



50+ Festival Information Fair 6.10.26

A fabulous event held on **Tuesday 6 October at York Theatre Royal**. The fair brought together a range of organisations offering support, guidance and inspiration across a variety of topics, providing a great opportunity to discover what's available, ask questions and connect with local services.

We asked the wonderful organisations involved, why they wanted to join us today.

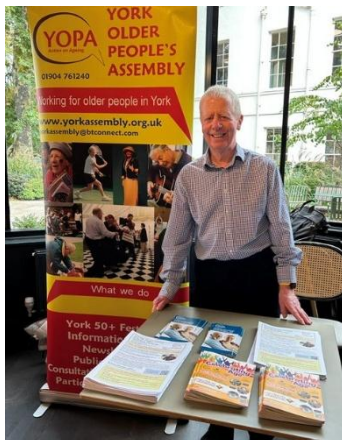


Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCA Y)

Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCA Y), Wayne, Charity Director and Helen, Advocate

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary year, we're really pleased to support the 50+ Festival celebrations again this year and raise awareness of the advocacy and practical support that is available through OCA Y. We'd like more people to know that support is available, and that they don't have to navigate things alone.

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



York Older People's Assembly

YOPA (York Older People's Assembly) George Wood, Secretary

The great thing about this type of event is that it brings together such a wide range of organisations working in the community in York. Someone might come along looking for help with one particular thing, find the table they're interested in, and then discover lots of other organisations and support that could be useful to them too.

<https://www.yorkassembly.org.uk/50-festival-26/>

MySight York, Louise Calpin, Community coordinator

Events such as this are a great opportunity to meet other local organisations and raise awareness of the support available at MySight York. Over 7,000 people are currently living with sight loss in York alone, and numbers are rising. As a local sight loss charity, we provide practical advice, support and social opportunities to help blind and partially sighted people stay connected, maintain their independence, and live fulfilling lives. <https://mysightyork.org/>



MySight York



York Interfaith Group

York Interfaith Group, Tina Funnell, Chair and Mary Callan, Secretary

We were really pleased to be part of the Mad Hatter's Parade and see so many older people out and about in the city. It's really important for us to be here with my friend and colleague, talking to people aged 50+ about all the faith communities in the city. There are so many people of faith who make a real contribution to the city, and we're proud to be here as part of this amazing festival. <https://yorkinterfaith.org/>

Healthwatch York, Ruth Stockdale Volunteering & Engagement Officer

It's great to be part of the 50+ Festival and spread the word about our work.

<https://www.healthwatchyork.co.uk/>



Healthwatch York



YorSensory, Wilberforce Trust

YorSensory, part of the Wilberforce Trust, Anne Parkinson, Outreach worker

We want to spread the word about the support available for people with sight and hearing loss. There's so much help out there that people might not know about, so we're here to connect people with the right support and help them stay independent.

<https://www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk/what-we-offer/yorsensory/>

York Health Trainers, City of York Council, Saffron and Toni, Health Trainers

We're here to support older people with simple advice around healthy eating, staying active and managing things like diabetes. It's never too late to make positive changes, whether that's getting more active, cutting down on alcohol or stopping smoking. We offer one-to-one support to help people improve their quality of life.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/homepage/175/health-trainers>



York Health Trainers, City of York Council



**Somerset House, Wheldrake,
Rachel, Receptionist and Dipin Peter, Home
Manager**

It's our first time here. When we heard about the event, we thought we'd come along and see what it's all about. It's great to see so many organisations coming together. We've also recently renovated Somerset House, so it's a great opportunity to spread the word and tell people more about our home.

[https://www.countrycourtcare.co/our-](https://www.countrycourtcare.co/our-homes/somerset-house-care-nursing-home/)

[homes/somerset-house-care-nursing-home/](https://www.countrycourtcare.co/our-homes/somerset-house-care-nursing-home/)

**Switalskis and Pryers solicitors, Hannah
Gamble solicitor and Kelsey Jones paralegal**

We are really pleased to be supporting the York 50+ Festival. It's important to help people get their affairs in order and make sure everything is in place before it's too late. We're here to raise awareness of what we do and offer people the support and advice they need.

<https://www.switalskis.com/>



Switalskis and Pryers solicitors



North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

**North Yorkshire
Fire and Rescue Service
Colin Sutherland, community safety lead in the
prevention team**

We're delighted to be here today to provide residents with guidance, advice and practical tips on home fire safety, helping people stay safe in their own homes and reduce the risk of fire.

<https://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/>



Medequip, Alex Roberts, Retail & Engagement Manager and Anna Hunt, Equipment Co-ordinator

We've been involved in the festival for the last three years. For us, it's a great opportunity to meet people who use our services, raise awareness of what we offer and have a bit of fun along the way. It's also a chance to showcase some amazingly helpful products, such as the sock aid and nimble one-finger cutting tool. <https://www.manageathome.co.uk/>



Medequip

York Neighbours, Hermione Jewitt, Assistant coordinator

We're glad to be here today because we're a growing charity with the capacity to support more people aged 65+ in York. We help people who may need a little extra support to live independently, from everyday tasks and gardening to social events and regular phone calls. Many of the people we support don't have internet access, so staying connected and part of the community is really important.

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



York Neighbours



The Hearing Place

The Hearing Place, Jess Kyei-Yamoah, Director and audiologist, Helen Overton, Hearing care assistant

It's a fantastic festival for our city, bringing people together and supporting the local community. We're here to raise awareness of hearing care and the options available, especially for people facing long NHS waits. We're a family-run, three-generation business, focused on providing independent advice, great customer care and high-quality service. We're proud to have won multiple awards and our aim is simple: to do hearing care right.

<https://www.hearingplace.co.uk/>



Age UK York

Age UK York, Caroline Usher Cox, Communications and Marketing Manager

We're really pleased to be so involved in the 50+ festival this year as joint organisers alongside YOPA. Today is about signposting people to useful information and support, from befriending to local opportunities. It's a great way to connect older people with what's available in the community and highlight that we're a local independent charity, here for the people of York. <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/york/our-services/>

Musical Connections, Bethan, Musician along with the Acomb Singers

It's great to be providing the musical soundtrack for today's Information Fair. Musical Connections runs 10 groups across York, bringing people together through singing in care homes, community settings and supported living. We also work with local schools and organisations on intergenerational events. We love being out in the community, sharing the joy of singing, with free transport available to all our sessions.

www.Musicalconnections.org.uk



Musical Connections and the Acomb Singers