



Belfast

Belfast Learning Festival

22 to 27 April 2024

120 free events and exhibitions across the city



Belfast
City Council



Belfast

Sew, cycle, draw and dance. Learn by doing, sharing and experimenting.

The 7th Annual Belfast Learning Festival returns to the city for a week-long programme of free events and activities. Promoting lifelong learning for everyone, this year the festival will shine a light on climate action. Find out more at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/BelfastLearningFestival

Get involved when suits you Activities throughout the week

Make Do and Mend with Small Steps
Lower Oldpark Community Association, 23 Avoca Street

Monday 22 to Friday 26 April, 10am - 12pm

Turn up jeans, replace zips, or re-purpose and customise your clothes. Learn new alteration skills and help save the planet one thread at a time. To book email muriel@small-steps.org or telephone 028 9029 7191.

Small Steps with Duncairn Ulster Scots Society
170 Alexandra Park Avenue

Monday 22 and Wednesday 24 April, 11am - 1pm, Scottish Country Dancing

Tuesday 23 and Thursday 25 April, 11am - 1pm, Line Dancing

To book email Jennifer.crockard@yahoo.com or telephone 07579016936

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Re-art Exhibition with L'arche
54 Knockbreda Road

Thursday 25 and Friday 26 April, 10am - 4pm

Drop-in to this thought-provoking exhibition sharing important messages about the climate emergency.

Exercise Taster Sessions with Better Gyms
Various locations and dates

From Group Cycle to Circuits and Chair-based Aerobics to Strength, get active in exercise classes across Belfast. Visit the website to find out more.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Introduce children 4 years and under to the wonder of rhymes, songs and stories in the library with these free sessions. To book telephone a library.

Ballyhackamore Library

1-3 Eastleigh Drive
Friday 26 April,
11.30am - 12pm
028 9050 9204

Belfast Central Library

Royal Avenue
Wednesday 24 April,
11am - 11.30am
and 2.30pm-3pm
Friday 26 April,
11am - 11.30am
028 9050 9150

Chichester Library

109 Salisbury Avenue
Tuesday 23 April,
10am - 10.30am
and 11 - 11.30am
028 9050 9210

Cregagh Library

409-413 Cregagh Road
Friday 26 April,
10.30am - 11am
028 9040 1365

Colin Glen Library

Unit 17 The Dairy Farm Centre,
Stewartstown Road
Friday 26 April,
12pm - 12.30pm
028 9043 1266

Falls Road Library

49 Falls Road
Monday 22 April,
10.30am - 11am and
11.15am - 11.45am
028 9050 9212

Finaghy Library

38B Finaghy Road South
Monday 22 April,
2.30pm - 3pm
Tuesday 23 April,
11am - 11.30am
028 9050 9214

Grove Library

Grove Wellbeing Centre
120 York Road
Friday 26 April,
10.30am - 11am
and 11.30am - 12pm
028 9050 9244

Hollywood Arches Library

4 - 12 Hollywood Road
Monday 22 April,
10.30am - 11am
Friday 26 April,
10.30am - 11.00am
028 9050 9216

Lisburn Road Library

440 Lisburn Road
Tuesday 23 April,
9.45am - 10.15am and
10.45am - 11.15am
028 9050 9223

Ormeau Road Library

247 Ormeau Road
Wednesday 24 April,
11am - 11.30am
Friday 26 April,
11am - 11.30am
028 9050 9228

Shankill Road Library

298-300 Shankill Road
Monday 22 April,
10.45am - 11.45am. Friday
26 April, 10.45am - 11.45am
028 9050 9232

Suffolk Library

Stewartstown Road
Tuesday 23 April,
10.30am - 11am
028 9050 9235

Tullycarnett Library

Kinross Avenue, Kings Road
Monday 22 April,
11am - 11.30am
028 9048 5079

Whiterock Library

Whiterock Road
Wednesday 24 April,
9.30am - 10am. Friday 26
April, 9.30am - 10am
028 9050 9236

Woodstock Library

358 Woodstock Road
Wednesday 24 April,
10am - 10.30am
028 9050 9239

Get involved together

Activities for community groups and organisations

Adult Beginner Cycle Training with Sustrans

C.S. Lewis Square, Newtownards Road

Friday 26 April, 10am - 4pm

Sunday 28 April, 1pm - 4.30pm

Get into gear with a one-to-one beginner cycling lesson. Employees of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast City Council, Department for Infrastructure, Business Service Organisation and Public Health Agency are eligible to take part. Book online.

Free School or Group Visit with W5

Odyssey, 2 Queens Quay

Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 April, 10am - 3pm

Firing the spirit of discovery with limitless fun for everyone. Learn, play and discover at W5, an interactive exhibition centre that explores science, technology, nature and more. Schools and community groups can book for free during festival week. To book email EducationQueries@w5online.co.uk

Fight Climate Change from Your Kitchen with Belfast City Council

Monday 22 to Friday 26 April, 10am - 3pm

Community groups in Belfast can book this 45 minute session in an outreach centre. Learn how to shop smarter, save money and recycle food you can't eat. To book email environmentaloutreach@belfastcity.gov.uk

How to book and find out more

Open the camera on a smart phone and hold it steadily over this square on the right (QR Code) for 2-3 seconds. Whenever scanning is enabled, this will direct to the website for more information.

Alternatively visit www.belfastcity.gov.uk/BelfastLearningFestival



Monday 22 April

Belfast Learning Festival Launch
with Belfast Learning City
2 Royal Avenue, 10.45am - 1pm
Start festival week with this interactive workshop and discover what makes Belfast a UNESCO Learning City. Be moved by powerful learner stories, hear from experts who are tackling the city's climate

issues and and help be part of a greener Belfast by making a pledge to reduce your carbon footprint. Book online.

Cookery Class
with Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Healthy Living Centre,
30 Colin Glen Road, 10am - 2pm
Ages 50+. Learn about nutrition and how to cook healthy meals on a budget. To book email

matthew@newcolin.com or
telephone 028 9062 3813

Bring On Biodiversity
Belfast Central Library, 1pm - 3pm
Learn about urban gardening. Discover how to attract pollinators to your garden or window box. Take part in a plant or seed swap. To book email belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk or telephone 028 9050 9150.

Age Friendly Tea Dance
2 Royal Avenue, 2pm - 4pm.
Ages 50+.
Waltz towards a toe-tapping time with an afternoon of dancing. Learn new steps with friends old and new.

Big Spring Clean
with Live Here Love Here
Belfast City Centre, 5pm - 7pm
Give back to your community in Northern Ireland's largest volunteer

clean-up campaign.
Meet at Belfast City Hall.
Book online.

Public Speaking for our Planet
with Belfast Speakers' Circle
Grand Central Hotel, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Take a tutorial on public speaking on titles around climate change. To book email william.magee@ntlworld.com

Tuesday 23 April

Crafting a business
with Innovation Factory
385 Springfield Road, 9.30am - 1pm
Join this masterclass on the business opportunities for small to medium enterprises within the environmental sector. Book online.

North Belfast Men's Shed Open Day
239-241 Alexandra Park Avenue,
10.30am - 1pm
Be part of a community where men can create, converse and connect.

Growing Project with De La Salle
College and Foodstock

36 Edenmore Drive, 9.30am - 11am
Access fresh, seasonal and local food by growing seeds in the School Greenhouse. To book email paul.doherty@FoodstockCharity.com

Wreath Making with Reachout NI
Duncairn Community Centre,
11am - 1pm
Take some time out with others this spring and learn how to make your own wreath. To book email claire@reachoutni.org

Chess Meet-up with Roaming Knights
Belfast Central Library, 11am - 1pm
Meet other local chess players to talk strategy and play games.

Interview Skills Session with ARUP
Bedford House, 2pm - 5pm
Learn how to prepare and practise for different types of interviews. Book online.

Climate Literacy Taster
with NI Environment Link
NI Environment Link, 1.30pm - 4pm
What do terms like 'carbon footprint' and 'net zero' mean? Learn the language of climate change and help play your part. Book online.

Tree Nursery Open Morning
with Belfast Hills Partnership
Social Economy Village,
Hannahstown Hill,
11am - 12.30pm
See around the Tree Nursery where

local seeds are planted to grow native trees. #OneMillionTrees

Cookery Class with Colin
Neighbourhood Partnership
Healthy Living Centre, 30 Colin Glen Road, 10am - 2pm. Families.
Learn about nutrition and how to cook healthy meals on a budget. To book email matthew@newcolin.com or telephone 028 9062 3813

Digital Art Workshop with Belfast
Electronic Arts & Music Academy 31 Henry Place, 1pm - 3pm
Learn how to create animation videos on an environment theme. Ages 18-30 with additional needs
Book online.

Full of Wonder, Full of Plastic
with Queens University Belfast
Naughton Gallery, Lanyon Building,
7pm - 8.30pm
US-based designer, writer and illustrator, Ingrid Hess explores how art, as much as science, can help fight the environmental crisis. Book online.

Book Club with Pangur Ban
Market Street Community Centre, 6pm - 8pm
Discuss the Ragged Trousered Philanthropist, a classic piece of literature. To book telephone 07934726239.

Set Dancing Class
with 174 Trust Set Dancers
The Duncairn Centre, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Wednesday 24 April

Lifelong Learning
with Forum for Adult Learning NI
NICVA, 10am - 1pm
Interested in learning more about adult and community education? Meet others from the sector and discover the impacts and benefits of lifelong learning. Book online.

Chess Meet-up
with Roaming Knights
Duncairn Arts Centre, 2pm - 4pm
Meet other local chess players to talk strategy and play games.

To book email
roamingknightsni@gmail.com

The Guild of Library Writers
with Libraries NI
Belfast Central Library, 2pm - 3pm
Are you a budding writer or poet? Be inspired as you meet like-minded people and share ideas.

Creative Writing Group
with Libraries NI
Whiterock Library, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Ages 8-13. Young minds can unleash their imagination as they discover the joy of writing. To book telephone 028 9050 9236

Writing Group
with Belfast Writers Group
2 Royal Avenue, 4.30pm - 6pm
Unleash your creative flair as you set aside time to discover the joy of writing. To book email writersgroupbelfast@gmail.com

Fun Day with Forthspring
Inter-Community Group
373-375 Springfield Road,
3pm - 5.30pm.
To book email mumo@forthspring.com

Elevate Taster with Oh Yeah Belfast
Oh Yeah Music Centre, 5pm - 7pm

Ages 14+. Join this weekly songwriting and guitar programme, designed to help young musicians pursue their passion for music. To book email caoimhe@ohyeahbelfast.com

Climate Fresk with Decarbonate
Online, 6pm - 9.15pm
This fun workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Book online.

Solo Irish Traditional Dance Step
with Step with Annette
Maddens Bar, 74 Berry Street,
7pm - 8.30pm. Ages 18+.

To book email
stepwithannette@yahoo.com or
telephone 07788730429

Music Journalism with Oh Yeah
Belfast
Oh Yeah Music Centre,
6pm - 9pm Ages 14+.
Learn what it takes to become a music journalist in Belfast. To book email caoimhe@ohyeahbelfast.com

Thursday 25 April

Leaning and Skills Showcase
with Gems NI
2 Royal Avenue, 9.30am - 12pm
Find out about the current skill building opportunities that are available across the city.

Start a Pollinator Garden with
The Conservation Volunteers
Grey to Green, Kent Street,
10am - 3pm
Learn some top tips to attract bees

and butterflies to your garden. To book email sian.doherty@tcv.org.uk

Healthy Places, Healthy Children
with Belfast Healthy Cities
Clifton House, 2 Clifton Street,
3.30pm - 4.30pm
Are you a Key Stage 2 teacher or a World Around Us Co-ordinator? Find out more about this teaching resource which introduces children to the links between the built environment and health and well-being. To book email maeve@belfasthealthycities.com

Celebration of Learning with
Footprints Women Centre
84a Colindale, Poleglass, 11am - 1pm
To book email charlene@footprintswomenscentre.com or telephone 028 9092 3444

Take 5 Take Care with Aganza Project
Chinese Welfare Association,
1pm - 2pm
To book email Khanyisamafumo@gmail.com

Disabled People – Speak Out
with Action Ability
2 Royal Avenue, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Be inspired at this peer learning event to explore capacity and consent. To book telephone 028 9023 6677 (option 8).

Eco Engineers with Belfast South
Community Resources
127 Creative Space, 127-145 Sandy Row, 3.30pm. Ages 9-12
Learn about looking after the environment and how to make a difference locally. Book online.

Warmer Homes
with Belfast City Council
St Comgall's Community Hub,

6pm - 8pm
Learn how to make your home more energy efficient and how to budget. Book online.

Music Photography
with Oh Yeah Belfast
Oh Yeah Music Centre, 6pm - 9pm
Ages 14+
Learn from photographer Carrie Davenport who regularly captures photography at live events for Belsonic. To book email caoimhe@ohyeahbelfast.com

Friday 26 April

Greening your Garden
with Groundwork NI
Connswater Meanwhile Garden,
10am - 12pm and 1pm - 3pm
From choosing native plants to attracting pollinators, discover ways to work with nature in your garden. Book online.

Library Tour with Libraries NI
Belfast Central Library, 10.30am

Learn about Friar's Bush Graveyard Tour with History Hub Ulster
Friar's Bush Graveyard,
11am, 1pm and 3pm.
Watch actors share the story of this historic graveyard. Book online.

Cregagh Glen Guided Walk
with National Trust
Cregagh Glen, Time 11am - 1pm
Wander alongside the waterfall in this wooded glen with the team who help care for this special place. To book email craig.somerville@nationaltrust.org.uk

Job and Training Opportunities Meet-up with GLL Better Gyms
Templemore Baths, 10am - 12pm

Every Little Thing
with Spectrum Centre Trust
Spectrum Centre, 11am - 1pm.
Ages 18+. Make fun and funky pieces of art with items that might otherwise be thrown in the bin. To book email sally.young@spectrumcentre.com

Shared Reading Group
with Libraries NI
Belfast Central Library,
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Discover the joy of reading in a group setting.

Climate Change Event with Market
Development Association
Market Community Centre,
6pm - 8pm
Learn how climate change will impact Belfast City Centre, your community and your family. To book telephone 07934726239

Saturday 27 April

DNA in a Day with W5
Odyssey, 2 Queens Quay,
10am - 4pm. Ages 18+.
Whether you're a science enthusiast or curious about the life, join us to delve into Genes and DNA. To book email educationqueries@w5online.co.uk

Let's get growing
with Belfast City Council
Lower Botanic Gardens, 10am - 2pm

Roll up your sleeves in Good to Grow Week and get involved with a new eco-community garden.

Waste Wins Wars with NI War Memorial
21 Talbot Street, 12pm - 4pm
Visit the museum to learn about rationing and recycling during the Second World War.

Digital Animation Workshop
with Belfast Electronic Arts & Music Academy
Girdwood Community Hub, 12pm - 2pm
Ages 7-12. Book online.

Tour of the Night Sky with W5
Odyssey, 2 Queens Quay, 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm
Step into a 6-metre inflatable planetarium and explore the mysteries of constellations and asterisms. To book email educationqueries@w5online.co.uk

Alley Safari with 9ft in Common
and Wild Belfast
Ormeau Park, 11am - 12.30pm
A walking tour of spaces behind our backgates. Learn what we can do to encourage more biodiversity.

Meet at Front Gate off Ormeau Road.

Make Some Noise with Rich Music NI
Fitzroy Presbyterian Church Hall
10.30am - 11.15am and
11.45am - 12.30pm
Interactive music workshop for people with additional needs. To book email bethany@richmusicni.co.uk

Sir Samuel Kelly Lifeboat and The Stormy Sea
with Donaghadee Heritage
St. Joseph's Church, 9 Princes Dock,
2pm - 4pm

Learn about the lifeboat crew who saved 33 people from the wreck of the Princess Victoria car ferry. To book email liz@deeheritage.co.uk

SpringFest
with Belfast City Council
Malone House, Barnett Demesne
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April,
1.30pm - 5.30pm
Stroll through hundreds of blooms for a weekend of family fun. With flower displays, craft activities and live music, soak up the sights of spring in this great green space.