

Vikings at the Priory

Leominster, 27 May - 22 June 2026

Exhibition Opening Times

All events take place in and around Leominster Priory.

The 'Vikings at the Priory' exhibition is open every day from 10am - 4pm (Sundays 11am - 4pm) including the Herefordshire Hoard 'Revealing our Roots' exhibit. Leominster Priory is a working church and some special services may be scheduled at short notice. Please check the calendar on our website before you visit. As some school group visits and workshops will be taking place during opening hours, you may also want to check for quieter times to visit.

Please note that dogs are not allowed inside the Priory building during the exhibition with the exception of assistance dogs.

Tickets & Programme

To see the full programme and to book tickets for events go to our website www.prioryarts.org.uk.

Bookings can also be made in person at

Leominster Information Centre, 11 Corn Square, Leominster, HR6 8YP.

Or telephone to make a booking: 01568 616460

Parking & Access

The main car parks in Leominster are all just a few minutes walk away from the Priory.

The nearest Pay and Display car parks are in Broad Street and Etnam Street.

Disabled visitors can be dropped off at the church door by driving through the gates on Church Street and exiting through the gates into The Grange.

HEREFORDSHIRE
MUSEUMS
& GALLERIES

The
EVESON
Trust

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Collections Fund

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OUR
Place
Leominster



With support from Leominster Town Council, the Margaret Allen Foundation and Leominster PCC



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Leominster, HR6 8NH



Vikings at the Priory

27 May to 22 June 2026

A Programme of Events & Free Exhibition
at Leominster Priory celebrating our
Anglo-Saxon and Viking Heritage



Free
Exhibition
Open Daily
10am - 4pm

Suitable for all ages. All welcome.

Priory Arts presents a celebration of Viking, British, and Anglo-Saxon art, craft and treasure. The exhibition and events will bring both the Herefordshire Hoard and our local history to life, exploring Viking history in the area, and examining the differences and influences between Viking and Anglo-Saxon ways of life.

Highlights include a full size Viking ship inside the Priory, the replica Herefordshire Hoard on display, plus the first opportunity to see 'The Hereford Gospels Today' project, inspired by the Anglo-Saxon treasure of Hereford Cathedral. Original community collaborations and artworks by local artists and students of Hereford College of Arts will also be on display.

Regia Anglorum

CRAFT WORKSHOPS · TALKS · CONCERTS · WALKS · DRAMA

Viking Battle Re-Enactment on The Grange: Sat 30 May & Sun 31 May at 3pm

For full details of events visit www.prioryarts.org.uk



Vikings at the Priory

Full Programme



TALK Tuesday 26th May 6pm

'How to Build a Viking Ship'

Viking ships changed the history of Europe: Stephen Etheridge, of Regia Anglorum, explains the technology and craftsmanship behind them. **£5**

VIKING ACTIVITY DAY

Thursday 28th May 10am-4pm

Hands-on History: Revealing our Roots

Exploring Anglo/Viking Herefordshire, Treasure and the Herefordshire Hoard. Drop-in event for all ages. Refreshments available. **FREE**

TALK Thursday 28th May 6pm

'The Crystal Sphere of the Herefordshire Hoard'

Darcy Holland (Regent's Park College, Oxford) explores the meaning of these objects owned by elite women in Anglo-Saxon England, and Hilary Norris (Leominster Priory) reveals a new theory linking this exceptional treasure to the Priory. **£5**

ORGAN RECITAL Friday 29th May 12 noon

'Gems from Scandinavia on the King of Instruments'

Hilary Norris plays music by Buxtehude, Janecek, and a dramatic transcription of Sibelius's Finlandia on the fabulous Nicholson organ in the Priory. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

RE-ENACTMENT WEEKEND

Visit the Anglo-Saxon village to see demonstrations of arts, crafts, warrior training and more... plus

Viking Burial Sat 30th May 11.30am

Anglo-Saxon Night Prayer Sat 30th May 8.30pm

Viking Fashion Show Sun 31st May 11.30am

Battle on the Grange! **FREE**

Sat 30 May & Sun 31 May at 3pm



SERVICE Sunday May 31st, 10am

Sung Service for Trinity Sunday

A celebration of the Hereford Gospels Today project with Bishop David Thomson. All welcome. **FREE**

CRAFT Mon 1st June 10am-12 & 1.30 - 3pm

'Illuminated Letter Art'

Join ECHO Art Project for a free workshop illuminating letters in Saxon style! All ages welcome for colouring, painting, glue, and glitter and decoupage. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

TALK Tuesday 2nd June 6pm

'The Last Charge of the Vikings & the Last Abbess of Leominster'

Paula Lofting Wilcox, author, explores the link between Leominster and the Godwinsons, leaders in an Anglo-Danish culture. **£5**

CRAFT Saturday 6th June 10am-1pm

'Anglo Saxon Calligraphy'

Pete Furniss will teach the script used in the Hereford Gospels to create a bookmark, and add Saxon decorative patterns. Fee includes ink, pen and holder to keep. Beginners welcome. Booking essential **£40**

CONCERT Sunday 7th June 7.30pm

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

Presented by Leominster Festival, programme includes music by Bruckner, Brahms, and Mahler's powerful Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection" **£18.50, under 18s free**

WALKS Every Wednesday 2pm, every Saturday 11am - 12.30pm

Exploring Leominster's Anglo Saxon History – a guided tour with Leominster Heritage Guides

Discover the roots of the town before the Norman conquest and its redevelopment following the refounding of the Priory in 1125. Buy tickets and start at Leominster Information Centre. Booking essential. **£5**, accompanied children free.

GUIDED TOURS OF THE EXHIBITS

An introduction to the art and culture of the Viking Age with Fr Guy Cole.

Booking essential £5

Wednesday 27 May 9am & 5.30pm

Wednesday 3 June 9am & 5.30pm

Thursday 11 June 6pm

Wednesday 17 June 5.30pm



TALK Tuesday 9th June 6pm

'A Cathedral Treasure: the Anglo-Saxon Hereford Gospels'

David Thomson will give an illustrated talk on the oldest surviving book of the Cathedral and a great treasure, a junior cousin of the famous Lindisfarne Gospels **£5**

CRAFT Thursday 11th June 10am-4pm

Rush Woven Fish

Join Leominster Wellness Club for a free drop-in workshop, weaving with rush and willow to create fish or other creations, inspired by Viking weaving techniques. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

SAXON CHURCH TOUR

Friday 12th June 10am-4pm

'Tracing our Saxon Roots'

Guy Cole and Neil Ramsay will lead a tour of six of Hereford Diocese's best Saxon churches, starting at Leominster Priory. Booking essential. **£30 including transport**

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 13th June 10am-4pm

'The Great Viking Stitch Up'

Viking and Saxon crafts for all ages, including stitching and weaving, bell-ringing, boat making, treasure hunt, stories in a Viking tent, calligraphy, stone-masonry. In collaboration with Leominster Festival Fun Day and the Black Crows (for Viking games and antics) on the Grange. Refreshments. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

DRAMA & DANCE Sunday 14th June 6pm

'Beowulf, and the Dragon's Hoard,' and

'The Legend of Our Hoard'

Leominster Morris, puppeteer Andrew Purvin and the Priory Arts Players retell an old wild tale of Hoards, and perform a new drama about the Herefordshire Hoard found near Leominster. **£5, under 16s free**

TALK Tuesday 16th June 6pm

'A Clash of Cultures (Music in the Early Medieval Period)'

Richard and Elizabeth Walsh will discuss the evidence concerning early medieval music-making including demonstrating a number of reproduction period instruments. **£5**

DRAMA Thursday 18th June 4.30pm

'What is your Treasure?'

Schools performance: a new interpretation of the story of the Herefordshire Hoard with puppets, dance and song. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

CRAFT Saturday 20th June 10am-12pm

Manga Character Drawing

Eira Richards, artist and author, will guide you to create your own characters including Viking gear and creatures. Booking essential. Suitable for 7+ **£7**

CONCERT Saturday 20th June 7pm

'Tales of Dragons and Songs of Praise'

Leominster Choral Society perform works by Elgar and Mendelssohn **£18, under 18s free**

CONCERT Sunday 21st June 7pm

'Heirs of the Vikings'

Choral gems by Scandinavian composers performed by Border Voices with Baroque strings including uplifting works by Buxtehude and ethereal classics by Arvo Pärt and Sibelius **FREE** + Donations welcome.

TALK Monday 22nd June 6pm

'The Viking, His Wife and The Lost Queen of Wales'

Peter McIntosh interprets an Anglo-Saxon document from the Hereford Gospels bringing to life the surprising power of women in this area. **£5**

CRAFT Every Friday 10am - 3pm

Weavers Workshop

Join the ECHO Weavers to have a go at the ancient craft of spinning and weaving using small looms, spinning wheels and tapestry frames. Drop-in. **FREE** + Donations welcome.

