



Saturday 28th September 2024



Final PR 28.8.24 Photos at the end.

Excitement grows ahead of International Day of Older People with previews of two special celebration events

Momentum is building in the run up to York's celebration of International Day of Older People, as YOPA shares behind the scenes insights into two of our many special events.

As part of the much loved and well-established 50+ Festival, the York Older People's Assembly (YOPA) is leading a celebratory series of events from 24 September to 2 October 2024.

Jim Cannon, Chair, York Older People's Assembly comments "*YOPA welcomes the opportunity to show the good folk of York the ways in which older people contribute to everyday life, through their voluntary activities, offering support to others while also enjoying themselves and looking after each other in old age.*"

Here's we focus on two very special events taking place on Saturday 28 September.

Firstly, there is a wealth of ballet activity in York and North Yorkshire for elders. When the Royal Academy of Dance brought out the Silver Swans syllabus, it introduced a lot of older people to ballet for the first time. With the generous assistance of the Kirkham Henry Performing Arts, we produced this video [LINK](#) and Jorvik Silver Swans, our partner from last year, will be leading a Silver Swans masterclass followed by a mini-ballet at 15:00 in the York Theatre Royal's Studio Theatre.

Secondly, we are so lucky to have Parkinson's Creatives join us. This intergenerational arts group, meeting at Joseph Rowntree's Retirement Village, Hartrigg Oaks, has crafted charming paper and plastic butterflies from found materials – butterflies signifying our theme of evolution and wonder. Collaborating with the 'Little Acorns' nursery school, they've also created a whimsical puppet show. It's heartwarming to witness the connection between the elderly and the very young, making for a truly joyful collaboration. Watch our delightful video [LINK](#) to see it all.



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During the 50+ festival, a visually dramatic art installation of giant flowers with giant eco-butterflies will parade through Museum Gardens and be on display in St Helen's Square along with musicians in celebration of this special day.

Professor Dianne Willcocks, IDOP Convener explains: *“The Silver Swans and Parkinson's Creatives are two supreme examples of older people learning in later life, giving back, enjoying themselves and giving pleasure to others. It really is a great example of what older people contribute to civic life, creativity and having fun and is something we want to put centre stage during the International Day of Older People.”*

The events being planned include:

- **10-day exhibition trail**
 - Tuesday 24 September to Wednesday 2 October 2024
 - Around the city, shop-front spaces with stories from groups of elders in our many creative voluntary groups
 - Films in public places telling elder's stories
- **IDOP Celebration Parade**
 - At 12 noon on Saturday 28 September a parade will begin at York Theatre Royal, go through Museum Gardens, stop at St Helen's Square, where the Lord Mayor will receive the parade, a creative “happening” will take place including music and dancing
 - The parade then continues onto St Sampson's Centre in Church Street for refreshments
- **Performances on Saturday 28 September**
 - York Theatre Royal's Studio Theatre
 - York Playback Theatre performance at 13.30
 - Silver Swans masterclass plus mini-ballet at 15.00
 - York Art Gallery
 - Facilitated visual arts painting workshop at 14.00-15.30
 - Museum Gardens
 - Tai Chi demonstration
 - St Helen's Square
 - Butterfly making with song and dance 10.00-16.00

Find out more

- Find out more on the YOPA website <https://www.yorkassembly.org.uk/idop/>
- And our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@YorkOlderPeoplesAssembly>
- Reserve your free event tickets by emailing yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com
- Follow us on social media
 - x.com/IDOPyork



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- [linkedin.com/in/idop-york](https://www.linkedin.com/in/idop-york)
- [instagram.com/idopyork/](https://www.instagram.com/idopyork/)
- [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)

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We gratefully acknowledge the support from Rotary Ainsty York.

About YOPA

As part of the 50+ Festival, this is the third year in which York Older People's Assembly (YOPA) has successfully led a city-wide collaborative for IDOP. We are an independent local charity which has advocated for, celebrated and supported older people across York and North Yorkshire for over twenty years. We are an organisation of older people, for older people and we work to achieve full citizenship for diverse elders across and within the wider community.

About the International Day of Older People

Each year on October 1, people across the world mark United Nations International Day of Older People to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges faced by ageing populations, and to mobilize the wider community to address difficulties faced by older people.

Jim Cannon, Chair, York Older People's Assembly





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In celebration of the International Day of the Older Person

Kirkham Henry Performing Arts



Issy Sanderson, Parkinson's Creatives



Parkinson's Creative with children playing with butterflies





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