages with the team from Trinity Methodist Church. FREE ice cream for kids and hot drinks for adults. Alternative indoor games at the church if wet. www.trinityharrogate.org.uk/news/jesus-day-off-picnic

Family Fun Day at The Village

Friday 29th August, 10am – 12 noon

The Village, Skipton Road, Harrogate

As part of their warmer welcome Campaign National Energy Action are joining with us to put on a morning of fun at The Village! Bring your little ones down for face painting, refreshments from The Living Room Starbeck children's entertainment from Zumbinis, meet other local charities and free ice creams! www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=758545479829040&set=a.216771314006462

Forest Schools Family Event, Ripon

Saturday 30th August, 1pm to 3.30pm

Friends of Hell Wath (Ripon) will be running their annual FREE Forest Schools Family Event featuring a drumming workshop, river dipping and a guided nature trail walk.

Ripon YMCA – Ripon Premier League Youth Summer Cup

Tuesdays during summer holidays at Kearsley Road

A 6-a-side tournament for ages 11 to 16. Every Tuesday in August, teams will compete, with the final on the last Tuesday, with the winning teams receiving the coveted Summer Cup! Interested players can sign up at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tXrSf_xp7aBEAkjSi1TFCW5OAeDOIP-QJLBKuWlYERw/viewform?edit_requested=true, or email sebhenry@harrogatetownafc.com

Ripon BID and Visit Ripon

Super Summer Saturdays

Each Saturday from 2nd August to 30th August, Visit Ripon and Ripon BID are hosting four events at Ripon Market Place and Spa Gardens including street entertainment, bubble performances and sporting events. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/RiponBID>

Special events – LOW COST

Family Fun Day at Police Treatment Centres

Saturday 19th July, 12pm – 4pm

Stalls, food vendors, children's activities, and more. Adult tickets £5, children's tickets £1, family of 4 £10. www.thepolicetreatmentcentres.org/get-involved/fundraising/fuelling-the-force-ptc-family-fun-day

Family Funtime at Bilton Area Methodist Church

Mondays – 21st July, 28th July, 4th August, 11th August. 10am-12.30pm

A Bible Story themed session that includes crafts, toys, games, outdoor play and story time. For families with children 0-11. An adult must be present with the children during the sessions. £1.50 per person including adults. (under 1s are free). Booking is essential. Please email familyfuntimebamc@gmail.com

Birstwith Annual Village Show

Saturday 26th July 12pm

Main ring attractions, Trade stands, bouncy castle, face painting, bands and children's disco. Adults £7 in advance, £7.50 on the day. Under 18s FREE. Birstwith, HG3 2NJ www.facebook.com/BirstwithAnnualVillageShow

Plumpton Rocks

Every Friday to Monday from 10am – 5pm throughout summer holidays

Explore rock formations shaped by time and nature, scenic woodland paths and relax by a tranquil lake. Entry is £5 per person. Children under 16 go free.

For more information go to <https://plumptonrocks.co.uk/>

Ripon Museums – Get to work!

This Summer, Ripon museums are bursting with hands-on history and creative fun for all the family! Visitors of all ages can step into the past and get involved. From baking Victorian treats and learning to sew to building your own treadmill automation, there's something happening every day to spark imaginations. Activities are FREE with your annual pass to Ripon Museums (with unlimited use) from £10.50 per child. Visit Ripon Museums at <https://riponmuseums.co.uk>

Yolk Farm – Summer at Yolk

Come on down to the farm this summer for oodles of fun with the whole family. Say hello to our adorable animals and enjoy fresh air. Enjoy the indoor play barn and outdoor beach.

£3.95 per child, adults go free. Yolk Farm, Minskip Road, Boroughbridge YO51 9HY. For more info visit <https://www.yolkfarm.co.uk/blog/summer-at-yolk>

Ripon Scenic Cruises – Ripon Canal Basin, HG4 1AQ

Summer Offers: Kids go free from 11am to 12pm every day from 19th July 2025.

Super Soaker specials: Water gun fun aboard the blue boat; shoot the targets on this 20-minute cruise! 10-10:30am every Monday from 21st July. Water pistols and targets to hit. £4 per person, adults go free to supervise. Find out more here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/riponsceniccruises/1761161>

Knaresborough Castle

Sallyport Tours

Come for a short, guided tour of Knaresborough Castle's secret underground tunnel, the Sallyport. Once used to sneak in and out of the castle or flee from an attack. Taking place this summer holidays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 11am and 3pm.

Adults £3.50, children free. Book online at <https://ticketsource.co.uk/harrogate-knaresborough-museums>

Quest for Knaresborough Castle

Friday 22nd August, 10am-4pm, included in admission price.

Step into the past and put your puzzle solving skills to the test.

Explore the castle grounds in this escape room-inspired adventure for all ages.

Mercer Art Gallery – Art Club

Tuesdays – 29th July, 12th August, 19th August, 26th August (varying times)

Fun 2-hour guided sessions designed for young people aged 10-18. Each workshop offers a new craft activity with all materials provided. Sessions are £7.50 per person and can be attended independently.

Book online here: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/harrogate-knaresborough-museums>

RHS Garden Harlow Carr – The Great Woodland Adventure

19th July – 31st August

Six weeks of hands-on fun and outdoor challenges including Forest School workshops, family yoga, woodland crafts and the Tremendous Trees Trail. You can also bounce, hop and stretch your way around a garden trail inspired by the children's book 'Guess How Much I Love You'. Garden admission applies, free to RHS members and children under 5. Children aged 5-16 just £5. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr/whats-on/summer-holidays>