EARLY DANCE CIRCLE
Registered Charity no. 1097746

THE 43rd ANNUAL EDC EARLY DANCE FESTIVAL

30 October – 1 November 2026
St Peter's School, Clifton, York YO30 6AB

THE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY	18:00 - 18:45	Welcome Reception opens for drinks & a light supper
	19:00 – 21:00	Tim Bayley will provide a portrait of 400 years of the City's official musicians, The York Waits. Tim has been a member since the group's revival in 1977, giving regular concerts, workshops and devising programmes for historical celebrations and recordings.
SATURDAY	9:00	Festival Reception opens for rehearsals. From 10:30 -12 lunch and snacks are available to purchase from the school canteen.
	13:00 – 17:00	Festival Performances
	17:45 – 19:15	Dinner
	19:30 – 22:00	Dancing with Rhodri Davies and band Albireo
SUNDAY	11:00 – 12:30	A guided tour of The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate, York YO1 9XD

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Our Festival has never been held in York before, so this is our inaugural visit to this grand cathedral city. Founded by the ancient Romans, York hardly needs an introduction. Its many churches offer fascinating medieval stained glass and carvings in stone and wood. Its walls provide a walkway on the river with fine views and it boasts an exhibition tracing the life of 15th-century Plantagenet King Richard III. Not to mention the Vikings! For those able to stay longer or relax on Saturday morning, more information about York will appear in the May Circular.

FRIDAY NIGHT: Tim Bayley teaches at St Peter's School and is a regular at the Chalemie Summer School. A member/arranger of *The York Waits*, Tim plays shawm, curtal, flute, recorder, crumhorn, rackett, bagpipes, trumpet, hurdy-gurdy and more. His talk will reveal how York started to employ professional bands from the early 15th century, like many towns and cities across Europe, to add pomp and colour to the activities of Mayors and aldermen, as well as to provide entertainment "for the delyte of the citizens". The city council day books give us insights into the duties, and the antics, of the musicians, from greeting royal visitors, providing early morning wake up calls, playing for processions and dances, to sackings for drunk and disorderly behaviour, or even not being able to "play upon his instrument as cunningly as he ought". This illustrated talk reveals an important institution that, after its demise and abolition in 1836, faded into a distant memory of Christmas carolling. But not forever!

Photo by Will Dyson for BBC 3

SATURDAY: The morning is busy with private rehearsals for performing groups. Water is freely on hand; tea, coffee and soft drinks will be on sale throughout the Festival. Lunch & snacks can be pre-ordered from the school, details to follow. Participants may also bring a packed lunch.

THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES will run from 13.00 – 17:00, with two sessions of dancing for all, plus a short interval. We hope to see plenty of groups sharing dances they have enjoyed.

THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT starts with a two-course dinner at 17:45. A pay bar will offer wine and soft drinks; bringing in our own drinks is not allowed. For the evening's dancing, we look forward to traditional dances with expert caller Rhodri Davies and the band Albireo. Tea, coffee to purchase and free water will be available all evening in the canteen. Saturday 31 October is Halloween, so expect the odd ghost, ghoulie or things that go bump in the night. However, no costume is required - just your glad rags to celebrate being together.

By Kaly99

SUNDAY: The Merchant Adventurers' Hall is a medieval guildhall, built in 1357 by a religious fraternity, chartered by Henry VI as The Mistry of Mercers in 1430 and granted status as the Company of Merchant Adventurers by Elizabeth I in 1581. For centuries, it has been at the heart of York. It is the largest timber-framed building in the UK still in use. Our guide will explore its long history and provide opportunities to get close to some of the items in its collection.

SALES: A limited number of small tables for sales will be available. Please pay when booking, at £10 a table.

BOOKING FORM

- Please book for the Festival as early as possible. **Advance booking is required for both the Saturday lunch & snacks and the Saturday dinner.** Reservations must be received by **Monday 5 October 2026. Refunds cannot be given after that date.** St Peters is a nut-free school; **no nuts at all, even included in confectionary etc, are allowed on site.**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THE FESTIVAL, everyone attending and/or performing should send this form with payment, to: **Michele Odell.**

Tel. 07515 514 184 **Email:** bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk

A booking confirmation will be sent by email.
Make cheques payable to "The Early Dance Circle." To pay by BACS, email your Booking Form to bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk and instructions will be provided.
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE TEL.

EMAIL

GROUP BOOKINGS

Name of Group:

Please list individual names on a separate sheet, stating clearly whether they are members or non-members of EDC.

DO YOU / YOUR GROUP INTEND TO PERFORM? YES / NO

If YES, you will be sent a Registration Form. Please return your completed form as early as you can. We want to welcome as many groups as possible.

Personal Data: The Early Dance Circle (EDC) will not share your data and will use it only to communicate with you about our activities and events in the early dance world.
Filming and Photography: Please be aware that there will be filming and photography at this event. By attending, you accept that photographs and recordings taken by the EDC and its agents may be used in EDC publications, publicity, the EDC website and on line.

HEARING AIDS: Would anyone needing hearing support, please notify Michele well in advance.

The EDC Early Dance Festival 30 October – 1 November 2026

Please tick boxes for each person. The Saturday supper must be ordered by Mon. 5/10/26: no refunds are possible after that date. Free water and tea and coffee for purchase will be available throughout the Festival. Special diets can be catered for by the school. Anyone with complex dietary needs should contact Michele Odell at bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk. St Peter's School is a nut -free zone. Please remember NO NUTS on site.

MEMBERS & DANCE MUSICIANS Mark yes below		£13.00	£14.00	To preorder. Details tba. Indicate your interest below.	£29.00	£12.00	£10.00	£8.50	DIETARY NEEDS: Insert below V for veg. VE for vegan. D for Dairy-free GF for gluten free. Please note any allergies.	Cost Per Person
NON- MEMBERS Mark No below		£15.00	£18:00 Students £8		£29.00	£16.00	£10.00	£8.50		
NAME	Y / N	Drinks, light meal & Lecture	The Festival	Saturday Snacks & Lunch onsite	Saturday Supper	Saturday Dance	Sales Table	Tour - The Merchant Adventurers'		
TOTAL COST										