

Freedom Festival Arts Trust thanks all our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their generous and ongoing support.

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# **MEDIA PARTNERS**

















# **WELCOME**

# TO FREEDOM FESTIVAL 2025

It's my absolute pleasure to welcome you to Freedom Festival 2025 - a celebration of creativity, community, and the power of free expression. right here in the beating heart of Hull. After spending many years visiting the festival as an audience member, I'm delighted to work alongside the Freedom Festival Arts Trust team to curate the 2025 programme.

Each year. Freedom Festival transforms the city into a stage for bold ideas, moving stories, and unforgettable experiences. This year is no different, over the festival weekend, you'll encounter world-class street theatre, music, dance, circus, installations and moments of pure magic – all designed to provoke, inspire and connect.

This festival was born out of Hull's legacy of pioneer William Wilberforce and continues to celebrate that passion for freedom that exists across the City's heritage including icons such as Amy Johnson, Mary Murdoch and the Head Scarf revolutionaries to bring to the streets of Hull a spirit of change and creativity.

In 2025, as the world continues to grapple with division, conflict, and rapid change, our shared spaces and stories matter more than ever. It's integral that public spaces continue to be safe for all, welcoming and most importantly reflective of the communities that make up our place.

During this festival, we hope that we can achieve and amplify that message, keeping the Freedom Festival characteristics of open, accessible and free whilst bringing to the table creativity that redefines spaces and brings a sense of unity, pride and joy to the City.

In this year's festival curation, we have listened to your feedback, and hopefully you will see first-hand the changes we have made to try to make your experience more enjoyable. Including introducing three distinct zones across the city to help you make the most of the festival. Zone 1 from Ferensway to Queen Vic Square, Zone 2, connecting Princes Dock Street right through to Hull Minster and zone 3 over the bridge from Humber Street to Stage@The Dock. Hopefully giving you the chance to experience as much as possible as easily as possible. Alongside this we have a few new creative elements for you to explore including freedom films and a music trail.

So whether this is your first Freedom Festival or you've been with us from the start, thank you for being part of it. Wander with curiosity. Celebrate with joy. And above all - stay open to the freedom that comes from truly connecting with one another.

Thank you for the privilege of being the custodian of this incredible festival. I hope you have a great time!

Phil Hargreaves Festival Director





# CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Map	3
Access	4
Ticketed Events	6
Event Listings	9
Celebrate Hull	20
Schedule at a Glance	21
Freedom on Tour	29

# **LOVE OUR CITY!**

festival



We're proud to host Freedom Festival in Hull. A vibrant, exciting hub of art and creativity. During the festival, help us to take care of Hull's environment. Where possible, use public transport, walk or cycle to your next festival destination. Use the city's many waste bins and recycling points to dispose of any rubbish.

Thank you, The Freedom Festival Team



# ACCESS MANTE DANS











# AT FREEDOM FESTIVAL 2025

At Freedom Festival Arts Trust, we care passionately about providing enjoyable experiences that are accessible to all. Our friendly team of staff and volunteers will be on hand to offer any assistance.

# **ACCESS SUPPORT**

Nice Twice Club and Gig Buddies are back on Princes Dock St again this year and we will have Elephant in the Room Inclusion Services offering roaming support across the site with our access volunteers.





# **GETTING HERE:**

There are designated onstreet parking spaces for Blue Badge holders located within approximately 200-300m walking distance of Queen Victoria Square (the centre of the festival):

Alfred Gelder Street Savile Street Paragon Street **Quay Street** Silver Street

Blue Badge Parking – spaces are available in the following car parks:

Lowgate (Short Stay) – 500m Osborne Street - 500m Myton Street – 500m Albion Street - 320m Princes Quay Multi-storey (charges apply) - 200m Francis Street – 650m



# **ACCESS AT THE SHOWS**

Our programme includes 'What to Expect' icons, providing info on access, content, and potential triggers. Non-ticketed shows: you're free to leave and return as needed. You're welcome to arrive early to get comfortable in the space. Our trained staff and volunteers are here to support you.















Speech

Content

Audio Warning Described

**BSL** 

Join In/ Interactive

# NFFD A BRFAK?

You're welcome to come and go from Freedom Festival as needed. For a quieter space to take a break, we recommend: Hull Minster, Victoria Pier, Hull Waterside and Marina & Microworld at Ferens Art Gallery – for a sensory experience.

# **TOILETS**

Temporary toilets, including accessible toilets, will be available on site.

# Changing Places Toilets Available:

# St Stephen's Shopping Centre

Saturday: 9.00am - 6.00pm Sunday: 10.30am - 4.30pm

# **Trinity Market**

Saturday: 10am-8:30pm Sunday: 10am-4:30pm

# The Deep

10am-5:00pm

# **ACCESSIBILITY ON SITE**

All performance spaces across the festival are wheelchair accessible. Assistance dogs are welcome across the festival site.

# CONTACT

If you'd like to get in touch with our team:

access@freedomfestival.co.uk

# TICKETED EVENT LIMITED CAPACITY



# THE GENESIS

Copenhagen Collective

Experience the captivating journey of The Genesis, a one hour contemporary circus by the Copenhagen Collective that explores human connection, resilience and unity. Seventeen world-class artists craft vivid visual poetry through intricate group formations and feats that push the limits of movement and emotion. With powerful female bases and soaring male flyers, The Genesis celebrates diversity in physicality, heritage and artistic expression.

The atmosphere comes alive through lighting that captures the grandeur of a cathedral and the vibrant rhythm of nightlife, surrounding the performers in a rich, intimate glow. An original soundscape blends classical strings and piano with the raw emotion of acoustic sounds and voices. Witness a fusion of global artistry as seventeen acrobats from across nations and cultures redefine contemporary circus. Forged in distinct traditions and mastering a wide range of techniques, they combine styles from South America, Europe, Canada and Australia to deliver an unforgettable acrobatic experience.

Tickets from £21.50 (Concessions £16.50)

Features strobe lighting and haze.



# THE TORCH

**Kobby Taylor** 

The Torch is a 60-minute surge of gig-theatre in which Producer-Actor Kobby Taylor unpacks his relationship with his grandfather, Afrobeat legend Ebo Taylor.

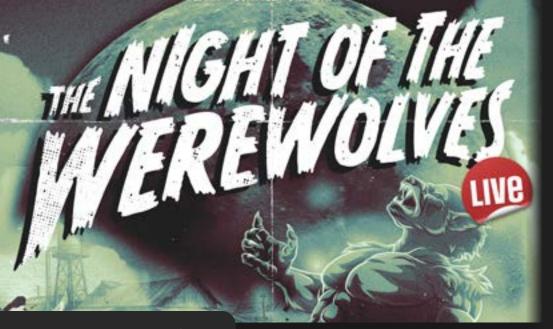
Kobby's verses weave through exclusive, remixes of Ebo classics, with live synths from Vivek Santosh—fresh from sharing stages with multi-Grammy-winning composer Michael League, the creative engine behind Snarky Puppy—while harpist Stephanie Halsy flips shimmering strings into modern afro beat sounds. Each scene is a track: dialogue slips into 16-bar couplets, harp harmonics collide with prophet and Moog synths.



Kobby proved the power of rapdrama fusion as co-composer and performer in the multiaward-winning The Canary and The Crow; here, teamed with Santosh's boundary-pushing sound design and Halsy's genredefying technique, he drives the form further by letting the music carry the narrative momentto-moment. The result is part mixtape, part confessional, all performed live with the spontaneity of an improvising band. The Torch was developed with funding from Hull Jazz Festival and premiered to a soldout house at Hull Truck Theatre. who partner with us on this vear's Freedom Festival.

Tickets from £13.50 (Concessions £11.50)





# **TICKETED EVENT** LIMITED CAPACITY





# **NIGHT OF THE WEREWOLVES**

# Silent Uproar

The Night of the Werewolves Live is an interactive comedy horror game show where audiences will have to work out, accuse, and "brutally murder" fellow audience members to determine who among them is a werewolf... hopefully.

Based on the cult-classic games Werewolves and the TV show The Traitors, this show is filled with all the classic elements of a great night out: betrayal, mob rule, and macabre murders.

How it works: All audience members will be given a role: villagers try to find and stop the werewolves; werewolves pretend to be innocent and then secretly devour the villagers at night.

18+ Shows are slightly naughtier and not suitable for those under 18. Family Friendly shows are appropriate for little monsters aged 10 and above. Adult ticket includes a vegan meal from our festival catering bring your own drinks.

Tickets 18+ £20 (inc.meal) Family show £10

# FREEDOM FILMS

# **Hull Independent Cinema**

**Curated by Mosa Mpetha** 



2025 marks the debut of Freedom Films, a brand-new addition to the festival featuring a curated series of screenings. These will be ticketed events, with some age restrictions.

Friday 29th 7.30pm The Annihilation of Fish Rating 15 Tickets from £5

Friday 29th 10pm Queens of the Revolution Rating 15 Tickets from £5

Saturday 30th 11am The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun Rating U Free

Saturday 30th 1.30pm Children of Heaven Rating PG Free

Saturday 30th 7pm Rose Rating 12A Tickets from £5

This project is supported by Film Hub North with National Lottery Funding on









# LINE TIME

# Arafa and the Dirars

Join Sudanese artists Arafa and the Dirars for a unique 'shift' exploring factory work through art and storytelling. Open to women with factory experience or family history. Create a communal overall at Hull's Makerspace. All skill levels welcome!

18+ age guidance.

Sat 11:00-15:00

**Central Library Makers Space** 

# **MICROWORLD**

# **Hull Museums and Gallery**

Microworld is a free, family-friendly exhibition of immersive digital art. Discover vibrant creatures that react to your movements, explore sensory play zones, and get creative with interactive projections. Inspired by nature and science, this unique experience is fun for all ages!



**Ferens** 









A moving procession celebrating the beauty, influence & solidarity of diverse individuals united by a choreographed march. Featuring a symbolic Giant Wheel powered by five dance artists and a community cast. Parade is punctuated by three static moments of togetherness. This moving performance is inspired by the beauty, power and impact of people from different walks of life coming together. Autin Dance Theatre uses its unique blend of contemporary storytelling, striking physicality and innovative large designs to transport audiences and community groups along a carefully choreographed procession.



**BUSK TRAIL** 

Wander the city and let your ears guide you. Freedom Festival's new Busking Trail transforms everyday spaces into stages, filling streets, arcades, shops, and hidden corners with surprise sounds.

This isn't traditional busking – it's a unique trail of sound in the most unexpected places. From intimate solo sets tucked into arcades to bold performances echoing through city.

Whether you stumble across a choir in the street, a band in the bus station or a DJ in a shop, the Busking Trail invites you to listen, and explore as you make your way through freedom festival 2025.

### Featured Artists:

Beats Bus Jayshu (Døte) Sulk Rooms (Døte) Lapsing (Døte) Amelia Quinn Freedom Chorus Simba Chaitwa - Yxngmind Vivek Santosh Henry Armstrona Graziana Presicce





# POSSÊ

ADII Q

# Sound de Secà

Possê is a vibrant street show reclaiming public space through percussion, dance, and voice. A burst of energy, unity, and hope, it invites connection and joy. Created by Sound de Secà, known for hybrid, socially-driven performances that fuse art, rhythm, and collective spirit. Posse involves percusssion and is a loud performance.

Sat 13:00 @ 8 4 17:00 Sun 11:00 **3** & 14:00

Cenotaph - Queen Vic Square Whitefriargate - Princes Dock Street

# TIME TO LOOP



Time to Loop is a story of movement, change, and love - where chaos meets harmony. (Literally) Through balance, support, and transformation, characters explore connection and the endless cycle of breaking and rebuilding to spark new beginnings. Limited seating available.

Sat 12:00 & 16:30 Sun 11:30 & 14:30

**Queen Vic Square** 



# TAROO & THE HUMAN FLAG (S)



# **Crying Out Loud**

Taroo is a Parkour and circus show that tells the everyday story of street life around the world. Blending acrobatics, Chinese pole, and urban movement, it surprises at every turn. Created and performed by Moroccan artist Said Mouhssine, it mixes comedy, circus, and powerful Parkour.

The Human Flag is a contemporary circus performance where every movement seeks balance between the weight of culture and the call of the void.



# MDME KAKAPO & SON



## **Amadan Ensemble**

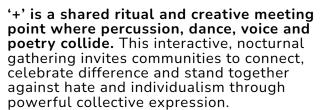
Brucie's a cheeky, smooth-talking roque with a knack for finding treasure (and trouble) in the oddest spots. You might see him hauling battered tea chests. offering a peek inside. Meet Mdme Kakapo, the "world's greatest" fortune teller—they may be conning you, but they'll steal your heart.

Sat 12:30 & 15:00 & 20:00 Sun 11:00 & 14:00

**Jameson Street** 



# Sound de Secà



'+' involves percussion and is a loud performance



**Queen Vic Square** 



# WOMEN ON THE LINE





Lee Karen Stow

You're invited to share family photos, stories and memories of women who worked on Hull's factory production lines. Join photographer Lee Karen Stow as she uncovers the untold stories of the city's remarkable female workforce—from the Canister Girls to the Imps, Fenners lasses and Sweetie Girls.



Sun 11:00-15:00



# INTO THE LIGHT: PIONEERS OF BLACK BRITISH BALLET

**Hull Libraries - Hull Cuture & Leisure** 

Hull Libraries celebrate Black British ballet dancers with workshops, storytimes and dance sessions mixing ballet, African and Caribbean styles. Kids can hear Onisere's story, try ballet, and all can visit the Into the Light exhibition at Central Library with refreshments available. Limited seating available.

Sun 10:00-16:00



# Sat 13:00 & 19:30 Sun 12:00 & 15:00

**BREATH** A PERSON;S

Experience Breath by A PERSON;S — a powerful aerial performance blending circus and theatre. A performer climbs a 30m rope suspended from a crane in a gripping journey of life and death. Bold, symbolic and unforgettable. From Seoul's A PERSON:S. touring globally since 2022.

**REFUSE** 

# **Company Chameleon**

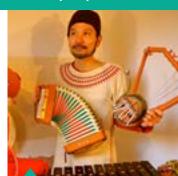
Refuse is a powerful dance performance following the perilous journey of six people seeking refuge. Drawing on the painting The Raft of the Medusa (1819), it highlights how those fleeing their homelands are often refused safety—and treated like refuse—in their search for a better life. Limited seating available



# **Trinity Square**

# ICHI

ICHI from Japan reinvents the one-man band with handmade instruments, toys. and everyday objects. His playful, rituallike shows blend steel drum, ping-pong balls, and percussion in a unique, danceable performance. A global festival favourite, ICHI brings joy and surprise to every stage. Limited seating available.



Sun 12:00 & 15:45

Queen Vic Square

Sat 12:30 & 18:00 Sun 12:30 & 15:15

**Trinity Market** 



# **PENTAGON**

Scott Walker



The Pentagon is a freestanding five-sided doodle art installation, uniquely designed by artist and cartoonist, Scott Walker, and handdrawn onto specialist fine primed canvas. Children and adults alike will be drawn to this eye-catching, colourful, collaborative artwork. bringing out the artist in everyone, as anyone can take part.



# PIRATE TAXI

Pirates of the Carabina

Hop in for PIRATE TAXI — a playful outdoor circus show from award-winning Pirates of the Carabina. Set around a real London cab, expect live music, humour, stunning aerials, and clever mechanics in a tale of journeys, friendship, and finding home. All aboard for adventure!



Sat 11:00-17:00 Sun 11:00-16:00

Sat 14:15 & 17:00 Sun 12:00 & 15:00



**FAMILY CAT WALK** 

**EXTRAVAGANZA** 

**Ghetto Fabulous** 

# **CASTAWAY**

**Highly Sprung** 





CastAway by Highly Sprung is a stunning aerial show tackling our throwaway culture. With an allfemale cast and a unique flying machine, performers soar 26ft above ground in an underwater world inspired by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Bold, moving, and unforgettable. For information on Audio Description for Castaway, please visit the Access page on our website freedomfestival.co.uk/festival-accessibility/

Sat 13:45 & 16:30 Sun 13:00 @ 6 & 15:45

**Zebedees Yard** 



# **ELECTRIC FEEL** Cia. Nom Provisional











Zebedees Yard

# **PLAY CHESS FESTIVAL**



Limited seating available



All living bodies have electricity. What happens if they connect with each other? They get

entangled in wires, climb up a pole and draw

will lead them to discover new worlds amidst

the melody that sounds when two persons are

connected. Electric feel is an adventure looking

for a new way to relate. A game of connections

between the artists, a machine and the audience.

circles on a bicycle. Their mutual understanding

**Princes Dock Street** 



Sun 13:00 **8** & 15:45

An opportunity for festival-goers of all ages to play street chess, on a giant chess set or on public tables - helped (if needed) by experienced chess players and on Saturday afternoon watch HERCA'S **GRANDMASTER SHOWDOWN as 30** local players simultaneously battle chess Grandmaster ELDAR GASANOV.

Play: Sat 11:00-18:00 Sun 11:00-16:00 Grandmaster Showdown: Sat 11:00-17:00



**Trinity Square Hull Minster** 

# Sat 12:30 & 15:45 Sun 11:00 & 14:00

style! Limited seating available

Bring your Glamour, Glitz and Grace for a

dazzling celebration of self-expression. Four

dancers face off in dance, fashion and lip sync,

cheers and applause. Dress your best, join the

fun, learn the moves, and take to the floor in

with the audience crowning the winner through

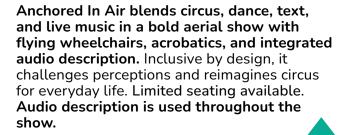
# **ANCHORED IN AIR**

**Head Over Wheels** 





**Princess Dock Street** 





# LEVEL UP WITH BEATS BUS





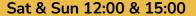
Beats Bus brings the energy of hip-hop to Freedom Festival with fun, empowering DJ and breakdance workshops. Young people can explore music, movement and self-expression in a supportive space, guided by expert mentors. Boost confidence, creativity and connection right at the heart of the festival!





Charles Brockbank

Grey Area is a special preview of a roaming street show blending juggling, parkour, and clowning to reimagine overlooked spaces. Through a neurodivergent lens, it transforms festival in-between spots into playful moments of movement, connection, and unexpected colour.

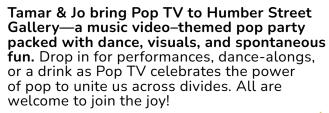




Marina - Humber Street

# **POP TV PARTY**

Tamar & Jo





**Humber Street** 



# **DEVOUR**

The Feminine Urge



All ages welcome with parental guidance. The exhibition handles themes around violence against women, trauma, death, race, gender, disability. There will be a sensory area to make the exhibition accessible for all guests, including the option to sit down.

Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun All Day

THE STRANGE TRAVEL

# Pier St Gallery

# **TOMBS CREATIUS**

OF MR TONET

Step into Mr Tonet's world of sound, light and movement! Tombs Creatius presents nine interactive wooden games, each telling a vivid story through robotics, light and sound. Every box is a creature, every creature a tale. Play closely there's only one Mr Tonet!

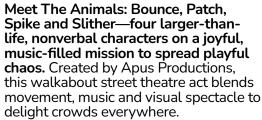




Sat & Sun 12:00-17:00

**Apus Productions** 

THE ANIMALS



Sat 11:00 & 13:30 & 18:00 Sun 11:00 & 14:00

**Throughout Zone 3** 

# SLIDING SLOPE

**Vloeistof** 

Inspired by the North Sea Flood of 1953, this powerful show connects past disaster with today's climate crisis. As sea levels rise, a gripping tale of survival unfolds—blending drama, dance and dark humour to reflect on denial, resilience and the ticking clock of global warming. Performed on the water, this is a spectacle not to be missed!

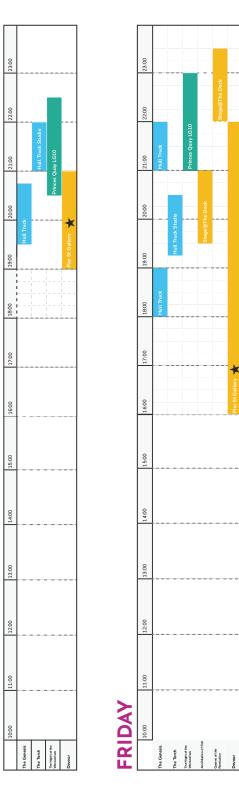


Marina

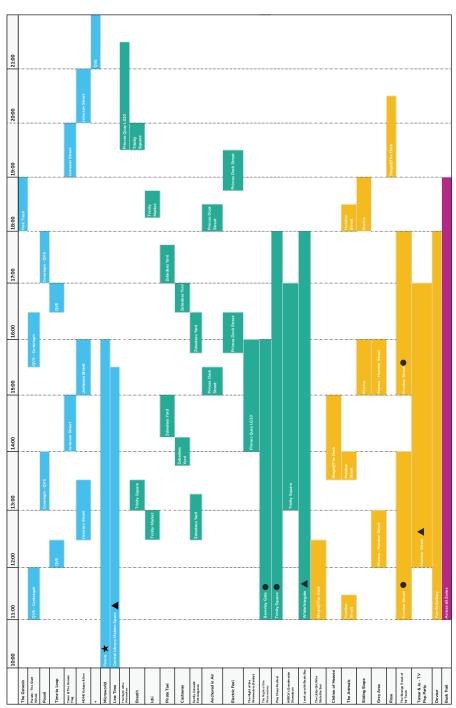




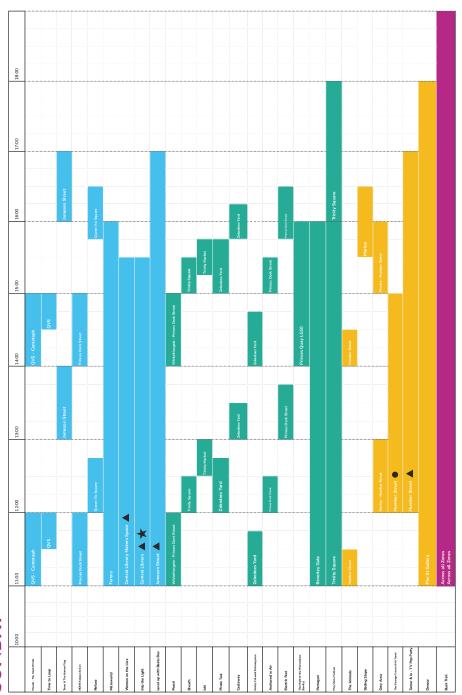




HURSDAY



SUNDAY



## **TALKING LIBERTIES**

Rooted, St Peter Street HU9 1AA Saturday 30 August 2pm - 7pm

An intermingling of fresh, freedom-based ideas drawn from lived experience. Stories of overcoming addiction, confronting systemic oppression, and imagining solutions for the future.

This isn't just about freedom from — it's about freedom to.

To dream. To resist. To reimagine. Join us in Hull for a day of voices, visions, and radical hope.



## SAVOUR THIS MOMENT

Isobel Hill exhibiting at 87 Gallery (Artlink Hull), 87 Princes Avenue, Hull HU5 3QP

Isobel Hill applies her distinctive, illustrative style to drawing, painting, ceramics and animation in this exhibition Savour This Moment, which embraces living in the moment, and celebrating the everyday wonder and absurdity of mundane experiences.

# THE THINGS WE LEAVE BEHIND

The Broken Orchestra
29th-31st August - Princes Quay

An immensely personal and private audio/visual experience. With an original sound score by The Broken Orchestra, spoken word by Rick Ingham and film by Chris Fenton, you're invited to answer one simple question, what will you leave behind? www.thebrokenorchestra.com

# **Electric Gallery Presents**

# **WALK THE PLANK!**

Aug 29th-31st Maister House HU1 1NQ

An exhibition based on Hull's Maritime History featuring current and new works by local artists ranging from illustration to ceramics, print work, textiles and projections.

Free entry to brose with selected works for sale.

Featured artists: Claire West, Joseph Cox, Rachel Anderson, Layla Jabbari, Zivarna Murphy, John Dearing Curator/Artist: Rebecca Dennison Producer: Daniel Thompson

## **SANCTUARY**

Humber Street Gallery and Lens Lab Project Aug 19th-31st Upper Foyer, Hull Truck Theatre

Sanctuary documents activities centred around Welcome House, including Acorn FC, and Photoclub; two organisations providing support and friendship for those seeking refuge here in the UK, whilst navigating the complexities of the refugee and asylum process. The work also features a number of portraits of asylum seekers and refugees, alongside their personal stories.

# OTHER THINGS GOING ON IN HULL THIS WEEKEND

# RSPCA HULL & EAST RIDING ANIMAL MEMORIAL & CELEBRATION SERVICE

Hull Minster - 2pm Sunday 31st August

Hull & East riding are joining forces with Hull Minster to say thank you & remember the wonderful animals in our personal lives & those that support within numerous service providers. @ 2pm there is a chance to be part of that blessing & memorial within the Minster. Other animal rescue & support services will be there too between 1-5pm to share what they do, how they can support.

The event is **free**; all people & animals are welcome.







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The illustrated map in this brochure was designed and illustrated by local artist Hannah Penrose.

To see more of Hannah's work and order prints, visit www.hannahpenrose.co.uk

# SUPPORT FREEDOM FESTIVAL KEEP ART FREE FOR ALL

Freedom Festival is Hull's premier arts event and the largest outdoor arts festival in the region. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of funders, sponsors, and individuals like you to deliver a world-class programme that is predominantly free to access.

Donate today and help us keep Freedom Festival free, vibrant, and open to all.



Scan to donate



As part of our commitment to accessible arts in the region, we are taking Freedom festival on the road again with Freedom on Tour!

GOOLE
TUESDAY 26TH AUGUST

CLEETHORPES WEDNESDAY 27TH AUGUST

BRIDLINGTON
THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST

TADCASTER
FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST

See the full schedule of acts and workshops at www.freedomfestival.co.uk































