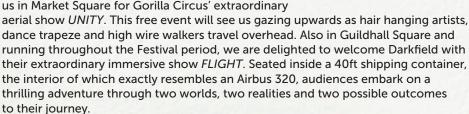


# A very warm

# Welcome

Hello and a very warm welcome to the 2025 Salisbury International Arts Festival.

A Festival is an opportunity to let imaginations soar and this year we are definitely looking skyward with a programme full of creativity and originality. Join us in Market Square for Gorilla Circus' extraordinary



Other outside work will include what promises to be a memorable trip to Stonehenge for A Beautiful Thread, a celebration of Thomas Hardy with Orchestra of the Swan and the actor Anton Lesser under the evening sky. Elsewhere, music will fly with Howard Moody's new composition in Eagles, Birdsongs and Bach performed by the world's most flamboyant recorder virtuoso, Piers Adams, and musicians from La Folia at St Thomas' Church.

St Thomas' also features in another important strand of the Festival programme, the 50th anniversary of the founding of Salisbury Arts Centre and the migration of the St Edmund's congregation to their new home at St Thomas'. The Festival will begin with a very special Evensong at the Arts Centre led by the Rev'd Canon Kelvin Inglis, followed by a procession back to St Thomas'. Later on in the Festival we will also be celebrating the importance of the Arts Centre for young people with a Family Fiesta and showcase of young local bands.

Alongside these key events we are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of outstanding dance including the award-winning Aakash Odedra Company, opera from Swansea City Opera and theatre with a welcome return from The Lord Chamberlain's Men this year, producing Twelfth Night in the idyllic Rack Close.

So much to look forward to and we look forward to seeing you at the Festival.

Rosa Corbishley **Executive Director** 

**Gareth Machin Artistic Director** 

Front cover image by Kin Ho. Anton Lesser and David Le Page for A Beautiful Thread: Thomas Hardy in Words and Music



## **Evensong**

Saturday 24 May | 5pm

**Salisbury Arts Centre** 

Free to book

Evensong has for generations provided a daily form of prayer, and a rich repertoire of music has developed to enhance the beauty of this well-loved act of worship, often now delivered with a homily, hymns and prayers.

This service, led by those who keep the tradition and observance alive at the parish church of St Thomas',





marks the fiftieth anniversary of the transformation of St Edmund's Church into Salisbury Arts Centre.

After the service, the choir will make their way to St Thomas' Church and all ticket holders are welcome to join them there for refreshments.



# City Encounters

Gorilla Circus in association with Wiltshire Creative present

### UNITY

Saturday 24 May | 9:30pm Sunday 25 May | 4pm & 9:30pm Monday 26 May | 1pm FREE - NO TICKET REQUIRED!

**Salisbury Market Square** 

**FREE** 

UNITY is a reflection on community, an act of protest, a call for change and a dream for the future. A large scale production that merges immersive theatre, circus and community stories in a powerful but intimate way.

Local artist Louise Jordan has gathered reflections and responses from the local community that will be woven into the soundtrack of the performance.

Salisbury Market Square will come alive night and day on this opening weekend to remember.





Salisbury International Arts Festival

94 May - 8 June 2025



PARKFIELD presents
FLIGHT

Saturday 24 May – Sunday 1 June Please see our website for times

**Guildhall Square** 

Tickets from £10 for adults or £8 for under 25s

Ages 14+ | S

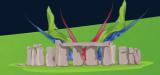
FLIGHT takes place in total darkness inside a 40ft shipping container, resembling an Airbus 320 cabin.

Think Escape Rooms meets Immersive Simulator. Bring a group to experience this exhilarating, once-in-a-lifetime show that is soon to be the talk of the city.





Over 30 minutes, it explores the Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics, taking audiences through two worlds, two realities and two possible outcomes. There are many worlds where this plane lands safely.





Let us do the driving - special **£5** bus service available



Hambletts and Wiltshire Creative in association with English Heritage present

# A Beautiful Thread: **Thomas Hardy in Words and Music**

Starring Anton Lesser, Lucia Bonbright and Orchestra of the Swan

Wednesday 28 May | 8pm

Tickets from £40

Stonehenge

Ages 10+ | S

Join us for a unique event at an iconic site.

Performed in front of the Stone Circle, A Beautiful Thread weaves Hardy's life with his beautiful poetry and great novels.

Hardy put more music into his work than any other writer, and Orchestra of the Swan's Artistic Director, David Le Page, has devised a musical programme that combines West Gallery music with Holst, Warlock and contemporary folk, which the audience will be given headphones to enjoy. Adapted by Deirdre Shields, Hardy's writing shines bright as ever.

Anton Lesser and Lucia Bonbright bring a hugely varied cast to dazzling life: from Hardy and his mother, to George Bernard Shaw and Virginia Woolf, along with characters from his novels. The show also highlights Hardy's humour, his modernity, the time-span he lived through and his global reach, from Hollywood to Japan.

Please bring a picnic blanket and a picnic to enjoy.











Aakash Odedra Company in association with Manchester Camerata present

# Songs of the Bulbul

Thursday 29 May | 7:30pm

Salisbury Playhouse, Main House

Tickets from £23 | S



Birdsong is ephemeral – like dance, it exists only in the moment – sung once, then lost to time.

Songs of the Bulbul, a new solo dance work by Aakash Odedra, choreographed by Rani Khanam with music by Rushil Ranjan, is inspired by the Sufi myth of a bulbul bird in captivity. The nightingale's song symbolizes a spiritual seeker yearning for union with the divine. Combining Kathak's physicality with Sufism's spiritual journey, this performance explores the fleeting beauty of dance and an artist's life, rooted in the traditions of Sufi music, dance and poetry.



Salisbury International Arts Festival 9A May - 8 June 2025





# An Audience with Polly Toynbee

Thursday 29 May | 7pm

Salisbury Playhouse, The Salberg

Tickets from £16 | S



Join Polly Toynbee, Guardian columnist, former BBC social affairs editor and author, in conversation with broadcaster Matthew Stadlen. Her recent books include An Uneasy Inheritance: My Family and Other Radicals and The Only Way Is Up: How to Take Britain from Austerity to Prosperity, a post-election book co-authored with David Walker.

Avalon Promotions presents

**Eleanor Tiernan and Chloe Petts: Work in Progress** 

Thursday 29 May | 7:30pm

Salisbury Arts Centre

Tickets from £17

Ages 14+ | S



Eleanor Tiernan has appeared on Stand Up For Live Comedy (BBC3), and as a panellist on BBC Radio 4's News Quiz. Known for her acerbic wit, her style is "deceptively sharp" (Fest Mag).

Chloe Petts, called "one of the most compelling young comics" by The Guardian, is a rising star. Her debut show *Transience* received rave reviews, with The i praising it as a "barnstormer of a Fringe debut."







How do you beat loneliness? How do you learn to laugh again?

Swansea City Opera collected stories from members of the UK charity Men's Shed who have experienced life's adversities and isolation to create a contemporary and uplifting opera that explores life's ups and downs.

Sung beautifully, Shoulder to Shoulder features singers who've worked at

major opera houses, including the Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne. The company features soprano Jessica Robinson, a finalist in the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 2023.

Wiltshire Creative are delighted that Local Men's Shed groups from Salisbury and Wilton will also play their part on stage.



Soap Soup Theatre presents

# **Minny Stynker**

Friday 30 May | 11am & 2pm

Salisbury Playhouse, The Salberg

Tickets from £12 for adults or £10 for children

Ages 5 – 8 | S

What would you do if you moved to a strange city? Your friends are far away, your new house smells weird and it rains all the time?!

Kit's adventure begins when his drawings come to life, leading to a wild and colourful journey! Join Soap Soup Theatre for a riotous tale where bedrooms turn into forests, schools become solar systems and drawings take on a life of their own.



"A fun and playful world full of drawing and imagination"

Backstage Bristol

Many Hands Circus presents

## **Obscure Desires**

Friday 30 May | 7:30pm

Salisbury Arts Centre

Tickets from £16 | S

Acrobatics company Many Hands Circus delves into the depths of human connection in a show that masterfully combines circus artistry and theatrical storytelling.

Obscure Desires weaves together spectacular acrobatics and original live music to explore the landscape of human longing.





JBA Concerts presents

# An Evening with Jacqui Dankworth: In Concert

Saturday 31 May | 7:30pm

Salisbury Playhouse, Main House

Tickets from £20 | S

Established as one of the country's leading vocalists, Jacqui Dankworth's live concerts showcase her mastery of genres, drawing on jazz, folk, soul and blues.

Audiences will be treated to a collection of songs drawn from her highly praised studio albums, alongside tracks that have inspired her incredible career.



# **Family Fiesta**

Saturday 31 May | 12pm - 4pm

Salisbury Arts Centre

FREE

Join us for a fabulous Family Fiesta celebrating Salisbury Arts Centre's 50th birthday, with an array of free activities for all ages. You can expect craft, workshops, live music, food vendors and ice cream, so bring the whole family along to join the party!





The Central School of Ballet presents

## **Ballet Central 2025**

Wednesday 4 June | 7:30pm

Salisbury Playhouse, Main House

Tickets from £19 | S

Ballet Central returns to the Festival in 2025 with a fresh program of classical ballet and contemporary dance. Highlights include Frederick Ashton's Foyer de Danse, staged for the first time in 90 years and new commissions by world-renowned Hip Hop dancer Dickson Mbi and acclaimed duo Thick and Tight. Closing the show will

be Kristen McNally's modern ballet.

### Drawing Workshop 3.30pm | Tickets from £9

Bring your creative flair to some self-led drawing! The auditorium will be in darkness while the dancers rehearse, and ticket holders are invited to come along to draw them.



Generously supported by Christopher and Frances Wain



# An Audience with Joanne Harris

Saturday 31 May | 7:45pm

Salisbury Playhouse, The Salberg

Tickets from £16 | S

Join Joanne Harris (OBE, FRSL) as she discusses her new novel *Vianne*, a prequel to *Chocolat*. Joanne is the author of twenty novels, three cookbooks and many short stories. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, she was awarded an OBE in 2022. Joanne will be joined in conversation by broadcaster Matthew Stadlen.



Salisbury International Arts Festival 2A May – 8 June 2025 La Folia presents

## Eagles, Birdsongs and Bach

Wednesday 4 June | 7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Tickets from £26 | S



Alongside the music of Bach and Vivaldi, this concert presents music from La Folia's Birdsongs project and the world premiere of Howard Moody's Eagle Concerto performed by international virtuoso recorder player Piers Adams. Designed and built by the late Adriana Breukink, the 'Eagle' recorder has created new possibilities for the instrument, allowing it to soar away from its baroque roots.



Ever since first hearing Piers play the 'Eagle', Howard Moody has dreamt of writing a concerto for it, combining Bach's orchestral line up of trumpets, drums, oboes, harpsichord and strings with the more modern sound-worlds of saxophone and percussion.



Salisbury International Arts Festival 94 May - 8 June 2025



### **Light and Dark: Bourne Hill** Gardens and the Greencroft

A Guided Walk with Frogg Moody and Neil Beagrie

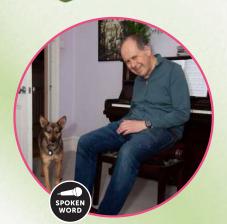
Thursday 5 June | 7:30pm

**Bourne Hill** 

**Tickets from £10** 

This walk will cover the fascinating Saxon, Medieval, Georgian and Post-Modern landscape of the oftenoverlooked corner of Bourne Hill. The walk will also delve into the plague and the dark history of the Greencroft.

The walk will start in front of Bourne Hill (outside the main entrance into the registry office) and progress to the Greencroft.



# **Rory Cellan-Jones**

Thursday 5 June | 7:45pm

Salisbury Playhouse, The Salberg

Tickets from £16 | S



Join former BBC journalist Rory Cellan-Jones in conversation with Matthew Stadlen about his latest book, Sophie from Romania. This heartwarming story chronicles Rory's journey adopting a shy Romanian rescue dog, Sophie, and how their bond helped him navigate his Parkinson's diagnosis.



Off The Kerb Productions presents

# Josh Widdicombe: Work in Progress

Thursday 5 June | 7:30pm

Salisbury Playhouse, Main House

Tickets from £22

Ages 14+

Join Josh Widdicombe as he warms up ahead of his brand-new nationwide tour later this year.





Hambletts and Orchestra of the Swan

in association with Wiltshire Creative

**Words and Music** 

Friday 6 June | 7:30pm

Salisbury Playhouse, Main House

Tickets from £16

Ages 12+ | S

After their sell-out *Red*Sky at Sunrise last spring,
Hambletts and Orchestra of the
Swan return to bring 19th century
writer George Eliot to bold and
dramatic life.

This female-led show tells George Eliot's story through her great novels, letters, journals, poetry, and journalism. Performed by acclaimed singer-songwriter SuRie and Orchestra of the Swan alongside a guest leading actress.

In tune with Eliot's radicalism, a dazzling music programme of contemporary female singer-songwriters weaves around Eliot's immortal words.

Orchestra of the Swan will also be bringing the world of Thomas Hardy to life at Stonehenge on 28 May. (page 6)





Generously supported by a private donor

**Play On Words** 

Thursday 5 June | 7:30pm

**Salisbury Arts Centre** 

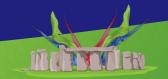
**Tickets from £23** 

Ages 8+ | S



P.G. Wodehouse once had five musicals on Broadway simultaneously. Today, his step-great grandson Hal Cazalet, with pianist Simon Beck, transports us back to the Golden Age of stage and screen through stories and song. Celebrate the birth of the American musical with highlights from Gershwin, Kern, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Noël Coward, Sondheim and more.

Salisbury International Arts Festival 24 May - 8 June 2025



### The Mistake

Friday 6 June | 7:45pm

Salisbury Playhouse, The Salberg

Tickets from £16

Ages 14+ | S

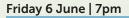
When the atomic bomb is approved for use on Japan, Leo Szilard, tormented by his role in its creation, strives to prevent the catastrophe. Meanwhile, Shigeko Nomura, a young woman in Hiroshima, survives the bombing and fights to rescue her parents.

Two actors, one British and one Japanese, portray the gripping



stories of a Hungarian scientist, an American pilot, and a devoted Japanese daughter in this moving drama about the 'mistake' that launched the nuclear age.

# Wiltshire College **Music Showcase**



Salisbury Arts Centre

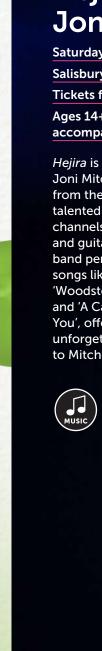
Tickets from £5

Ages 12+ | S



Wiltshire College and University Centre Salisbury presents a showcase of emerging talent from the Music Performance and Production Diploma course, featuring a variety of genres including indie-rock, folk, rap and electronic. Expect surprises and special quests, as the event marks the end of the students' graduating academic year.

Also join our Band Night (page 16, summer season) in April to celebrate more of the best young artists in the south.









The Lord Chamberlain's Men presents

# Twelfth Night

Friday 6 June | 7pm Saturday 7 June | 2pm & 7pm

Rack Close, SP1 2ES

Tickets from £24 | S



Join The Lord Chamberlain's Men this summer for Shakespeare's greatest romantic comedy, Twelfth Night, celebrating their 21st year. They present this joyous play as he first saw it - in the open air, with an all-male cast, Elizabethan costumes, music and dance.

"If music be the food of love, play on!"

Bring a chair and a picnic for an unforgettable experience. Cold drinks and ice creams will be available for purchase.

Generously sponsored by



# Who's Next: With The Who

Saturday 7 June | 7:30pm

Salisbury Arts Centre

Tickets from £18 | S

Following last year's celebration of The Rolling Stones' 1964 Salisbury City Hall appearance, Wiltshire Creative and Salisbury History Festival present With The Who.

In 1965, The Who performed to an ecstatic crowd in Salisbury, and now you can enjoy a tribute by the premier live band Who's Next. Frogg Moody will also present Part 2 of his popular Whistle-Stop Tour, exploring the 1960s music scene in Salisbury.



## Out of the Box

Sunday 8 June | 11am & 2pm

Rack Close, SP1 2ES

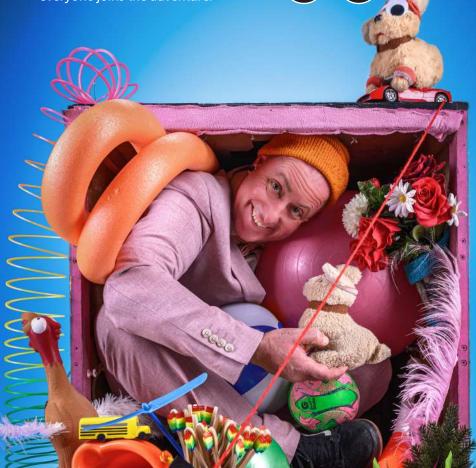
Tickets from £12 for adults & £10 for children | S

This family-friendly outdoor comedy is full of surprises as an unlikely character and his mysterious box lead you on a whirlwind of fun! With trick shots, mini performances and hilarious moments, everyone joins the adventure.

Darryl J Carrington's non-verbal clowning turns everyday objects into the extraordinary, celebrating the joy of play for all ages and bringing generations together through skilful silliness.

Bring a picnic and a chair for a fun day out!

Cold drinks and ice creams will be available for purchase.



# Thank You

### **PUBLIC FUNDERS**







### SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Sponsor of Spring Season 2025





















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### LEGACIES & IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

The Late Mrs Brenda Ashenden, The Late Mrs Elizabeth Batten, The Late Mrs Joan Doreen Boys, The Late Ms Audrey Catford, The Late William Ellaby, The Late Mr John English, The Late Miss Victoria Grayson, The Late Caroline Greenway, The Late Mr Richard Griffin, The Late Mrs Anne Hatcher, The Late Ms Audrey Herron, The Late Keith Miller, The Late Lucy Frances Norbury, The Late Mrs Eileen Pinniger, The Late Mr David Quayle

To our donors who wish to remain anonymous

# Celebrating the Art of Salisbury River Park

## **Becoming River**

Saturday 24 May – Sunday 8 June

**FREE** 

A collection of eight pieces of music by Karen Wimhurst to celebrate Salisbury
River Park. Download
the free Echoes app

the free Echoes app and follow the geolocated sound walk.



### Sounding River Sound Walk

Friday 30 May | 11am & 2pm

FREE to book | Ages 12+

Join musician Emma Welton and composer Karen Wimhurst for a short, slow walk through Salisbury River Park, exploring its diverse sonic environments. Maximum capacity 12 per walk

# Drop-in Illustration Workshop

Friday 30 May | 10am - 2pm

Salisbury Playhouse

**FREE** 

Join River Park illustrator
Francesca McLean for a drop-in
botanical illustration workshop.
Suitable for all ages, all materials
provided and no experience
needed.

# The Art of Salisbury River Park: Guided Walks

Saturday 31 May & Saturday 7 June 9.30am & 11.30am

FREE to book | Ages 12+

Join artist Sue Martin on guided walks through Salisbury River Park to explore murals, sculptures and soundscapes and learn about what inspired the artists.

Maximum capacity 12 per walk

Part of the Public Arts Programme for Salisbury River Park, curated by Studio Response in partnership with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, and Salisbury City Council. More information about the full Arts Programme can be found on the Salisbury City Council website.

### Playhenge

23 May - 2 June | 10:30am - 5pm

Stonehenge

Included in the price of a Stonehenge ticket

Ages 4+ | children to be accompanied by an adult

This May half-term, Stonehenge becomes a construction site! Join English Heritage and Woodland Tribe to build Playhenge - a hands-on adventure playground where kids can craft their own creations. Don't miss this fun, creative twist on history!



17 May - 14 June

**Fisherton Mill** 

**FREE entry** 

Within, an exhibition by Louise Bougourd, explores nature and landscape through water-based media and oil paint, blending abstraction with emotion.





Interchange

23 May - 20 September Mon - Fri | 10am - 5pm

Gallery 2, Salisbury Library

**FREE** 

An exhibition of vibrant screenprints by the artist Julia Atkinson from the Young Gallery's permanent collection.

### Elisabeth Frink: A View from Within

24 May - 28 September

Salisbury Museum

Tickets from £6

Explore Dame Elisabeth Frink's life and art at her Dorset home, celebrating her legacy and creative freedom.

Supported by Arts Council England NPO scheme through the Wessex Museums Partnership.

### Salisbury Hospital Open Day

Saturday 7 June | 10am - 3pm

Salisbury Hospital

FREE

A drop-in open day to explore the hospital, meet staff, discover technology and enjoy creative health activities.

### Creative Workshops at Fisherton Mill

**Needle Felting** Workshop

Saturday 31 May | 10am - 4:30pm

£70

Create a hare, fox or badger with fibre artist Carla Taylor.

**Line-cut Landscapes** Workshop

Saturday 7 June | 10:30am - 4:30pm

£85

Learn relief carving and printmaking with artist Tamsin Loveday.

Suitable for beginners and beyond

### **Living Water**

7 June - 28 September

Salisbury Cathedral

Included with general admission to Salisbury Cathedral

Experience Living Water this summer, showcasing diverse artworks exploring water's power and connection through installations sculptures and paintings.

### Folk Festival

Saturday 7 June | 11am - 11pm

The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum

Tickets from £6

Enjoy a day of folk music, food, drink and artisan stalls in Salisbury Cathedral Close's 'Wardrobe'

Book at thewardrobe.org.uk





# Summer & Festival 2025

20 Mar	Jaz Delorean	MUSIC	16
22 Mar	Lucy Porter: No Regrets	COMEDY	16
27 Mar	The Music of Prince: New Purple Celebration	MUSIC	16
27 – 29 Mar	Treasure Island	THEATRE	8
3 Apr	Fleetwood Bac	MUSIC	16
4 Apr	WiFi Wars	COMEDY	16
5 Apr	Zoe Lyons: Werewolf	COMEDY	16
7 Apr	Get Creative – Make Music!	FAMILY	19
9 – 10 Apr, 29 May	Free Rehearsal Space	MUSIC	20
10 Apr – 3 May	The Da Vinci Code	THEATRE	4 – 5
11 Apr	Band Night	MUSIC	16
26 Apr	Backstage Tour	THEATRE	19
2 May	Home Education Workshop	FAMILY	19
9 May	All Floyd	MUSIC	16
9 – 17 May	The Croft	THEATRE	6
13 – 14 May	Welcome to Thebes	THEATRE	7
24 May	Evensong	MUSIC	3
24 – 26 May	Unity	CIRCUS	4
24 May - 1 Jun	FLIGHT	THEATRE	5
24 May - 8 Jun	Becoming River	MUSIC	23
28 May	A Beautiful Thread: Thomas Hardy in Words and Music	MUSIC	6 – 7
29 May	Songs of the Bulbul	DANCE	8
29 May	An Audience with Polly Toynbee	SPOKEN WORD	9
29 May	Eleanor Tiernan and Chloe Petts: Work in Progress	COMEDY	9
30 May	Shoulder to Shoulder	OPERA	10
30 May	Obscure Desires	CIRCUS	11
30 May	Minny Stynker	FAMILY	11
30 May	Sounding River Sound Walk	COMMUNITY	23
30 May	Illustration Workshop with Francesca McLean	ART	23
31 May	An Evening with Jacqui Dankworth: In Concert	MUSIC	12

FESTIVAL EVENTS	31 May	An Audience with Joanne Harris	SPOKEN WORD	12
	31 May	Family Fiesta	FAMILY	13
	31 May	The Salmon's Leap	MUSIC	13
	31 May, 7 Jun	The Art of Salisbury River Park: Guided Walks	COMMUNITY	23
	4 Jun	Ballet Central 2025 (& Drawing Workshop)	DANCE	13
	4 Jun	Eagles, Birdsongs and Bach	MUSIC	14
	5 Jun	Light and Dark: Bourne Hill Gardens and the Greencroft	COMMUNITY	15
	5 Jun	Rory Cellan-Jones	SPOKEN WORD	15
	5 Jun	Josh Widdicombe: Work in Progress	COMEDY	16
	5 Jun	Play On Words	MUSIC	16
	6 Jun	GEORGE Eliot in Words and Music	MUSIC	17
	6 Jun	The Mistake	THEATRE	18
	6 Jun	Wiltshire College Showcase	MUSIC	18
	6 – 7 Jun	Twelfth Night	THEATRE	20
	7 Jun	Hejira: Celebrating Joni Mitchell	MUSIC	19
	7 Jun	With The Who	MUSIC	20
	8 Jun	Out of the Box	FAMILY	21
SUMMER EVENTS	17 Jun	The Mikado	OPERA	9
	20 – 21 Jun	The Three Little Pigs	FAMILY	8
	24 Jun	Rich Hall: Chin Music	COMEDY	9
	30 Jun – 5 Jul	Shrek the Musical	THEATRE	8
	8 Jul	An Audience with John Sergeant	SPOKEN WORD	10
	9 Jul	Showstopper!	THEATRE	11
	10 Jul	Money for Nothing	MUSIC	10
	11 Jul	Country Roads	MUSIC	12
	11 – 12 Jul	Salisbury Craft Beer Festival	COMMUNITY	13
	12 Jul	Wiltshire Creative Comedy Club: Sara Barron	COMEDY	12
	23 – 26 Jul	The Jungle Book	THEATRE	14 – 15
	29 Nov 25 – 11 Jan 26	Jack and the Beanstalk	PANTOMIME	17