



LGBTQIA+ Guide to York

Often in York we hear that there is nothing for LGBTQIA+ people in the city. We are hoping that this small guide will help to dispel that myth. It covers everything from shops and groups to nightlife. There is in fact a lot happening in York.

Note that this guide was updated in February 2024 so the groups and activities might have changed. Since we are not responsible for events or groups outside our control, we urge you to contact the organisations, businesses or groups who are managing these activities.

Please use the contents page to navigate this document. If we have missed something please let us know by contacting: enquiries@yorklgbtforum.org

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Registered Charities and Community-Based Organisations

York has four registered charities, a Community Interest Company (CIC) and several community-based organisations offering the LGBTQIA+ community different events, activities, services and support.

York LGBT Forum

The York LGBT Forum (Registered Charity No: 1162234) believes that where barriers exist, there is inequality.

The diversity within the LGBT community enriches all aspects of life and should be encouraged and promoted. This is why the York LGBT Forum strives to improve the social inclusion of LGBT people in the area.

The Forum actively promotes awareness and understanding of LGBT people's needs to enable full participation in society and works with many others to reduce the fear of crime and bullying, particularly in schools, the workplace and in later life. It also encourages greater participation in the prevention and detection of homophobic, transphobic and biphobic discrimination. They aim to improve people's wellbeing and sense of community.

York LGBT Forum oversees a variety of activities including socials and support groups. Current activities are listed below but more information can be found on their Facebook page or website: www.yorklgbtforum.org.uk

Coffee Socials

Weekly coffee socials, Wednesday 6pm – 8:30pm, York Travellers Trust, 20 Falsgrave Crescent, York, YO30 7AZ. 18+, for all communities. Contact enquiries@yorklgbtforum.org for details.

Trans Support

Weekly trans support group, alternate Thursdays and Wednesdays (includes creatives sessions). 18+ trans and non-binary people only. Contact trans@yorklgbtforum.org for details.

Northallerton Socials

This group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Golden Lion Hotel, 114 High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8PP, 6pm – 8pm. 18+, for all communities. Contact enquiries@yorklgbtforum.org for details.

Northallerton LGBTQIA+ Church Service – Open Table

This group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at All Saints Church, High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8DJ, 7pm – 9pm. 18+, for all communities but particularly those of faith. Contact enquiries@yorklgbtforum.org for details.

Pizza Socials

These socials take place every month mostly at Spark Community Room, 17-21 Piccadilly, York, YO1 9PB. October. 18+, for all communities. Contact enquiries@yorklgbtforum.org for details.

Members Meeting

Our members meet bi-monthly. At these meetings, issues of concern to the LGBT Forum are raised, discussed and debated and actions are agreed.

Dates:

- February 6th 6:30pm for 7pm start at Spark CIC
- April 16th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- June 18th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- August 20th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- October 18th (AGM) 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)

Open Meeting

Our open meetings are for our partners to meet with the LGBTQIA+ community to discuss how we all can work together. We meet bi-monthly. At these meetings, issues of concern to the LGBT Forum are raised, discussed and debated and actions are agreed.

Dates:

- March 19th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- May 21st 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- July 16th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- September 17th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)
- November 19th 6:30pm for 7pm start (venue TBC)

York Pride

York Pride is a registered charity (No: 1154441) which aims to promote equality, diversity and advances in education, in order to eliminate discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) Community.

York Pride raises awareness of LGBT+ issues by promoting and staging events, taking part in campaigning and commentary in the media, and providing support to other LGBT+ charities and voluntary organisations. Pride also promotes the provision of information, advice and support that celebrates LGBT+ lives and history. It aims for York to be a place where everybody knows that the diversity offered by the LGBT+ community is something to be celebrated and in which LGBT+ people can feel safe and accepted.

The summer Pride event, which takes place within a Pride festival week, provides the main platform for a celebration of the diversity of the LGBT+ community

in a context of entertainment, inclusivity and fun. The event is a focus for the visibility of the LGBT community in York and provides an opportunity to draw attention to important LGBT issues.

In 2024, York Pride will take place on 1st June at York Racecourse, with the parade starting from York Minster. Check the York Pride website for more details:

<https://yorkpride.org.uk/>

Generate

Generate was founded in 2011 to help support trans and non-binary people in York and surrounding areas. Since then, Generate has become a registered charity (No: 1197920) and grown, expanding its services and reach and supporting people and organisations throughout the UK.

Generate believes everyone has the right to live authentically, to represent our true selves completely, including imperfections and vulnerabilities, whilst knowing we deserve respect, acceptance, and love.

These are just some of the things our dedicated Management Team and Volunteers work together to provide:

- Support & Information
- Professional Guidance & Training
- Advocacy & Advice
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Research & Education
- Working with the NHS to improve Gender Identity Services
- Social Support
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

Further details of Generate groups and sessions:

Face to Face group

Generate has a face to face group which meets on the 1st Monday of the month. Please contact Generate on info@generateuk.org for more information.

Weekly Online group

Generate also meets weekly online, every Tuesday from 7:30pm, on Zoom. Please contact Generate on info@generateuk.org for more information.

Outreach Sessions

Generate holds an information session every Friday between 2:30pm and 4:30pm at Over the Rainbow Café. Please contact Generate on info@generateuk.org for more information.

Time to be Out

Time to be Out (Registered Charity No: 1183884) supports people who are refugees and asylum seekers who identify as LGBT. It relieves the needs of those people and assists them to integrate into society, particularly but not exclusively by:

- Providing workshops, advocacy and general support
- Increasing and co-ordinating opportunities for them to engage with local communities
- Raising public awareness about their situation.

More information can be found on their website: www.timetobeout.org.uk

Queer Arts

QueerArts UK CIC is a Community Interest Company (CIC No 13919858) celebrating queer culture through the arts, ensuring the representation of LGBTQIA+ people throughout. Find out more about what they do by visiting their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/QueerArtsUK>

Further details of Queer Arts activities:

LGBTQIA+ Community Choir

This groups meets weekly on Thursdays at 7pm at York St John University. For more details contact Wayne on waynedawson@queerarts.co.uk

Queer Arts are planning more activities in the near future.

Ageing Without Children

It is estimated that 90% of LGBTQIA+ people are ageing without children. This peer support group aims to support these people with a variety of issues affecting the older LGBTQIA+ community.

They meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 2-4pm. Check out their website here: <https://www.awocyork.org.uk/> or for more information contact Sue Lister on 01904 488870.

Queer Yoga

This group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at York Tang Hall, 7:30pm – 9pm. Check out the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1511438529335213/1511438542668545/>

York Templars

York R I Templars RUFC are an Inclusive Rugby Union team based in York. Contact them to find out more details on YorkRITemplars@gmail.com

LGBTQIA+ Businesses

The following businesses also cater for the LGBTQIA+ community in both their core business and associated activities and groups.

Bookshops

Portal Bookshop

York has an LGBTQIA+ bookshop, the Portal Bookshop. The bookshop is open:

Saturday	10 am–5:30 pm
Sunday	11 am–5:30 pm
Monday	10 am–5:30 pm
Tuesday	10 am–5:30 pm
Wednesday	10 am–5:30 pm
Thursday	10 am–5:30 pm
Friday	10 am–5:30 pm

Location: 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB

Craft Evenings

Portal are holding regular craft evenings. Contact the Portal for more information: portalbookshop@gmail.com or pop into the shop.

Online Bookclub (Sci-Fi and Fantasy)

This takes place online from the 1st Saturday of the Month at 6pm. Contact the Portal for more information: portalbookshop@gmail.com or pop into the shop.

Cafés

Over the Rainbow Café

York has an LGBTQIA+ café, the Over the Rainbow Café. This is above the Portal Bookshop and is open:

Saturday	11 am–5:30 pm
Sunday	11 am–5:30 pm
Monday	11 am–5:30 pm
Tuesday	11 am–5:30 pm
Wednesday	11 am–5:30 pm
Thursday	11 am–5:30 pm
Friday	11 am–5:30 pm

Location: 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB

Over-40s LGBTQIA+ Social Drop-In

This Over-40s LGBTQIA+ drop-in for a cuppa, a cake and a chat takes place in the Over the Rainbow Café above the Portal Bookshop on Sundays 11 am – 12 Noon. Contact the café for more information: otrcafeyork@gmail.com or pop into the shop.

Sad Poets Doorstep Club

Over the Rainbow Café hosts this event on the first Thursday of the month. Contact the café for more information: otrcafeYork@gmail.com or pop into the shop.

Open Mic Night

Over the Rainbow Café hosts this evening of music, poetry and standup each month on a Thursday. Contact the café for more information: otrcafeYork@gmail.com or pop into the shop.

Nightlife

York LGBTQIA+ nightlife is recovering since the pandemic. Sadly we do not have an exclusive LGBTQIA+ pub or club, however the Family Shambles put on a variety of performances.

The Family Shambles

Family Shambles is a troupe of local drag performers bringing fun and frivolity to Yorkshire. Their events vary and continue to grow rapidly in popularity. It is easier to check out their Facebook page to see what is happening:
<https://www.facebook.com/thefamilyshambles>

Accessibility of Venues

This table lists the current accessibility of some of the venues referred to within the guide. Confirmation can always be sought by contacting the organisers/venues.

Venue	Parking	Public Transport	Access to Building	Inside Access/ Info	Accessible Toilet
York Travellers Trust, 20 Falsgrave Crescent, York, YO30 7AZ.	Limited on-street parking	Few mins walk from Burton Stone Lane bus stops	Ramp (not steep)	All on one level	Yes
Portal Bookshop, 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB	Castle and other car parks (5-10 mins walk)	5-15 mins walk from city centre bus stops	Stepped but ramp available	All on one level	No toilets
Over the Rainbow café, 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB	Castle and other car parks (5-10 mins walk)	5-15 mins walk from city centre bus stops	Stepped but ramp available	Upstairs to café is not easily accessible but a table is available downstairs	No toilets
Golden Lion Hotel (Front Lounge), 114 High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8PP	On-street parking (free after 6pm)	Few mins walk from High Street bus stops. Train station 0.6 mile	Fully accessible to Front Lounge	All on one level	Yes
All Saints Church, High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8DJ	On-street parking (free after 6pm)	Few mins walk from High Street bus stops. Train station 0.8 mile	Fully accessible	All on one level. Hearing loop available	Yes
Spark Community Room, 17-21 Piccadilly, York, YO1 9PB.	Castle and other car parks (5-10 mins walk)	1 min walk from Merchantgate bus stops	Building is accessible but 1 st floor Community Room is via lift or stairs	Community Room on one level (on 1 st floor)	Yes