

This is a celebration of international and local artists, the beloved High Street and green spaces. Art of Protest has curated an incredible set of art and activities over the weekend.

can be re-grounded by a returning spring, the simple buzz of a bee and the sound of a tweeting bird.

Art of Protest have curated the artist briefs each themed on how nature interacts with us on a day to day basis. We thank everyone for creating and supporting this important festival. Please explore the incredible art, venues and green spaces!

— Jeff Clark, AOP Curator  
artofprotest.co.uk

## Art of Protest Curator Intro

At the heart of Art of Protest is placemaking. Acomb Fest has a theme of 'Returning to Nature' to bring together, art, nature and communities. Having spoken to over 1100+ residents, 9 local schools to understand Acomb's rich tapestry of history, flora and wildlife.

## SMUG

Internationally-renowned artist Smug is known for realistic, large-scale mural installations. He takes inspiration from people and nature, employing a trademark understanding of light and shadow - which he thinks of as 'stylised realism' - to explore both the harmonies and juxtapositions, whether inherent or subtle. @smugone



Bristol based, but York local, SledOne focusing on surreal characters, or vibrant murals married with realistic elements. He often draws from his surroundings and nature and uses animals as a vehicle. Whilst some elements of his work may be humorous, other elements are created for the sheer joy of his craft. sledone.org

## SL&DONE



Peachzz, is an acclaimed Sheffield-based street artist and muralist recognised for her large-scale, vibrant, nature-inspired murals featuring hints of realism. She has painted globally across Europe, the USA, Colombia, Mexico, and the Middle East, winning accolades including Street Art Cities "Best Street Art" in June 2024. peachzz.co.uk

## PEACHZZ

Curtis is a muralist based in the UK, skilled in the art of creating large scale murals using spray paint. His trademark work incorporates a fusion of nature with bird life, and can be seen across the UK, Europe and beyond. curtis-hylton.com

## CURTIS HYLTON



RARE Collective, founded by artist spAm (Sharon McDonagh) and Sola (Artist and DJ), is a creative force based in York, UK - is a multidisciplinary collective that focuses on art as activism, transforming empty spaces into community cultural moments. rarecollective.co.uk

## RARE COLLECTIVE

## EVENTS

GET INVOLVED WITH IMMERSIVE ACTIVITIES...

### MOSAIC WORKSHOP

FRI: 9:30 - 12:00 · EXPLORE LIBRARY  
FREE BOOK NOW: [tinyurl.com/CivicTrust-Mosaic](https://tinyurl.com/CivicTrust-Mosaic)

### HIDDEN HISTORY: CIVIC TRUST

FRI: 10-12:00 / 13-15:00 · EXPLORE LIBRARY  
By York Hidden History. FREE but booking essential: - Acomb 'The Carr': [tinyurl.com/HiddenHistory-Carr](https://tinyurl.com/HiddenHistory-Carr) - Westfield & Chapelfields: [tinyurl.com/HiddenHistory-W](https://tinyurl.com/HiddenHistory-W)

### ACOMBFEST LAUNCH EVENT ART TALK & WHISKY TASTING

FRI: 18:00 - 20:30 · BLUEBIRD BAKERY  
Art Talk with Art of Protest Curator and the Festival's internationally renowned muralists discussing how art and nature collide and what influence they have on each other. Then Filey Bay Whisky tasting event with Tulum Spirit Collective. [spiritofyorkshire.com](https://spiritofyorkshire.com) [artofprotest.co.uk](https://artofprotest.co.uk) - Tulumspiritscollective.com  
BUY TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/AcombFestLaunch](https://tinyurl.com/AcombFestLaunch)

### AOP STREETART WORKSHOP

FRI: 15:00 - 16:00 · SAT/SUN: 11:00 - 15:00  
ACOMB FRONT ST (INTERVALS)  
Join Art of Protest for hands-on spray paint art workshops for all ages. FREE [artofprotest.co.uk](https://artofprotest.co.uk)

### OAK ROOM EXHIBITION & ART WORKSHOPS

FRI: 12:00 - 18:30 · SAT: 10:00 - 18:30  
THE GATEWAY CENTRE  
Exhibitions & workshop. That Acomb Art Thing

### WATER ART

FRI: 15:30 - 18:00 · THE FOX  
After school fun - free floor art event by the Fox team

### RARE COLLECTIVE PAINTJAM

SAT: 10:00 - 18:00  
CARLTON TAVERN  
Rare Collective bring a live Paint Jam to the Carlton Tavern, with 9 street artists creating artwork live over two days, supported by DJs, Audiovisual artists and streetfood. [rarecollective.co.uk](https://rarecollective.co.uk)

### WIND, SOIL, ROCK IMMERSIVE ART INSTALLATION

SAT: 10:00 - 15:30 · SUN: 10:00 - 16:00  
HOLGATE WINDMILL + JIM & BEN GRANT  
Artists transform a Windmill with video, sound and life-size puppets. Recordings from deep inside the earth, folk tunes and local church bells echo through the building, while grainy black-and-white films of rocks, soil, wind and rain create an immersive world for visitors to climb through

### KIDS' NATURE ACTIVITIES

SAT: 10:00 - 12:00 · LOWFIELD GREEN  
Child-friendly activities including: Nature Bingo, Nature-inspired Art, Nature Quiz Treasure Hunt  
Find us using what3words: [//music.silks.vital](https://www.what3words.com/#!/s/music.silks.vital)

### THE ART OF KOKEDAMA

SAT: 10:00 - 12:00 · THE CROOKED TAP  
Learn the Japanese method of creating moss covered plant planets with The Outside In  
BUY TICKETS: [buytickets.at/theoutsidein](https://buytickets.at/theoutsidein)

### LITTLE GREEN FINGERS

SAT: 10:00 - 12:00 / 14:00 - 16:00  
SUN: 14:00 - 16:00 · GATEWAY CHURCH  
Plant up your very own container pot and take it home with you. Look after it and watch it grow

### LEO MOREY ART CLASSES

SAT: 10:00 - 12:00 · THE PLACE  
Leo Morey is a Cuban-born painter whose work explores symbolism, hierarchy, and the timeless language of figurative painting [leonardomorey.com](https://leonardomorey.com)

### STORYTELLING LARA MCCLURE

SAT: 10:00 - 16:00 · BOOKS & BEVS  
From feudal Japan to Victorian gothic, twisting together humour & darkness to be found therein

### BLOOM BABY CLASSES

SAT: 10:30 - 14:00 · ACOMB METHODIST  
Baby sensory classes [bloombabyclasses.com/york](https://bloombabyclasses.com/york)

### MUSIC THERAPY SESSIONS

SAT: 11:00 - 14:00 · ACOMB METHODIST  
Tim Lowther - Music Therapy for Parkinsons, parents & Neurodiversity [yorkmusictherapy.co.uk](https://yorkmusictherapy.co.uk)

### WESTBANK PARK ACTIVITIES

SAT + SUN: 10:00 - 16:00 · WESTBANK PARK  
A host of fun outdoor activities for adults & kids. Including Eco Forest School & Trapeze artist



### STEPHEN HODGKINS ART CLASSES

SAT: 12:00 - 16:00 · THE PLACE  
Community artist and facilitator using doodles, storytelling, and printmaking - make a 'community artwork' to explore and express lived experience [stephenleehodgkins.net](https://stephenleehodgkins.net)

### ACOMB FLOWER GUILD

SAT: 13:30 - 16:30 · ACOMB METHODIST  
Acomb Flower Guild hosts creative flower workshops for adults and children alike [flowersnortheast.org/acomb-flower-guild](https://flowersnortheast.org/acomb-flower-guild)

### TULUM SPIRITS COLLECTIVE

SAT + SUN: 12:00 - 21:00 · CARLTON TAVERN  
Back from Tulum Mexico, mixologist Craig Feather brings Tulum Spirits Collective home - cocktails in partnership with Duet Faith, Brandy Heaven



Hill's Elijah Craig Rye Whisky, Ojo De Dios Mezcal, Filey Bay Whisky, Cazcabel Tequila & Double Dutch [tulumspiritscollective.com/events](https://tulumspiritscollective.com/events)

WED 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY: 19:00 - 20:30 · THE HAND  
Exclusive Tasting & Discovery session with Burnt Faith  
BUY TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/TulumBrandyTasting](https://tinyurl.com/TulumBrandyTasting)

THUR 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY: 19:00 - 20:30 · THE HAND  
Masterclass: Discover the flavours of Mexico  
BUY TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/TulumMexicanSpirits](https://tinyurl.com/TulumMexicanSpirits)

### MINI BEAST SAFARI

SAT: 14:00 - 15:30 · FISHPONDS WOOD  
Come and join a guided search for the smallest creatures in Fishponds Wood, Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Wear clothes and footwear that could get muddy  
BOOK NOW: [tinyurl.com/Tickets-MiniBeast](https://tinyurl.com/Tickets-MiniBeast)

### ACOMB COMMUNITY CINEMA

KID'S FILM SCREENING: TBC (U - PG)  
SAT: 15:30 - 17:00 · ACOMB METHODIST  
FREE. Limited places. Parental supervision required

FEATURE FILM SCREENING: TBC (12+)  
SAT: 17:00 - 17:00 · ACOMB METHODIST  
FREE. Limited places. First come basis for seats

### EXPLORE'S OPEN CINEMA

SAT: 16:00 - 19:00 · EXPLORE LIBRARY  
Showing Disney Pixar's blockbuster "Hoppers" (U)  
Fresh popcorn and drinks available from box office  
BUY TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/TicketExploreCinema](https://tinyurl.com/TicketExploreCinema)

### BEERMAT ART & LOST PROPERTY COLLAGE

SUN: 18:00 - 20:30 · THE FOX  
Grab some pens and make your own beer mat art

### RARE COLLECTIVE AUDIO VISUAL

SAT: 18:00 - 21:00 · CARLTON TAVERN  
An eclectic mix of DJ's and Audio Visual Producers for the PaintJam - the decks will be jumping while paint dries

### TRAPEZE CLASSES

SAT & SUN: 10:00-15:00 · WESTBANK PARK  
BUY TICKETS NOW: [tinyurl.com/TrapezeClass](https://tinyurl.com/TrapezeClass)

### RARE PAINTJAM: DAY 2

SUN: 10:00 - 18:00 · CARLTON TAVERN  
Rare Collective's PaintJam artists finalise their works

### THE GREAT MOTH REVEAL

SUN: 10:00 - 11:00 · FISHPONDS WOOD  
Open a safe overnight moth trap to reveal the moths that visited during the night, before watching them wake and fly away unharmed  
BOOK NOW: [tinyurl.com/TicketsMothReveal](https://tinyurl.com/TicketsMothReveal)

### ACOMB 'GREEN SPACE' 5K

SUN: 11:30 - 12:30 · THE TAP  
BTND (Better The Next Day) Run Club Acomb 5k

### FRIDAY 3 JULY

DJ SOLA & FRIENDS  
16:00 - 23:00  
CROOKED TAP  
Eclectic mix of DJ sets launch of the Rare Art Exhibition at the Tap. [sola-art.co.uk](https://sola-art.co.uk)

FLOOR POWER SOUND SYSTEM + YEASTIE BOY  
12:00 - 12:30  
RISE@ BLUEBIRD  
Free entry, following the Acombfest Launch Event, join our resident DJ for some party tunes to kick off Acombfest

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18:00 - 20:00  
THE FOX  
70s-90s Rock covers  
tristars.com

20:00 - 21:30  
THE HAND  
@pulleynjoshua

20:30 - 23:00  
INN ON THE GREEN  
Local bands & artists

### SATURDAY 4 JULY

JAZZY J'S  
12:00 - 12:30  
ACOMB METHODIST  
Acomb Dance Academy perform [jazzysjs.co.uk](https://jazzysjs.co.uk)

15:00 - 15:30  
ACOMB METHODIST  
Acomb's finest voices  
@ADAMChoir

15:00 - 23:00  
INN ON THE GREEN  
Get up or settle in to enjoy a lively open mic

### DRUMMERS

SAT: 12:30 - 14:00  
GATEWAY CENTRE  
Live drummers perform

12:00 - 13:00  
ACOMB METHODIST  
High-octane rock covers  
@fireballrockband

16:00 - 18:00  
THE FOX  
3 piece playing original instrumental music with a variety of rhythms & influences  
10000pairssofhands.bandcamp.com

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10000pairssofhands.bandcamp.com

13:00 - 15:00  
BLUEBIRD  
Pianist playing Classical, Jazz, Blues and Rock-pop  
karlpiano.com

14:00 - 16:00  
THE FOX  
Duo from The Mothers  
@themothersband

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THE FOX  
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@themothersband

14:00 - 15:30  
THE CROOKED TAP  
Bring the warmth of '90s grunge, and a touch of Celtic charm  
@amyandrobmusic

15:00 - 15:30  
ACOMB METHODIST  
Acomb's finest voices  
@ADAMChoir

15:00 - 23:00  
INN ON THE GREEN  
Get up or settle in to enjoy a lively open mic

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### BUSHCRAFT & NATURE ART

SUN: 12:00 - 14:00 · THE FOX  
Get into some bushcraft with Tom Rawson of 'Branch Out'

### CRAFTY FOX DROP-IN CRAFT ACTIVITIES

SUN: 13:00 - 13:30 · ACOMB METHODIST  
Crafty Fox Kids Club hosts drop-in craft activities for children and families

### GET TO GRIPS WITH THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS: BIODIVERSITY COLLAGE

SUN: 13:00 - 13:30 · ACOMB METHODIST  
Making ecological science accessible, interactive Biodiversity Collage workshop, Led by Sophia Cheng explores the science of biodiversity and why it matters

### ACOMB ARTISTS' KIDS ART CLASSES

SUN: 12:30 - 17:30 · THE CROOKED TAP  
Join Acomb's finest and loveliest artists as they invite the next generation to come and create art

### INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTIVE WORSHIP

SUN: 10:00 - 12:00 · ACOMB METHODIST  
A welcoming intergenerational worship session at Acomb Methodist Church

### BAPS'N'BINGO!

SUN: 18:00 - 20:00 · RISE @ BLUEBIRD  
We romp through the numbers with camp anthems, minigames, performances, conga lines, bum shake-offs, spot prizes, losers and winners  
BUY TICKETS NOW: [tinyurl.com/BapsNBingo](https://tinyurl.com/BapsNBingo)

## MUSIC

PETE HALE  
20:00 - 21:30  
THE HAND  
@peterhalet

MELTING POT  
20:00 - 22:00  
THE CROOKED TAP  
90s Indie & Britpop tribute.  
@meltingpot90s

SUNDAY 5 JULY  
BAREBRASS BAND  
14:00 - 18:00 THE FOX

V2 (U2 TRIBUTE)  
16-18:00 · THE FOX  
Female-fronted U2 tribute [v2band.co.uk](https://v2band.co.uk)

10:00 - 21:00  
CARLTON TAVERN  
Eclectic mix of DJ's and Audio Visual Producers get the decks jumping  
[sola-art.co.uk](https://sola-art.co.uk)

17:30 - 17:00  
THE HAND  
Indie-folk / Americana  
[thedunwells.com](https://thedunwells.com)

16:00 - 19:00  
THE SUN  
Old school rhythm & blues

16:00 - 22:30  
CROOKED TAP  
DJ Sola & Friends host an Acombfest closing party

20:00 - 23:00  
BLUEBIRD  
Closing party - fabulous crowd-pleasing pop, disco, R&B, power ballads  
BUY TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/GuiltyPleasuresDisco](https://tinyurl.com/GuiltyPleasuresDisco)

19:00 - 23:00  
RISE@ BLUEBIRD  
5-piece powerhouse Groovetone + The Unknown Stuntman will be shaking the room with jazz, blues, latin, funk & ska.  
@groovetonemusic  
@stuntman  
TICKETS: [tinyurl.com/UnknownStuntman](https://tinyurl.com/UnknownStuntman)

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME  
3 - 5 JULY 2026

# ART OF PROTEST CURATES A RETURN TO NATURE THEMED FESTIVAL THROUGH WORLD CLASS STREET ART

## ACOMBFEST 26

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO ENJOY A MIXTURE OF INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL ARTISTS CELEBRATING NATURE WHILE ENGAGING IN A PROGRAMME OF LIVE MUSIC, ACTIVITIES, FOOD & DRINK

ACOMBFEST ARTOFFPROTEST.CO.UK ACOMBFEST.CO.UK

AWARD WINNING STREET ARTISTS

### A RETURN TO NATURE 20 ART INSTALLATIONS LIVE MURALS · PAINTJAM

PAINTJAM EVENTS WITH RARE COLLECTIVE: DIS, MUSIC, FOOD & DRINK

OVER 30 BANDS, DIS & PERFORMERS SPECIAL EVENTS + TASTINGS

## LIVE MUSIC + FOOD & DRINK OFFERS

ACROSS 20 VENUES

### COMMUNITY CINEMA

A HOST OF INTERACTIVE ART WORKSHOPS FAMILY FRIENDLY  
ART MARKET + SHOPPING  
LOCAL HISTORY WALKS & TALK SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES

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