



# Summer entertainers are wanted to wow the crowds in city centre

**Sam Russell**

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City centre bosses are on the lookout for talented performers to wow the crowds this summer.

The Head Out, Not Home programme of free early evening entertainment – including Covent Garden performers – is put together by Norwich Business Improvement District (BID).

And bosses are on the lookout for acts to add to the line-up, be they singers, dancers, people performing tricks or comedians.

Stefan Gurney, executive director of Norwich BID, said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for all talented people to show Norwich what you’ve got.

“We are really keen to get the local community and families involved to

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■ Evening street entertainment for visitors to Norwich city centre last year.

make Thursday evenings in Norwich the place to be.

“Norwich is well known for its creative spirit, so it will be great to see what talent is out there, we may just find the next big thing.”

Last year, Thursday evenings in Norwich saw local homegrown talent such as Meg Bays, Global Harmony Choir, Anam Cara Dancers, Himazas and many others take to the streets of Norwich.

The Head Out, Not Home campaign is run in partnership with Norwich and Norfolk Community Arts (NORCA) and aims to encourage people to stay in Norwich, and to enjoy late night shopping and the vast array of bars and restaurants on offer. NORCA is a local community

arts charity committed to supporting the development of the performing arts in Norfolk.

Its two specialist areas are music and carnival.

Norwich BID was established in 2012 and is run for local businesses by local businesses, aiming to enhance and promote the local environment for businesses, employees and customers. The deadline for performers to apply, detailing the nature of their act, is Tuesday, March 31.

Write to Cathie Davies, NORCA, Martineau Memorial Hall, 21 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BN, or email [cathie@norcaarts.co.uk](mailto:cathie@norcaarts.co.uk)

If you want to discuss details of

your applications, call NORCA on 01603 760529 (option 1).

Selected performers will be offered a slot during this summer’s Head Out, Not Home schedule, which runs on Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7.30pm, from June 27 to August 27.

Those interested should remember that performances need to be suitable for presenting outdoors and for a family audience.

→ See [www.norwichbid.co.uk](http://www.norwichbid.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/norwichevenings](https://www.facebook.com/norwichevenings)

→ Do you have an arts story? Email [emma.knights@archant.co.uk](mailto:emma.knights@archant.co.uk)

## Last chance to register for fright night

People are being reminded that it is the last chance to register for a ‘fright night’ which will raise funds for injured fire service staff.

The paranormal investigation, organised by the Fire Fighters Charity, S.P.I.R.I.T. Norwich Paranormal Investigators and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, will be held at Strangers’ Hall, on March 20.

The medieval townhouse, which was home to merchants and mayors of Norwich, has never previously been investigated.

The night-time vigil will be held from 7.30pm to 11pm and the registration fee is £10, with a minimum sponsorship amount of £50.

A VIP fire station tour for up to four people will be given to the person who raises the most money.

There will also be a raffle on the night, with prizes such as a microwave and a hamper of goodies donated by companies such as Tesco, Morrisons and Asda.

The event is for those aged over 18.

→ Registration is open until Thursday. Visit [www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/frightnightnorfolk](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/frightnightnorfolk)



Photos: STEVE ADAMS

## Mini railway opening dates announced

Eaton Park Miniature Railway, (pictured), has announced its summer opening times.

It will reopen to the public on Easter Sunday, April 5, and will continue to operate on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until September 27. Members of the public can enjoy it between 1pm and 5pm, weather permitting.

It is operated by the Norwich & District Society of Model Engineers, and from its opening in May 1960 it has carried tens of thousands of travellers around its tracks, powered by hand-built steam, battery, petrol electric and petrol hydraulic locomotives.

Organisers said that, last year, more than 14,000 park visitors

enjoyed a ride on the trains. The track – now more than 1km long, station, engine shed and tunnel have all been built by volunteers and paid for by the society, with some help from lottery funding.



The society said this year has seen extensive works at Parkside station, with an improved track layout and greater platform capacity.

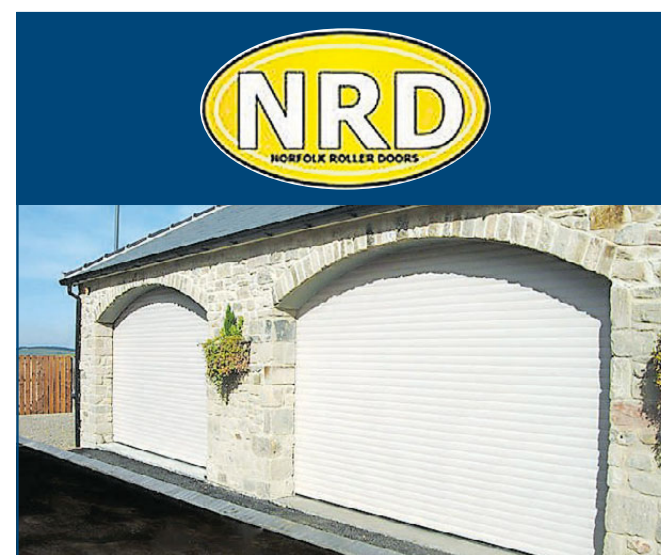
Paul Reed, acting chairman said:

“We always look forward to Easter and the better weather when we carry the public again. Park visitors have been asking for weeks now when we reopen.”

All proceeds go towards maintaining and improving the railway, or are donated to local charities and good causes, and there are no paid staff at the railway.

This year, for the first time, the railway will be operating on all Bank Holiday Mondays, including a special fundraising day on Whit Monday, May 25, for the Each nook appeal.

■ The society promotes model engineering in all forms, including road and stationary engines. See [www.ndsme.co.uk](http://www.ndsme.co.uk)



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