

FAMILY FUN

AUTUMN-WINTER
2025/26

*Something fun to do EVERY DAY
from October half term right
through to New Year!*



wakefieldcouncil

PUMPKIN PATCH

PICKING & PAINTING

www.blackerhall.com

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

4th - 31st October

BLACKER HALL FARM
GREAT YORKSHIRE FRESH FOOD

Santa's Farm Experience

at BLACKER HALL FARM

The Big Man in red is coming to our Little Farmers Trail this December. Treat your little ones to a "Meet & Greet" with Santa and let the elves introduce our Christmas donkeys.

BLACKER HALL FARM
GREAT YORKSHIRE FRESH FOOD

Book Here →



FAMILY FUN



Welcome to the Autumn-Winter Planner, giving you something to do with the kids every day from 25 October 2025 to 4 January 2026!

Because there's so much going on, it's impossible to fit everything in. Luckily, we've pulled together some Insider Guides chock full of fantastic events and activities for families. And if you can't find what you're looking for, check out Experience Wakefield – ExperienceWakefield.co.uk

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Find something to do with your little monsters!
expwake.co/HalfTermOctober

BONFIRE NIGHT

Get ready to light up the sky with displays across the Wakefield district!
expwake.co/Bonfire

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

From Ackworth to Walton, get in the festive mood!
expwake.co/XmasLights

WHERE TO MEET SANTA IN WAKEFIELD

It wouldn't be Christmas without meeting the jolly old man in red! expwake.co/Santa

Opening hours may be affected by the Christmas holidays. Please check ahead before travelling. Everything correct at time of printing.

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Sat 25 October



WORDFEST

- Wakefield District Libraries
- Various
- All ages

Celebrate words! Enjoy performances, workshops, author events and more, themed around Myths and Legends.

Runs 18 Oct–1 Nov
expwake.co/WordFest

FREE

Sun 26 October



COBWEBS AND CRAWLIES

- National Trust Nostell
- 11am–4pm
- All ages

Nostell is buzzing with fun! From garden to house, explore the world of insects and minibeasts.

Runs 25 Oct–2 Nov
expwake.co/Nostell

FREE

Standard admission applies

Mon 27 October



PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

- Farmer Copleys
- 9am–4pm
- All ages

Pick your own pumpkin and enjoy fantastic, fun activities at the UK's largest pumpkin festival!

Runs 27 Sep–31 Oct
farmercopleys.co.uk

Paid



Tue 28 October



HALLOWEEN AT WX

- WX Wakefield Exchange
- Various
- All ages

Get ready for spooky goings-on, including workshops, family activities, spooky discos and more!

Runs 25 Oct–2 Nov

wxwakefield.co.uk

Mix of **FREE** and Paid

Wed 29 October



WITCHES AND WIZARDS

- Pontefract Castle
- 11am–3pm
- All ages

Take part in witchy activities. Mix magical potions and crafts. Join the witches for potions demonstrations!

Runs 29 Oct–1 Nov

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE

Thu 30 October



THE LIGHT LAB

- The Art House
- 9:30am–4pm
- All ages

Discover The Glow Studio, a neon, family art space, and enjoy free activities and luminous craft making.

Runs 27 Oct–1 Nov

the-arthouse.org.uk

FREE



Fri 31 October



PUMPKIN TRAIL TAKEOVER

- Wakefield District Markets
- 10am–3pm
- All ages

Hunt for hidden pumpkin pictures around the market and win spooky sweet treats and stickers!

expwake.co/SpooktacularMarkets

FREE



Sat 1 November



THORNES PARK FIREWORKS

- Thornes Park
- 4:30pm–8pm
- All ages

Witness the sights and sounds of fireworks, bursting into dazzling colour at this traditional display.

expwake.co/ThornesFireworks

FREE



Sun 2 November



HALF TERM

- National Coal Mining Museum
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Get creative this autumn – make a lantern, experience storytelling, discover minibeasts, and more!

Runs 25 Oct–2 Nov

ncm.org.uk

Mix of **FREE** and Paid

Mon 3 November



NATURE QUEST BACKPACK HIRE

- RSPB Fairburn Ings
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Choose your role, solve missions and save the environment using your nature quest backpack.

7 days a week

expwake.co/Fairburn

Paid



Tue 4 November



ESCAPABLE

- Escapable, The Ridings
- 9:30am–10pm
- All ages

Solve clever puzzles and uncover hidden clues! Will you make it out in time, or be trapped forever?

7 days a week

expwake.co/EscapableRidings

Paid

Wed 5 November



ILBERT'S HALLOWEEN DRAGON TALES

- Pontefract Castle
- 1:30pm–2:30pm
- Age 2–5

It's spooky season and Ilbert is having fun with witches and ghosts. Help mix a potion and make some magic.

bit.ly/WMandCTickets

Paid

Thu 6 November



CHRISTMAS MARKET

- Blacker Hall Farm
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

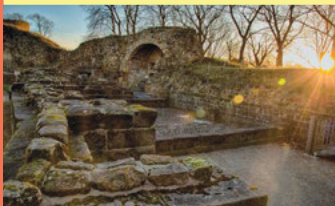


Get into the Christmas spirit and discover fantastic local food, drink and gifts while enjoying live music.

Runs 6–7 and 13–14 Dec
expwake.co/BlackerHall

FREE

Fri 7 November



RICHARD HOLMES' DARK HISTORY OF PONTEFRACT CASTLE

- Pontefract Castle
- 7pm–9:30pm
- Ages 5+

Take a lantern-lit tour of the castle, illuminating its dark history, with a costumed Victorian historian.

bit.ly/WMandCTickets

Paid

Sat 8 November



CRAFTED MAKERS MARKET

- The Art House
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Shop handcrafted products from local makers, and enjoy free creative activities at the Open Studios!

the-arthouse.org.uk

FREE



Sun 9 November



FAMILY WORKSHOP: HEPWORTH HATS

- The Hepworth Wakefield
- 11am–4pm
- Ages 2–12

Make a wearable sculpture hat based on Barbara Hepworth's sculptures!

Runs 9 Nov, 28, 30, 31 Dec, 1, 4 Jan

hepworthwakefield.org

FREE to Wakefield District residents and Under 18s

Mon 10 November



CASTLEFORD MUSEUM

- Castleford Museum
- 9:30am–4pm
- All ages

Explore 15,000 years of local history! From prehistoric objects to rugby heritage and lots more.

Open Mon–Tue, Thu–Sat

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE

Tue 11 November



LITTLE WILD WOOD

- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- 10am–5pm
- Age 2–5

This natural creative play space inspires imaginations and connects kids to nature and sculpture.

Tue–Sun

ysp.org.uk/

Paid
(under 18s free)



Wed 12 November



RIVERSIDE PAINT A POT

- Riverside Paint A Pot
- Various
- All ages

Situated by the River Aire at Queen's Mill. Come and can relax, have fun and embrace your creative side!

Wed–Sat

expwake.co/RiversidePaint

Paid



Thu 13 November



MUSEUM MINIS

- Wakefield Museum
- 10:30am–11:30am
- Age 2–5

Meet Alphabet Cat and take part in activities, rhymes and more, with a different theme each month!

Every Thu in term time

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE

Fri 14 November



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY WALK

- Trinity Walk
- Various
- All ages

Meet the jolly old man in red, and the not-so-jolly Trinch along with elves, princesses and more!

Runs 14–16 Nov, plus weekends in Dec

trinitywalk.com

FREE

Sat 15 November



CHRISTMAS TREE GONKS FAMILY WORKSHOP

- A Touch of Craft
- 5pm–6:30pm
- Age 8+

Make a cute little Scandinavian gongk ornament for your tree! All materials will be included.

expwake.co/XmasGonks

Paid

Sun 16 November



MAKE YOUR OWN FELT BAUBLE

- WX Wakefield Exchange
- 1pm–3pm
- Age 5+

Join textile artist Jess Grady to make a charming felt bauble to take pride of place on your Christmas tree.

wxwakefield.co.uk

Paid

Mon 17 November



OH YES IT IS!

- Pontefract Museum
- Various
- All ages

Enjoy the sparkle of panto costumes and props, watch performers and be inspired to step on stage yourself!

Runs Mon–Sat until 24 Dec

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE



Tue 18 November



CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Castleford Library

3pm–6:30pm

All ages

A celebration of all things Christmas, with crafts, tombolas, refreshments and the opportunity to meet Santa!

expwake.co/LibraryEvents

FREE



Wed 19 November



SCULPTURE BABY: WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

10am–2pm

Ages 0–13 months

Spend creative time with your baby in this sensory session inspired by William Kentridge: The Pull of Gravity.

ysp.org.uk

Paid (under 18s free)

Thu 20 November



STORY TIME

Featherstone Library

10am–10:30am

Ages 0–5

Come and take part in Story and Rhyme time, with a creative craft activity.

Runs every Thu in term time

expwake.co/LibraryEvents

FREE



Fri 21 November



LIGHT UP WAKEFIELD

Wakefield City Centre

5pm–9pm

All ages

See spectacular installations, witness the Ship of the Gods and experience the city in a new light!

Runs 21–23 Nov

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE

Sat 22 November



LIGHT UP FESTIVAL

National Coal Mining Museum

10am–8pm

All ages

See dazzling illuminations, projections, performances and music. Make your own lantern and join the parade!

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE



Sun 23 November



THE ART HOUSE LATE: LIGHT UP!

The Art House

Various

All ages

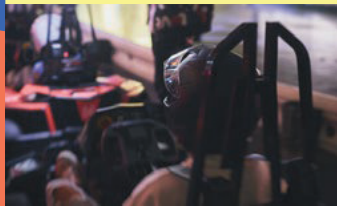
Enjoy a vibrant evening of creativity and celebration with free family glow-in-the-dark activities and more!

Runs 21–23 Nov

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE

Mon 24 November



WAKEFIELD INDOOR KARTING

Wakefield Indoor Karting

10am–10pm

All ages

Take on year-round karting on a challenging tarmac circuit, at Yorkshire's premier indoor karting venue.

7 days a week

expwake.co/WakefieldIndoorKarting

Paid

Tue 25 November



LIGHT UP CASTLEFORD

Castleford Town Centre

12pm–6pm

All ages

Explore the market, treat yourself to street food and enjoy entertainment – including a giant snow globe!

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE



Wed 26 November



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Featherstone Town Centre

4pm–7pm

All ages

Get into the festive spirit and enjoy entertainment while you wait for the all-important countdown!

expwake.co/XmasLights

FREE



Thu 27 November



JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Theatre Royal Wakefield

Various

All ages

The story of a boy, a cow, magic beans and a scary giant gets the Wakefield treatment that you know and love!

Runs 25 Nov–4 Jan

theatroyalwakefield.co.uk

Paid



Fri 28 November



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Normanton Town Centre

4pm–7pm

All ages

Feel the magic of Christmas with live fun as you await the special switch-on moment!

expwake.co/XmasLights

FREE

Sat 29 November



LIGHT UP OSSETT

Ossett Town Centre

12pm–7pm

All ages

Enjoy the illumination of Ossett Town Hall, Christmas lights switch on, festive market, and loads more.

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE



Fri 12 December



ROOM ON THE BROOM TRAIL

- Anglers Country Park
- Any time
- All ages

Follow the trail to find footsteps, activities and key scenes from your favourite Julia Donaldson stories.

7 days a week
expwake.co/StoryTrails

FREE

Sat 13 December



ELF SCHOOL

- Castleford Market
- 10am–3pm
- All ages

Finish your letter to Santa and craft your own Santa searcher binoculars to help spot the big man himself.

Runs 29 Nov, 6 & 13 Dec
expwake.co/WakefieldFestiveMarkets

FREE

Sun 14 December



FATHER CHRISTMAS IN THE GLASSHOUSE

- Nostell, National Trust
- Various
- All ages

Step into Nostell's twinkling Glasshouse and meet Father Christmas himself for a festive chat.

Runs every weekend in Dec

expwake.co/Nostell

Paid



Mon 15 December



A TOWN CALLED CHRISTMAS

- WX Wakefield Exchange
- 5:30pm–7pm
- Ages 3+

Join Clementine on a ride through a forgotten festive town in this magical show for kids and their grown-ups.

wxwakefield.co.uk

Paid



Tue 16 December



GNOME ROOM

- Newmillerdam Country Park
- Any time
- All ages

A bear has scared the gnomes! Use signs and clues to find them in this simple walking trail.

7 days a week

expwake.co/StoryTrails

FREE

Wed 17 December



SANTA IS COMING TO CAPHOUSE

- National Coal Mining Museum
- 10am–3pm
- Ages 0–12

Before Santa goes down your chimney, he's making a special stop at the Museum! Will you get a gift, or coal?

Runs 22 Nov–24 Dec

ncm.org.uk

Paid

Thu 18 December



SANTA'S FARM EXPERIENCE

- Blacker Hall Farm
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Meet Santa and Mrs Claus in the farm grotto, with twinkling lights, cheerful elves and real animals.

Runs 29 Nov–21 Dec
expwake.co/BlackerHall

Paid



Fri 19 December



LEGO CLUB

- Stanley Library
- 3:30pm–4:30pm
- All ages

Let your imagination run wild as you create and build whatever you want using LEGO!

Runs every Friday

Book at stanleylibrary@wakefield.gov.uk

FREE

Sat 20 December



SANTA'S GROTTTO

- Farmer Copleys
- 9am–4pm
- All ages

Meet Santa in his cosy grotto down on the farm! Have a festive Christmas chat and receive a gift.

Runs every weekend in Dec

farmercopleys.co.uk

Paid



Sun 21 December



CHRISTMAS PAPER GARLAND MAKING

- WX Wakefield Exchange
- 11am–3pm
- All ages

Drop in to design and create a wonderful paper garland with with colourful paper, glitter, and all things Christmassy!

wxwakefield.co.uk

FREE



Mon 22 December



CHRISTMAS WONDER RIDE

- Pugneys Light Railway
- 4pm–7pm
- All ages

Board the Christmas wonder train for a festive trip around Pugneys Country Park after the sun goes down.

First 3 weekends in Dec

expwake.co/PugneysTrains

Paid

Tue 23 December



FESTIVE FAMILY WORKSHOP

- The Hepworth Wakefield
- 11am–3:45pm
- Age 2–12

Create some festive crafts with your family, inspired by works of art in the galleries.

Runs 23 & 30 Nov; 7, 14, 21, 23 & 24 Dec

hepworthwakefield.org

FREE to Wakefield District residents and Under 18s

Sun 30 November



LIGHT UP PONTEFRACT

Pontefract Town Centre

12pm–6pm

All ages

Explore the festive market, see the Christmas lights switch on, enjoy entertainment, street food and more!

expwake.co/LightUp

FREE



Mon 1 December



FROM NOSTELL TO NARNIA

Nostell, National Trust

Various

All ages

Step through the wardrobe into the magical world of C.S. Lewis. See if you can spot your favourite characters!

Runs 1 Dec–5 Jan (except 24–26 Dec)

expwake.co/Nostell

Paid

Tue 2 December



CYNTHIA KENNY: A CITY FRAMED

Wakefield Museum

Various

All ages

Celebrate the life and art of local artist Cynthia Kenny and explore the changing city through her eyes.

Runs Mon–Sat until 20 Jun

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE

Wed 3 December



EARNSHAWS FENCING CENTRES WOODLAND WALK

Earnshaws Fencing

10am–4pm

All ages

Follow the trail to discover the magical fairies that guard this beautiful place.

7 days a week

expwake.co/StoryTrails

FREE

Thu 4 December



BEHIND THE SCENES PANTOMIME TOURS

Theatre Royal Wakefield

4:30pm–7pm

All ages

Peek behind the curtain and discover what goes on behind the scenes during the theatre's pantomime season!

4 & 11 Dec

theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk

Paid

Fri 5 December



EARLY YEARS STAY AND PLAY

WX Wakefield Exchange

9:30am–11:30am

Ages 0–5

Pop in for a cuppa and a natter while your little ones enjoy a lovely selection of toys and games.

Every Fri

wxwakefield.co.uk

FREE

Sat 6 December



LIQUORICE SANTA

Pontefract Museum

10:30am–3:30pm

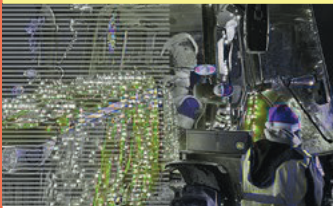
All ages

Drop in and meet this special sweet Santa in his Liquorice grotto and receive a Christmas gift!

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE

Sun 7 December



CHRISTMAS TRACTOR LIGHT UP

Farmer Copleys

4pm–8pm

Age 2–5

Join the Pontefract Young Farmer's for the Tractor Light Up! Expect tractors, stalls and even Santa!

farmercopleys.co.uk

Paid



Mon 8 December



ENGIMA ESCAPE ROOMS

Engima Escape Rooms, Pontefract

12pm–8pm

Age 8+

Breakout from the normal day to day and try to escape from the magical land of Oz.

Open Wed–Sun

expwake.co/EnigmaPontefract

Paid

Tue 9 December



SNOZONE AT XScape

Snozone, Xscape

10am–10pm

Age 3+

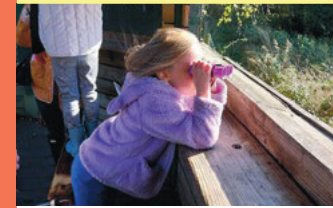
Hit the (real snow) slopes and learn to ski or snowboard in Castleford.

7 days a week

expwake.co/Snozone

Paid

Wed 10 December



RSPB FAIRBURN INGS

RSPB Fairburn Ings

Any time

All ages

Go wild on nature-inspired play equipment and see what birds you can spot around the reserve.

7 days a week

expwake.co/Fairburn

FREE

Thu 11 December



POTTERY PAINTING

Jasmine Pottery Studios

Various

All ages

Choose from over 100 pottery items and unleash your creativity.

Runs Thu, Fri & Sat

expwake.co/JasminePottery

Paid



Wed 24 December



LASERZONE

- LaserZone, Xscape
- 11am–9:30pm
- Age 6+

Explore the multi-level, fully marshalled arena, equipped with state-of-the-art laser packs and phasers.

7 days a week

expwake.co/LaserZone

Paid



Thu 25 December



50 THINGS TO DO

- Wakefield District
- Any time
- Ages 0–11

Download the FREE '50 things to do' apps and get inspiration to try fun activities over the holidays!

7 days a week

expwake.co/50Things

FREE

Fri 26 December



ART POD

- The Hepworth Wakefield
- 11am–4pm
- Various

Visit the galleries and make your own artwork inspired by Axel Salto's ceramics.

hepworthwakefield.org

FREE to Wakefield District residents and Under 18s

Sat 27 December



BLOWN AWAY TRAIL

- Pugneys Country Park
- Any time
- All ages

Drop in to this special walking trail: solve the puzzles, sail the boat and hunt down the wind.

7 days a week

expwake.co/StoryTrails

FREE



Sun 28 December



THORNES PARK MINIATURE RAILWAY

- Thornes Park
- 12:30pm–3pm
- All ages

Take a loop through the picturesque park on this half mile track.

Runs every Sunday

expwake.co/ThornesParkRailway

Paid



Mon 29 December



ICE SKATING RINK

- Castleford Market
- Various
- All ages

Get your skates on and enjoy a 20 minute session out on the ice.

Runs 21–30 Dec (except 25 & 26 Dec)

expwake.co/WakefieldFestiveMarkets

FREE

Tue 30 December



NOSTELL

- Nostell, National Trust
- Various
- All ages

Explore the gardens, uncover secrets in the historic house and burn off energy in the woodland play area.

7 days a week

expwake.co/Nostell

FREE

Wed 31 December



SANDAL CASTLE

- Sandal Castle
- Any time
- All ages

Climb to the top of the hill and explore the ruins of this 12th century stone castle.

7 days a week

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE



Thu 1 January



PETER'S LOST PEREGRINE

- Pontefract Park
- Any time
- All ages

Peter has lost his peregrine! Follow the signs and clues around the park to try and reunite them.

7 days a week

expwake.co/StoryTrails

FREE

Fri 2 January



NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

- National Coal Mining Museum
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Discover 180 years of mining history, explore the changing galleries and let off steam in the adventure playground.

Open Wed–Sun

ncm.org.uk

FREE

Sat 3 January



YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- 10am–5pm
- All ages

Run and play in the open air, or take part in free activities in the indoor galleries!

Open Tue–Sun

ysp.org.uk

Paid



Sun 4 January



PONTEFRAC CASTLE

- Pontefract Castle
- 10am–4pm
- All ages

Explore the ruins, run in the bailey, play in the adventure playground and more!

Open Tue–Sun (Grounds open every day)

bit.ly/MuseumsCastles

FREE



YSP

Boost your winter wellbeing at YSP

Plan your visit
yvsp.org.uk

Yorkshire Sculpture Park
West Bretton, Wakefield
WF4 4LG | 1 mile from M1 J38



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