A CONSTELLATION OF EVENTS



SUMMER 2026



b-side

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Dorset Council

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Est. 1986 Agincare Caring in your community



The Long Gallery 2026

A series of exhibitions celebrating 40 years of the Black Swan Arts Centre

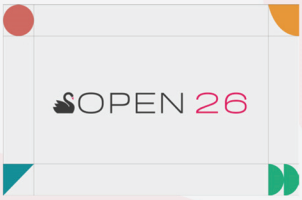


Through the Looking Glass

Contemporary Glassworks

27 June - 02 August
Preview - 26 June

Throughthe Looking Glass presents a collection of contemporary glassworks that challenge the way we view the world. Moving beyond function, we invite a deeper engagement with glass and its material qualities and processes.



BSA Open 2026

Bi-annual Art Competition

08 August - 27 September
Preview - 07 August

The Black Swan Arts Open 2026 brings together artists and makers working across all disciplines and media, selected by a distinguished panel spanning the contemporary arts, alongside a range of generous prizes and awards.



New Blood

Recent Graduates

03 October - 08 November
Preview - 02 October

The exhibition New Blood brings together a vibrant and diverse collection of work from recent graduates of leading regional universities, including Bath Spa, Bournemouth, and UWE Bristol.



Winter Market

40 Makers

14 November - 03 January
Preview - 14 November

Black Swan Arts Winter Market has established itself as a Christmas shopping destination and this year's is set to echo the celebrations of the centre's 40th anniversary, rounding off 2026 as an exceedingly momentous year.

MON - SUN 10AM-4PM
2 BRIDGE STREET, FROME BA11 1BB
BLACKSWANARTS.ORG.UK

BlackSwanArts
40th Anniversary

What remains when everything is gone?

Vestiges

A ground-breaking exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and more
Inspired and curated by Frances Hatch RWS

THE AUGER COLLECTIVE
Sovereign Centre, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4SX
2nd - 31st July
Open Wednesday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm
Closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
bournemouthartsclub.co.uk

Yvonne Kay 'Tracks' (acrylic and watercolour)

southern
CONTEMPORARIES
Bournemouth Arts Club

HEART OF THE TRIBE

74 High Street | Glastonbury | BA6 9DZ | Heartofthetribe.com | 01458 780046



Please scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more about our gallery, events & exhibitions









EXHIBITIONS | EVENTS | GIFTS & PRINTS | WORKSHOPS | HOT DRINKS | AWARD WINNING GARDEN

SUMMER EXHIBITION

17TH - 29TH AUGUST

PRIVATE VIEW: FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST
5 - 8PM

GOLD HILL GALLERY

ST PETER'S HALL SHAFTESBURY
DORSET SP7 8JW



SARA WESTAWAY
PAINTER



KATE TOMS
SCARVES AND PAINTINGS



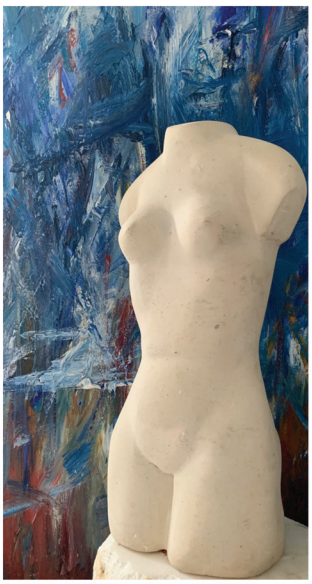
TREVOR TOMS
PHOTOGRAPHER



FRANCESCA KAYE
CERAMIC ARTIST



YVETTE CANNON
JEWELLER



ELAINE ZAPLE GULLIVER
SCULPTOR AND PAINTER

FINDING CALM IN THE CHAOS

Yeovil Creatives Annual Exhibition

15 Jul – 29 Aug

OPENING TIMES:
Wed - Fri, 12-4
Sat, 11-4



YEOVIL ART SPACE

yeovilartspace.uk

Unit 13-15, Quedam Centre, Yeovil

exhibitions,
workshops,
events, shop,
social & more.



Sherborne Open Art Exhibition

18 - 26 July 2026
The Digby Hall, Hound Street,
Sherborne, DT9 3AA
10am - 5pm (closes 26 July, 1pm)

sherbornearts.org

Artists: enter online or 'on the day'
See sherbornearts.org

BRUTON ART SOCIETY

73rd Annual Exhibition



'A Little VC' - Paul Lilley

Affordable Art from the best Regional Artists

King's Bruton Memorial Hall
BRUTON
Somerset BA10 0ED

Sat 22 - Sat 29 August 2026
10am - 4pm daily
Free entry



Adrian Boot's Punk Bridport

This exhibition of Adrian Boot's photographs will explore the raw, unfiltered spirit of punk rock through a series of powerful images that capture the scene's energy, attitude, and urgency.

Sat 4 July – Sat 22 August 4pm, Wed-Sat
Allsop Gallery 9 South Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3NR
Free (voluntary donation to Bridport Arts Centre)
bridport-arts.com | 01308 424204

BRIDPORT ARTSCENTRE · Dorset Council · Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND · CLOCKTOWER RECORDS

Art at Athelhampton

Exhibition in the East Wing Attic Gallery

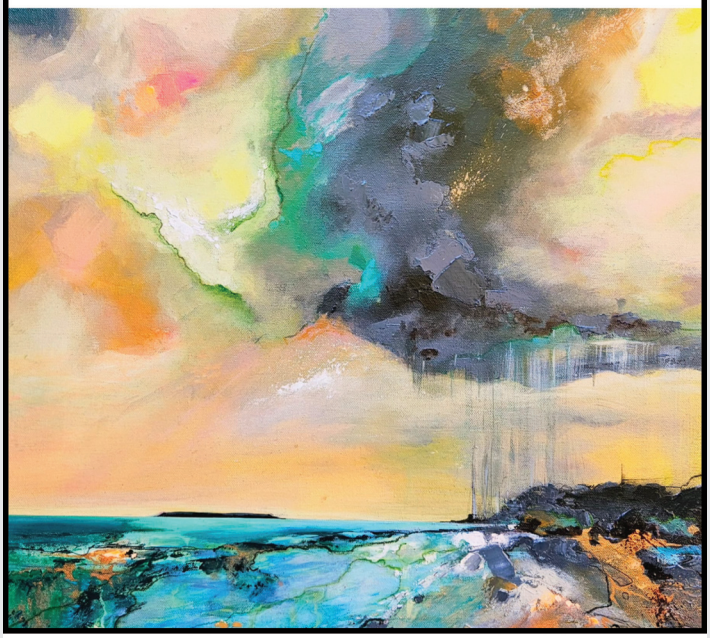
'Salt, Sky and Stone'

by **Sarah Jayne Jefferies**

1st July to 31st July 2026



Dorset artist Sarah Jayne Jefferies creates vibrant abstract paintings inspired by dramatic skies, changing seasons, and the ever changing light across Dorset landscapes.



Athelhampton House & Gardens are open daily to the public and also welcomes Historic Houses and Art Pass members. see www.athelhampton.com for details and opening times

BLOOMSBURY in Wiltshire



23 MAY to 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

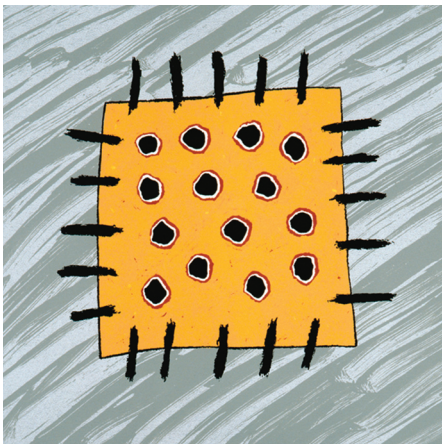
Exploring the lives of Bloomsbury artists and writers including

The SALISBURY museum
www.salisburymuseum.org.uk

Dora Carrington
Frances Partridge
Ralph Partridge
Julia Strachey
Lytton Strachey and
Stephen Tomlin

Salisbury Museum is registered charity no 289850

Image credit: © National Portrait Gallery, London



MAKING SPACE

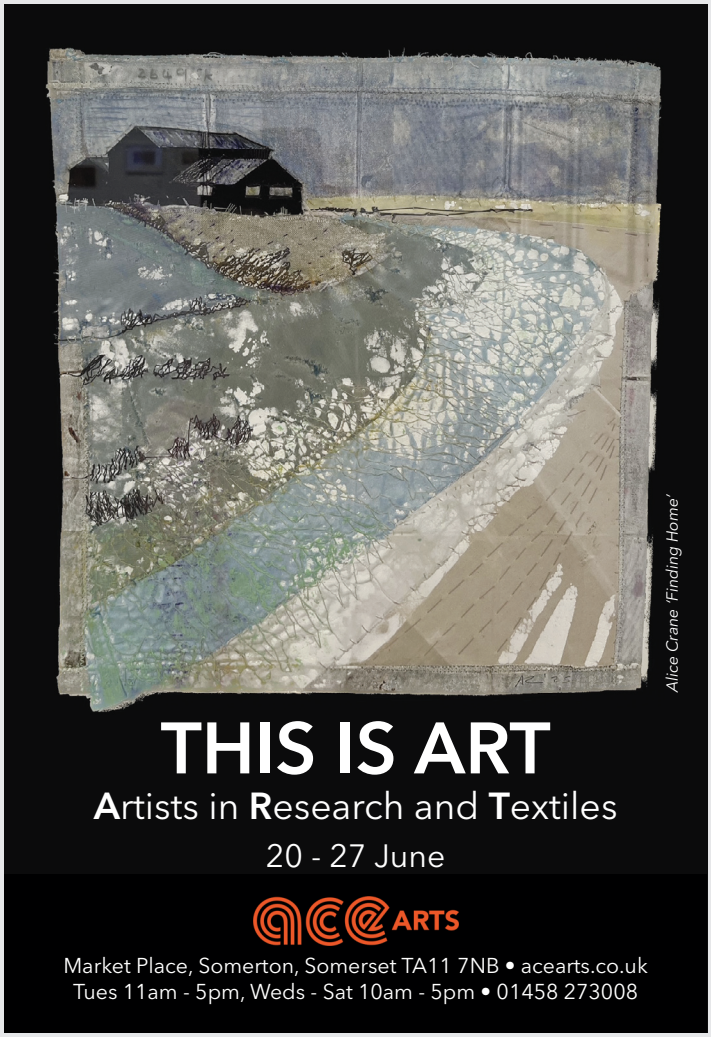
BRIAN RICE & JACY WALL
are having an
ARCHIVE SALE

11 - 13 SEPTEMBER, 11am - 4pm

PRINTS AND SMALL WORKS ON PAPER
Unique Opportunity - Bargains Galore!

Newhouse, Hewood, Chard, TA20 4NP
01460 221205 / 07816 673463
jacy.wall@btinternet.com





Alice Crane 'Finding Home'

THIS IS ART

Artists in **R**esearch and **T**extiles

20 - 27 June

ACE ARTS

Market Place, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7NB • acearts.co.uk
Tues 11am - 5pm, Weds - Sat 10am - 5pm • 01458 273008



FLOWER FAIRIES™

Enchantment by the Sea

28 March – 4 October 2026

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum
East Cliff, Bournemouth, BH1 3AA
www.russellcotes.com

© The Estate of Cicely Mary Barker, 1934









BOILERHOUSE GALLERY

Contemporary Art and Craft in the heart of Purbeck

SUMMER SHOW throughout July and August

Open Wednesday to Sunday 10 - 5

SANDY HILL LANE, CORFE CASTLE, DORSET BH20 5JF
07398 052489
boilerhousegallery.co.uk













SLADERS' 20th ANNIVERSARY
EXHIBITION

featuring the painters, print-makers, ceramic artists, sculptors and makers who have shown here with Petter Southall's furniture over the last 20 years...

11 July - 5 September

Images:
Marzia Colonna MRBS Walking Through the Corn Last Night collage 30 x 30 cm
Alfred Stockham RWA ARCA Monksilver oil on canvas 25.5 x 35.5 cm
Philip Sutton RA Studio in Pembrokeshire oil on canvas 142.5 x 142.5 cm

SLADERS YARD
Contemporary Art & Craft Gallery West Bay DT6 4EL
CAFÉ SLADERS Open Weds - Sat 10am - 4.30pm
01308 459511 @sladersyard sladersyard.co.uk



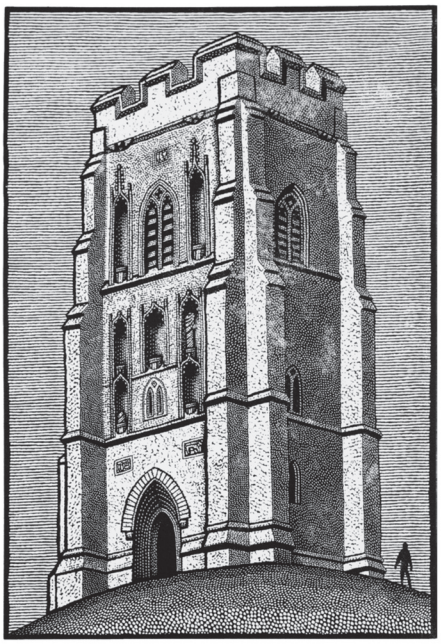


DEVON OPEN STUDIOS

12 – 20 September

Meet artists and makers in their studios across Devon

Free colour guide available
email openstudios@devonartistnetwork.co.uk
or visit devonopenstudios.co.uk



23 MAY - 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

SRLM.ORG.UK
GLASTONBURY BA6 8DB
ADMISSION AS PART OF MUSEUM ENTRY

SRLM
SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

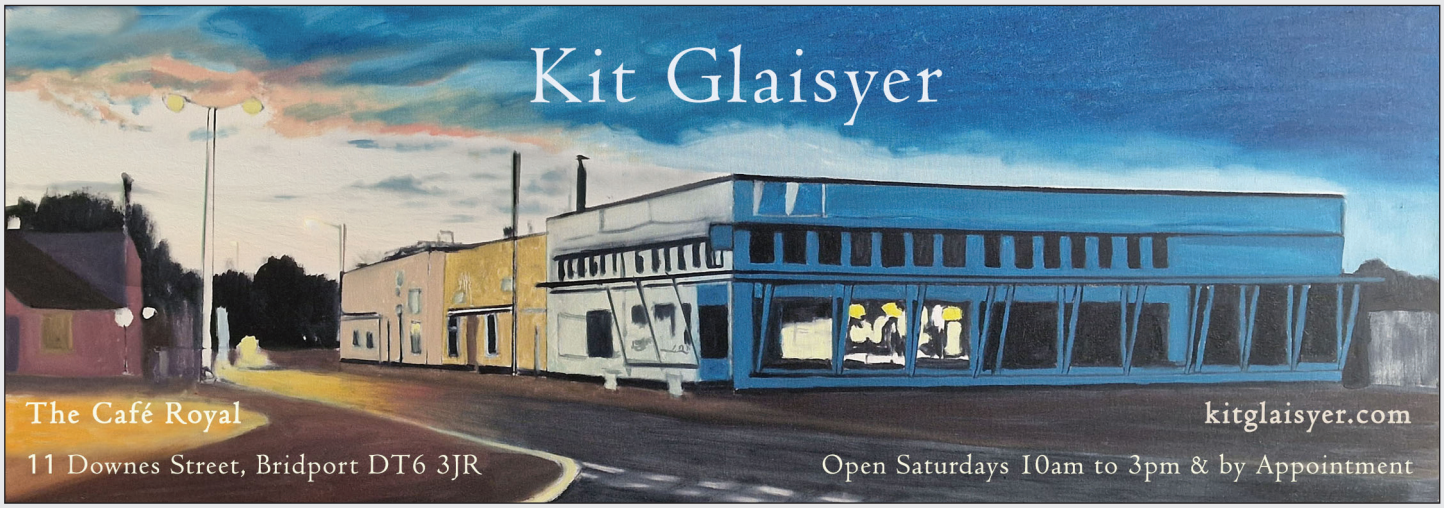
HARRY BROCKWAY
WAYS WITH WOOD

A celebratory exhibition honouring the life and work of Glastonbury-based artist Harry Brockway (1958-2024)

Image: The Tower, 2017. All rights reserved The Brockway Family

Exhibition	Talks
Workshops	Tours

SW SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST





The Pound

James Cockerill: *Part Of*
Opening Night: Friday 12 June, 6.30pm
13 June - 18 July

The Drawing Room: *Memento*
Opening Night: Thursday 23 July, 6.30pm
24 July - 29 August

The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9HX
(01249) 701628 | poundarts.org.uk | @poundarts



THE PEDESTAL

3 Stony Street, Frome, BA11 1BU

FROM THE VENICE BIENNALE TO FROME!

THE GUARDIANS COLLECTIVE



04/07/26 **ALCHEMY** 31/08/26

EMMA RODGERS, JOHNNY VEGAS, PETER HAYES
MAX EUGENI, SOPHIE ANNA GREEN, LONN LANDIS
SIMONE SCHOFIELD, GINA HATTER

Muchelney Pottery

OPEN DAY



Saturday 25th July
10am - 4pm

New kiln pots,
Demonstrations,
Paul Cleden print exhibition,
Food stall,
Wine tastings,
Live music...

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Muchelney, Nr. Langport, TA10 0DW
www.johnleachpottery.co.uk

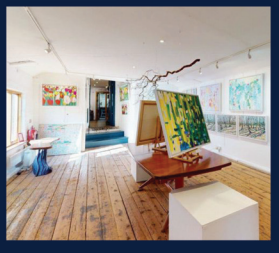
FISHERTON MILL

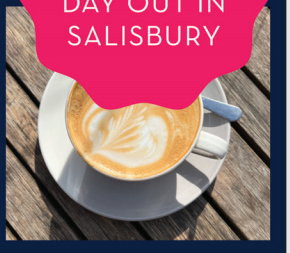
CAFE | GALLERY | STUDIOS | EXHIBITIONS | WORKSHOPS

THE GOOD FOOD GUIDE 2025

ENJOY A **CREATIVE** DAY OUT IN SALISBURY







WWW.FISHERTONMILL.CO.UK

108 Fisherton St, Salisbury, SP2 7QY
Monday-Friday 9:30-5, Saturday 9.30-5.30

Blandford Art Society

Open Exhibition 2026

at The Corn Exchange, Blandford Forum

Saturday, 15 August to Friday, 21 August 2026,
10:00-17:00 Sunday to Thursday / 10:00-16:00 Friday

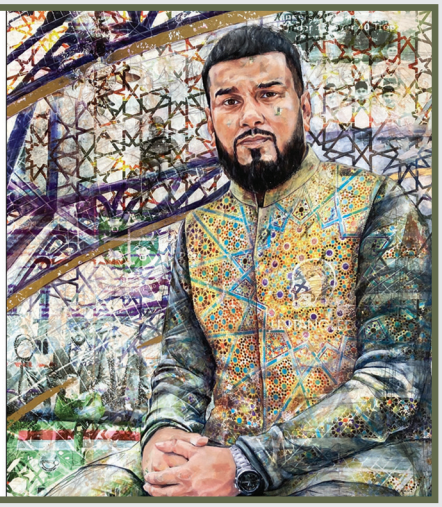
Featuring work by guest artist, Jack Dickson, as well as a wide variety of work by our members and local artists.

Join us for the Private View: Saturday, 15 August, 17:00-19:00

Submissions close on 12 July 2026. Go to: www.curatorspace.com/opportunities

www.blandfordartsociety.weebly.com

Registered Charity No. 298727



Clifton Arts 120

art now!

Celebrating 120 years of Clifton Arts



An exhibition of art and a sale of artists' work

Victoria Methodist Church
1 Whiteladies Road, BS8 1NU

8 - 18 July
Open daily 10.00 - 5.00 *
* Sunday 12 July, open 2.00 - 5.00

admission free

www.cliftonarts.org

EAST QUAY









eastquaywatchet.co.uk
Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0AQ
01984 263103
hello@eastquaywatchet.co.uk
@eastquaywatchet

CONTEMPORARY ART | PRINT STUDIO | CULTURE & COMMUNITY
HANDMADE PAPER MILL | ARTIST STUDIOS | EVENTS & EDUCATION
RESTAURANT & SHOP | SOCIAL ENTERPRISE | ACCOMMODATION

HOLBURNE



16 MAY -
6 SEPTEMBER
holburne.org

Members go FREE

GLENN BROWN IN BATH
ARROWS of DESIRE

GAGOSIAN Galerie Max Hetzler GLENN BROWN IN BATH GROTTOESQUE NO.1 ROYAL CRESCENT

Sou'-Sou'-West

Symondsbury Estate
Bridport DT6 6HG

One of the South West's largest galleries, showcasing over 300 local Artists & Crafts People through a regularly changing programme of Exhibitions, Events, & Workshops.

Free Parking • Cafe
Walking • Shopping
Daily: 10:30-16:30
sousouwestgallery

sousouwest.co.uk



2026 PHOTOGRAPHY OPEN EXHIBITION

DEADLINE 29 AUGUST

Accepting photography, in all forms from traditional photograhy to digital photography and photographic images printed on textiles and 3D forms.

www.ilminsterartscentre.com
Ilminster Arts Centre, TA19 0AN 01460 54973

ILMINSTER arts centre AT THE MEETING HOUSE



Birds and Light

Paintings & Original Prints by
Trymwood Studios Art Prize Winner
Robert Greenhalf SWLA
Exhibition opens
26th June - 12th July
Friday - Sunday
11am - 4pm

www.trymwoodstudios.co.uk

TRYMWOOD STUDIOS
Bristol. UK.



The Dorset Monochrome Collective

Wessex

14th - 20th September 2026

Borough Gardens House Community Room, Dorchester
What 3 Words ///cactus.kept.crumbles

10am - 4pm Free

https://alisonwebber.co.uk/mono

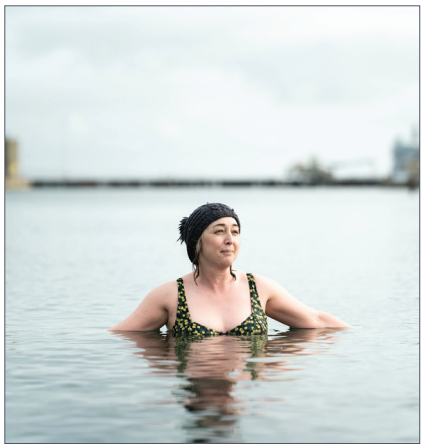


Jolly Good Company
Beyond the Lines
Until 19 July

William Lane
Sea Swimming
21 July - 11 October

Level 1, North Wing, Dorset County Hospital,
William Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2JY
8am - 8pm
01305 253424 / dchartsinhospital.org.uk

Dorset County Hospital arts in hospital





40 YEARS
of craft at WALFORD MILL



You'll find creativity around every ancient beam in Walford Mill Crafts, and 2026 marks 40 years since the mill opened as a craft centre, bringing with it silk weaver Debby Kirby who has remained 'the heartbeat of the mill' ever since.

This year also marks 30 years delivering art and craft through the charity The Walford Mill Education Trust.

Buy direct from the makers collective and watch creativity in action in their working studios. There's art exhibitions, workshops, pop-up shops and the courtyard café Little Pickle. Free entry, wheelchair accessible and dogs are welcome.



WALFORD MILL

Knobcrook Rd, Wimborne Dorset BH21 1NL
www.walfordmillcrafts.co.uk

Save the date - FREE courtyard party Sat 1st Aug 12-6pm

THG Thelma Hulbert Gallery

thelmahulbertgallery



Cathy King, Summer Swifts

Double Elephant: 30 Years Shaping Print

11 July - 29 August 2026

Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm
Elmfield House, Dowell Street,
Honiton, EX14 1LX
01404 45006 | thelmahulbert.com

DOUBLE ELEPHANT · East Devon District Council · Supported using public funding by National Lottery Heritage Fund · ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

WILTSHIRE & THE WORLD

John Aubrey *and the* Quest for Knowledge

13 JUNE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2026



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

Chippenham Museum
Chippenham Town Council



Debbie Lee: Flow

Artist Debbie Lee's new work features stories she has gathered along the River Stour. The exhibition will include a large oil painting and a drawing of the narrative flow of imagery for the River Stour, as well as 12 framed monoprints and an animated drawing.

Until 4 July

Bere Marsh Farm, Shillingstone, near Blandford, DT11 0QY. 07908 255770 / thecrt.co.uk.

Thursday 9am - 4pm, Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 12noon (other times by appointment)

The *Flow* project has been developed in partnership with the Countryside Regeneration Trust and is supported by Dorset Art Weeks headline sponsor Hall & Woodhouse



Biophilia, n.

20 selected works from a touring exhibition which addresses ecological concerns with a particular focus on trees, woodland, hedgerows and commons. By visually representing biophilia, or 'bringing the outside in', we can support patient, NHS staff and visitor wellbeing.

1 July - 14 August

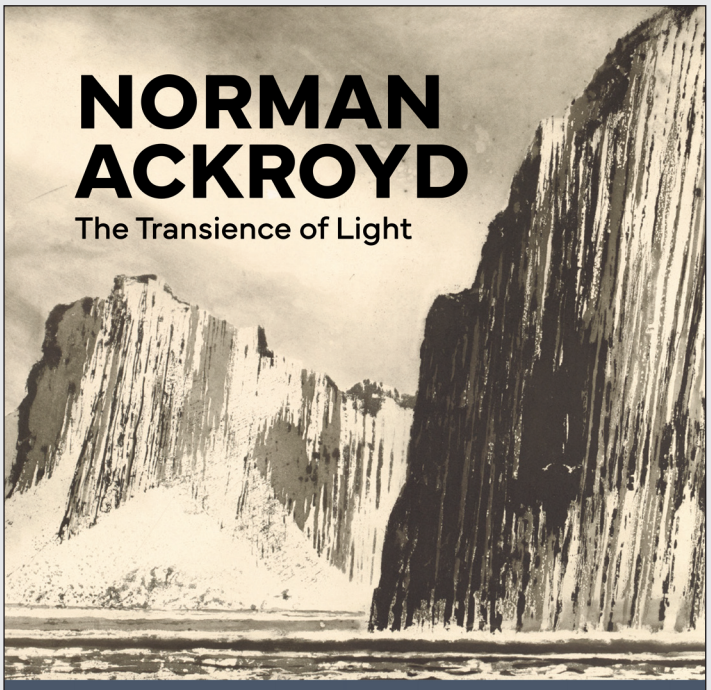
Art Space Gallery, Atrium, Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7HA

10am - 4pm

Part of *Art Space*, a wider programme of art initiatives across University Hospitals Dorset. Produced by Dorset Visual Arts in partnership with The Arborealists

DORSET VISUAL ARTS

dorsetvisualarts.org



NORMAN ACKROYD

The Transience of Light

Celebrating 50 years of work by one of Britain's leading landscape etchers

22 May - 6 Sep **Victoria Art Gallery, Bath**

Book tickets at victoriagal.org.uk

VAG Victoria Art Gallery

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Norman Ackroyd CBE RA, Shiant Garbh Eilean, etching, 49.5 x 78cm (detail) © Norman Ackroyd



Bonnie Brown, Kirsten Cooke, Brian Bishop, Tony Martin, Debbie Lee, Michelle Griffiths, Ursula Leach, Paul Newman, Gail Mason

Great art and the best coffee

The Slade Centre

THE SQUARE, GILLINGHAM, DORSET SP8 4AY

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am to 3pm | Saturday 9.30am to 2pm

07775 431652 | thesladecentre.com

Evolver Magazine 150

Summer 2026

EVOLVER magazine

150

FESTIVAL OF WESSEX

A CONSTELLATION OF EVENTS

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Music pages 38 - 45

Performance pages 46 - 53

Words page 54

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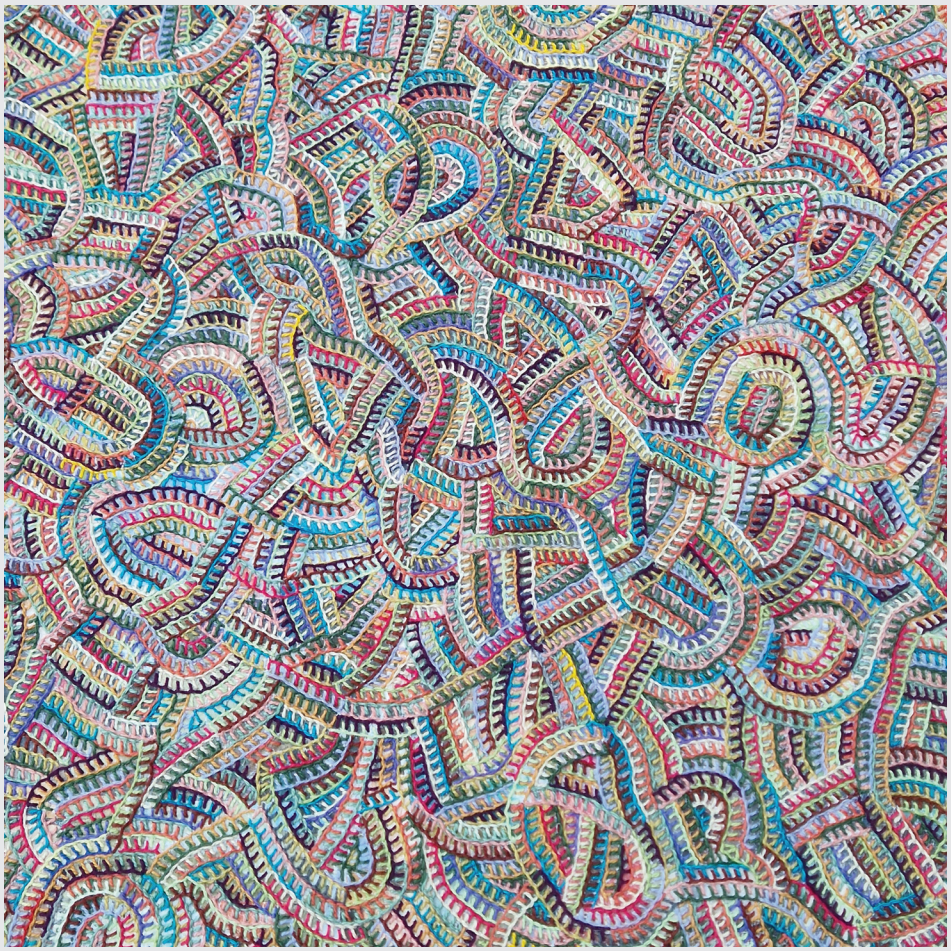
Visual Arts

Summer 2026



'HIDE AND SEEK' (Cotton yarn on paper, 56 x 56 cm, 2026)

Anna Konig: Stitches, Patches and Glitches

Anna Konig was the winner of the ACE Arts Open 25 Exhibition, recognised for the originality, skill, and vibrancy of her work. Through stitch, collage, and techniques of mending and making, she creates richly textured pieces that explore colour, material, and form.

4 July - 22 August: ACE Arts, Market Place, SOMERTON, TA11 7NB. Tuesday 11am - 5pm, Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. 01458 273008 / acearts.co.uk.



'SHIRLEY PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUNE'

Beyond the Lines

In Jolly Good Company, a dementia-friendly charity based in Dorset, present a moving photography exhibition celebrating creativity, connection, and identity in later life.

Participants learned to use professional cameras and a portable studio lighting kit to take striking photographic portraits of one another. They capture playful, thoughtful and deeply personal moments. Some props or costumes have been used to reflect something of their personalities, a chapter from their lives or the humour that always accompanies these sessions.

Until 19 July: Level 1, North Wing, Dorset County Hospital, William Avenue, DORCHESTER, DT1 2JY. 8am - 8pm. 01305 253424 / dchartsinhospital.org.uk.



HENRY LAMB 'LYTTON STRACHEY'

Bloomsbury in Wiltshire

At the heart of this exhibition lies a deeply local story. Henry Lamb, the acclaimed artist best known for his sensitive portraits of Bloomsbury's most celebrated figures, settled in Coombe Bissett, near Salisbury. His most iconic but rarely-seen work - a portrait of writer Lytton Strachey - will be on display having been loaned from the Tate. It captures one of the twentieth century's most influential intellectuals in a characteristically languid pose. Strachey famously said he was unable to lift a match before breakfast, and Lamb's portrait beautifully presents him in that state of elegant repose.

However, the Wiltshire connection to the Bloomsbury Group extends further. Ham Spray House, nestled in the north Wiltshire Downs, served as the beloved home of Bloomsbury members Lytton Strachey, Dora Carrington and Ralph and Frances Partridge between 1924 and 1960. During these formative years, the house became a creative sanctuary where some of Britain's most influential figures in art, literature and thought gathered, worked and lived - and where Lamb, as a close friend of the group, was a frequent and welcome visitor.

The exhibition brings together a diverse selection of artworks by prominent Bloomsbury figures including Dora Carrington, Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell, Stephen Tomlin and Roger Fry.

Until 27 September: The Salisbury Museum, The Kings House, 65 The Close, SALISBURY, SP1 2EN. 10am - 5pm. 01722 332151 / salisburymuseum.org.uk.



CATHY KING 'SUMMER SWIFTS'



LYNN BAILEY 'COUNTRY LANE III'



JEREMY SPECK 'SOLSTICE'

Double Elephant: 30 Years Shaping Print

This summer, the Thelma Hulbert Gallery is showcasing the work of 30 artists from the Exeter-based Double Elephant Print Workshop to mark their 30th anniversary as a community-driven printmaking workshop.

Double Elephant began as a dream of the ideal work model, forming an artists' cooperative. Fostering a community where artists of all backgrounds and experience levels could meet and develop their artistic practice through printmaking. A place where they could share their skills and earn money whilst being supported in their art work. It has grown to become a thriving member of the arts community in the South West, a hub for professionals and first-timers to gain new skills and inspiration. Their policy of participation and making art available to all, both inside and out of the studio, has been a keystone from the start.

This exhibition will feature brand new work, a rigorous selection process ensures an inspiring selection of original prints will be on display, as well as highlighting experimental techniques that test the boundaries of print. Taking over the whole house and showcasing a diverse range of intaglio, relief, planographic, and monotype methods - as well as innovative hybrid processes unique to each printmaker - this is more than an exhibition but a lesson in the art of printmaking.

With free workshops on offer, this is an exciting opportunity to learn about the tools and the many techniques, processes and possibilities of printmaking. It also demonstrates the tactile characteristics of paper, by using pressure to emboss and deboss the surface of paper - without the use of any ink - the printmakers draw particular attention to the paper's texture.

In addition, the exhibition will highlight Double Elephant's exciting community projects including a new animation using prints created with groups of young people in Exeter and East Devon. They have an exceptional outreach programme which sees them working in schools, prisons and hospitals, where a tiny portable press can be used at patients' bedsides.

Double Elephant tutors will lead a programme of six printmaking workshops, with additional demonstrations and workshops for schools and the community. The programme culminates with a free family workshop on Saturday 29th August.

Suzy Rushbrook

11 July - 29 August: Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell Street, HONITON, EX14 1LX. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. 01404 45006 / thelmahulbert.com.



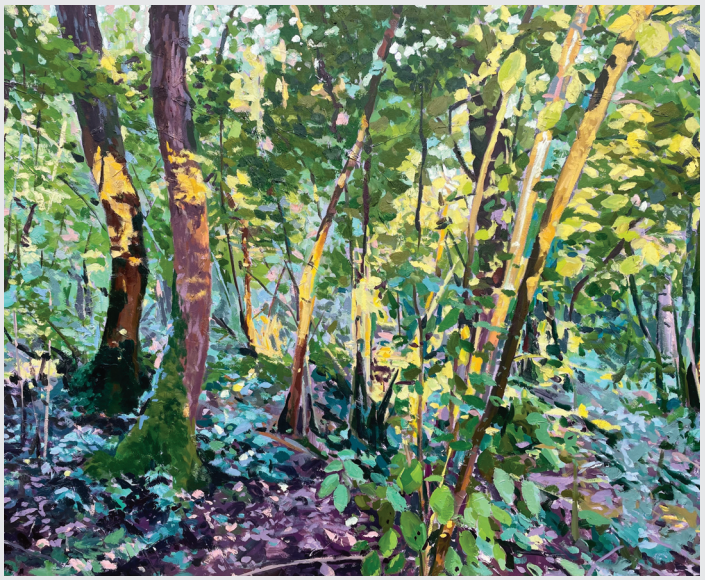
SARAH FURBY 'SPRING POND'



SARAH MORRIS 'SWALING AT PIL TOR'



JULIA FINZEL 'WAR & PEACE, GIFFORDS CIRCUS'



'A RAY CHASED BY SUNSET OCTOBER TWILIGHT'

Andy Rollo

Andy Rollo's creative practice has always been in response to his immediate surroundings and the concept of time, memory, cycles, connections and patterns in nature. The work also explores the thin line between abstraction and figuration, most obviously observed on the surface of each painting with its juxtaposition of differing mediums, descriptive marks and intuitive gestures.

Over the last six years the artist has immersed himself in the landscape and woodland of Dorset, choosing to paint unassuming, almost incidental subjects. Andy focuses in on the complexity of moss clad trees, the quality of light falling on the woodland floor and abstract shapes and forms, building up surfaces that suggest rather than outright describe. He juxtaposes dabs and dashes, palette knife marks, washes and impasto together with a mix of oils, acrylic and spray paint. For him the striking landscape of our local area has become a place of sanctuary in recent years and symbolises strength and protection, steadfastness and long life.

5 - 11 August: The Gallery, Shaftesbury Arts Centre, Bell Street, SHAFTESBURY, SP7 8AR. Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm. 01747 855243 / shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk.



Cathy Veale: Interaction of Light

An exhibition of paintings by Cathy Veale, well known for her large seascapes which primarily study the movement of water, patterns of light and reflections.

7 - 23 August: Fine Foundation Gallery, Durlston Castle, SWANAGE, BH19 2JL. 10.30am - 4.30pm. cathyveale.co.uk.



'ALDEBURGH BEACH'

Ruth Ander: Ragged Edges

Bristol artist Ruth Ander brings her expressive landscape prints and mixed media works to Bristol's Kitform this September.

Inspired by the Suffolk coast, the ancient landscapes of Wessex and the Isle of Skye, *Ragged Edges* explores the emotional resonance of place through printmaking, collage and layered surfaces. Drawn to boundaries - between land and sea, memory and observation, structure and spontaneity - Ander creates works that evolve through process, variation and experimentation.

Known for her hand-printed works inspired by the North Somerset coast and Bristol Channel, Ander's recent residencies in Suffolk and Skye have led to increasingly ambitious mixed media pieces and new approaches to scale.

9 - 13 September: Kitform: 37 Jamaica Street, Stokes Croft, BRISTOL, BS2 8JP. Wednesday - Saturday 12noon - 6pm, Sunday 12noon - 4pm. 07816 766894 / ruthander.co.uk / kit-form.com.



JENNIFER KYTE 'PIONEER IV'

Frome Open Art Trail 2026

Running alongside the annual Frome Festival, the Frome Open Art Trail features emerging and established artists and makers opening their studios, homes and venues to showcase and sell their work. The event is a treat for art lovers, and is an excellent way of meeting artists and supporting Frome's creative community. 93 artists in 33 venues will show paintings, sculpture, textiles, glass, ceramics, jewellery and much more.

4 – 12 July: Various locations in and around FROME, Somerset. 10am - 5pm. frome-open-art-trail.co.uk / fromefestival.co.uk.



REBECCA NEWNHAM 'QUERCUS EDITION' (2022)

Common Arts at The Fringe

Common Arts are launching a new contemporary arts festival in Shaftesbury, inspired by *Soulzight* from *Tokens* by Dorset dialect poet William Barnes. The term reflects how memory and time inhabit the world, allowing the past to persist within the present.

Artists Rebecca Newnham, Fran Quinlan, Zara McQueen, Lizzie Sykes and curator Aliceson Green present sculpture, video and drawing installations throughout the town, exploring these ideas through landscape, community and documenting time.

The festival launches at Gold Hill Museum on 11th July (3 - 5pm), with curator tours on 14th and 18th July, and children's workshops on 18th and 19th July. Maps are available throughout the town.

11 - 19 July: Various locations in SHAFTESBURY, SP7 8LY. 07712 902586 / instagram.com/common_arts.

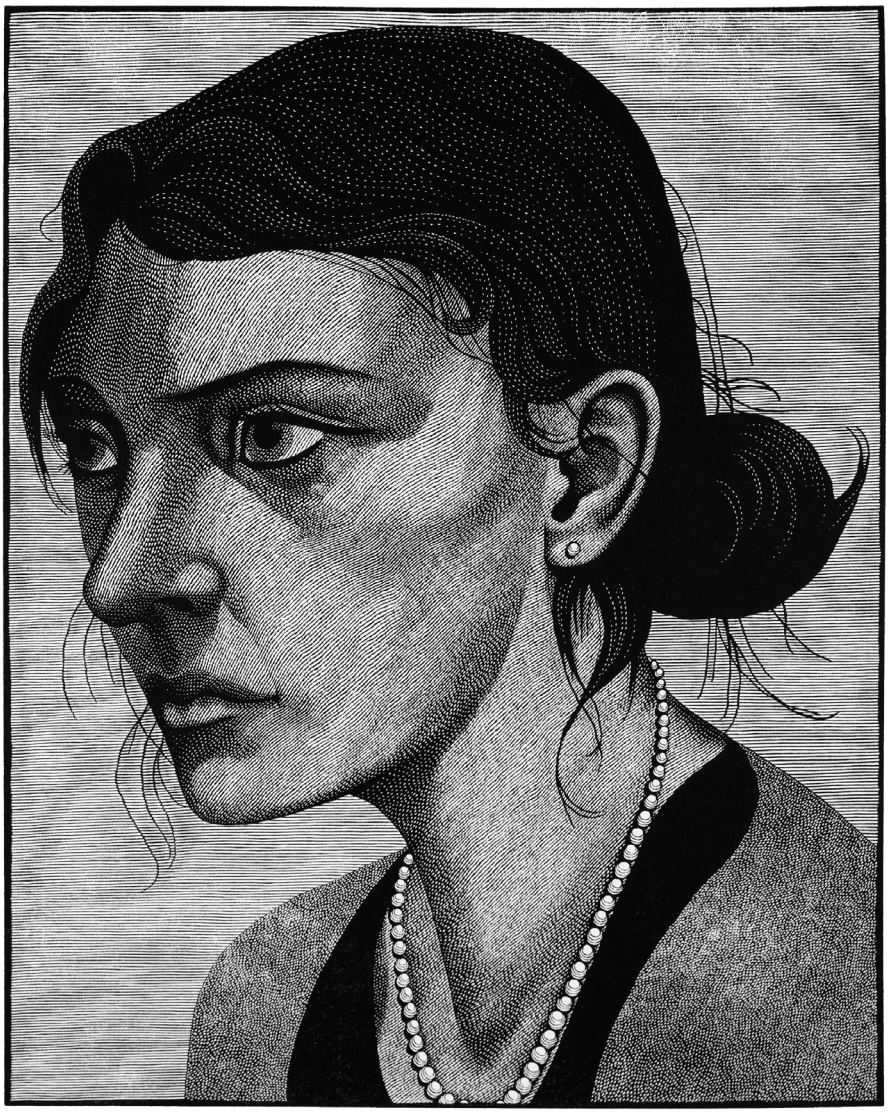


ALEXA MACKENZIE

Returning

Five artists who share a long friendship present a reflective collection of paintings marking their personal journeys: the people, places, and emotion that inhabit their memories.

27 June - 25 July: Fisherton Mill, 108 Fisherton Street, SALISBURY, SP2 7QY. Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5pm. 01722 500200 / fishertonmill.co.uk.



'THE PEARL NECKLACE' (2008)

Harry Brockway: Ways with Wood

Glastonbury's Somerset Rural Life Museum is hosting a celebratory exhibition honouring the life and work of Glastonbury-based artist Harry Brockway (1958 – 2024). Bringing together a significant selection of his wood engravings, woodcuts and wooden sculpture, the exhibition offers an in-depth look at the creativity and craftsmanship that shaped his distinguished artistic career.

Harry Brockway was an exceptionally skilled printmaker, sculptor, illustrator and stone carver. Alongside making independent prints, he created wood-engraved illustrations for an impressive range of major and independent publishers, from Penguin to The Folio Society. His work appears in editions of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and in texts by Philip Pullman, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Mark Twain and W. B. Yeats, among others.

In addition to his wood carving, Brockway worked as a self-employed stone carver and monumental mason, contributing to restoration projects across the UK, including Wells Cathedral. His diverse portfolio extended from stonework for The National Trust and memorials for The Lettering Trust, to commemorative coins for The Royal Mint and t-shirts for sustainable fashion brand Finisterre.

This exhibition pays tribute to the remarkable skill, imagination and deep commitment to craft that defined Brockway's creative life. His legacy continues to influence contemporary wood engraving and woodworking, inspiring artists, makers and illustrators today.

Born in 1958, in Newport, South Wales, Brockway studied sculpture at Kingston Polytechnic and The Royal Academy Schools in London, later training as a stonemason at Weymouth College. He was an active member of The Society of Wood Engravers and The Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers. He worked from a small studio at the bottom of his garden where he continued to develop his practice in wood engraving, letter cutting, sculpture and design. Every day he downed tools to take his daily walk up Glastonbury Tor.

Until 2 September: Somerset Rural Life Museum, Chilkwell Street, GLASTONBURY, BA6 8DB. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. £8.50 / £6.95 / £3.50. 01458 831197 / srlm.org.uk.



JESSAMY HAWKE 'FROM CORFE CASTLE LOOKING EAST'

Boilerhouse Gallery Summer Show

The Boilerhouse Gallery is celebrating the joys of summer with an exhibition inspired by the natural beauty of Purbeck. Run as a cooperative by ten local artists, the gallery's summer exhibition will share their unique takes on this special part of the world, showcasing a wide range of disciplines including ceramics, jewellery, drawing, painting, photography, collage, sculpture, assemblage, kinetic sculpture and glass.

Whether you live locally or are visiting on holiday, discover this hidden gem of a gallery nestled in a leafy oasis over the footbridge at Corfe Station, also accessible from Sandy Hill Lane at the foot of East Hill.

4 July - 30 August: Boilerhouse Gallery, Sandy Hill Lane, CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5JF. Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. 07398 052489 / boilerhousegallery.co.uk.



ÉDOUARD MANET (1832 - 1883) 'OLYMPIA' (Small plate, 1865)

Beyond Impressionism

Prints by key artists of the movement including Edouard Manet, Pierre Bonnard, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Pablo Picasso.

22 May – 13 September: The Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, BATH, BA2 4DB. 10am - 5pm. £16.50. holburne.org.



James Cockerill: Part Of

James Cockerill creates contemporary stained glass using traditional materials combined with modern techniques such as silk screen printing and sandblasting. Translating personal and archival photography into permanent glass installations, his work explores themes of memory, belonging, and place. His layered, kiln-fired pieces capture light in ways unique to the medium - shifting and transforming as the viewer moves, inviting them to become part of the work itself.

Until 18 July: The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, CORSHAM, SN13 9HX. Monday - Saturday 10am - 9.30pm. 01249 701628 / poundarts.org.uk.



CAROLINE NAIRN 'BOATS ON FOSSIL BEACH'

Bridport Art Society: Timeless

Bridport Art Society return to Sou'-Sou'-West Gallery with their summer exhibition, featuring a range of media and topics, all 'timeless'.

20 August - 9 September: Sou'-Sou'-West Gallery, Manor Yard, Symondsbury Estate, SYMONDSBURY, Bridport, DT6 6HG. 10.30am - 3.30pm. 01308 301326 / sousouwest.co.uk.



SASHA CONSTABLE ''KETTLE BRIDGE'

Constable: Generations

In 1816, John Constable and his wife Maria Bicknell spent part of their honeymoon in Osmington, Dorset, establishing a lasting family connection with the county. *Generations* brings together works by John Constable's descendants: the late Richard Constable, his daughter Sasha Constable and her son Valya Constable, alongside selected pieces by other family members. The exhibition celebrates a remarkable artistic lineage, their Dorset connections and the enduring creativity of the Constable family across generations.

23 June - 8 August: The Corn Exchange Gallery, High East Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1HF. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.

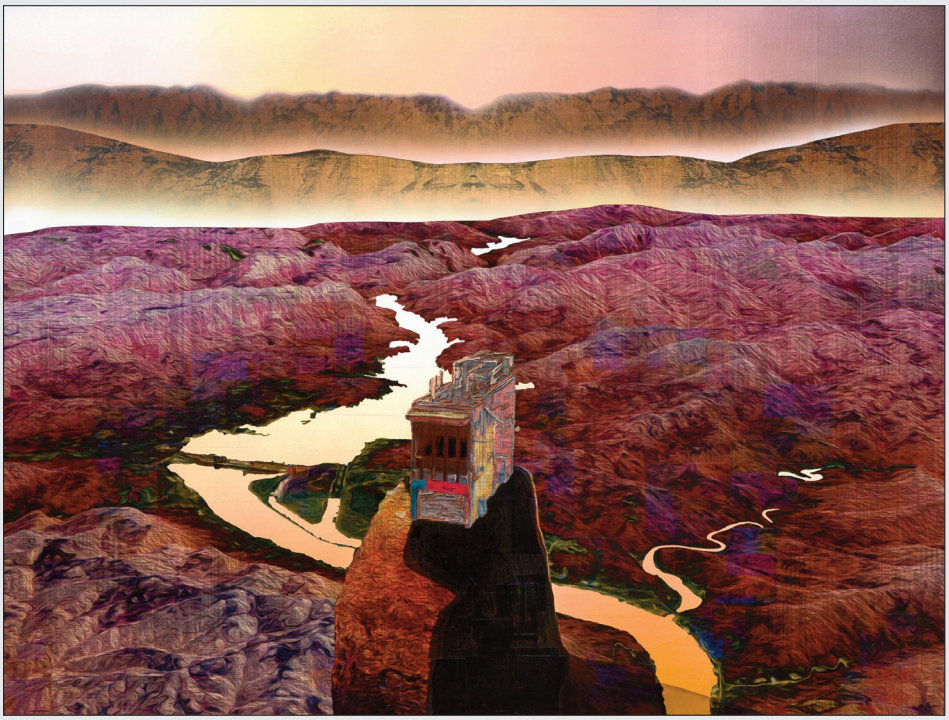


'ANDALUSIAN UMBRELLA PINES' (Acrylics)

Hilary Buckley: Landmarks 2026

Vibrant paintings by Lyme Regis artist Hilary Buckley, who specialises in depicting the local Dorset landscape in her own colourful style.

24 July - 5 August: The Malthouse Gallery, Town Mill, LYME REGIS, DT7 3PU. 10am - 5pm. 01297 444111 / dorset-artist.uk.



'LIVING MOUNTAIN'

Gordon Cheung: Many Worlds, One Mind

Born in London to parents from Hong Kong, Gordon Cheung's work emerges from an intersection of cultures, histories and ideas. His practice reflects a fluid dialogue between East and West, drawing on Chinese philosophy, European painting and contemporary technological innovation.

At the heart of his work is an ongoing exploration of the systems that shape belief, value and power. Cheung frequently engages with the origins of global trade and early capitalism, from seventeenth-century Dutch markets to today's digital economies.

Many works are built upon pages of Financial Times stock listings, embedding global finance into their foundation. Across these surfaces, Cheung constructs landscapes that echo classical European painting, yet on closer inspection reveal a distinctly contemporary language shaped by digital processes, 3D technologies and scientific methods.

The result is a body of work where illusion and reality shift, and where art history, economics and imagination converge in hybrid, speculative landscapes.

Cheung studied at Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art. His work is held in major collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Whitworth Art Gallery, and the British Museum.

Many Worlds, One Mind brings together key works from across Cheung's practice, offering a rare opportunity to encounter an artist whose work connects art, technology and global systems, and invites us to reconsider the forces shaping the world today.

Until 15 August: Close Gallery, HATCH BEAUCHAMP, TA3 6AE. Thursday and Friday 11am - 4pm, Saturday 11am - 3pm. 07712 109172 / closeltd.com.



CAROLINE AISHER 'NATURAL MOON JAR'

Gathered Contours

Landscape painter Shirley Kirkcaldy and ceramicist Caroline Aisher both live and work on Dartmoor in Devon, and it is this shared geography - together with the sea-worn edges of Devon and Cornwall - that forms the quiet conversation at the heart of this exhibition.

Though distinct in medium and approach, their work shares a sensitivity to place: a feeling for contour, texture, sky and water.

25 July - 12 August: Sou'-Sou'-West Gallery, Manor Yard, Symondsbury Estate, SYMONDSBURY, Bridport, DT6 6HG. 10.30am - 3.30pm. 01308 301326 / sousouwest.co.uk.



DAVID REMFRY 'DANCERS' (2001)

Dance Out

Dance Out is an exhibition of paintings, drawings and film that celebrates dance as an everyday human activity, both solitary and social. The RWA itself will shape-shift during the exhibition, with the main daylit galleries hosting a series of dance and dance-related events.

Dance Out features large-scale works by David Remfry, who has exhibited his dancefloor watercolours in galleries around the world, and the rarely seen *Blue Tent* by Denzil Forrester, which captures the energy of 1980s Black British nightlife, alongside Carnival-inspired works by Paul Dash and John Lyons, and a premiere from contemporary artist Zoe Spowage. Short films from Tracey Emin and Gillian Wearing reflect on the personal and social importance of dance and nightclub culture, and other exhibiting artists include rising star Amy Dury, Paula Rego, and Melanie Manchot, whose RWA-commissioned film *Night Moves* will premiere at the exhibition.

RWA Academician Dorcas Casey is also creating a new, large-scale sculptural work to hang in the dome over the RWA landing, which references Morris dance culture and folklore.

A fully accessible, haptic Beat Blocks dancefloor, which transforms sound frequencies into powerfully felt vibrations, will be installed in the RWA's main gallery and features a soundtrack to the exhibition curated by DJ d4rling, featuring mixes by Josephine Gyasi and DJ Devolicious. For a series of late-night events, the gallery will host some of Bristol's most exciting dance talent, including Bristol Swing Riot and more.

Until 9 August: RWA, Queen's Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, BS8 1PX. Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. £11 / £9.90. 0117 973 5129 / rwa.org.uk.



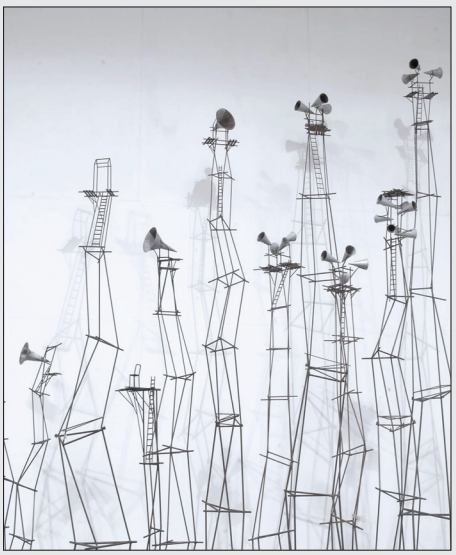
ELAINE KING

Potfest South West

Over 90 selected makers showcase a wide and diverse range of work that is guaranteed to delight and inspire.

Discover functional and decorative ceramics to suit all tastes and budgets and buy direct from the maker.

3 - 5 July: Turnpike Showground, MOTCOMBE, Shaftesbury, SP7 9PL. 10am - 4.30pm. potfest.co.uk.

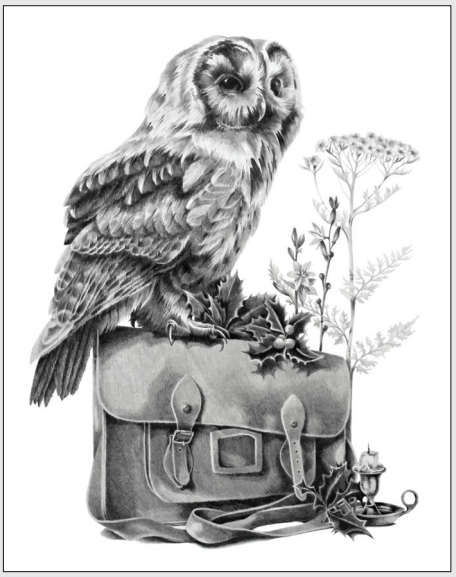


PETER BURKE 'TOWERS' (2026)

Folly

Featuring Peter Burke, Judith Jones, Jemma Gunning and Karl Singporewala, this exhibition presents four Academicians exploring the common theme of folly through their work.

23 June - 30 August: Kenny Gallery, RWA, Queen's Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, BS8 1PX. Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. Free entry. 0117 973 5129 / rwa.org.uk.



KATY HARRALD

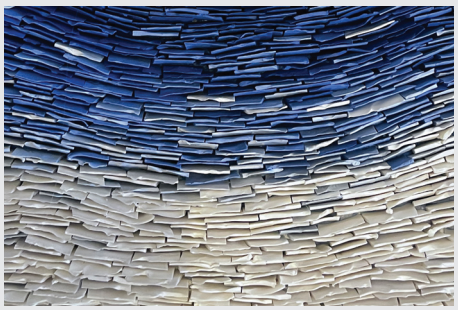
Spirit of Fancy

This summer, eight artists and craftspeople from across East Dorset come together for *Spirit of Fancy*, a vibrant exhibition celebrating imagination, creativity and the handmade. The exhibition title is inspired by the poetic phrase 'spirit of fancy', echoing the romantic idea of imagination as a powerful creative force - a fitting theme for a collection of artists whose work is deeply rooted in invention, observation and individual expression.

The exhibition will showcase a diverse range of contemporary art and craft, including ceramics, sculpture, textiles, mixed media, illustration and decorative work. Each exhibitor brings a distinctive visual language and approach, creating an exhibition rich in texture, colour and atmosphere. Inspired variously by landscape, nature, pattern, storytelling and material exploration, the collection reflects both the individuality of the makers and a shared commitment to craftsmanship and artistic expression.

Exhibiting artists include Debby Kirby, Julie Massie, Elaine King, Alan Williams, David Pointer, Caroline Parrott, Ali Woodgate, and Katy Harrald. Visitors can expect expressive ceramics, sculptural forms, intricate surfaces and finely observed imagery, all set within the dramatic coastal surroundings of Durlston Country Park.

26 August - 17 September: Fine Foundation Gallery, Durlston Country Park, SWANAGE, BH192JL. 10.30am - 4.30pm. 07968 065154.



JULIE MASSIE

The Russell Cotes Art Gallery & Museum is currently hosting a major exhibition celebrating the timeless artistry of Cicely Mary Barker. Running until 4th October, the exhibition invites visitors of all ages to rediscover the beautiful illustrations that have captivated imaginations for over a century.

Since their first publication in 1923, Cicely's Flower Fairies have become beloved classics, she observed and recorded each flower with meticulous botanical accuracy. Raised in a family of passionate gardeners, Cicely developed a lifelong love of nature that shaped every aspect of her work. Rare early illustrations on display and insights into her working process reveal an artist whose gentle imagination continues to bring joy.



Fairies were a popular subject in the early 20th century which undoubtably influenced Cecily, as well as a love for the Pre-Raphaelites. Following her father's untimely death her sister opened a school in their front room. This provided plenty of life models for Cecily, who would match the personalities of the plants to those of the children she drew. However, this was not just a hobby, the pressure to generate an income form her artwork was a very real necessity.

This exhibition highlights Cecily's connection to Dorset and the sea, somewhere she continued to visit from childhood throughout her life. There is much of her original artwork on display, early sketches and photographs of her seaside holidays which fed into commercial



'SWEET PEA FAIRIES, FLOWER FAIRIES OF THE GARDEN' (1944) © The Estate of Cicely Mary Barker

Flower Fairies: Enchantment by the Sea

work, and illustrations for postcards. *The Horned Poppy Fairy* is a typical coastal character, this Sea Poppy thrives on shingle beaches, cliffs and sand dunes.

In focusing on this special Dorset connection, the Russell Cotes also shows Cicely's landscape paintings made during her visits to the county, including scenes from Swanage, Highcliffe and Worth Matravers. These atmospheric pieces demonstrate her deep appreciation for the coastline and countryside that continues to inspire artists today.

As ever the Russell-Cotes has a fabulous selection of children's interactive opportunities. Mrs Owl's crossword puzzle, a wishing tree, opportunities to draw, colour and write poems and of course dressing up. As well as all this, a fairy trail invites you to explore their beautiful grounds and find the fairies and their plants, bringing Cicely Mary Barker's world to life.

Suzy Rushbrook





Until 4 October: Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, East Cliff, BOURNEMOUTH, BH1 3AA. 10am - 5pm. £12.50 / £6. 01202 128000 / russellcotes.com.

Installation photographs by Eliza Naden



'WEST BAY 327' (Oil on canvas, 50 x 110 cm, 2026)

Alex Lowery

Alex Lowery's stunning new paintings of Portland and West Bay return to familiar places with new eyes. Looking over rooftops towards the sweeping coastline of Lyme Bay and the sea, with Portland misty in the distance, our eyes are drawn to planes of colour and light. Unpeopled, but full of the evidence of people, these paintings hold our attention in play. They take the eye around and through the image, from foreground to background, from rough foliage and the angled surfaces of buildings to luminous seas and sky, from the contemporary to the timeless and from the concrete to the infinite.

Moving back and forth in the space between naturalism and abstraction, Alex Lowery's paintings seduce us with texture and light. Whether it is the cliffs of West Bay and the rooftops around Pier Terrace, the road that rides the ridge of Portland or indeed L'Estaque near Marseille, he finds the beauty in light on tarmac, in corrugated iron and chimney pots in these seaside places. His compositions lead us through a nexus of buildings whose details may be more or less abstracted. Ways through down to the beach are implied. Buildings may or may not look back at us through their windows. Unusual colours may be more accurate than we have noticed. Sometimes it takes looking at an Alex Lowery painting to realise how things really look.

'BEYOND WORDS'

Until 4 July: Sladers Yard, WEST BAY, Bridport, DT6 4EL. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4.30pm. 01308 459511 / sladersyard.co.uk.



Prophecy: Living Life as Art

For over 14 years, Hazel Golden has devoted herself to one central inquiry: what happens when life itself becomes the canvas for transformation? Not art as something outside of us, but as a path through heartbreak to love, and through loss to becoming who you were always meant to be.

Until 4 July: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 9pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



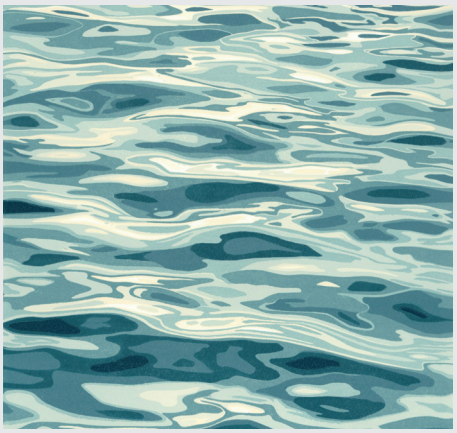
'NEW ARRIVALS - SANDWICH TERNS'

Robert Greenhalf: Birds and Light

This solo exhibition showcases leading wildlife artist Robert Greenhalf's stunning oil paintings and original prints.

Radiating light, Robert's beautifully composed and crafted paintings draw on years of experience both in the studio and in the field observing birds in their natural habitats.

26 June - 12 July: Trymwood Studios, Trym Road, WESTBURY ON TRYM, Bristol, BS9 3ET. Friday - Sunday 11am - 4pm. trymwoodstudios.co.uk.



MEGAN HALL

Devon Open Studios

During Devon Open Studios, artists across the county will be inviting people to see their work in venues from galleries to garden sheds. Visitors can take a peek inside artists' studios to learn about their techniques, inspirations and creative processes while seeing work in progress.

Artists and makers will be demonstrating and showcasing their work in rural barns, converted chapels, coastal studios and other creative spaces. Many artists also offer demonstrations, talks and hands-on activities. The art and craft on display will include jewellery, sculpture, printing, drawing, painting, ceramics, glass and handmade paper.

Devon Open Studios is the flagship event of Devon Artist Network. Printed guides are available from community venues, libraries and tourist information offices.

12 - 20 September: Locations throughout DEVON. devonartistnetwork.co.uk.



CAROLINE TUCKER

Between Colour and Form

Four contemporary artists explore the dynamic relationship between colour, texture and structure through expressive painting and sculptural form.

1 - 29 August: Fisherton Mill, 108 Fisherton Street, SALISBURY, SP2 7QY. Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5pm. 01722 500200 / fishertonmill.co.uk.



'PORTRAIT OF NINA HAMNETT'
(Oil on canvas, 1917) © The Courtauld

Roger Fry: A Life in Art

Roger Fry (1866 - 1934) was a curator, critic, painter and designer, who transformed British art. He was a member of the Bloomsbury Group, the influential circle of artists, writers and thinkers that included Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant.

Fry's ideas helped to reshape artistic thinking in Britain and beyond. He is perhaps best known for introducing postimpressionist art to England. His groundbreaking exhibitions of 1910 and 1912 shocked, surprised and inspired the public and changed the direction of British art forever.

This show brings together vibrant artworks, rare loans, and neverbeforeseen pieces from private collections.

Until 4 July: The Museum of Somerset, Castle Lodge, Castle Green, TAUNTON, TA1 4AA. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. £5 / £4. swheritage.org.uk.



Seeking Ecological Citizenship

Artwork, creative writing and photography from resident artists and creatives at The Millhouse, convened by Methodical Bear Productions.

Until 30 June: The Millhouse Gallery and Café, Unit 1, Rose Mills Industrial Estate, ILMINSTER, TA19 9PS. Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 2.30pm. 07980 946465 / millhousearts.co.uk.



RUTH DESMAN

Through the Looking Glass

Through the Looking Glass presents a collection of contemporary glassworks that challenge the way we view the world. Moving beyond function, we invite a deeper engagement with glass and its material qualities and processes, to consider what it reveals, distorts, and reflects.

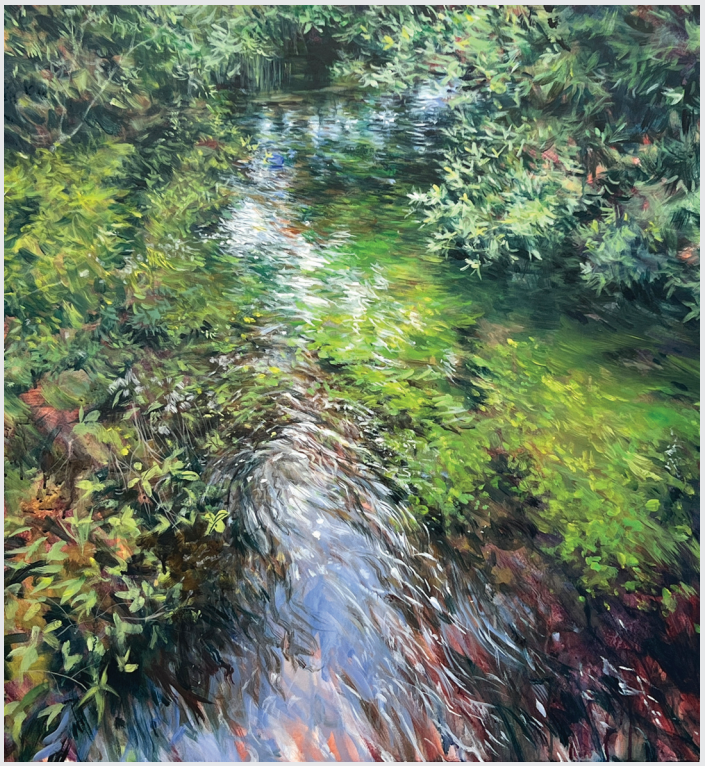
The area local to Frome is a hotbed for glass artists. The exhibition showcases a diverse range of work by skilled glassmakers and educators associated with The Glass Hub, an independent glass school in Wiltshire.

Bringing together techniques including glassblowing, casting, engraving, fusing, lampworking, painting, stained glass, and neon, heritage skills are placed in conversation with contemporary practice. The works push the boundaries of glass as a material, exploring scale and control, subverting tradition, telling stories, and examining the collaboration between the artist and the glass.

27 June - 2 August: Black Swan Arts, 2 Bridge Street, FROME, BA11 1BB. Monday - Sunday 10am - 4pm. 01373 473980 / blackswanarts.org.uk.



STEVE FREY



NICK ANDREW 'EILLA-CERSA' (Acrylic and oil on canvas, 152 x 81 cm)

Bull Mill Open Studios

Contemporary landscape painting and drawing projects sale by Nick Andrew, wildlife art on reclaimed wood by Tanya Hinton, and jewellery by Stephanie Gilbert.

3 - 5 July: Bull Mill Studio, Bull Lane, CROCKERTON, Warminster, BA12 8AY. 10am - 5pm. 07730 400784 / nickandrew.co.uk / tanyahinton.co.uk.



WASSILY KANDINSKY 'BOGENSHUTZE' (c. 1912) © Sheffield Museums

Colour

Over 150 objects spanning art, science, nature and cultural histories. Artworks by Hokusai, Kandinsky, Bridget Riley and Andy Warhol are on display alongside exquisite crafts and objects.

Until 6 September: RAMM, Queen Street, EXETER, EX4 3RX. Tuesday 10.30am - 5pm, Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. £6. rammuseum.org.uk.



FYNN ALLEN

Dorchester Ceramics Market

Dorset Clay Cooperative is bringing together a one-day market celebrating the variety and versatility of contemporary ceramics, with makers from across Dorset and further afield, including the 2026 winner of channel 4's *The Great Pottery Throwdown*, Fynn Allen.

Visitors can browse and buy work spanning sculpture, homewares, ceramic art, jewellery, garden pottery and functional tableware - made using a range of methods and firing techniques. The market will include established makers who regularly exhibit around the UK, alongside newer artists hosting their first-ever stall.

Dorset Clay Cooperative supports and promotes ceramic artists and makers, creating opportunities for the public to discover and buy high-quality work and for artisan makers to connect with a Dorset audience.

11 July: The Corn Exchange, High East Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1HF. 10am - 4pm. Free entry. dorsetclaycooperative.com.



HOWARD PHIPPS 'WIN GREEN FROM BERWICK DOWN'

The Arborealists: Biophilia

Twenty selected works addressing ecological concerns with a particular focus on trees, woodland, hedgerows and commons. By visually representing biophilia, or 'bringing the outside in', the exhibition can support patient, NHS staff and visitor wellbeing as part of *Art Space*, a programme of art initiatives across University Hospitals Dorset.

1 July - 14 August: Art Space Gallery, Atrium, Zone B, Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, BOURNEMOUTH, BH7 7HA. 10am - 4pm. 03000 194060.



Mellony Taper: All This Useless Beauty

Solo exhibition of work by the winner of the THG Open 2025, exploring female stories, considering how inherited experience and repeating generational patterns have shaped women's lives.

Until 27 June: Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell Street, HONITON, EX14 1LX. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. 01404 45006 / thelmahulbert.com.



John Aubrey: Wiltshire and the World

Marking the 400th anniversary of his birth, this exhibition celebrates wide-ranging pursuits and scientific interests of John Aubrey, the famous seventeenth century antiquarian, scientist, and biographer. The exhibition will feature significant loans from across the country. Part of the *Chippenham - Our History* project.

Until 19 September: Chippenham Museum, 9 - 10 Market Place, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 3HF. Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm. 01249 705020 / chippenham.gov.uk.



'SHIANT GARBH EILEAN' (Etching, 49.5 x 78 cm, 2010) © Norman Ackroyd

Norman Ackroyd: The Transience of Light

Norman Ackroyd (1938 - 2024) is widely recognised for his atmospheric depictions of the British Isles' cliffs, shorelines and remote coasts. *The Transience of Light* traces his enduring fascination with the play of light across landscape and sea - from soft tonal shifts of his early prints to the bold contrasts, misted skies and luminous horizons that characterised his later work. His ability to distil the essence of place, often discovered on fearless journeys by boat to the far edges of the Atlantic, remains unmatched.

The Transience of Light is co-curated by Victoria Art Gallery's senior curator Nathalie Levi and Ackroyd's studio manager and family. Their insight, together with material newly drawn from the archive, has helped create an exhibition that offers a rare and personal view of Ackroyd's practice and the evolution of his visual language.

The exhibition was developed during visits to Ackroyd's Bermondsey studio - formerly a tannery and long a creative sanctuary filled with printing presses, archives and workspaces. Nathalie Levi recalls: "The studio is a world unto itself, saturated with ink and stories. To be invited into that environment, and to work with the people who knew Norman best, was a privilege. Their generosity and insight underpin every part of this exhibition."

The exhibition will feature etchings spanning five decades, from the 1980s to some of Ackroyd's final works. Alongside his celebrated seascapes, it will also highlight the breadth of his subjects, including landscapes, city views, interiors, studies of trees and sweeping skylines.

As the first solo museum exhibition of Ackroyd's work since his death, it marks an important moment for Victoria Art Gallery and for Bath, chosen by the artist's family and studio as the setting in which to share this significant body of work.

Until 6 September: Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, BATH, BA2 4AT. Tuesday - Sunday 10.30am - 5pm. £9. 01225 477233 / victoriagal.org.uk.



'STUDY OF SUNLIGHT, CO. KERRY' (Etching, 20.5 x 33 cm, 2008) © Norman Ackroyd



CLOISTER COURTYARD, HAUSER & WIRTH SOMERSET (Photograph by David Bebber)

Drawing Weekender

The Royal Drawing School presents *Drawing Weekender*, two days of drawing, experimentation and creative exchange taking place across the buildings, gardens and surrounding landscape of Hauser & Wirth Somerset.

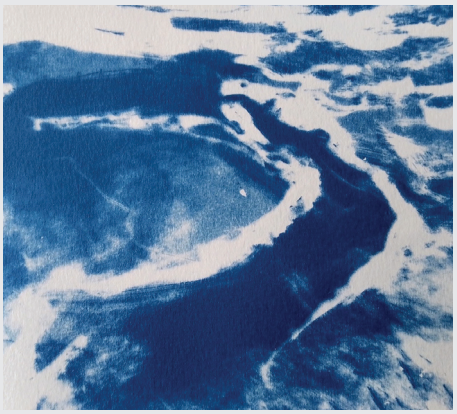
Drawing Weekender invites visitors of all ages and levels of experience to explore drawing through workshops, artist talks, collaborative activities and free drop-in sessions led by artists and tutors from the Royal Drawing School.

Across the weekend, participants can draw outdoors in Piet Oudolf's celebrated gardens and the rolling Somerset landscape, join immersive life drawing workshops inside the historic Durslade Farmhouse, or gather in the Radić Pavilion for artist-led talks and participatory demonstrations. Alongside ticketed workshops, free activities and self-directed drawing prompts will take place across the site throughout the weekend.

Designed as an open and exploratory experience, *Drawing Weekender* encourages visitors to move between structured sessions and spontaneous moments of creativity.

Featured artists and tutors include Royal Academician Ishbel Myerscough, Dilip Sur, Alexis Soul-Gray, George Rouy and Matthew Rice, alongside Royal Drawing School tutors Nell Brookfield, David Gardner, Max Naylor, Tessa Coleman, Sara Lee Roberts and Paul Fenner.

18 and 19 July: Hauser & Wirth Somerset, Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, BRUTON, BA10 0NL. See website for full programme: royaldrawingschool.org.



SARAH HUMBY 'HENGISTBURY HEAD' (Cyanotype)

Southern Contemporaries: Vestiges

A ruined church… an eroded coast… footprints in the dust… the dregs of a drink… these are all traces, remains and 'vestiges' of past events, and the inspiration for this project, inspired by landscape and plein-air painter Frances Hatch.

For over a year, a group of Bournemouth Arts Club members have been soaking up vestiges of the past - ancient and recent, in all their forms.

Now, at this exciting new space in Boscombe's Sovereign Centre, they present their responses, their discoveries and ideas, in a multi-media exhibition curated by Frances under the banner of Southern Contemporaries, an exhibiting arm of the Bournemouth Arts Club.

2 - 31 July: The Auger Collective Gallery, Sovereign Centre, BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, BH1 4SX. Wednesday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm. bournemouthartsclub.co.uk.



MIRANDA PENDER 'SWEET TEMPTATION'

Yeovil Creatives: Finding Calm in The Chaos

This members exhibition is always a unique celebration of diversity and individual stories.

15 July - 29 August: Yeovil Art Space, 13 - 15 Vicarage Walk, Quedam Centre, YEOVIL, BA20 1EU. Wednesday - Friday 12noon - 4pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm. yeovilartspace.uk.



'MARLBOROUGH DOWNS IV' (Acrylic on canvas, 76 x 51 cm, 2025)

David O'Connor: Terrain

David combines topographical information with an awareness of pattern and abstraction in his landscapes. Fragments of memories of place and layered points of view are combined to produce vibrant paintings.

11 August - 5 September: 2 High Street, MARLBOROUGH, SN8 1AA. Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. 07398 970439 / whitechalkgallery.co.uk.

Brian Rice at 90



'STOFFALOFF' (2020)

Brian Rice is a distinguished painter and printmaker whose work is held in 80 public and corporate collections worldwide, including the Tate Gallery and the V&A Museum. I visited him at his home in West Dorset as he approached his ninetieth birthday. On the walls of his studio are the traces of medieval graffiti, including 14th century images of shoes, a protection against malign spirits. The two worktables we sit at have been with Brian since the sixties and carry their own graffiti-like marks - scratches and paint traces across the years.

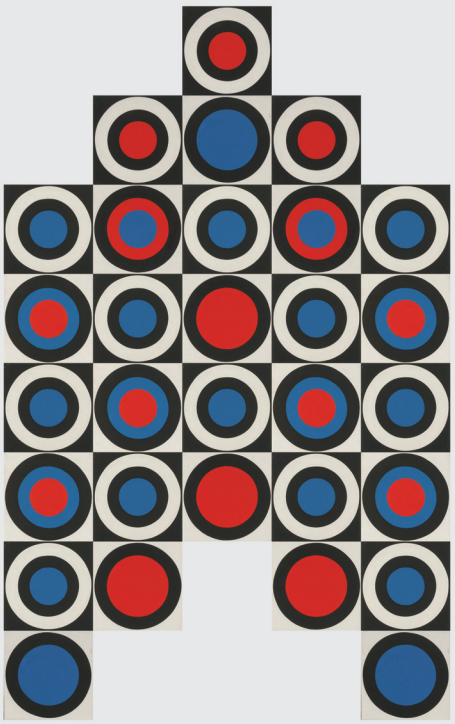
Success came early to Brian through printmaking. Four years at Yeovil School of Art were followed by a year at Goldsmiths College by which stage he was already exhibiting in London galleries and in the United States. A keen cyclist, in 1960 he headed to France to see if he could make a living as a racing cyclist. When this seemed unlikely, he parked his bike in Gibraltar and set off to meet up with fellow artists Derek Boshier and Peter Jones in Fuengirola, where they were planning a trip to Morocco, hitching down to the Sahara Desert. Whilst sitting drawing by the empty roadside waiting for a lift, he had a moment of revelation: "This is what I want do with my life - make art, become a painter." He picked up his bike from Gibraltar and cycled back to England.



By the early sixties he was back in London cementing his lifelong and influential friendship with Boshier, and as the decade progressed, becoming increasingly successful as an artist. He developed an interest in heraldic motifs and started making multi-canvas, shaped paintings using circles and squares as his subject. His painting *Metropol* epitomised his work at this period and was shown alongside others in the same series in avant-garde exhibitions at the New Vision Centre in 1964 and 1965. He was commissioned and paid £100 a month by an American dealer to design screen-prints and at the same time he was invited to teach screen-printing at Brighton College of Art.

He went on to develop a series of colour system paintings, which were shown at Brighton Polytechnic. However, following the exhibition he became disillusioned with colour system painting and despite his success in the London art scene, he stopped painting and started what became a permanent move to Dorset.

Initially he was sheep farming whilst he continued to lecture at Brighton: "Always two days a week. I was a painter who teaches not a teacher who paints." The discovery of Bronze Age shards of pottery led to a passionate engagement with archaeology and his subsequent interactions with archaeologists at Dorchester Museum fed his interest, leading to a new series of paintings. In 1983 he moved to an ancient farmhouse near Hewood in Dorset and poured his energies into restoring the house. He didn't have a solo exhibition for twenty years.



'METROPOL' (1965)

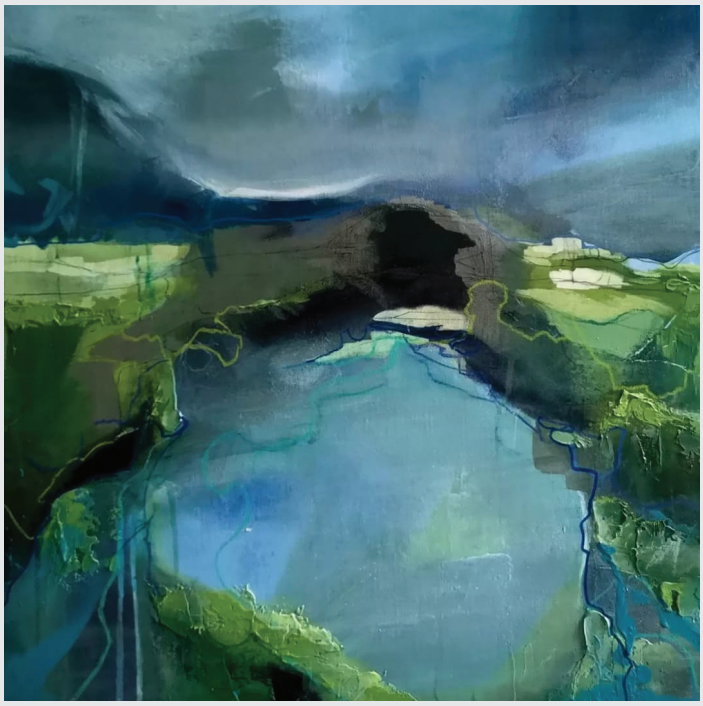
Rice's priorities shifted again when he stepped down from his role as Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton in 2001. The solo show that marked his departure toured to Bridport Arts Centre, essentially re-launching his exhibiting career. By now he was working on his *Halla* paintings, "a plan of a hut, with rafters sticking out and with post holes and fire pits". The series was initially prompted by an invitation to feature on the cover of a new West Country arts magazine, *The Sticks*, later renamed *Evolver*!

In 2014 following a major exhibition of his 1960s work at the Redfern Gallery in London, Rice abandoned archaeology as a subject and returned to a purer form of abstraction, inspired by Constructivism.

He still paints every day, which is what matters most to him: "I have never been motivated by fame, I do what I do, I love sitting down and painting."

Fiona Robinson

'MAKING SPACE'
11 - 13 September: Newhouse, HEWOOD, Chard, TA20 4NP. 11am - 3pm.
01460 221205 / 07816 673463.



'LAKE AT LITTLE BREDY'

Sarah Jayne Jefferies: Salt, Sky and Stone

Based in Dorchester, Sarah is known for her vibrant and expressive mixed media paintings, inspired by the landscapes, seasons, and changing weather of the Dorset coast and countryside. Working primarily in acrylic, she combines a wide range of materials and techniques including spray paint, wax, pastel, charcoal, ink, dye, gold leaf, oil sticks, and illustrative pens, creating richly layered abstract compositions full of movement, texture, and atmosphere.

Sarah describes herself as enjoying "the power of colour", often pairing "bright neon tones with dark moody skies" or incorporating metallic elements to create drama and contrast within her work. Her paintings are celebrated for their striking colour combinations, expressive mark making, and playful use of materials, whether exploring contemporary abstract landscapes or vibrant botanical still life studies.

Fascinated by England's seasons and the ever changing light across the Dorset landscape, particularly approaching storms and dramatic skies, Sarah uses colour and layered media to evoke emotion and a strong sense of place. Her still life works similarly celebrate the "quirks" of natural forms through lively compositions and bold contemporary abstraction.

1 - 31 July: Athelhampton House, Athelhampton Road, PUDDLETOWN, Dorchester, DT2 7LG. 10am - 5pm. 01305 848363 / athelhampton.com.



PHILIP SUTTON 'STUDIO IN PEMBROKESHIRE' (142.5 x 142.5 cm, 1991)

Sladers' 20th Anniversary Exhibition

To mark their 20th Anniversary Sladers Yard Gallery is showing work by the painters, ceramic artists, printmakers, sculptors and furniture maker Petter Southall who have all contributed to make it the artistic community that it is. The gallery wants to thank everybody who has supported it and its artists over the years with a celebratory selling exhibition that brings everyone together from David Inshaw to Philip Sutton and from Richard Batterham to Gabriele Koch.

Including collages by Marzia Colonna, paintings by Julian Bailey, Frances Hatch, Vanessa Gardiner, Alex Lowery, Tim Nicholson, Janette Kerr, Simon Quadrat and many more, prints by Sally McLaren, Martyn Brewster, Merlyn Chesterman and Howard Phipps, sculpture and drawings by Clare Trenchard, ceramics by Yo Thom, Björk Haraldsdóttir, Emily Myers, Lise Herud Braten and more, it will be a voyage of discovery and re-discovery.

The Georgian flax warehouse, Sladers Yard was converted into an art gallery in 2006 by husband and wife Petter Southall and Anna Powell, who have run it with a great team ever since. The café opened in 2007 and is now an acclaimed and award-winning restaurant.

11 July - 5 September: Sladers Yard, WEST BAY, Bridport, DT6 4EL. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4.30pm. 01308 459511 / sladersyard.co.uk.



RUTH READMAN
'LARGE TEXTURED MOON'

From the Ground Up

Spanning textiles, ceramics and painting, Fran Griffiths, Tonia Gunstone, Ruth Readman and Sarah Turnbull present an exciting collection of pieces inspired by the Dorset landscape and Jurassic Coast, as well as the dramatic panoramas of Iceland.

Each artist brings a strong sense of physicality to their creative process. The landscapes that inspire them are not only observed but deeply felt, resulting in work that captures both the character and emotional resonance of place.

12 - 20 September: Sou'-Sou'-West Gallery, Manor Yard, Symondsbury Estate, SYMONDSBURY, Bridport, DT6 6HG. 10.30am - 3.30pm. 01308 301326 / sousouwest.co.uk.



TONIA GUNSTONE
'GLACIAL BLUES'



PAUL CLEDEN 'POTTERY KILN FIRING'

Muchelney Pottery Open Day

Muchelney Pottery is gearing up for their next open day and there is plenty planned…

The July kiln firing will be unpacked on the day, with visitors able to choose pots fresh from the cooling chambers. The kiln shed will gradually be filled with over 1,000 new pots - from mugs, jugs, bowls and plates to signed personal work by Mark Melbourne, Ben Leach and Hannah Leach. Mark will be demonstrating on the Leach kick-wheel in the pottery yard.

Printmaker Paul Cleden will unveil a brand new collection of work inspired by time spent with the pottery crew studying the shapes and rhythms that make up life at the pottery. He will be available on the day to discuss the new prints and will also be demonstrating and offering visitors a chance to have a go on the printing press.

There will also be live music from Hannah Leach, the launch of brand new *Potters of the World Ignite* tankards, a display of beautiful disasters, food from the Kind Kitchen Baker, and Dunleavy Vineyards will be offering tastings of their award winning English wine.

25 July: Muchelney Pottery, MUCHELNEY, near Langport, TA10 0DW. 10am - 4pm. Free entry. johnleachpottery.co.uk.



RACHAEL REES, MARK MELBOURNE, HANNAH LEACH, BEN LEACH



'ON THE WAY TO THE LEISURE CENTRE' (2017)

Glenn Brown: Arrows of Desire

Glenn Brown is one of the most celebrated painters to come out of the Young British Artist generation. He is famous for borrowing images, colours, painterly brushstrokes and drawn lines from art history to create fresh yet disturbing paintings that reveal a dark humour. He has created a fantastical pictorial language of his own.

Glenn will be hanging a selection of his past works amongst the cycle of the renowned English paintings in the Holburne's permanent collection, as well as smaller drawings in antique frames in adjoining galleries. Brown's interventions will introduce the uncanny, the excessive, and the unsettling into spaces usually associated with refinement and order. This tension makes the familiar unfamiliar, sharpening our attention to both the historical artworks and Brown's contemporary practice.

Having studied at Bath School of Art and Design between 1995 and 1988, Brown is back in Bath, bringing his own twist on the Holburne's collection.

Until 6 September: The Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, BATH, BA2 4DB. 10am - 5pm. £16.50. holburne.org.



ELAINE COLLETT 'OUTFLOW'

Wesca: Water, River, Source

Wesca is a longstanding group of 25 professional and semi-professional Wessex artists, formed to provide mutual support, promote contemporary arts, and create opportunities in the Wessex area. Currently they are engaged in an 18-month site responsive exploratory project, titled *Water River Source*, inspired by the social history, habitat, landscape and wildlife of local rivers. Artists are taking the pulse of our rivers, documenting their ideas and sharing discoveries from their individual lines of enquiry. They are aiming to open a conversation with viewers about our rivers.

2 - 8 September: The Gallery, Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 11 - 13 Bell Street, SHAFTESBURY, SP7 8AR. 10am - 4pm. 07500 870702 / wesca.co.uk / shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk



'FIREFLIES'

Poulomi Basu: Always Coming Home

Born in Kolkata in 1983, Poulomi is an eco-feminist and activist whose work looks at power, conflict, and climate change, and how these forces affect people's lives and bodies. Much of her work focuses on women from the Global South, highlighting how systems of inequality and patriarchy shape, restrict, and weaponise women's bodies.

Her projects emerge as a response to both personal trauma and collective struggle. Bringing together moving image, sculpture, photography, and sound, Basu's practice spans documentary, speculative fiction, and activism, and explores displacement and environmental injustice. Drawing inspiration from South Asian Futurism, the exhibition transforms the gallery into an immersive environment that shifts between different realities and speculative futures.

Until 31 August: East Quay, WATCHET, TA23 0AQ. Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 6pm. 01984 263103 / eastquaywatchet.co.uk.



'THE CAFE ROYAL' (Oil on canvas, 2024)

Kit Glaisyer: The Café Royal

Kit Glaisyer's *Café Royal* paintings transform an iconic roadside café in Bridport into a series of cinematic, psychologically charged landscapes that explore light, memory, nostalgia and the poetry of ordinary places. Drawing comparisons with Edward Hopper, Wim Wenders and American Pop Art, the series re-imagines a familiar local landmark as something both deeply personal and strangely mythic.

Until 31 August: Bridport Contemporary, 11 Downes Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3JR. Open every Saturday 10am - 3pm and by appointment. 07983 465789 / kitglaisyer.com.



JACK WEST

Somerset Art Weeks Festival 2026

Somerset Art Weeks Festival 2026 will take place from 19th September to 4th October across more than 90 venues throughout Somerset, celebrating creativity, culture, and community across the county. This year's festival theme *Exploring Cultural Connections* invites artists and visitors to explore ideas of migration, heritage, and the rich variety of interconnections that shape Somerset today.

The county-wide festival features group exhibitions, curated shows, special commissions, and work from established and emerging artists, including creatives supported through SAW bursaries. Through a wide range of visual arts and crafts, audiences are invited to reflect on connections across histories, communities, landscapes, and species - from prehistoric to the present day, from human to more-than-human.

Alongside exhibitions, the festival offers a programme of family-friendly workshops, events, and creative activities taking place each weekend.

19 September - 4 October: Locations throughout SOMERSET. somersetartworks.org.uk.



MADDIE ROCK



DIONNE MARSHALL 'RHYTHM OF LIFE'

A Tangle of Living Things

This exhibition explores the relationships between plants, animals, ecosystems, and the ever-shifting boundaries between human and non-human life.

From blooming botanicals to creeping undergrowth, from microscopic organisms to majestic wildlife, with work that honours the beauty, complexity, and fragility of life on Earth.

25 June - 7 September: Heart of The Tribe Gallery, 74 High Street, GLASTONBURY, BA6 9DZ. Thursday - Monday 11am - 5pm. 01458 832167 / heartofthetribe.com.



'ROLLING HILLS'

Bryony Cox: The Walker

This exhibition will feature pastel drawings and paintings focused on the viewpoint of a walker experiencing the Wiltshire landscape one foot at a time.

11 June - 18 July: White Chalk Gallery, 5 Old Swan Yard, DEVIZES, SN10 1AT. Thursday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. 07398 970439 / whitechalkgallery.co.uk.



'THE CLASH UNDER LONDON'S WESTWAY, 1977'
An accidental double exposure. By Adrian Boot / urbanimage.tv

Adrian Boot's Punk Bridport

UK punk erupted in 1976 like a cultural thunderbolt, driven by economic despair and a fierce rejection of the rock establishment. The Sex Pistols lit the fuse, while the Clash broadened punk's horizons with reggae, politics, and social conscience. Bands like the Damned, Buzzcocks, and Siouxsie and the Banshees added their own voices to a scene that was short-lived but seismic, reshaping British music, fashion, and attitude for many decades to come.

This exhibition of Adrian Boot's photographs will explore the raw, unfiltered spirit of punk rock through a series of powerful images that capture the scene's energy, attitude, and urgency. The work focuses on punk in the UK and USA as both a visual and a cultural movement, highlighting its fast, confrontational nature and its uncompromising rejection of established social and cultural norms.

4 July - 22 August: Allsop Gallery, Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.



GEMMA DUNNELL

The Drawing Room: Memento

This group exhibition and co-created art making space weaves together three core themes: connection - our bonds with people, places, animals and the world around us, life and mortality - encouraging an appreciation for life by acknowledging the wonder of impermanence, and memory - how objects and gestures carry the past into our present, keeping stories alive.

24 July - 29 August: Pound Arts, Pound Pill, CORSHAM, SN13 9HX. Monday - Saturday 10am - 9.30pm. 01249 701628 / poundarts.org.uk.



Autumn 2026

Tincleton Gallery's Autumn 2026 exhibition is a mixed show featuring their gallery artists. Dorset-based artist Imogen Bittner contributes excellent textile-based work, alongside atmospheric coastscapes in oil from Dorset contemporary Kim Pragnell. Devon-based printmaker Mary Gillett evokes coastal scenery, and Philippa Headley's impressionistic landscapes in oil add colour. Bristol-based Ruth Ander continues her limpid monoprint series. Many other gallery and guest artists will also be exhibiting work, including Johannes von Stumm, Alison Wear, Almuth Tebbenhoff, and Ruth Chapman.

5 September - 27 December: Tincleton Gallery, The Old School House, TINCLETON, near Dorchester, DT2 8QR. Saturday and Sunday 10am - 4pm. 01305 848909 / tincletongallery.com.



JOHNNY VEGAS

Alchemy

The artists Peter Hayes, Johnny Vegas, Emma Rodgers, Gina Hatter, Max Eugeni, Sophie Green, Lonn Landis, Simone Schofield, and Fredrik Anderson have worked as a collective, driven by shared curiosity, environments, and elements of nature, and the reactions that happen throughout that process.

7 - 12 July: Pedestal Gallery, 3 Stony Street, FROME, BA11 1BU. 10am - 4pm. 07889 597637 / thepedestalgallery.co.uk.



KATE TOMS 'LILY'

Summer Exhibition

Visit St Peter's Hall at the top of Shaftesbury's famous Gold Hill for this exhibition by Yvette Cannon, Francesca Kaye, Kate Toms, Trevor Toms, Sara Westaway, and Elaine Zaple Gulliver, six Dorset artists coming together to show work that includes photography, painting, jewellery, sculptures, ceramics and silk scarves.

17 - 29 August: St Peter's Hall, SHAFTESBURY, SP7 8LY. 10am - 5pm. 07970297037 / katetoms.com.



GEORGINA BACON 'SALTWATER'

William Lane: Sea Swimming

The *Sea Swimming* project documents the people who regularly immerse themselves in the waters off Weymouth and Portland. Through a series of portraits, the work explores the many reasons people are drawn to sea swimming, from physical challenge and connection with nature to mental health and wellbeing.

The project has grown through conversations with over sixty participants, each bringing their own story and relationship with the sea. While individual motivations differ, a strong sense of community and shared experience runs throughout the series.

This body of work celebrates the positive impact of sea swimming, the connections it creates, and the distinctive coastal characters who make these communities what they are.

21 July - 11 October: Level 1, North Wing, Dorset County Hospital, William Avenue, DORCHESTER, DT1 2JY. 8am - 8pm. 01305 253424 / dchartsinhospital.org.uk.



JACK DICKSON 'WE THE UNDERTOW'

Blandford Art Society Open Exhibition

The Blandford Art Society return to the renovated Corn Exchange after a 4-year absence, with guest artist Jack Dickson, recently featured on BBC's *Extraordinary Portraits*. The annual exhibition is open to all artists, professional and amateur, living in the Wessex area. The deadline for submissions is 12th July.

15 - 21 August: The Corn Exchange, BLANDFORD FORUM, DT11 7AG. Friday 5 - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday - Thursday 10am - 5pm, Friday 10am - 4pm. blandfordartsociety.weebly.com.

Exhibit A

Summer 2026



Threaded Together

An exciting new body of work by silk weaver Debby Kirby will mark 40 years of weaving at Walford Mill Crafts.

Debby Kirby is the resident silk weaver at Walford Mill and has 40 years of textile knowledge and expertise. Her workshop is an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour, where you can experience the sound of her Harris countermarch loom, known by many as "the heartbeat of the mill".

Debby has invented and perfected a method of hand-weaving paper, aluminium, photographs and paintings through her hand-dyed silk. This is a wholly unique practice that has led to collaborations with artists, designers and photographers.

This exhibition is a woven journey celebrating her career throughout the last forty years. It features solo and collaborative work by Debby alongside Manda Beeching (painter and printmaker), Claire Thomas (fine artist), Sarah Ricketts (jeweller), Caroline Parrott (aluminium artist) and Jez Randall (photographer). Her exhibition also showcases exciting new work by ceramicist David Pointer.

Debby will be on hand every day throughout the exhibition so there's plenty of time to come and visit her at the Mill before she leaves at the end of the year.

29 July - 30 August: Walford Mill Crafts, Knobcrook Road, WIMBORNE, BH21 1NL. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm.





'FLOW THE RIVER STOUR TALES' (Oil on canvas, 152 x 101 cm, 2026)

Debbie Lee: Flow

Dorset artist Debbie Lee was the headline commissioned artist for Dorset Art Weeks 2026. Her immersive exhibition, titled *Flow*, features large-scale drawings, animation, poetry, and a centrepiece oil painting inspired by the River Stour.

Through walking and drawing, Debbie presents new stories for the River Stour, from childhood memories to sheltering wildlife. The commission maps our emotional connection with rivers: ancient routes and folklore, hydro-ecology and defence, interwoven with contemporary themes and ideas.

Visitors can view her hand-painted maps and are invited to contribute their own thoughts and illustrations to blank river maps at the exhibition.

Until 4 July: Bere Marsh Farm, SHILLINGSTONE, near Blandford, DT11 0QY. Thursday 9am - 4pm, Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 12noon. 07908 255770 / thecrt.co.uk.



Sherborne Open Art Exhibition

View more than 400 works by a wide range of local artists at one of Wessex's most popular visual art events. Independently judged and open to all with no pre-selection, the exhibition showcases the region's enormous wealth of talent and displays a rare spontaneity, freshness and diversity.

Artists can enter online at sherbornearts.org or take artwork along on 10 or 11 July to enter 'on-the-day'.

18 - 26 July: The Digby Hall, Hound Street, SHERBORNE, DT9 3AA. 10am - 5pm (except Sunday 26 July, 10am - 1pm). 01935 816368 / sherbornearts.org.



CATHY WARNE

The Dorset Monochrome Collective: Wessex

Founded in 2018 by Alison Webber, The Dorset Monochrome Collective consists of a group of friends who all share a passion for monochrome photography, whether that is digital or film. Once a month the group gets together to share their work and talk about their techniques and ideas in an honest but supportive and constructive way.

From moody landscapes to stunning architecture, the work in this exhibition promises to portray Wessex in an exciting and eclectic way, with each photographer bringing their own interpretation of the theme.

14 - 20 September: Community Room, Borough House, Cornwall Road, DORCHESTER, DT1 1RU. 10am - 4pm. 07955 220024 / alisonwebber.co.uk/mono.

Ilminster Arts Centre Open 2026

Artists from across the region showcase their work in one of Somerset's leading artistic events.

23 June - 31 July: Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, East Street, ILMINSTER, TA19 0AN. Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am - 3pm. 01460 54973 / ilminsterartscentre.com.

Black Swan Arts Open 2026

The Open is Black Swan Arts' flagship exhibition, featuring submissions from artists and makers working across all disciplines and media.

8 August - 29 September: Black Swan Arts, 2 Bridge Street, FROME, BA11 1BB. Monday - Sunday 10am - 4pm. 01373 473980 / blackswanarts.org.uk.



PHOEBE BRITTAIN
'TULIPS IN THE MORNING LIGHT'

Bruton Art Society 73rd Annual Exhibition

This exhibition brings together a diverse and inspiring range of new 2D and 3D work by established and emerging practitioners from across the region, celebrating creativity, skill, and fresh perspectives.

22 - 29 August: King's Bruton Memorial Hall, BRUTON, BA10 0ED. 10am - 4pm. brutonartsociety.co.uk.

RWA 173 Annual Open Exhibition

This highly anticipated exhibition provides a platform for emerging and established artists to exhibit their work in the RWA's stunning galleries.

12 September - 3 January: RWA, Queen's Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, BS8 1PX. Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. £11 / £9.90. 0117 973 5129 / rwa.org.uk.



BEATRICE KERR
'CLIFTON ARTS CLUB MEMBERS PAINTING' (1914}

Clifton Arts: Art Now!

Formed in 1906, Clifton Arts was founded by four artists and members of the Royal West of England Academy, welcoming women and men with high artistic skills and ambitious goals.

120 years later, *Art Now!* showcases the work of the 250 current club members, offering the public the opportunity to compare and contrast the club's artistic legacy and its present-day creativity.

Running alongside this exhibition, the *Clifton Arts Fair* features works for sale, opportunities for people to engage in art-making, demonstrations by artists, and musical interludes.

8 - 18 July: Victoria Methodist Church, 1 Whiteladies Road, BRISTOL, BS8 1NU. 10am - 5pm (except Sunday 12 July, 2 - 5pm). cliftonarts.org.



NAHEM SHOA ' PORTRAIT OF DES' (Detail)

Highlights from the Collection

Highlights from RAMM's rich and varied fine art collection, dating from the 1400s to the present day.

Until 9 August: RAMM, Queen Street, EXETER, EX4 3RX. Tuesday 10.30am - 5pm, Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm. Free entry. rammuseum.org.uk.



'LANGTON HERRING MIRROR'

Treasure! Lost and Found

Archaeological discoveries can reveal surprising things about our past. A cache of 2,114 Roman coins buried near Piddletrenthide tell us about political crisis in the 3rd century. Over 200 pieces of Viking silver, hidden in Lancashire between 900 and 910 CE, speak of conflict and far-reaching trade connections. A Bronze Age axe still bears the mineralised impression of 4,000-year-old woven cloth – some of the earliest evidence of weaving ever found in Britain. Each find, carefully recorded and preserved, adds another layer to our understanding of the people who came before us.

This summer, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery opens *Treasure! Lost and Found*, an exhibition that celebrates some of Britain's most remarkable archaeological finds and the stories behind them. A number of items are on public display for the very first time, including the *Stalbridge Hoard* - a collection of objects deliberately buried over 3,000 years ago.

What makes this exhibition particularly special is the breadth of treasure on display. Alongside local discoveries, the Museum has secured loans from major institutions including the British Museum, Herefordshire Museums and Galleries, and Lancashire County Museum Service. The exhibition includes part of the amazing Anglo-Saxon *Staffordshire Hoard* and an Iron Age mirror that has yielded surprising insights into ancient social structures and a young woman's appearance through modern genetic analysis.

To help visitors engage more deeply with these finds, the exhibition features immersive digital experiences created by students from Arts University Bournemouth. Using holograms, a projection, and a Holobox, the students have designed interactive installations that allow visitors of all ages to understand the people behind the finds and engage with their stories in immediate and accessible ways.

The exhibition also explores the crucial role of the Treasure Act - legislation introduced in 1996 that transformed how precious archaeological finds are recorded and protected. Before the act, a number of cases sadly demonstrated how easily national treasures could be lost from public view. Today, when metal detectorists, archaeologists, and the public work together, treasures are properly recorded and preserved for everyone to enjoy. The context of a find - knowing exactly where it was buried and what lay alongside it - transforms a single object into a window onto ancient lives.

Whether objects were buried as grave goods, ritual offerings, or hidden in times of crisis, they all reveal something fundamental about human nature: our impulse to value, protect, and preserve what matters most.

Until 13 September: Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, High West Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1XA. 10am - 5pm. dorsetmuseum.org.



'SILVERDALE HOARD'



'CHARMINSTER GRAVE GROUP'

Music

Summer 2026



The Monochrome Set + Simon Chesterfield

Highly influential post-punk indie band, The Monochrome Set are to play in Frome, at the Tree House. Loved by artists such as The Smiths, Franz Ferdinand and Blur and covered by such diverse acts as Iggy Pop and Tracey Thorn, this is a unique opportunity to see this legendary act at a small venue in Frome.

The band will feature original Monochrome Set members Bid (guitar and vocals) and Andy Warren (bass), with Foz (guitar), Dave Morgan (drums), and Athen Ayren (keyboard).

The Monochrome Set formed in 1978, and were heavily influential in the post-punk scene that evolved after the initial scorched earth of punk.

The band's early releases were on the legendary Rough Trade label before signing with Virgin offshoot Din Disc. They also released several albums on the Cherry Red label, making a notable appearance on that labe's well known *Pillows and Prayers* compilation.

Though The Monochrome Set split in 1985 the next decade saw several reunions for both live gigs and further studio recordings. After a hiatus of over a decade the band reformed full time in 2010 and have since toured all over the UK, Europe, Japan and the USA, whilst also releasing eight new, critically acclaimed, studio albums.

Now in their 48th year, they are beginning a new series of gigs promoting their latest album and playing songs old and new.

3 July: The Tree House, 35 Berkley Road, FROME, BA11 2EH. 7.30pm. £25 / £20. cheeseandgrain.com.



Milly Riquelme

Milly Riquelme is a Cuban pianist, composer and singer, who began her musical journey at the age of two showcasing her skills on a television programme featuring child prodigies. She earned a Musicology degree with Honours from the High Institute of Arts in Havana and has since worked as a pianist for various Cuban bands including the popular Conexion Salsera.

8 July: Corn Exchange, High East Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1HF. 7.30pm. £20 / £18. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.



The Frank and Walters

The Frank and Walters' Paul Linehan is one of Ireland's most talented and inspirational singer-songwriters. For nearly 30 years Paul has penned and performed hundreds of songs with The Frank and Walters which have captured the hearts and minds of generations. The band originally became world famous on the '90s indie scene and have produced seven studio albums. Paul has lost none of his talent or motivation to produce fantastically crafted and catchy indie songs and continues to write new material to this day.

THE FRANK & WALTERS + THE BIG HOWEVER

12th September: Exchange, 73 Old Market Street, BRISTOL, BS2 0EJ. 7pm. £23. headfirstbristol.co.uk.



Wessex Baroque Collective: Continuing Voices

A captivating programme of Baroque music by female composers, paired with striking new works for period instruments. Wessex Baroque Collective and soprano Angela Hicks bring past and present into dialogue in an intimate, engaging performance celebrating the enduring power of women's voices in music.

9 July: St Peter's Church, High Street, SHAFTESBURY, SP7 8LY. £15 / £12. shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk.



Would-Be-Goods + Railcard

The Would-Be-Goods, with their elegant and evocative guitar pop, are promoting their new album, *Tears Before Bedtime*. Jessica Griffin, enigmatic star of '80s cult label él, is at the helm, with guitarist Peter Momtchiloff (Talulah Gosh, Heavenly), Debbie Green, drummer and darling of the London nineties garage scene (Headcoatees), and Andy Warren, legendary bassist of Adam and the Ants and The Monochrome Set.

Railcard present a joyous potpourri of retro yet refreshing songcraft. Combining the talents of Rachel Love (vocals, guitar and formerly of Dolly Mixture), Peter Momtchiloff (bass and currently of Heavenly and Would-Be-Goods), Ian Button (vocals, drums, guitar and of Papernut Cambridge, The Penrose Web, ad infinitum) and Allison Thomson (trumpet and keyboards), fans of Dolly Mixture will, of course, love this, but so will those who've listened to any of the countless indie acts in the years since who've name-checked Dolly Mixture as a big influence.

25 September: The Thunderbolt, BRISTOL, BS4 3ED. 7.30pm. £13. 0117 373 8947 / the thunderbolt.net.



Nasty Fishmonger + Pussyliquor

Nasty Fishmonger is a fist-raising, fearsome fivesome of folk-punk from Bristol whilst Pussyliquor is a rambunctious 5-piece hailing from the south coast.

21 July: Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 8.30pm. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.



Snowgoose + Jayefel

Snowgoose are the critically acclaimed indie folk duo led by Jim McCulloch (The Soup Dragons, Isobel Campbell and BMX Bandits) and vocalist Anna Sheard, who together craft intricate, melody-rich songs inspired by the golden age of British folk.

18 June: St Peter & St Paul's Church, SHEPTON MALLET, BA4 5BW. 7pm. £10 / £7. buytheamulet.org.uk.



Leonian Dream

Based in Axminster, Leonian Dream are a rising force in the UK's indie and modern rock scene. Blending atmospheric textures with driving guitar work and emotive vocals, the band crafts a sound that bridges the raw energy of alternative rock with the shimmering depth of modern indie influences. Formed around the presence of lead singer Leonie and guitarist Thom, the line-up features Bran on bass, Toby on drums, and Ben on keyboards. Their music draws inspiration from artists such as Wolf Alice and Annie Hamilton, resulting in a sound that feels both intimate and cinematic - powerful yet melodic.

17 July: Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 7pm. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.



This is The Kit

This Is The Kit - the musical project of acclaimed songwriter Kate Stables - brings her mesmerising blend of indie-folk, subtle grooves and poetic lyricism to Lighthouse Poole this September. Known for her warm, magnetic stage presence and music that gently disarms while quietly devastating, This Is The Kit has become one of the most respected and influential voices in modern folk and alternative music. Her sound - grounded in banjo, guitar, looping rhythms and tender, perceptive writing - has earned her a loyal global following and praise from artists including The National, Sharon Van Etten and Bon Iver.

THIS IS THE KIT + SEAMUS FOGERTY
3 September: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.45pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



Eddie Gripper Trio

Refreshing originality with roots deeply embedded in the post-modern jazz piano tradition.

3 July: CICCIC, Paul Street, TAUNTON, TA1 3PF. 8.15pm. £18 / £15. 01823 337477 / ciccic.co.uk.



The Jamestown Brothers

9-piece band mixing a variety of country, rock, and Celtic styles and influences.

4 July: CICCIC, Paul Street, TAUNTON, TA1 3PF. 8.30pm. £18 / £15. 01823 337477 / ciccic.co.uk.



LANA SURAN

Shiry Rashkovsky and Lana Suran

Join viola and piano stars Shiry Rashkovsky and Lana Suran for a riveting programme spanning Baroque to Minimalism.

26 June: Bridport Arts Centre, South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 11.10am. £16. 01308 42420 / bridport-arts.com.

26 June: Ilminster Arts Centre, East Street, ILMINSTER, TA19 0AN. 6.45pm. £20. 01460 54973 / ilminsterartscentre.com.

27 June: The Dance House, Gouldsbrook View, North Street, CREWKERNE, TA18 7AL. 6.45pm. £20. 01460 75928 / concertsinthewest.org.



SHIRY RASHKOVSKY



Monaux

New signings to the Spinout Nuggets label Monaux play dates in the south west this summer and autumn. Their 'psych electronique' soundscapes are equal parts analogue art-pop and controlled disorder, described by Fever 103 fanzine as being "like a female fronted Devo or a surfy Human League".

21 August: The Thunderbolt, 124 Bath Road, BRISTOL, BS4 3ED. 7.30pm. 0117 373 8947 / the thunderbolt.net.



Somerstock

Somerstock is a two-day family-friendly music festival in the heart of the picturesque Somerset town of Somerton, Somerset. The Somerstock site sits at the edge of the town and provides on-site parking and camping facilities. This year's festival boasts a lively line-up with headline acts including The Beatles Dub Club, Rusty Shackle, Pet Needs and Snappa. The weekend will showcase an eclectic mix of genres, from indie and folk rock to country, reggae and pop-electronica, ensuring there is something for every musical taste.

10 and 11 July: Gaston's Lane, SOMERTON, TA11 6HS. somerstock.co.uk. Friday 4 - 11pm, Saturday 11.50am - 11pm.



Neutrals + Silk Cuts + Ravetank

Excellent indie jangle pop songs in the vein of Television Personalities, classic-era Sarah Records, and early Creation Records from San Francisco's Neutrals, plus C86 style indie from Exeter's Silk Cuts, and home made noise pop from Bath's Ravetank.

26 July: Cafe Kino, 108 Stokes Croft, St Paul's, BRISTOL, BS1 3RU. 7pm. £12. headfirstbristol.co.uk.



Freya Ridings

Since breaking through with Top 10 single *Lost Without You* in 2017, Freya has cemented herself as one of the UK's most impressive vocal talents, with the ability to turn her hand to tender balladry and powerful air punch moments alike.

2019's self-titled debut album and 2023 follow-up *Blood Orange* both landed in the UK album top 10, sending her around the world and landing her a BRIT nomination for Best Female Solo Artist.

Going into her third album, *Mother Of Pearl*, Freya Ridings is not the same artist she was before. She's had to reach down into the depths and find reserves that she didn't know she had, and in doing so, she's tapped into a rich seam of anger and wisdom and womanhood that feels as timely now as it ever was.

15 September: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.30pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



The Darling Buds

Welsh music icons The Darling Buds return with *Same Sun / Same Sky*, a brand-new album of melodic guitar pop, packed with catchy hooks, soaring harmonies and the band's trademark upbeat energy.

DARLING BUDS + SILK CUTS
5 September: The Cavern, 83 - 84 Queen Street, EXETER, EX4 3RP. 01392 495370 / exetercavern.net.



Proms in the Park

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is all set for another super summer of stunning open-air concerts featuring brilliant music, picnics and spectacular fireworks. Featuring some of the world's best musicians, the ever-popular BSO Pops will be back in Meyrick Park for two al fresco concert occasions - perfect for a sumptuous picnic and a glass of bubbly.

'NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SYMPHONIC MUSIC!'
A night celebrating the most enduring classical music of all time, from *The Lark Ascending* and *The Firebird* to firm film favourites including, *Star Wars* and *ET*.
7 August: Meyrick Park, Central Drive, BOURNEMOUTH, BH2 6LH. 8pm. bsolive.com.

'SYMPHONIC SMASH HITS - THE '90S!'
Celebrate the greatest pop hits from the 1990s in full symphonic glory, spanning music from the Spice Girls to Cher, Robbie Williams and more.
8 August: Meyrick Park, Central Drive, BOURNEMOUTH, BH2 6LH. 8pm. bsolive.com.



Anna Pancaldi

Anna Pancaldi is an enchanting and noteworthy London-based singer-songwriter influenced by the likes of Joni Mitchell and Carole King, and proves a rare talent and an artist to remember through her wondrous vocals and thought-provoking songbook. Anna's exquisite latest musical offerings are effortlessly honest, touchingly relatable, and is a performer known for her deeply affecting live performances.

4 July: Pound Arts, Pound Pill, CORSHAM, SN13 9HX. 7.30pm. £15. 01249 701628 / poundarts.org.uk.



Holly Clarke

From songs of the supernatural and folklore to the tales of love and loss, Holly sings with an infectious energy and passion for traditional song. Rising in popularity among folk audiences and performing with the likes of Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, Daoiri Farrell and Queer Folk, she has made a name for herself as a powerful singer and accomplished guitar player.

4 September: Taunton Brewhouse, Coal Orchard, TAUNTON, TA1 1JL. 7.45pm. 01823 283244 / tauntonbrewhouse.co.uk.



Ceruleo

Specialising in performing the music of Restoration England and Seventeenth Century Italy, Ceruleo take communication, collaboration and experimentation as the basis to grow as a group. They use all available combinations of instruments and voices to create innovative and captivating performances, juxtaposing spoken text alongside music for two sopranos and continuo.

10 July: Bridport Arts Centre, South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 11.10am. £16. 01308 42420 / bridport-arts.com.

10 July: Ilminster Arts Centre, East Street, ILMINSTER, TA19 0AN. 6.45pm. £20. 01460 54973 / ilminsterartscentre.com.

11 July: The Dance House, Gouldsbrook View, North Street, CREWKERNE, TA18 7AL. 6.45pm. £20. 01460 75928 / concertsinthewest.org.



TV Smith

TV Smith was founder member, singer and songwriter for the Adverts, who formed in late 1976 and were one of the leading bands in the first wave of British punk rock.

In early 1977 they performed regularly at the newly-opened Roxy Club in London, and gained cult success with their first three singles *One Chord Wonders*, *Gary Gilmore's Eyes*, and *No Time To Be 21*.

Their debut album *Crossing the Red Sea with the Adverts* was released in early 1978, and is still considered a genuine classic of the era, often cited as one of the best punk albums ever released.

Fiercely independent and proudly embodying the original spirit of punk rock, TV performs as an acoustic solo artist all over the world, as well as playing occasional gigs with backup bands.

TV SMITH + QUICK ROMANCE + 51ST STATE
24 July: The Thunderbolt, 124 Bath Road, BRISTOL, BS4 3ED. 7.30pm. £15 / £13. 0117 373 8947 / the thunderbolt.net.



Summer Nights at the Castle

Set against the ruins of Corfe Castle, this open-air concert series features spectacular light shows and live performances by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

'WEST END TO HOLLYWOOD'
A 14-piece ensemble from the BSO takes you on a journey from the historic charm of London's West End to the bright lights of Hollywood.
24 July: CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5DR. 7.30pm. bsolive.com.

'SMASH HITS - THE '80S'
Join the BSO in celebrating the greatest pop hits from the '80s as it unites with singers Emma Kershaw, Katie Birtill, Oliver Tompsett and Patrick Smyth.
25 July: CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5DR. 7.30pm. bsolive.com.

'CURIOUS CREATURES & ADVENTUROUS ANIMALS'
A 14-piece ensemble from the BSO enjoys a symphonic adventure through verdant forests and across the open ocean.
26 July: CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5DR. 7.30pm. bsolive.com.



Philip Clouts Trio

Experience strong themes, soaring piano lines, groove-driven interplay, rhythmic punch, performed by the best jazz players.

2 August: CICCIC, Paul Street, TAUNTON, TA1 3PF. 12.15pm. £20 / £15. 01823 337477 / ciccic.co.uk.



KIM CYPHER

Swanage Jazz Festival

The 35th Swanage Jazz Festival features a wide-ranging programme of over thirty well known and much-loved British artists including The Nigel Price Trio, The Alan Barnes Quartet, Steely Jazz, John Etheridge and Christian Garrick, Alex Clarke, The Kim Cypher Band, Jo Harrop and trio, and the Tim Whitehead Quartet.

The programme reflects three significant jazz anniversaries. Miles Davis's 100th birthday is celebrated with performances by The Steve Waterman Octet and Dorset trumpeter Andy Urqhart. John Coltrane's 100th birthday is marked by a recreation of *Coltrane and Hartman on Impulse!* featuring Mark Lockheart and singer Marvin Muoneke. And British Jazz piano legend Stan Tracey is remembered with a performance of his timeless *Under Milk Wood* suite by his son Clark Tracey's Sextet - including two narrators.

The contemporary programme features The Pete Roth Trio with noted drummer Bill Bruford, Yetii, Joe Webb and his trio, Laura Jurd and Rob Luft, Ivo Neame and his trio. And the customary New Orleans programme includes performances by The Pete Allen Big Jazz Band, Roger Marks' Fiesta Five, The New Orleans Jazz Bandits, The Hot House Combo and The Riviera Ramblers.

10 - 12 July: Mowlem Theatre and Sandpit Field, Shore Road, SWANAGE, BH19 1DD. 01929 290095 / swanagejazzfestival.co.uk



The Spooky Men's Chorale

The Spooky Men's Chorale is a vast, rumbling, steam powered and black clad behemoth, seemingly accidentally capable of rendering audiences moist eyed with mute appreciation or haplessly gurgling with merriment. Based on the twin pillars of grand foolishness and the quest for the perfect subwoofer-rattling boofchord, the Spooky Men seek to commentate on the absurdity and grandeur of the modern male armed only with their voices, a sly collection of hats and facial hair, and a twinkle in the eye.

27 June: Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, SALISBURY, SP2 7RA. 7.30pm. £34 / £19. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.

30 July: Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, YEOVIL, BA20 2DD. 7.30pm. £30.50 / £2901935 422884 / westlandsyeovil.co.uk.



LONDON TANGO TRIO

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art

The 44th Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art gets underway on 15th August with the Art Exhibition in the village hall, showcasing an impressively high standard of works for sale by Wessex artists. The range includes framed art work, greetings cards, ceramics, glassware, and jewellery. From a feature landscape in oil, to a piece of jewellery, or cards as a souvenir of a delightful Dorset staycation, there is always plenty to select from.

The Music Festival opens on Sunday 16th August with a tea party and live music in the Rectory Gardens at 3pm, followed by a four-day programme that includes Castaway, Amelia Coburn, Chris Garrick, Lucie Dixon, the Atea Wind Quartet, and Aileen Sweeney.

15 - 23 August: Various locations in BURTON BRADSTOCK, Dorset. 07710 466876 / burtonbradstockfestival.com.



Warren James

James Kirk and Warren McIntyre are 'Warren James'. James Kirk is a founding member of Glaswegian indie legends Orange Juice and his jangly, melodic guitar riffs were integral to the 'Sound Of Young Scotland', which in turn gave birth to indie music as we know it and inspired countless guitar players. He also wrote their jangletastic song *Felicity*. James has now joined forces with Warren McIntyre of melodic pop folk-rockers Starry Skies for this fresh new combo.

WARREN JAMES + THE LOVELY BASEMENT + THE CHARLIE TIPPER REBELLION

22 August: The Louisiana, Wapping Road, BRISTOL, BS1 6UA. 7.30pm. £16.50. 0117 926 5978 / thelouisiana.net.



Musicke in the Ayre

Local early music ensemble Musicke in the Ayre have put together a summer treat for fans of Baroque music in Wessex: their new programme *Silver Sounds of the Roman Seicento* will be premiered during Frome Festival at Christ Church on 7th July, followed by a performance on 18th July at St Mary's Bathwick, and an open-air airing in the Italian Cloister at Iford Manor on 15th August.

Ensemble leader and lutenist Din Ghani will be accompanying sopranos Maria Danishvar, Jane Hunt and Philippa Neaverson in vocal music from Roman composers of the early Baroque period. The power and wealth of the families associated with the Vatican attracted some of the best Italy had to offer, and this shows in the quality of the music from Rome in that period.

7 July: Christ Church, FROME, BA11 1EH. 5.30pm. £15. 07747 803494.

18 July: St Mary's Church Hall, BATHWICK, BA2 4EB. 3pm. £12.50. bathboxoffice.org.uk.

15 August: Iford Manor Gardens, near BATH, BA15 2BA. 2pm. ifordmanor.co.uk.



KT Tunstall

The Grammy-nominated, Brit Award-winning, singer brings a special one-off show to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her seminal debut album, *Eye to the Telescope*. Renowned for her extraordinary voice that shifts effortlessly from soulful to bluesy grit to delicate folk-pop, KT Tunstall continues to captivate audiences and remains one of the most iconic live performers of her generation. From chart-topping hits to composing for film and theatre, she has built a remarkable career. KT Tunstall delivers a night of heartfelt acoustic ballads, gritty rock anthems and an unforgettable evening.

19 June: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.30pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



Philip Clouts and Ron Phelan

Pianist Philip Clouts and double bassist Ron Phelan will present a programme including music by Django Reinhardt, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, as well as original compositions of melodic jazz with flavours of African and Latin American music.

4 and 5 September: Tincleton Gallery, The Old School House, TINCLETON, near Dorchester, DT2 8QR. 7.30pm. £20. 01305 848909 / tincletongallery.com.



Kate Griffin and Matchume Zango

An acclaimed timbila player from Zavala, the heartland of Mozambique's timbila tradition, Zango works internationally across performance, theatre and film. Griffin, an internationally touring clawhammer banjo player with Indo-folk collective Mishra, has been described as one of the top banjo players in the country.

10 July: Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 7.30pm. £17 / £16. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.



Swing Easy Too

Featuring vocals, saxophones, piano, guitar and bass, this 4-piece Purbeck band play The Great American Songbook, highlighting songs by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Tony Bennet, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, and many others.

19 July: Village Inn, Ulwell Holiday Park, Ulwell Road, SWANAGE, BH19 3DG. 1pm. 01929 422823.

24 July: Orchard Café, Holme Lane, WEST HOLME, Wareham, BH20 6AQ. 12.30pm. 01929 554716.

28 July: Grand Hotel, Burlington Road, SWANAGE, BH19 1LH. 12noon. 01929 423353.

11 August: Show Bar, Mowlem Theatre, Shore Road, SWANAGE, BH19 1DD. 2pm. 01929 422239.

14 August: Orchard Café, Holme Lane, WEST HOLME, Wareham, BH20 6AQ. 12.30pm. 01929 554716.

17 August: Show Bar, Mowlem Theatre, Shore Road, SWANAGE, BH19 1DD. 2pm. 01929 422239.

23 August: Village Inn, Ulwell Holiday Park, Ulwell Road, SWANAGE, BH19 3DG. 1pm. 01929 422823.

25 August: Grand Hotel, Burlington Road, SWANAGE, BH19 1LH. 12noon. 01929 423353.

swingeasyjazz.com



Lady Maisery + Jimmy & Sid

Having bewitched audiences with their much-loved wintertime show, two of the most engaging acts on the English folk scene return with their next alchemic celebration: an essential incantation to the summertime.

21 June: Komedia, 22 - 23 Westgate Street, BATH, BA1 1EP. 6.30pm. £23.50. 01225 489070 / komediabath.co.uk.



NERVOUS TWITCH

Broadbeat 2026

Seven bands, vinyl deejays, go go girls and fab street food! Headliners are The Masonics, legends of the Medway scene they are drenched in '60s garage punk and are the best rhythm and beat combo since Thee Milkshakes (…and yes, 50% Milkshakes are included!).

The Burntwick Smugglers will kick off the event, followed by Delicious Patricia, Nervous Twitch, Rosbif Attack, Monaux, and Quick Romance, all propelled along throughout the afternoon and evening by deejays Lee Grimshaw, The Birdman, and The Hold Tight DJs.

5 September: CICCIC, Memorial Hall, TAUNTON, TA1 3PF. 1pm - 12midnight. £35 / £25. £25. 01823 337477 / creativeinnovationcentre.co.uk.



Ida Pelliccioli

Born in Bergamo, Italy, Pelliccioli took a unique path to a full-time music career. She earned two master's degrees from the Sorbonne University in Italian Literature and Ancient Greek History before fully dedicating herself to the piano. She studied at the Nice Conservatoire de Région and the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, and received artistic guidance from internationally acclaimed artists like Norma Fisher and Jorge Luis Prats.

26 and 27 June: Tincleton Gallery, The Old School House, TINCLETON, near Dorchester, DT2 8QR. 7.30pm. £20. 01305 848909 / tincletongallery.com.



Rachael McShane & The Cartographers

A renowned folk singer, cellist, fiddle and viola player from the North East of England, Rachael McShane gained fame as an original member of the award-winning folk band Bellowhead. A much sought-after performer and recording artist, her 2009 debut solo album, *No Man's Fool*, established impressive credentials that led her to signing with the prestigious Topic Records, the oldest independent record label in the world.

Rachael is also the leader of The Cartographers, a band that brings together the exceptional talents of guitarist Ian Stephenson (Kan, Baltic Crossing), and melodeon player Julian Sutton (Kathryn Tickell, Sting). Playing with expertise and sparkle, their music is a powerful blend of traditional folk and contemporary sounds. The Cartographers have built a loyal following thanks to their lively performances and critically acclaimed albums, combining stunning vocals and impressive instrumentals with innovative arrangements in a refreshing take on traditional folk.

18 July: Village Hall, STUDLAND, BH19 3BT. 7.30pm. £14 / £6. 01929 450587.

19 July: Village Hall, MARNHULL, DT10 1JZ. 7.30pm. £14 / £6. 01258 820458.

23 August: Village Hall, BUCKLAND NEWTON, DT2 7BZ. 7.30pm. £14 / £6. 01300 345455.

artsreach.co.uk



King of the Blues

Kings of the Blues is a dynamic live show led by guitarist Will Edmunds, tracing the evolution of blues from its raw Delta roots to the modern day. With 30 years of playing experience, Will brings authenticity and insight, joined by top UK musicians for a powerful and entertaining celebration of the music that shaped generations.

17 July: Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, East Street, ILMINSTER, TA19 0AN. 6.30pm. £18 / £9. 01460 54973 / ilminsterartscentre.com.

Performance

Summer 2026



CARA DILLON

Frome Festival

Tickets are now on sale for Frome Festival's silver anniversary events. Three hundred events are scheduled in 58 venues in and around Frome during the 10-day community arts festival. The headliners for 2026 include Cara Dillon, Sir Tony Robinson, Phil Ellis, Nigel Planer, Eliza Carthy, Afriquoi x BCUC, Timmy Mallett, The Monochrome Set, Kiki Dee, Xuefei Yang & Maria Vega, and Buena Bristol Social Club.

3 - 12 July: 58 venues in FROME and surrounding villages. fromefestival.co.uk.



TIM KLIPHUIS TRIO

Beaminster Festival

The 29th Beaminster Festival features the usual mix of top quality music, including the Fibonacci Quartet, Ariel Lanyi, Coco Tomita, the Scott Brothers Duo, together with *Sounds from Stage and Screen*, the Tim Kliphuis Trio, Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman, and Not the Rolling Stones! Unusual shorter concerts include *Dancing through Time* by Flutes and Frets, a double bass recital from Levi Andreassen, violinist Harriet Mackenzie performing with Morgan Szymanski, and Lucy Stevens as Kathleen Ferrier. Literary events include Nigel Planer's *Young Once*, John Kampfner's *Braver New World*, and Chris Chibnall talking about his career and the place of the Dorset landscape in his books. *Talent in the Town* on 20th June allows locals to share their hobbies, skills, collections and interests. The events conclude with Bijou Opera performing *The Marriage of Figaro* on 5th July.

27 June - 5 July: Various locations in and around BEAMINSTER, Dorset. £26 / £12. 03336 663366 / beaminsterfestival.com.



Kimberley Nixon: Baby Brain

A one person play, in six acts. This is a story about finding light in the darkest places and the unvarnished truth of motherhood that so often goes unspoken. The script was refined, rehearsed and performed in the Sherling Studio at Lighthouse, Poole as part of its *Sanctuary* scheme for supporting new work.

2 July: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 8pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



Ed Patrick: Numb and Number

Comedian and NHS anaesthetist Ed Patrick returns with his latest hit show. Get your appointment while you can. As seen on Channel 4, *Have I Got News For You* and heard on BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 4.

3 July: Pound Arts, Pound Pill, CORSHAM, SN13 9HX. 7.30pm. £13 / £11. 01249 701628 / poundarts.org.uk.



Our Man in Havana

A wonderfully funny and fast-moving romp starring Jack Ashton, Bob Barrett, Leon Ockenden, and Jodie Steele. Our Man in Havana is adapted by Clive Francis from Graham Greene's novel and follows the hilarious exploits of James Wormold, a British vacuum cleaner salesman and spy in pre-revolutionary Havana, Cuba.

14 - 18 July: Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, SALISBURY, SP2 7RA. 7.30pm. £46.50 / £19.50. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



CHLOE MANTRIPP

The Other Place: b-side Festival 2026

Portland once had a fair. For more than 200 years, every November, the streets of Chiswell filled with rides and music and the particular unreality of a travelling show. It ended in 2001, and the island has felt its absence since.

b-side's 2026 festival doesn't try to rebuild it. Instead, eleven commissioned artists have been asked to conjure something stranger: a parallel Portland where the fair can still be heard, felt, and walked through. *That Other Place* opens on 9th September, with the festival running 10th to 13th September across public spaces in the Underhill area, free and open to all.

It's the culmination of *Common Lands*, a six-year project through which b-side has used Portland as a lens for bigger questions. After *This Land* explored the island's natural and built heritage, and *Who Do We Think We Are?* took on identity and migration, this final chapter is about island-ness, queerness, and otherness - "not as marginal conditions," as the programme puts it, "but as creative forces."

The fair strand is where that thinking gets most playful. Buried Giants (Tim Powell and Hannah Price) place visitors inside binaural soundscapes of the ghost train and ferris wheel, layered over the streets where the fair once stood. Deborah Bowness takes local residents' photo archives of the Fair and pastes those images back into their original positions, glimpses of the past seeping through stone walls and wooden doors. Alexi Marshall works with communities to create a unique Portland Tarot pack. Gavin Morris installs a giant LED heart that only illuminates when two or more people hold hands, and Helen Grant has built a working scale model of a Scotch derrick crane, the kind that worked Portland's quarries, repurposed as a fairground grabber over a ball pit full of handmade lucky charms.

Other commissions reach further into the island's character. Carlos Cortes invites visitors to help him build an ever-growing community ball run that traces the contours of the landscape, echoing the old Merchant's Railway. Chloe Mantripp leads a guided ramble with three otherworldly performers drawn from the folklore of Portland. Paul Le Keux, a Portland resident, curates an evening in which islanders share stories that might be fact, fiction, memory, or song, without being required to say which. Artist Ella Yollande creates a giant textile portal stitched with foraged island plants giving visibility to the thin spaces between reality and dream worlds, projected shadow processions by Light Space Colour (Dawn Parsonage and Peter Hudson) and animated mythical beasts by Jane C Fox will move across buildings at dusk welcoming visitors into this peculiar new experience.

Running alongside the festival are four year-long artist explorations that sit at the stranger edges of the programme. Felix C Bill draws a line between medical transition and rewilding - two processes of transformation that require scientific intervention, and both deemed political by their opponents. Jamal Sterrett, a movement artist, is walking Portland's terrain and letting its cliffs and quarried edges shape his body's responses, Liz Lake is mapping a felt knowledge of the island through drawing and conversations. Simon Lee Dicker starts from a geological fact: Portland's limestone built St Paul's Cathedral, then asks what it means for a place to be monumental elsewhere while becoming something wilder at home.

That Other Place promises less a conventional arts festival than a shared act of imaginative transformation: part fairground, part folklore, part social experiment. On Portland, the strange has always felt close to the surface. This September, b-side invites audiences to step into it.

B-SIDE FESTIVAL 2026
10 - 13 September: Locations throughout the ISLE OF PORTLAND, Dorset.

b-side.org.uk



ALEXI MARSHALL



ISLE OF PORTLAND



FELIX C BILL



The Handlebards: As You Like It

Pedalling from venue to venue, the Handlebards are a four-strong troupe of actors who are spending the summer bringing environmentally sustainable Shakespeare to venues across the UK.

17 June: Maumbury Rings, DORCHESTER, DT1 1QZ. 7pm. £20 / £18. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.

18 June: Marine Theatre, Church Street, LYME REGIS, DT7 3QB. 8pm. 01297 442394 / marinetheatre.com.

24 June: The Corsham Almshouses, Pound Pill, CORSHAM, SN13 9HT. 7.30pm. £20. 01249 701628 / poundarts.org.uk.



Othello

Join The Lord Chamberlain's Men this summer for one of the most captivating and thrilling plays ever written. See it performed how William Shakespeare first saw it, as The Lord Chamberlain's Men - with a history stretching back to Shakespeare's original company - present this play in the open air, with an all male cast and Elizabethan costumes, music and dance.

26 and 27 June: Rack Close, SALISBURY, SP1 2ES. 2pm and 7pm. £25. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



Alfie Moore: Acopalypse Now

The antidote to fake news, lawlessness and the price of baked beans. With pragmatism and a healthy dose of laughter, Alfie tackles life's menacing showdowns in this hilarious and defiantly funny show.

21 June: Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 8pm. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.

26 June: Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, SALISBURY, SP2 7RA. 7.30pm. £24. wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



Miracle Theatre: Peer Gynt

This summer Miracle Theatre bring their magical twist and love of laughter to the classic story of Peer Gynt, adapted and directed by Bill Scott.

Young Peer is a lazy dreamer, who misinterprets Shakespeare's advice "To thine own self be true" to mean "Look after number one"! He chases after riches and pleasure and lives a life of moral failure and endless excuses. Surely, he will come to no good?

Loosely based on Ibsen's epic comedy, this famous morality tale is perfect material for Miracle Theatre's highly visual style: physical, funny, surreal and deeply human. Expect an open-air journey through the dream-like world of Norse mythology, peopled with cranky characters, trolls and other bizarre creatures - a comedy of terrors! Bring your friends, family and a sense of adventure…

5 August: Village Hall Field, IBBERTON, DT11 0EL. 7pm. £18 / £8. 01258 817269 / artsreach.co.uk.

6 August: Higher Orchard, SANDFORD ORCAS, DT9 4RP. 7pm. £18 / £8. 07734 088958 / artsreach.co.uk.



Flat and The Curves: Rosé Tinted

Original music, ferocious vocals and sharp comedy celebrate friendship, wine-soaked wisdom and growing up.

18 June: Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, SALISBURY, SP1 3UT. 7.30pm. £23 / £27. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



Women of Dorset: Unearthed

Sam is on edge, but an extraordinary party shows her there is more to life… *Unearthed* is a fierce and celebratory new play performed by thirty Dorset women, and created by hundreds of women from across the county who worked together to unearth eleven incredible historical women who survived and thrived in Dorset. The key facts of their lives are true, the rest is a delicious, riotous imagining.

24 and 25 July: The Corn Exchange, High East Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1HF. Friday and Saturday 7.30pm (Saturday matinee 2.30pm). £16 / £14. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.

31 July - 1 August: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.30pm. £14.55 / £12.55. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



BalletBoyz: Still Pointless

Twenty-five years after Michael Nunn and William Trevitt's critically acclaimed debut performance *Pointless* at the Roundhouse, pioneering dance company BalletBoyz returns to the stage with their new show *Still Pointless* at Lighthouse Poole on Tuesday 30th June.

Still Pointless leads audiences on a retrospective journey through a quarter of a century of daring commissioning, producing, and performing dance across stage and screen.

The 10 world-class dancers, some new to the company and some returning, include Joshua Attwood, Dan Baines, Paris Fitzpatrick, Seirian Griffiths, JJ James, Dylan Jones, Benji Knapper, Luigi Nardone, Yasset Roldan, and Kai Tomioka.

The show will open with an excerpt from Russell Maliphant's seminal work *Critical Mass*, performed as part of the original show at the Roundhouse back in 2001. At once looking back to celebrate all the company has achieved and looking forward to the future with enthusiasm and ambition, the show will also showcase the world-premiere of a brand-new commission by up-and-coming choreographer Seirian Griffiths.

The evening will feature excerpts of work from the company's history from choreographers including Christopher Wheeldon, Maxine Doyle, Liam Scarlett, Xie Xin, and Javier de Frutos, and composers Cassie Kinoshi, Keaton Henson, and Max Richter.

30 June: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.45pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



Too Many Greek Myths

Living Spit cram twenty Greek myths into one chaotic and hilarious show. From Hades to Heracles, their harebrained humour, wigs and irreverence turn myth into a side-splitting mythological marathon.

16 and 17 July: Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, SALISBURY, SP1 3UT. 7.30pm. £23 / £19. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



Juliet & Romeo

Lost Dog blend dance, theatre and comedy for an alternative take on *Romeo and Juliet*. It turns out the star-crossed lovers didn't die. They are middle-aged and trying hard to live happily ever after.

18 June: Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, SALISBURY, SP2 7RA. 2pm and 7.30pm. £13 - £32. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



The Pickwick Papers

Dickens has never been this delightfully unpredictable! Secure your seat and prepare for an uproarious adventure with the Pickwick Society - where the only certainty is a thoroughly good time to be had by all!

16 August: Maumbury Rings, DORCHESTER, DT1 1QZ. 6pm. £20 / £18. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.



The Haunting of Hill House

The chilling new stage adaptation of Shirley Jackson's "near perfect" (Stephen King) ghost story. From best-selling novel to hit Netflix series, *The Haunting of Hill House* comes alive in a gripping production blurring suspense and the supernatural.

Tense, unsettling and darkly playful, watch shadows whisper, walls remember and grief and desire seep through every wall - leaving one question: is Hill House haunted, or are we?

11 September - 3 October: Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, SALISBURY, SP2 7RA. 7.30pm. £46.50 / £12.50. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.



Becoming Mrs Danvers

A dark, electrifying new theatre work that fuses a contemporary interrogation of mental health with the tension of a psychological thriller. Sinister, intimate and relentlessly gripping, the piece draws audiences into a world of locked doors, secret rooms and fractured realities, where money, power and manipulation determine who is heard and who is erased.

18 July: Bridport Arts Centre, 9 South Street, BRIDPORT, DT6 3NR. 7.30pm. 01308 424204 / bridport-arts.com.



The Wife

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company present an original musical play inspired by Chaucer's tale. A hilarious and beautiful poetic romp of word, wit and song.

24 July: Fairfield House, near STOGURSEY, TA5 1PU. 7.30pm. £25 / £11. therudes.co.uk.



The Scarlet Pimpernel

France is burning, the guillotine is busy, and Marguerite Blakeney is stuck in England with her idiot husband, a man so relentlessly foolish, it's starting to feel strategic…

However, when ruthless revolutionary Chauvelin (head of the French Republic's Committee of Public Safety, but with a very loose grip on the word 'safety') threatens her brother's life, Marguerite is dragged into a world of spies, secrets and very sharp blades. Will she betray the mysterious Scarlet Pimpernel, or let her brother face the guillotine? What do you do when every choice costs you the person you love?

Three actors tear through revolutions, opera houses, seedy Dover pubs and glittering ballrooms using nothing but a mountain of wigs and sheer nerve. Expect quick-fire gags and high-octane multi-rolling in this sharply modern, joyously theatrical open-air retelling of Baroness Orczy's swashbuckling classic.

3 July: Sports Ground, WINTERBORNE STICKLAND, DT11 0NT. 7pm. £16 / £8. 01258 881329.

4 July: Village Hall Field, HALSTOCK, BA22 9SG. 7pm. £16 / £8. 01935 891744

artsreach.co.uk



Rufus Rice: Rice Age

A rambunctious evening of comedy and music from TikTok's favourite lovable rogue.

28 June: Komedia, 22 - 23 Westgate Street, BATH, BA1 1EP. 6.30pm. £19.50. 01225 489070 / komediabath.co.uk.



Carmen

In this boldly reimagined Carmen, sung in English, the story unfolds inside a vast cloth factory: the world of charismatic textile worker, Carmen, looking for life beyond the drudgery of the factory floor, of Don Jose, a lonely security guard drawn into her rebellious underworld, and of celebrity fashion designer Escamillo, full of bravado and iconic bull-ring style. Six singers are accompanied by piano and flamenco guitar in this unique re-telling of a classic tale.

26 June: Blakehay Theatre, 20 Wadham Street, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, BS23 1JZ. 7pm. 01934 645493.

27 June: Montacute House, MONTACUTE, near Yeovil, TA15 6XP. 7pm. 01935 823289.

28 June: Speedwell Gardens, 5 Abbey Street, CREWKERNE, TA18 7HY. 2pm. 01460 712052.

3 July: Bridgwater Arts Centre, 11 - 13 Castle Street, BRIDGWATER, TA6 3DD. 7pm. 01278 422700.

4 July: Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Road, NORTH CURRY, near Taunton, TA3 6LJ. 7.30pm.

5 July: Hestercombe Gardens, HESTERCOMBE, Taunton TA2 8LQ. 6pm. hestercombe.com.

reducedopera.com





BEANS ON TOAST

Shepton Mid Summer Fest

Let's Buy The Amulet together with other local promoters have crafted an exciting programme of events launching a new multi-venue music and arts festival in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Over ten days this midsummer this festival offers free and ticketed events with something for everyone to enjoy: folk and indie music, jazz, punk, an outdoor ceilidh in the market square, spoken word and community arts activities. Highlights include a night with the legendary 'god of hellfire' Arthur Brown on the 27th at the Art Bank, and the biggest Prison Yard Party to close the festival on Sunday 28th June.

18 - 28 June: Various locations in and around SHEPTON MALLET, Somerset. buytheamulet.org.uk.



A Room of One's Own

Take a wry, amusing, and incisive trip through the history of literature, feminism, and gender. Meet Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Aphra Behn, and Shakespeare's sister - Judith! Introducing a different way to look at our creativity, it even comments on what life will be like in the 2020s! Come and be amused, challenged and changed.

Rebecca Vaughan performs Woolf's 1928 exploration of the impact of poverty and sexual inequality on intellectual freedom and creativity.

9 July: Marine Theatre, Church Street, LYME REGIS, DT7 3QA. 6.30pm. £22 / £18. 01297 442394 / marinetheatre.com.



Debs Newbold: Hot Crones

Debs Newbold knows the meaning of the word 'bawdy' as well as any woman who has five aunts and a problem with Chaucer possibly can. In this ripe and juicy nugget of stand-up storytelling, the old tales get a feminist reworking: Knights are shy, wood nymphs are ruthless businesswomen, and romance endures despite flatulence. All this, along with a glorious dollop of Debs' masterful Birmingham ribaldry. Warning though: this set is crafted strictly for adults.

30 July: The Archangel, 1 King Street, FROME, BA11 1BH. 8pm. £12. 01373 456111 / takeart.org.



Mark Watson

A recent encounter with a stranger caused Mark to spend some time pondering the uncertain future facing humanity. He explores this - along with equally pressing matters like the worst word he has ever said in public, the current state of the UK sausage industry, and much more - in a typically frantic and fun-packed new show.

27 June: Hardye Theatre, Queens Avenue, DORCHESTER, DT1 2ET. 7.30pm. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.



Dorset Opera Festival

Dorset Opera Festival is hosted every July at Bryanston School's Coade Theatre and state-of-the-art Elder Concert Hall, offering fully staged operatic productions featuring international soloists, a full orchestra, and a massive chorus.

21 - 25 July: Coade Theatre, BRYANSTON, Blandford, DT11 0PX. dorsetopera.com.





King Arthur & The Holy Fail

Arthurian Legend meets Monty Python as The Three Inch Fools return with an epic quest of improbably proportions in their latest historic comedy…

In a land of daring quests, dashing knights, and endless jousting, there lived a would-be hero waiting in the wings who went by the name of Arthur. When Camelot is rocked to its core by a tragic (and frankly improbable) incident involving a large table of an undisclosed shape, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Will he bravely battle through blistering cold and scorching fire to save his beloved realm, or will he crumble as fate refuses to cooperate? Destiny awaits, chivalry calls, and the quest to end all quests begins. Saddle up - things are about to get legendary.

20 August: The Bay, KIMMERIDGE, BH20 5PF. 6.30pm £18.50 / £8. 07879 473693 / artsreach.co.uk.



The Pirates of Penzance

Frederick, accidentally apprenticed to pirates as a child, is indentured to the Pirate King until his 21st birthday. On the day he reaches 21 he leaves the ship, announcing that he now intends to dedicate his life to the pirates' destruction.

18 July: Maumbury Rings, DORCHESTER, DT1 1QZ. 7pm. £20 / £18. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.

27 August: The Sherborne, Newland, SHERBORNE, DT9 3JG. 6pm. £24.39. thesherborne.uk.



Michelle Wolf: Best Job in the World

Primetime Emmy nominee Michelle Wolf has established herself as one of the most influential voices in the comedy landscape. Her stand-up specials across HBO and Netflix have garnered critical acclaim and top viewing figures.

Wolf has headlined across the world, including her infamous appearance at the White House Correspondents Dinner. She has had two sold-out Edinburgh Fringe runs and scored a prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award nomination. Wolf is also known for her appearances on *The Daily Show* (Comedy Central) and *The Break with Michelle Wolf* (Netflix).

23 July: Komedia, 22 - 23 Westgate Street, BATH, BA1 1EP. 7pm. £31. 01225 489070 / komediabath.co.uk.



GRACE LOVELASS: 'BALLGOWNS & BIB SHORTS' (Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 18 July)

Shaftesbury Fringe

Shaftesbury Fringe returns this summer to celebrate its landmark 10th anniversary, bringing an extraordinary programme featuring hundreds of performances to the historic hilltop town. For a community of just 8,000 people, the scale and ambition of the Fringe is remarkable - transforming Shaftesbury into a vibrant hub of creativity for one unforgettable weekend.

Taking place from 17th to 19th July, the Fringe will once again showcase an eclectic mix of entertainment spanning a wide range of genres. Audiences can enjoy performances for children, diverse musical acts, comedy, poetry and spoken word, theatre, musicals, cabaret, and visual art - ensuring there is something for everyone.

Events will take place across venues throughout the town, as well as in open-air spaces, creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere. A dedicated busking stage and an array of street performances will add to the festival's unique charm, bringing creativity directly to the streets.

As it marks a decade of creativity, community, and culture, Shaftesbury Fringe 2026 promises to be its biggest and most exciting edition yet.

Start planning your weekend by downloading the app, picking up a programme or visiting the website to see all that Shaftesbury Fringe has to offer.

17 - 19 July: Various locations in SHAFTESBURY, Dorset. shaftesburyfringe.co.uk.



Things I've Never Said

Yeovil-based Project Dance has cemented its reputation as one of the UK's most exciting and accessible dance companies. Their latest work is a deeply moving exploration of the secrets we carry and the words we leave unspoken.

Blending an earnest new story by James Bamford and Grace Noelle, breathtaking choreography, and with powerful live music by Charles Harrison, *Things I've Never Said* promises a truly immersive theatrical experience for audiences of all ages. With Project Dance's signature fusion of emotional storytelling and striking physicality, this show shines a light on the shared human experience - reminding us that everybody has a story.

27 and 28 August: Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, YEOVIL, BA20 2DD. 7.30pm. £19.50 / £17.50. 01935 422884 / projectdance.org.uk.

29 August: Redgrave Theatre, Percival Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, BS8 3LE. 7.30pm. £20.30 / £17.30. 01173 157800 / projectdance.org.uk.



Kinematos

From the southernmost south, from Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Mano Amano Circus Company tours the world with its masterpiece of precision, vertigo and comedy. They do not fly, they know they never will, but they keep trying anyhow.

17 July: Village Green, COMBWICH, TA5 2QZ. 7pm. £5. takeart.org.

19 July: Blenheim Gardens, Blenheim Road, MINEHEAD, TA24 5PZ. 1pm. Free entry. takeart.org.



The Return of the Native

Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native* is a profound exploration of human desires and the indomitable forces that shape destiny. Set against the haunting backdrop of Egdon Heath, the novel tells the story of Eustacia Vye, a young woman whose passionate longing for escape and fulfilment drives the narrative inevitably towards its tragic conclusion.

2 and 3 July: The Corn Exchange, High East Street, DORCHESTER, DT1 1HF. 7.30pm. £16 / £14. 01305 266926 / dorchesterarts.org.uk.

Words

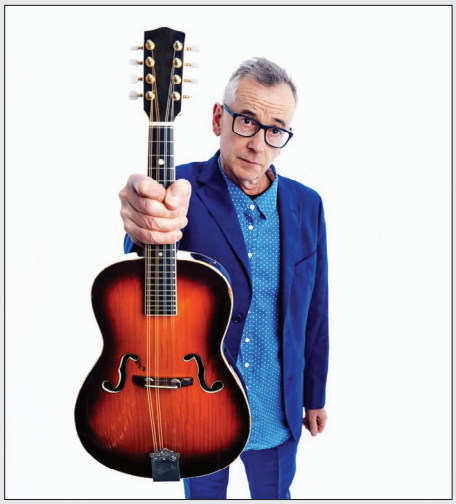
Summer 2026



An Evening with David Sedaris

One of America's pre-eminent humour writers, Sedaris is a master of satire and one of today's most observant writers. His essays, diaries and hugely popular BBC Radio series have made us consider the absurdities of human nature and modern life: family, travel, relationships, ageing, the pandemic, political upheavals and of course roadside trash!

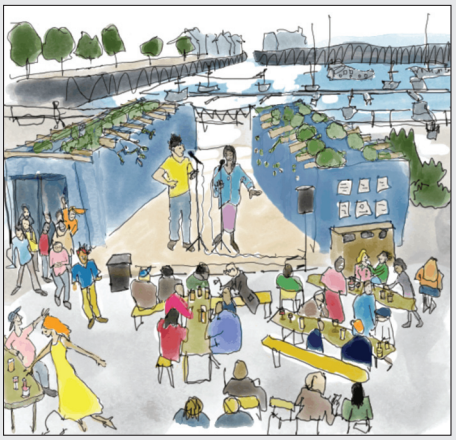
10 July: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 7.30pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



John Hegley: New and Selected Potatoes

Poet, comic, singer, songwriter and glasses-wearer, John Hegley demonstrates the breadth of his appeal, with seriously funny, cleverly comic poems on everything from love, family, France, art and the sea, to dogs, dads, gods, taxidermy, carrots, spectacles and - of course - potatoes.

4 July: Lighthouse, 21 Kingland Road, POOLE, BH15 1UG. 8pm. 01202 280000 / lighthousepoole.co.uk.



East Quay Poetry Slam

Twelve poets will compete in East Quay's first-ever poetry slam on Saturday 18th July, performing in front of an audience and a panel of three nationally acclaimed judges. Performances will be marked on writing quality, strength of theme, vocal fluency, emotion and stage presence. The winning poet will receive a £150 cash prize and a stay in one of East Quay's unique accommodation pods. Poets must register by Friday 19th June, with successful entrants selected at random.

18 July: East Quay, WATCHET, TA23 0AQ. 6pm. eastquaywatchet.co.uk.



Marborough LitFest

The 17th Marlborough LitFest offers a packed weekend of literary treats for all, including debut and established fiction, non-fiction - with topics including gardening, history, Tudor theatre and performance psychology - as well as poetry, writing workshops, literary walks and children's authors, free events for families, the annual *Big Town Read* and a schools outreach programme.

This year's line-up includes Sir Anthony Seldon, Kit de Waal, Sebastian Faulks, Sathnam Sanghera, Jeremy Hunt, and Chloe Dalton.

24 - 27 September: Various locations in MARLBOROUGH, Wiltshire. marlboroughlitfest.org

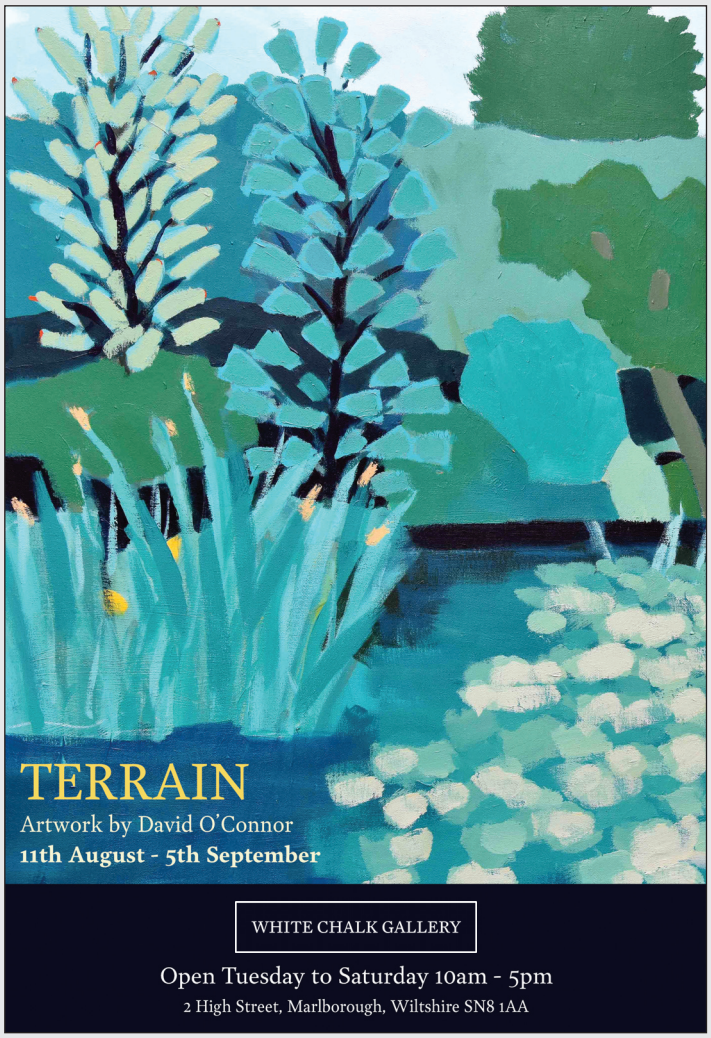


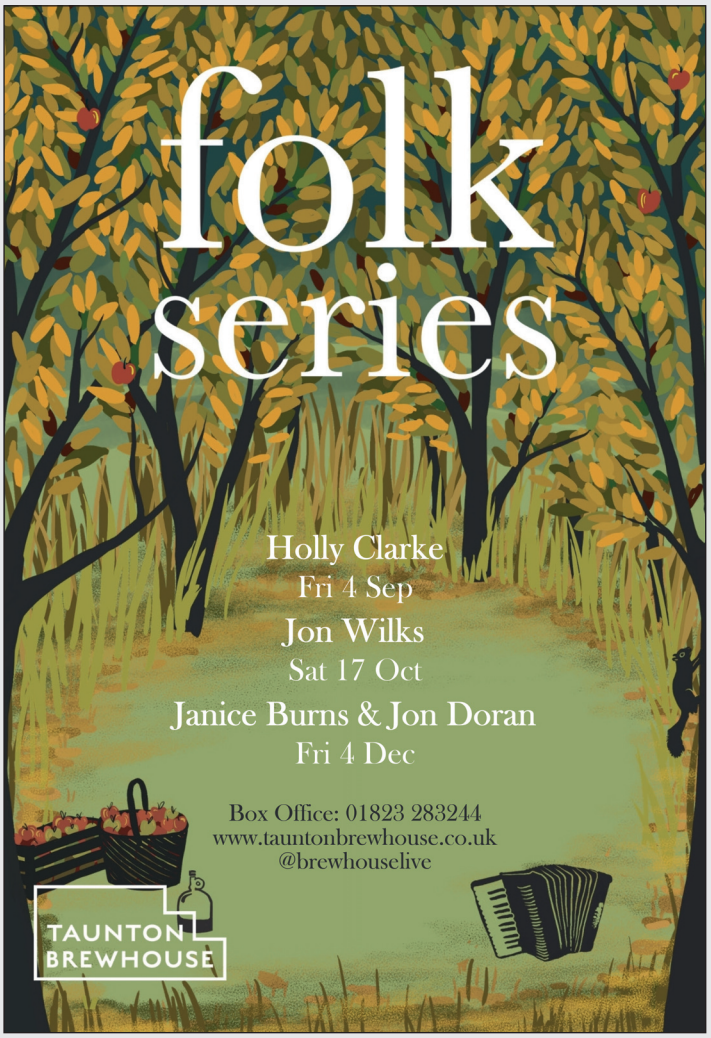
Running Commentary

After a decade of no exercise, 40 year old poet P Burton-Morgan found themselves newly single and hungry to return to a pre-childbirth level of fitness.

Cue Rocky montage, but with a middle-aged red-faced mum reciting sonnets along the South West Coastal path.

27 June: Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, SALISBURY, SP1 3UT. 7.45pm. £16 - £20. 01722 320333 / wiltshirecreative.co.uk.


TERRAIN
Artwork by David O'Connor
11th August - 5th September
WHITE CHALK GALLERY
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 5pm
2 High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1AA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• 10–11 APRIL Ensemble Augelletti
Olwen Foulkes RECORDERS — Ellen Bundy VIOLIN
Carina Drury CELLO — Toby Carr LUTES
Benedict Williams KEYBOARDS
• 15–16 MAY Greenwich Trio
Lana Trotovšek VIOLIN — Heather Tuach CELLO
Yoko Misumi PIANO
• 26–27 JUNE Shiry Rashkovsky VIOLA & Lana Suran PIANO
• 10–11 JULY Ceruleo
Jenni Harper & Emily Owen SOPRANOS
Kinga Gáborjáni VIOLA DA GAMBA
Satoko Doi-Luck HARPSICHORD
• 18–19 SEPTEMBER Sophie Rosa VIOLIN & Ian Buckle PIANO
• 16–17 OCTOBER Lise Vandersmissen HARP & Gabriela Opacka-Boccadoro VIOLIN
• 6–7 NOVEMBER Fenella Humphreys VIOLIN
Sam Armstrong PIANO — Gary Pomeroy VIOLA
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www.concertsinthewest.org
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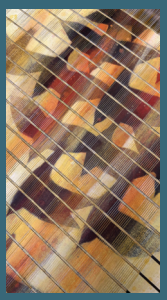
L'ELISIR D'AMORE
21, 24, 25 July at 19:00 | 23 July at 14:00

Camille Saint-Saëns
SAMSON et DALILA
22, 23 July at 19:00 | 25 July at 14:00



Coade Theatre, Bryanston, Blandford Forum
Box Office: dorsetopera.com | 07570 366 186

Spirit of Fancy
26 August - 17 September, 10.30am - 4.30pm

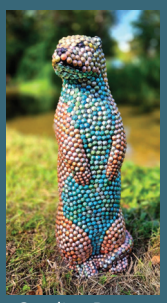

Debby Kirby


Julie Massie

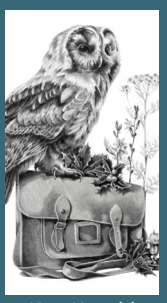

Elaine King


Alan Williams


David Pointer


Caroline Parrott


Ali Woodgate


Katy Harrald

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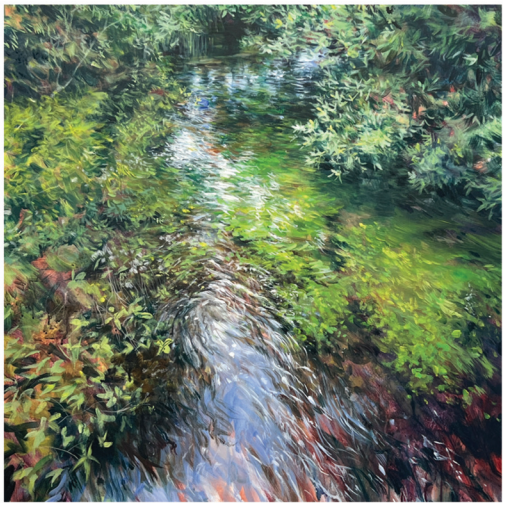

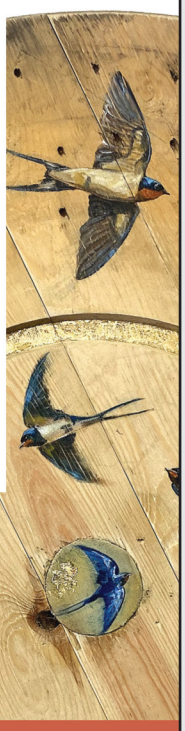

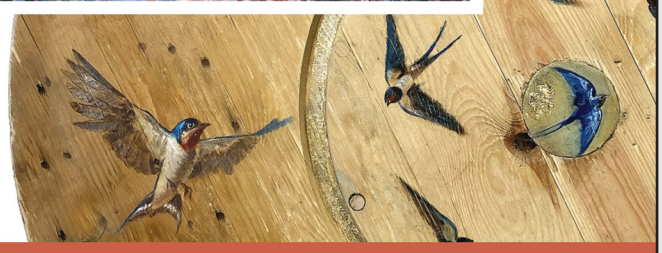

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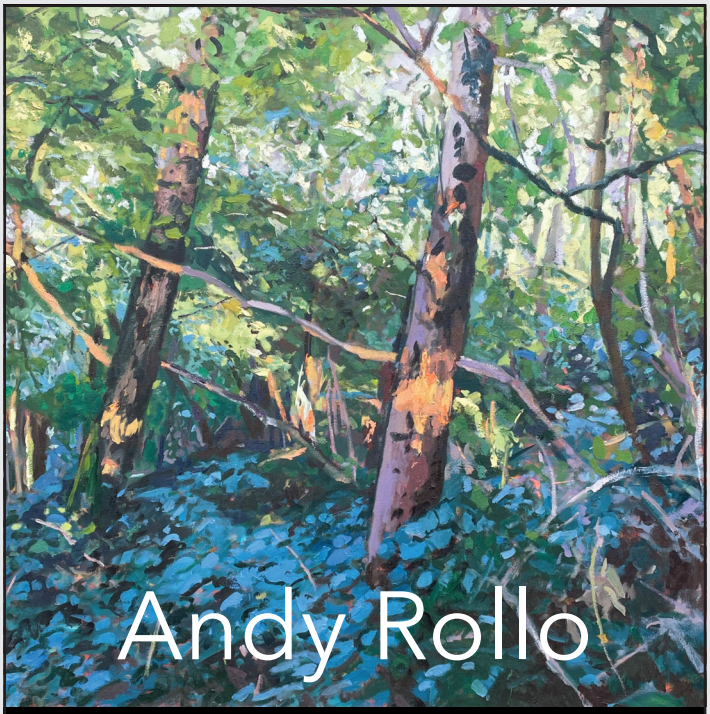

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Film
7th July, 2pm, £5



Wessex Baroque Collective
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9th July, 7.30pm, £15 / £12



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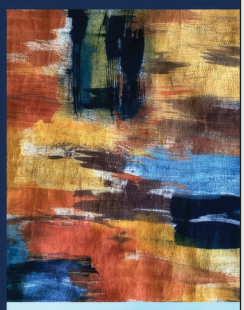

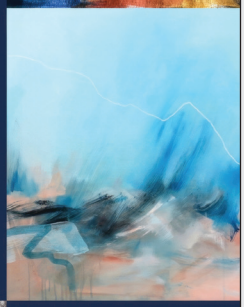



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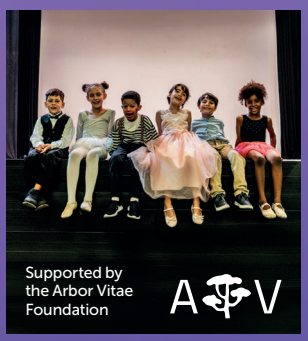

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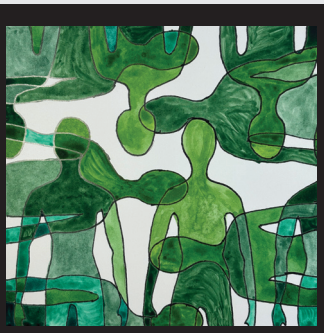

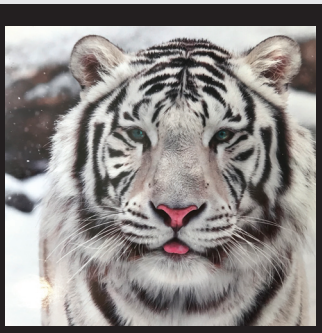

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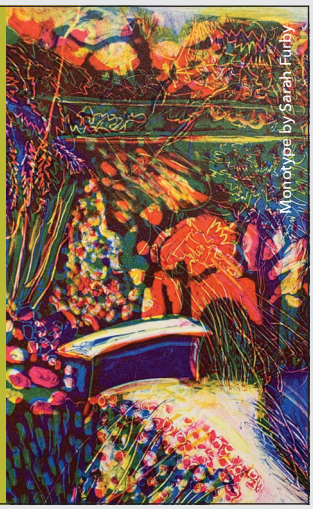

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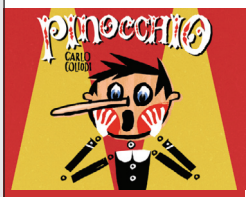


Pinocchio
Sunday14 June 2pm



As You Like It
Wednesday 17 June 7pm



The Big Bad Wolf
Sunday 5 July 3pm



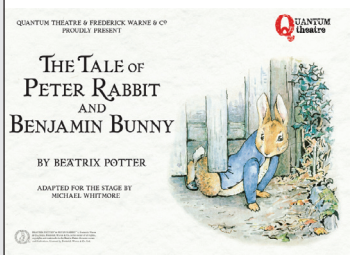
The Pirates of Penzance
Saturday 18 July 7pm



The Great Gatsby
Thursday 30 July 7pm



The Sword in The Stone
Saturday 1 August 2.30pm



The Tale of Peter Rabbit & Benjamin Bunny
Friday 14 August 2.30pm



The Pickwick Papers
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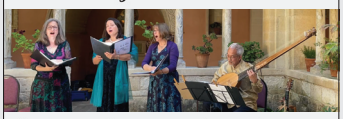

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DEVIZES: White Chalk Gallery, Wiltshire Museum. DORCHESTER: Activate, Arts Development Company, Artsreach, Corn Exchange, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, Duke's, Frank Herring & Sons, Shire Hall Museum, The Little Keep, Vinyl Van. EAST LAMBROOK: East Lambrook Manor Gardens. EXETER: Academy of Music, Barnfield Theatre, Exeter School of Art, Glorious Art Cafe, Phoenix Arts Centre, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Southgate Gallery. EXMOUTH: Artisan Art Gallery, Exmouth Pavilion, Sea Dog Art. FROME: Bat Print Studio, Black Swan Arts, Kobi & Teal, Merlin Theatre, Peradam, Pedestal Gallery, Raves From The Grave, Rook Lane Arts, Rise Centre. GILLINGHAM: The Idea Works, The Slade Centre. GLASTONBURY: Facets Of Avalon, Glastonbury Abbey, Glastonbury Galleries, Heart Of The Tribe Gallery, Red Brick Building, Rural Life Museum. HATCH BEAUCHAMP: Close Ltd. HONITON: The Beehive, Thelma Hulbert Gallery. ILMINSTER: Ilminster Arts Centre, The Millhouse. IWERNE MINSTER: The Writer's Block. KEYNSHAM: Chocolate Quarter. LANGPORT: Art Tea Zen, Great Bow Wharf, Shakspeare Glass. LYME REGIS: Blue Lias Gallery, Coombe Street Gallery, Fine Art & Framing, Lyme Regis Museum, Malthouse Gallery, Marine Theatre. LYTCHETT MINSTER: Barn Cafe, Courtyard Craft Centre. MARTOCK: Yandles Cafe. MILVERTON: The Coffee Mill. MINEHEAD: Courtyard Framing, Leo Davey Gallery, Regal Theatre. MORCOMBELAKE: Artwave West. MUCHELNEY: Muchelney Pottery. NORTH CURRY: Community Café. OTTERTON: Otterton Mill. POOLE: Arts University Bournemouth, Big Brother Records, Canvas Gallery, Guildhall Gallery, Josephine Wall Gallery, Lighthouse, Gallery Upstairs, Originals, Poole Museum, Towngate Gallery And Framing. PORLOCK: Churchgate Gallery. PORTLAND: B-Side Outpost, The Beehive, White Stones. POUNDBURY: **NEW!** Walnut Gallery. SALISBURY: Fisherton Mill, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury Museum, Salisbury Playhouse, Vanner Gallery, Wiltshire Gallery, Young Gallery. SEATON: Triptych Gallery. SEAVINGTON: Village Shop. SHAFTESBURY: The Cygnet, Pictureframes, Shaftesbury Arts Centre. SHEPTON MALLET: **NEW!** Art Bank, Kilver Court, One Craft Gallery. SHERBORNE: Caffe Nero, Old Barn Framing Gallery, The Beat & Track, Jerram Gallery, The Sherborne, Trouvaille Gallery, Winstone's. SIDMOUTH: East Devon Art Academy, Flo and Us, Kennaway House, South West Art, Winstone's. SOMERTON: ACE Arts, Gifted Company & Gallery Coffee Shop. STALBRIDGE: Dike & Sons. STOBOROUGH: Furzebrook Studios. STOKE-SUB-HAMDON: Ham Hill Visitor Centre. STOKE ST GREGORY: Coates English Willow. STOURHEAD: First View Gallery. STREET: Millfield School Atkinson Gallery, Strode Theatre. STURMINSTER NEWTON: The Exchange, Poet's Corner, Wessex Photographic. SWANAGE: Ballard and Bay Gallery, Durlston Castle, Mowlem Theatre, Mulberry Tree Gallery, Quarr Gallery. SYMONDSBURY: Sou'-Sou'-West. TAUNTON: Arts Hub, Brewhouse Theatre, CICCIC, Fine Art And Framing, Jane Armour Trading, Museum of Somerset, Quantock Art And Framing, Queen's College, Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, University Centre Somerset. TINCLETON: Sculpture by the Lakes, Tincleton Gallery. TIVERTON: Lantic Gallery. TROWBRIDGE: Court Street Gallery, The Lamb, Trowbridge Museum, Trowbridge Town Hall. WAREHAM: Priory Hotel, Purbeck Artisan Yard, Rex Cinema. WARMINSTER: Athenaeum Centre. WATCHET: East Quay. WELLINGTON: Old Brick Workshop, Talent Gallery. WELLS: A2 Gallery, Andelli Art, Bishop's Eye, Heritage Courtyard Gallery and Studios. WEST BAY: Sladers Yard. WEST COKER: Lanes, Old School Room. WESTHAY: Somerset Crafts. WEYMOUTH: By The Quay, Cove Gallery, Happy Crab Gallery, Weymouth College, Weymouth Pavilion. WILLITON: J Gliddon & Sons. WIMBORNE: Allendale House, Museum of East Dorset, Square Records, Walford Mill Craft Centre. WINCANTON: Paper Trees. WIVELISCOMBE: Community Office. WORTH MATRAVERS: Burngate Purbeck Stone Centre. YEOVIL: EPS, Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil Art Space. YETMINSTER: Old School Gallery.

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THE **FREE** WESSEX ARTS AND CULTURE GUIDE

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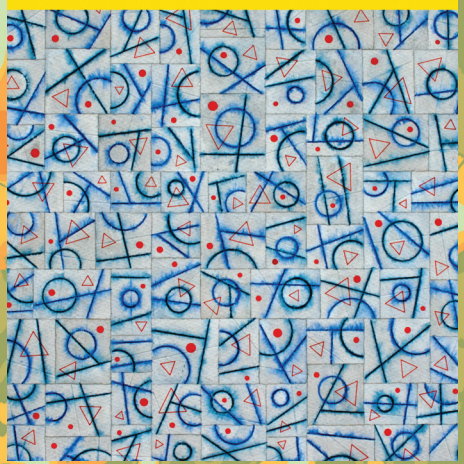

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