



# **YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH 2026**

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 1 - 28**



FOR YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH THIS YEAR,  
WE HAVE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY  
TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE  
PROGRAMME.

THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN PLANNING  
AND SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE INCLUDE:

YORK LGBT FORUM

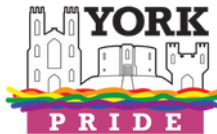
YORK PRIDE

THE PORTAL BOOKSHOP

GENERATE

QUEER ARTS

OVER THE RAINBOW LGBTQ+ CAFÉ





# WELCOME

## TO YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH 2026!

THIS FEBRUARY, WE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE RICH HISTORY OF LGBT+ PEOPLE—BOTH LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD. YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH OFFERS US A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON PAST STRUGGLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, HONOUR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LGBT+ INDIVIDUALS, AND CONTINUE ADVOCATING FOR EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE. THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME IS THE RESULT OF A TRUE COMMUNITY EFFORT, BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH THE COLLABORATION OF YORK LGBT FORUM, YORK PRIDE, GENERATE, QUEER ARTS, PORTAL BOOKSHOP, AND OVER THE RAINBOW CAFÉ. TOGETHER, WE'VE CREATED AN INSPIRING LINE UP OF EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND DISCUSSIONS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, UPLIFT, AND CELEBRATE.

WE INVITE EVERYONE—LGBT+ INDIVIDUALS, ALLIES, AND FRIENDS—TO JOIN US IN MAKING THIS MONTH ONE OF REFLECTION, CONNECTION, AND JOY. WHETHER YOU'RE HERE TO LEARN, SHARE, OR CELEBRATE, YOUR PRESENCE STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY AND HELPS KEEP THE SPIRIT OF PRIDE ALIVE ALL YEAR ROUND.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE PROGRAMME!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL EVENTS LISTED IN THE YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMME ARE ORGANISED BY INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS. FOR EVENT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION, INCLUDING ACCESSIBILITY, BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS, AND ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE RELEVANT ORGANISATION DIRECTLY.

THE YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH TEAM DOES NOT MANAGE OR DELIVER THESE EVENTS. WHERE AVAILABLE, CONTACT DETAILS FOR EACH ORGANISING GROUP ARE PROVIDED IN THE PROGRAMME.



## SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY

### **COSY CRAFTERNOON - 3:00PM - 5:30PM**

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Running during the day this time, our fortnightly Cosy Craft is a welcoming space to work on a project with like-minded folks! All crafts are welcome, come and go when you please! Free attendance, though support via café sales or donations are encouraged.

**Contact:** otrcafeyork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeyork (Instagram)



## SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY

### **YORK LGBT HISTORY MONTH LAUNCH EVENT - 6:00PM - 8:30PM**

**Location:** York Castle Museum, Tower St, York YO1 9RY

**Tickets:** <https://buytickets.at/yorklgbtforum/1962426>

Join us to launch LGBT+ History Month 2026 in York, celebrating diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ history. This year's theme, "Science and Technology," highlights stories shaping progress and equality. Enjoy performances, talks, community showcases, and networking. Free and open to all—donations welcome via York LGBT Forum (charity 1162234).

**Contact:** [enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org)





# MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY



## QUEER ARTS LITERARY LOUNGE - 7PM

Location: Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

We're a friendly, mixed-age group who love literature and enjoy sharing it together. Over tea and biscuits, one of us brings a piece of work—often Queer literature. No prior reading is needed.

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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# WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

## YORK LGBTQ + SOCIAL - (ADULTS ONLY) - 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Location: York Travellers Trust, York, 20 Falsgrave Cres, Clifton, York YO30 7AZ.

The York LGBT Forum Wednesday Social is a relaxed, friendly gathering open to everyone. It's a great chance to meet other LGBTQ+ people, allies, and community members in a welcoming environment. You don't need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

Contact: [enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org)



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# WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

## HIDDEN STORIES OF LGBT+ SCIENTISTS - 12:30PM - 1:30PM

### (ARRIVAL FROM 12 NOON FOR NETWORKING)

Location: STEM Learning Lecture Theatre, University of York, YO10 5DD or online

This talk will explore the lives and science of a variety of figures, some well-known, others less celebrated. It will reflect on some of the challenges faced by LGBT+ individuals both within and beyond STEM, and shine light on the issues that prevent people in STEM from coming out, namely the emotional nature of their identity clashing with their logical and factual career path.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hidden-stories-of-lgbt-scientists-tickets-1981092655462?aff=oddtcreator>





## THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY



### LOW SENSORY DAY - ALL DAY

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB.

Thursdays at OTR Café are Low Sensory Day, offering a calmer environment with lower lights and quieter spaces, ideal for neurodivergent needs or anyone preferring a gentler atmosphere. Free to attend; support via café purchases or donations is appreciated.

**Contact:** otrcafeyork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeyork (Instagram)

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## THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

**Location:** Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

**Contact:** hello@queerarts.co.uk

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## FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

**Location:** Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

**Contact:** hello@queerarts.co.uk



## FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY



### GENERATE OUTREACH - 3:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Come and meet the wonderful folks at GeneraTe, a local charity for Trans and Non-Binary folk. Have a casual chat to ask questions and learn what you can get involved in!

**Contact:** [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)

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## FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY

### POLITICS TALK: HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT - 6:30PM

**Location:** Portal Bookshop, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. LGBTQ+ Bookshop, safe space, and community hub in central York.

Run by a politics graduate, come along to learn how the electing of a UK government works, and how to make your vote count! This talk will be beginner-friendly and is relatively simple to grasp. A whiteboard or TV with a presentation will be in use, with seated spaces and a break to get things from the café.

Free attendance, though support via café sales or donations are encouraged.

**Contact:** [portalbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:portalbookshop@gmail.com)

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## SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY

### SHANTY & FOLK SINGING - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Gather round and join the song! A friendly evening of shanties, folk, and more! Some lyric sheets will be provided, but most are taught on the spot or picked up on the fly.

Free attendance, though support via café sales and donations are encouraged.

**Contact:** [otrcafeYork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeYork@gmail.com);  
[@otrcafeYork](https://www.instagram.com/otrcafeYork) (Instagram)





## SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

### 'PLACE HOLDER' POETRY WORKSHOP - 12 NOON - 2PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Running monthly, write alongside local LGBTQ+ poets! Whether you're new to the craft and want guidance, or an experienced writer who can never find the time, this workshop is for you!

Also running this month is the Placeholder Poetry Open Mic on the 16th.

**Contact:** otrcafeYork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeYork (Instagram)

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## SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

### SPECIAL INTEREST SUNDAY - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

A series of 20 min talks on anything you want! Two-three speakers a night with questions and breaks in-between! A TV will be available for visual aids. Drop in to listen, or sign up to give a talk via the event poster, available in OTR or via our Instagram.

**Contact:** otrcafeYork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeYork (Instagram)

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## MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY

### MINI-PAINTING - 12 NOON

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Come and paint tiny figurines for D&D, wargaming, or display! Bring your own paints and materials or use the ones provided by our volunteers!

**Contact:** otrcafeYork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeYork (Instagram)





# MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY

## D&D BATTLEMAP DRAWING WORKSHOP - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.



Ever wanted to draw a battlemat for use in TTRPGs? Learn the process of making an interesting level for your players, and how to represent it on the page! Any skill level welcome! Bring your own pencils, rubbers and rulers (though some will be on offer to borrow). Paper will be provided! Optional £4 donation, support via café sales is encouraged.

**Contact:** otrcafeyork@gmail.com  
@otrcafeyork (Instagram)

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# WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY

## YORK LGBTQ + SOCIAL - (ADULTS ONLY) - 6:30PM - 8:30PM

**Location:** York Travellers Trust, York, 20 Falsgrave Cres, Clifton, York YO30 7AZ.



The York LGBT Forum Wednesday Social is a relaxed, friendly gathering open to everyone. It's a great chance to meet other LGBTQ+ people, allies, and community members in a welcoming environment. You don't need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

**Contact:** enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org

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# WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY

## UNHEARD VOICES: EXPLORING MARGINALIZED EXPERIENCES OF EATING DISORDERS - 1PM START

**Location:** B020, Psychology Building, University of York.



Dr Ruth Knight (she/her) is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at York St John University. She researches mental health experiences in marginalized communities, with a particular focus on eating disorders. This talk will focus on a series of studies that were co-produced with community members and organisations, in which they attempted to take an intersectional perspective on minority stress and disordered eating.



# York Pride 2026







# DON'T HIDE YOUR HEART!



The **York LGBT Forum** is a charity which aims to improve LGBTQ+ rights in York, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom and across the world! We have a variety of events and initiatives throughout the year!



## AWARENESS TRAINING

We offer **Free to be Me** awareness training to care homes, care services and workplaces. Also **Opening the Closet Door on Dementia**.



## SOCIAL MEET UPS

Our socials are based in York and Northallerton. It is a great place to meet new people, make friends and have fun. 18+ only, all identities are welcome.

In addition to our regular York and Northallerton socials, we organise and manage a Trans Social Group. 18+ only, all trans identities are welcome.




## INTERFAITH GROUP

We also have an interfaith group and work with other LGBTQ+ faith organisations. 18+ only, all people of faith or no faith are welcome.



**YORK LGBT FORUM**  
*Don't Hide Your Heart!*

[www.yorklgbtforum.org.uk](http://www.yorklgbtforum.org.uk)



Are you interested in any of these groups?  
Contact us [enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org)



## THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

Location: Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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## THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY



### LOW SENSORY DAY - ALL DAY

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Thursdays at OTR Café are Low Sensory Day, offering a calmer environment with lower lights and quieter spaces—ideal for neurodivergent needs or anyone preferring a gentler atmosphere. Free to attend; support via café purchases or donations is appreciated.

Contact: [otrcafeyork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeyork@gmail.com)  
[@otrcafeyork](https://www.instagram.com/otrcafeyork) (Instagram)

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## THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY



### YORK TRANS SOCIAL

Location: please contact us for details

The Trans Social is a friendly, supportive space for trans and non-binary people to connect and relax with others who understand. It's a safe, welcoming environment with no pressure or agenda. As this is a closed group, a meeting with one of our freelance workers is required before attending.

Contact: [trans@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:trans@yorklgbtforum.org)



## FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

**Location:** Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

**Contact:** [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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## FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY



### GENERATE OUTREACH - 3:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Come and meet the wonderful folks at GeneraTe, a local charity for Trans and Non-Binary folk. Have a casual chat to ask questions and learn what you can get involved in!

**Contact:** [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)

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## FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY



### BEGINNER FRIENDLY D&D ADVENTURES' LEAGUE - 6:30PM START

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

If you've ever wanted to start rolling dice and battling dragons, come along to these sessions! Running as part of the AL, two tables will be running to get you up to speed on adventuring. Premade character sheets provided as needed.

Tickets £6 via OTR in person, or online.

**Contact:** [otrcafeyork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeyork@gmail.com)  
[@otrcafeyork](#) (Instagram)



## SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

### VALENTINES PROUD 7PM - MIDNIGHT

Location: Micklegate Social, 148-150 Micklegate, York YO1 6JX.



York Pride presents a Valentine's night like no other! Whether you're single, taken, or somewhere in between — come celebrate Valentines, Gal-entines, Pal-entines, or even Lad-entines. With the sensational Robynne Ryske bringing the glamour, and the performances you won't forget! Expect big vibes, bold looks, and a whole lot of love — because Valentine's is better when it's PROUD.

Tickets £6 online (available on the York Pride Website) or £8 on the door

Contact: [info@yorkpride.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkpride.org.uk)

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## SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY

### COSY CRAFT EVE - 3PM - 5:30PM

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.



Running during the day this time, our fortnightly cosy Craft is a welcoming space to work on a project with like-minded folks! All crafts are welcome, come and go when you please! Free attendance, though support via café sales or donations are encouraged.

Contact: [otrcafeYork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeYork@gmail.com)

@otrcafeYork (Instagram)





## About Us

Generate is a support charity for Transgender, Non-Binary & people exploring their gender identity, based in both York and Doncaster.

We also have Generate Plus, our group for parents I, partners and carers of Transgender, Non-Binary & Gender exploring people.

## Our Services

- Group meetings (in person & online)
- 1:1 Support
- Social Groups & Workshops
- Counselling & Therapy
- Advocacy Support

Join here!



[www.Generate.org.uk](http://www.Generate.org.uk)

Charity no:1197920



Generate Empowering Trans Resilience

Email: [Hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:Hello@generate.org.uk) or  
[Doncaster@generate.org.uk](mailto:Doncaster@generate.org.uk)



## MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS BEGINNERS BURLESQUE WORKSHOP - 2:15PM - 3:45PM

**Location:** Little J's, Chapel House, North Street, York YO1 6JD

This course is now closed but get in touch for future course openings. Discover the Art of the Tease: Over six 90 minute classes, you will learn how to engage with your audience, how to pose like a pin-up, how to strut your stuff with confidence, how to bump'n'grind like Bettie Page and how to peel away your gloves with style and seduction

**Contact:** [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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## MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS LITERARY LOUNGE - 7PM

**Location:** Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

We're a friendly, mixed-age group who love literature and enjoy sharing it together. Over tea and biscuits, one of us brings a piece of work—often Queer literature. No prior reading is needed.

**Contact:** [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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## WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY



### YORK LGBTQ+SOCIAL - (ADULTS ONLY) - 6:30PM - 8:30PM

**Location:** York Travellers Trust, York, 20 Falsgrave Cres, Clifton, York YO30 7AZ.

The York LGBT Forum Wednesday Social is a relaxed, friendly gathering open to everyone. It's a great chance to meet other LGBTQ+ people, allies, and community members in a welcoming environment. You don't need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

**Contact:** [enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org)



## WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

### LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH: DR ROB CLUCAS - 4PM TO 5PM

Location: Creative Centre Auditorium, York St John University, Lord Mayors Walk, York YO31 7EX or Online.



Tickets available on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lgbtq-history-month-dr-rob-clucas-tickets-1980554549974?aff=oddttdtcreator>

For Women Scotland 2, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and understandings of (trans+) gender. Dr Clucas examines the For Women Scotland cases within gender-critical law and resurgent prejudice. This is a hybrid event.

## WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

### FINDING YOUR VOICE: MUSIC, CREATIVITY, AND SPIRITUALITY - 7PM - 9PM

Location: CC223, York St John University, CC223 (access requires a key from music technician, Emily R)



A gentle introduction to music as personal expression through improvisation, listening, and soundscape activities inspired by contemporary art music.

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

## THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

### SORTING HUMANITY: CAN TRANS PEOPLE SAVE THE WORLD? - 12:30PM START

Location: 2, CL/A/026, Church Lane, University of York



Trans issues are central to a culture war, often obscuring deeper structures of gender power. Media narratives rarely reflect lived experiences of gender. Prof. Kathryn Cowtan discusses her experience of gender and transition. Drawing on autism, folk music, history, feminist theory, and science fiction.

This event will be both in person and online. For tickets, please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sorting-humanity-can-trans-people-save-the-world-tickets-1980388873431>



## THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY



### LOW SENSORY DAY - ALL DAY

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York, YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Thursdays at OTR Café are Low Sensory Day, offering a calmer environment with lower lights and quieter spaces—ideal for neurodivergent needs or anyone preferring a gentler atmosphere. Free to attend; support via café purchases or donations is appreciated.

**Contact:** otrcafeyork@gmail.com; @otrcafeyork (Instagram)

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## THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

**Location:** Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

**Contact:** hello@queerarts.co.uk

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## THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

### MONTHLY MAGIC: THE GATHERING (MTG) - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.



Over The Rainbow Café Come and play casual Magic The Gathering with members of our community! Whether you're an experienced spell slinger or an eager novice, all are welcome. Plenty of 60-card and Commander decks are on offer to borrow. Free attendance, though support via café sales or donations are encouraged.

**Contact:** otrcafeyork@gmail.com; @otrcafeyork (Instagram)



## FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY



### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11AM - 3PM

Location: Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)

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## FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY



### GENERATE OUTREACH - 3:30PM

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Come and meet the wonderful folks at GeneraTe, a local charity for Trans and Non-Binary folk. Have a casual chat to ask questions and learn what you can get involved in!

Contact: [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)



# FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

## LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH CLOSING EVENT WITH CLARE SUMMERSKILL: 5:30PM - 8PM

Location: Creative Centre Auditorium, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lgbtq-history-month-at-ysj-closing-event-with-clare-summerskill-tickets-1978415645453?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

This free event marks the end of York St John University's LGBTQ+ History Month programme. It features a keynote talk by Clare Summerskill, a writer, oral historian and performer, who will share stories and insights from her work based on interviews with older LGBTQ+ people, including extracts from their oral histories. The evening includes a Q&A session and offers a welcoming space for conversation, learning, and networking. Registration is required to secure a place.





## FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

### **POLITICS TALK: WHAT DO POLANSKI AND FARAGE HAVE IN COMMON? -**

**6:30PM**

**Location:** Portal Bookshop, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. LGBTQ+ Bookshop and safe space and community hub in central York.



Run by a politics graduate, come along to learn about the nebulous and tricky political concept that is Populism, looking at figures such as Trump, Corbyn, Polanski, and Farage. This talk will be beginner friendly, but is more advanced than the previous talk. A whiteboard or TV with a presentation will be in use, with seated spaces and a break to get things from the café.

**Contact:** [portalbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:portalbookshop@gmail.com)

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## SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

### **TWO-SPIRIT IDENTITIES - 10:30AM**

**Location:** Please contact Harrie  
[hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)



Learning about Two-Spirit history and creating original characters through art and writing. This session introduces the cultural and historical roots of Two-Spirit identities. Participants will learn about what Two-Spirit means in an Indigenous context, then be invited to imagine and create their own Two-Spirit character. Using drawing and collage, they'll design their character and define their role or story, supported by a creative writing element to bring these identities to life.

**Contact:** [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)



# SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY



## SPECIAL INTEREST SUNDAY TV AND MOVIES SPECIAL - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

A series of 20 talk on anything you want, as long as it fits into the theme of Movie and TV! Two-three speakers a night with questions and breaks in-between! A TV will be available for visual aids. Drop in to listen, or sign up to give a talk via the event poster, available in OTR or via our Instagram.

Free attendance, though support via café sales or donations are encouraged.

**Contact:** otrcafeYork@gmail.com; @otrcafeYork (Instagram)

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# SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

## YORK TRANS SOCIAL

**Location:** please contact us for details

The Trans Social is a friendly, supportive space for trans and non-binary people to connect and relax with others who understand. It's a safe, welcoming environment with no pressure or agenda. As this is a closed group, a meeting with one of our freelance workers is required before attending.

**Contact:** trans@yorklgbtforum.org

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# MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY

## MOVIE NIGHT (FANTASY AND SCI-FI) - 6:30PM

**Location:** Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Our movie nights continue. This week our genre will be fantasy and sci-fi! You choose the movie! Suggest and vote in OTR Café, the winner will be announced a week prior!

**Contact:** otrcafeYork@gmail.com; @otrcafeYork (Instagram)





**BOOKS, GEEKERY AND MORE. THE PORTAL  
BOOKSHOP IN YORK OPENED IN 2019.**

**WE SELL SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND ALL OF THE LGBTQIA  
BOOKS WE CAN SOURCE FROM THE UK, THE US AND BEYOND.**



**EMAIL: [PORTALBOOKSHOP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PORTALBOOKSHOP@GMAIL.COM) SOCIAL  
MEDIA: PORTALBOOKSHOP STREET ADDRESS: 5  
PATRICK POOL, YORK, YO1 8BB**





# OVER THE RAINBOW

## LGBTQ+ CAFE



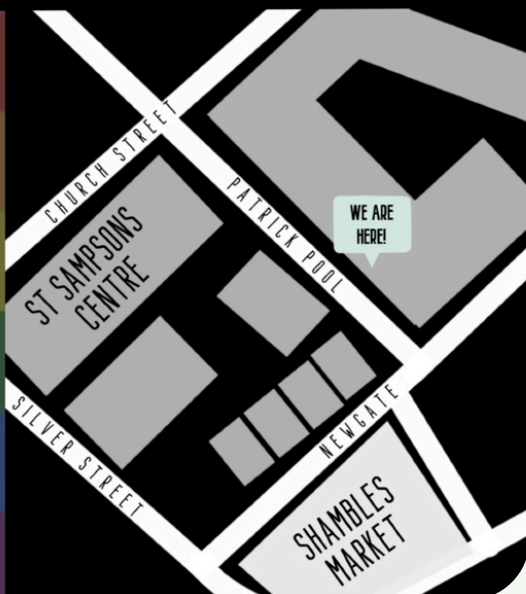
**OVER THE RAINBOW CAFE IS YORK'S NO-PROFIT LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CAFE AND SOBER SPACE, OFFERING A NEURODIVERGENT FRIENDLY QUEER SPACE FOR YORK AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS. WE HAVE A WHOLE HOST OF EVENTS, A BINDER DONATION SCHEME, PAY-IT-FORWARD SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND DRINKS, AND A SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO GET TOGETHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER!**

THINKING OF DONATING OR  
VOLUNTEERING WITH US?



FIRST FLOOR,  
5 PATRICK POOL,  
YORK,  
YO1 8BB

[OTRCAFHEYORK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OTRCAFHEYORK@GMAIL.COM)





# WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY



## YORK LGBTQ+ SOCIAL -(ADULTS ONLY) - 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Location: York Travellers Trust, York, 20 Falsgrave Cres, Clifton, York YO30 7AZ.

The York LGBT Forum Wednesday Social is a relaxed, friendly gathering open to everyone. It's a great chance to meet other LGBTQ+ people, allies, and community members in a welcoming environment. You don't need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

Contact: [enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org](mailto:enquiry@yorklgbtforum.org)

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# THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY



## LOW SENSORY DAY - ALL DAY

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Thursdays at OTR Café are Low Sensory Day, offering a calmer environment with lower lights and quieter spaces—ideal for neurodivergent needs or anyone preferring a gentler atmosphere. Free to attend; support via café purchases or donations is appreciated.

Contact: [otrcafeyork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeyork@gmail.com); [@otrcafeyork](https://www.instagram.com/otrcafeyork) (Instagram)

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# THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY



## QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11 AM - 3PM

Location: Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)



## FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

### QUEER ARTS HQ DROP-IN - 11 AM - 3PM

Location: Aspire House, 31 Bootham Row, York YO30 7BT

Come down, say hi, have a cuppa, and hang out in a friendly, welcoming space. Whether you need support, company, or just a breather, the door's open.

Contact: [hello@queerarts.co.uk](mailto:hello@queerarts.co.uk)



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## FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

### GENERATE OUTREACH - 3:30PM

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Come and meet the wonderful folks at GeneraTe, a local charity for Trans and Non-Binary folk. Have a casual chat to ask questions and learn what you can get involved in!

Contact: [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)



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## FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

### GENERATE BOARDGAMES - 6:30PM

Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

Monthly board games for Trans & Non-Binary, and friends of. Run by the wonderful GeneraTe, play from our games selection or bring your own!

Contact: [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)





## SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY

### OVER THE RAINBOW : D&D ADVENTURERS LEAGUE - 6PM (DOORS) FOR 6:30PM (START)



Location: Over The Rainbow Café, 5 Patrick Pool, York YO1 8BB. Non-profit (CIC) LGBTQ+ café. Event space, community hub, café.

The next thrilling installment in our monthly D&D one-shots. Come and play a self-contained adventure under one of our four skilled Dungeon Masters, newcomers are always welcome!

Tickets are £6, available in-store or online.

Contact: [otrcafeyork@gmail.com](mailto:otrcafeyork@gmail.com); [@otrcafeyork](https://www.instagram.com/otrcafeyork) (Instagram)

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## SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY

### TRANS PEOPLE IN HISTORY - 10:30AM



Location: Please contact Harrie  
[hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)

Exploring trans people from history and responding through poetry and letter writing. Participants can either bring with them a trans historical figure who inspires them, or choose from a selection I'll provide. They'll explore the role these individuals played and what they mean personally to them. Creative writing will be central, with participants creating a poem about their chosen figure, followed by a letter to them expressing what that person's life and legacy means to them.

Contact: [hello@generate.org.uk](mailto:hello@generate.org.uk)



# YORK LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH 2026

THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN PLANNING  
AND SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE INCLUDE:

YORK LGBT FORUM

YORK PRIDE

THE PORTAL BOOKSHOP

GENERATE

QUEER ARTS

OVER THE RAINBOW LGBTQ+ CAFÉ

